

# A Series: THE BLACK FAMILY AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE 80's

## PART VII - OUR CHILDREN... THE QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE - A QUEST FOR TRUTH

by Maudra Jones

*"History is knowledge, identity and power... Black History is important, first of all, because men need a sense of history in order to make history... The God of history helps those who help themselves..."*

Lerone Bennett

Moving from our acceptance and agreement on the important role of the Black Family in this decade, let us explore some of the thinking that will lead us to a concrete plan of action — as Ossie Davis puts it: "... A 10 BLACK COMMANDMENTS: simple, strong, that we can carry in our hearts and in our memories no matter where we are..."

*On Reflecting —*

• In the March 1977 issue of Black Enterprise Magazine, Dr. Vincent Harding gave us a stimulating and thought-provoking discourse titled, "Clout For What?" His article provided a unique opportunity for us to consider the kind of America we can help to shape, so that it can become our own "best living reality." The same vision of America which our forebears caught as they died in the struggles for social transforma-

tion — no different from the dream that Langston Hughes often wrote about or that Dr. Martin Luther King often preached about.

But Harding asked the question: "Are we too enmeshed in the conventional dreamless cynicism which ensnares so much of the nation, or do we dare press beyond?" Then he asks a deeper question: "... Are we stifled in spirit and convinced that there is no way beyond the ultimately deadly games of competing, clashing forces, clambering up the social/economic/political ladder — to nowhere? These questions require us to do the serious soul-searching that matches "the dimension of the hour." Perhaps, part of the answer lies in the statement made by historian Arthur Schlesinger — "The issue is not so much conservatism vs. liberalism as it is

fatigue vs. vitality..." We must recapture the vitality and apply our will and energies to the investigation, hard thought and work needed to shape a better future for our fam-



Maudra Jones

ilies and our children — just as our parents and grandparents did for us.

• Lerone Bennett gives us some "food" for hard thought and investigation in the following theses: (from his book "The Challenge of Blackness") "There is a regrettable tendency on the part of some men (and women) to underestimate the importance of history in the formulation of the social ideologies and the social char-

acter of a people." He wrote: "People are always telling me they are too busy making the future to bother with the past. But people who say this give up both the past and the future. The past is not something back

the luxury of escaping their inheritance, when he understands that he is not only responsible for his own acts but also for the meaning those acts take on in a certain social context, when he understands that he is not only

the root of our vitality, strength and sustenance. We then lose sight of our own "best living reality" and become lulled into a state of complacency. In the words of Hammarabi: "A race without knowledge of its history is like a tree without roots."

• Bennett challenges: "The pressing need of the hour is to get scholarly material out of libraries and books into the minds and muscles of the people. Black organizations, especially churches, should make greater use of historical material in their programs. Black organizations and Black adults should maintain constant pressure on Boards of Education and white media. Men and women of all strata should organize Adult Education Classes, study groups and forums... If we use our history to free the power that is within us, history will say of us that a people, once lost to history, awakened to themselves and made history." What do you think? What can you do?

**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.**

there; it is happening now. It is the bet your fathers placed which you must now cover. It is the internal urgency which makes you relate to men and institutions in a certain way. It is the web of relationships into which you were born and for which you must now answer... By telling us who we are, history tells us what we can do. By telling us where we have been, history tells us where we can go."

Ebony Magazine readers may recall Bennett's account on understanding history: "A man understands history when he understands that history does not permit men

what he has done but what his parents have done, when he understands that history requires him to answer not only for his own life but also for the lives of the men and women and children who share his situation and destiny."

• Benjamin Hooks once said: "We share strayed from our African ways and it does us great harm." The greatest harm is done when we become entrapped in a confused value system that is not our nature — thus the erosion of our cultural traditions begin, weakening the moral and spiritual foundations that have served as

### Zion Methodist Hosts Building Fund Tea

The Annual Church Tea will be held on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 4 to 6 p.m. in Zion United Methodist Church's Dining Room. This annual fund raiser combines Christian fellowship with monetary gain to help finance the building program of the church. This annual social event closes the activities of months of events sponsored to obtain needed monies to continue the programs of the church.

Ruby Amie is the General Chairperson of

the Annual Tea. She is assisted by various committees to see that the church Social Hall/Dining Room is beautifully decorated with a dozen special table arrangements. A musical program and pageant will be the star attractions and refreshments will be served.

Recognition will also be given to the church club that raised the most money for the building fund. The chairperson of the winning club will reign over the Annual

### JACKPOT JAMBOREE SELLS LAS VEGAS!

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority's sixth annual "Jackpot Jamboree" familiarization tour, Dec. 8-11, will attract over 1,000 travel agents and tour wholesalers and will

Tea as queen or king. Friendly competition among church clubs motivates church members to work hard for their club to raise the most money.

The public is invited to join in the celebration of the Annual Tea.

benefit the local community to the tune of \$1.1 million, according to Rossi Ralenkotter, Director of Tourism and Research. Ralenkotter is quick to add, however, the potential travel revenue from the agents' four-day visit will exceed \$250 million.

Cashman Field Center will house most of the activities, which include: the 5th Dimension show (Friday, Dec. 9), "Jackpot" registration and trade show, Tony Orlando show (Sat., Dec. 10),

### Station Again Changes Format

#### Dan Newburn New KVOV Manager

Dan Newburn, news director of KLVX-TV Channel 10 for the past 2½ years, will leave the public television station Jan. 1 to become general manager of KVOV Radio in Henderson.

"It will certainly be a challenge," Newburn said. "It will be a step up to manage a station."

Newburn's hiring marks a change in the 27-year-old radio station's talk-show and nostalgia music format started by Ralph Calvin and his partners when

they bought the station two years ago.

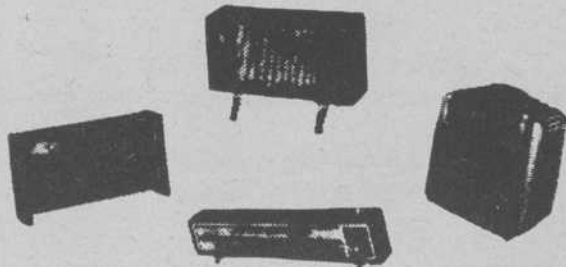
KVOV will seek Federal Communications Commission approval to change its call letters to KREL. While keeping ABC talk network programs, it will add Christian radio programming to its call-in shows with hosts Dr. Toni Grant, Michael Jackson and Dr. Susan Forward, all from Los Angeles.

Newburn, 45, is an ordained Baptist minister who came to Las Vegas from Southern California in 1970.

## HEATERS

ARVIN - MARKEL - TITAN - SUPERELECTRIC

At Phil's you will find the largest selection in Las Vegas of Automatic 110-220 Volt Wall and Portable Heaters, plus, Gas Furnaces, Kerosene, Oil and Diesel Fuel Heaters.



PHIL'S SALVAGE, INC.  
BUILDER'S EMPORIUM  
1131 So. Main Street  
382-7528 382-5004

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.