

WORLD OF BOOKS

by LOUISE P. DUMETZ
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

LA VIDA: A Puerto Rican Family in the Culture of Poverty—San Juan and New York; Written by OSCAR LEWIS, Published by RANDOM HOUSE, New York; 669 pp.; \$10.

The culture of poverty is a rather precise term which Lewis has originated to describe his confrontation with the shattering reality of three generations of the Rio family in the slums of San Juan (Puerto Rico) and the Puerto Rican enclaves of New York.

MEMBERS OF THIS profoundly negative "culture" are formed when materialistic cash economy societies change their mores so rapidly that a poverty-stricken group is left behind without either money or a familiar solidarity. These people then create their own associations and values, in order to survive.

Unbearably real are the experiences of the Rio family, and at the same time, intellectually intolerable.

The idea Lewis projects is twofold: The poor are a source of social regeneration because they are uncorrupted by materialistic standards; the poverty encompasses only degradation.

The novel type ending has a 17-year-old boy moving from slum quarters into a suburban project with her two small children, but neither of the three husbands she has known. She comments: "You can't imagine how lonely I feel here. I have friends, but they're sort of artificial, pasted-on friends. I couldn't confide in them at all."

Clearly the "culture of poverty" has some important values which have to be carefully reconstructed before the "uncorrupted" poor can escape the physical circumstances of materialistic "degradation."

FOUR LIVES IN THE BEBOP BUSINESS, Written by A. P. SPELLMAN; Published by PANTHEON BOOKS, New York; 241 pp.; \$4.95.

You meander through book after book written by white authors about the jazz contributions of the Negro. Then all of a sudden you find one which tells four jazz artists the story.

The quartet are Cecil Taylor, Arnette Coleman, Ernie Nichols, and Jackie McLean. Nichols, a pianist with untapped potential, died in 1963. His comments and those of the other three, are highly clarifying, even to those whose understanding of jazz is sketchy and minimal. Something else that comes through is the blistering pride and self-confidence these artists somehow developed in spite of never achieving the kind of financial success their talents would warrant.

BASIC ADULT EDUCATION GRADUATES



T.H. Goynes, Project Coordinator, presents certificates to Leona Galboun (left) and Lellia Williams, graduate students of the Basic Adult Education fall program.

Esta L. Armstrong receives her Certificate of Merit as a graduate student from Counselor Bob Cooper (left), and Coordinator Goynes.

The Clark County Vocational-Technical and Adult Education Department completed the fall semester of the Basic Adult Education program, with graduation exercises at Highland Elementary School, 2277 North Highland Drive, December 15, 1966.

THIS PROGRAM was approved by the State Department of Education and the Clark County School District, under Title II B of Public Law 88-452, The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

This program was designed to give Adults with 8th grade education or less a chance to improve their education in the areas of Arithmetic, Language Arts and Social Studies.

Classes were held at four schools in the district, Madison, Highland, Jo Mackey, and Chester Sewell at Henderson. A total of 81 hours were completed at three schools and 165 hours at one school.



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