A Series: THE BLACK FAMILY AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE 80's PART VI - OUR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION IN THE '80 s

Editor's Note:

In last week's article, Maudra Jones shared with the readership thoughts from a speech she had written on "The Impor-tancea of Education" and gave background information on Black education in America from Prerevolutinary Days through the period of **Reconstruction. This week she continues** that history, bringing it up to the present time, and then explores the difference between the black educational dream and its reality.

(Continued from last ceaseless struggle week)

A number of things happened . While the seeds were being sown for the development of Black Institutions of learning, higher education for Blacks still remained inferior to that of whites. Also, the dominance of industrial education over liberal arts was seen as a means of progress for Blacks without threatening the power structure.

While Black advocates of education agreed on the goal of dignity and respect there were differing views on the direction that educational pursuits by Blacks should take.

Booker Τ. Washington's view was that of accomodation and compromise.

Frederick Douglas' famous quote, "Power concedes nothing without demand,' demonstrated his position of protest and

while Dr. W.E.B. duBois insisted that there was an equally important need for higher education of an academic nature. It was Dr. duBois who, in collaboration with prominent white liberals, founded the NAACP and it was then that the instrument to pursue educational equality in America became full blown.

America flowed.

perience in America.

the harsh realities of

today's educational

problems have dawned.

poem "What Happens

To A Dream Deferred"

carries a poignant

message for us in the

lines: "What happens to

a dream deffered? Does

it dry up like a raisin in

the sun? or does it fester

like a sore - and then

run? Maybe it sags like a

heavy load, or does it

James Farmer, who

wrote: "Today's realities

have not eclipsed the

dream, but they have

awakened a realization

that a long haul lies

EYES WRITE: · His

I would agree with

explode?

flick...

Langston Hughes'

Many of us know where the history goes from there - the "separate but equal doctrine" and the court fights by the NAACP and other Black organizations - all leading to the idea of desegregation for equal educational opportunity.

The "Brown vs. the **Board of Education**" decision of 1954, which led to desegregation "at all deliberate speed", was the fountainhead from which all subsequent activity toward

should add-up to some

By Maudra Jones

ahead." The reality is that lulled into complacency we are in fact beginning to lose the capability of

MAUDRA JONES, who has served educational institutions and community organizations in the field of Human Resources Development for over 30 years is **Regional Director of the National Association of** Family and the Religious Community.

educating the next by standard measures generation; and

theory, in practice many for school systems by and COLLEGIAN, Dr. Gerald Durley, Director of large remain segregated. A dramatic example of Curriculum and Faculty that fact is the fact that Development of the Inthe woman who was the stitute for Services To plaintiff in the Brown vs. Education, wrote: "Since Board of Education 1970, until today Black decision had to sue the people have developed a school system in St. psychological state of Issues affecting welfare, political realities and

research in education is indicating a decline in the general scholastic abilities of today's

Major testing agen-cies have signaled that the basic communications and computational skills necessary to survive in college and in life are worsening (it has been stated that students today see no real value between their education and the world of work; hence, there is a lessening of the necessary motivational

dubbed "The Buck Stops Here," and will be a musical about the late Pres. Harry Truman. Stem talk is that she's trying to get Jason Robards, one of the stars of the play she's now featured in, to play the lead role. Go for big, girl...July 13 will be a lucky day for the Shireless who must have had a lot of them. On that date the singing group will celebrate its 25-ann'y and you can count the groups on one finger who have stayed together that long...Gridiron great O.J. Simpson and lovely Nicole Brown are linked together so often and at so many coast hispots it wouldn't surprise this corner at all---STAY LOOSE. Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

level to pursue a course of study). This has for-1. Blacks have been ced major institutions to revaluate their missions; thus, their capability to work with students, who

are not considered

being comfortable.

housing, employment,

education are not being

discussed to even give

rise to the possibility

Charles Silberman had

major impact on

educational debate in

the U.S. In what was

termed an unusually

outspoken indictment of

A study written by

that all is not well."

In a stimulating article

BLACK

"college material."

the

children, but also are "oppressive", "grim" and "joyless". It also contends that most schools are preoccupied with order, control and routine for the sake of routine; that by practicing systematic repression, the schools their create own disciplinary problems: and that they promote docility, passivity and conformity in their students.

schools, the report stated that most schools

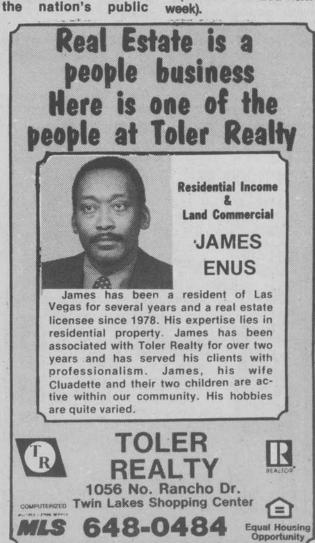
not only fail to educate

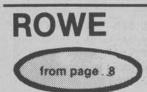
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One result of all this, it is reported, "Is to destroy students' curiosity along with their ability - more serious, their desire to think and act for themselves." Thereby it is charged that the schools deny students sufficient ability to understand modern complexity and to translate that understanding into action.

Understanding the history and the reality, what then is the challenge to us in behalf of Black students, and moreover, in behalf of students everywhere?

(To be continued next week).





decision saved the event after Warren Hirsh, the original benefactor allegedly pulled out after a big dispute with her over a dress. Guess he wanted her to wear Jesse Jeans, which is his trade mark. The former Surpreme delineator will also donate a chunk of cash to N'York's green acres, but should come out of it to deposit more than she will have to withdraw. Paramount the will tape proceedings, arrange for TV, cassette, etc. and sell distribution rights to Showtime Cable for worldwide live b'cast at 6 and 11 PM. All this

hefty profits for the lovely, and in this case, generous superstar, who's sharing her talent and wealth with the Big Apple...The screen version of the Pulitzer Prize winning, "A Soldier's Play," has a camera date in Arkansas the end of Aug...Martha Louis jetted to the Apple as the guest of Mayor Koch who spearheaded the 2nd Annual Joe Louis **Memorial Scholarship** Award ceremonies. The first \$2000 a yr., for 4-yrs of college, was won by an outstanding young man, Ellis...Speaking about yourg folks Bever Leigh Banfield was never prettier or better suited to a role than her TV make believing in "Perfect Match." a CBS-TV

Robert also illuminated lane. It's

medic ordered it so Cab Calloway, his Highness of Hi de ho, has dropped 271lbs., and is looking good...Benny Carter who deserted the "Apple" yrs ago to find more fame, riches and easy living about H'wood, was in N'York for a gig at Sweet Basil. He marked the occasion celebrating his 75th b'day and introducing his book, "Benny Carter -- A Life in American Music." And what a life it has, and continues to be...Rosetta LeNoir, currently featured in the B'way hit, "You Can't Take It With You," is preparing to produce a show for her **Amas Repertory Theatre** which she hopes will make the

2. While the Brown Decision was sound in Maudra Jones equal education in Martin Luther King's dream of equality had become the common dream of the Black ex-The 1954 euphoria spread like wild fire; but in the last two decades,

Louis, because her children were being segregated. Currently, most

students.