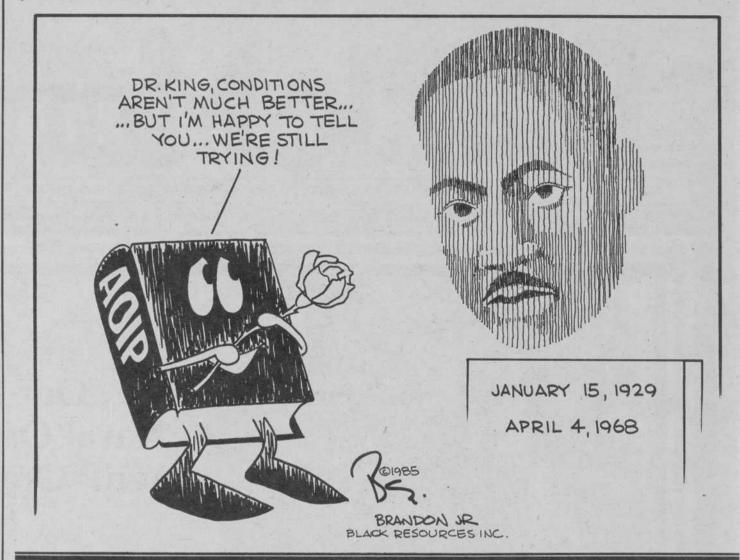


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## Editorial Notes

From the time of the American Revolution, serving with uncommon valor in the military has been one of the ways in which Black Americans have sought to overcome the myths of prejudice and prove our worth as citizens.

The rare Black officer in the military was required to perform in an exemplary fashion in the face of awesome pressures to "prove" him "unfit" for command.

Although the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has resulted in some improvement in the lives of Blacks in the military, the struggle for equitable treatment continues in the armed services as it does for Blacks in civilian life.

Seventeen years ago this month a civilian, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., died—a

martyr to the cause of equitable treatment for Black Americans and all Americans. For many Blacks, April has become the time to assess our "progress" in the human rights struggle as tribute is paid to Dr. King's sacrifice.

Within this historical frame of reference the National BLACK MONITOR pays deserved tribute to the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA), which represents the Black men and women who are commissioned officers in the United States Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

NNOA is as necessary today as it was in 1972 when it was founded at historic Annapolis. For as long as men and women go forth in ships, the seas will not

ask, "What is the color of this sailor's skin?" The seas will ask only "Is this sailor able to weather the storm."

NNOA exists to keep minority officers seaworthy and to help build our communities by serving as the loftiest kind of role models for our Black youth.

In this context, NNOA has joined the other more than 80 organizations of the national Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP) in working interorganizationally to combat the illiteracy predicament that is confronting Black America—especially its young people.

During this blessed spring holiday season, the staff of the *National BLACK MONITOR* wishes all of its readers continued rejuvenation and renewal.

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