

NC BS

- Development of research and findings to assess the current status of Black Studies in higher education and in other educational settings.
- Establishment of accreditation procedures and processes to insure quality instruction in institutions of higher education.
- Structuring of programs and standards for evaluating the teaching, research and outreach service activities of Black Studies faculties to further professional development and growth.
- Development of formal and informal linkages with Black scholars and organizations to facilitate professional development, curriculum design and programmatic outreach.
- Establishment of a repository (national and international) and dissemination mechanism to expand the availability of materials and information about Black Studies.
- Serve as a center for a communication network comprising Black Studies units and other organizations with goals and operating principles which are consistent with the National Council for Black Studies.
- Recognition of achievements by individuals and organizations which have made outstanding contributions to furthering the goals of the National Council for Black Studies.
- Promote broad understanding among scholars and activists on the significance of scientific change and technological transfers as it relates to the Black world experience.

NCBS and Black Community Empowerment

BLACK STUDIES ranks among the very few institutions in America that provide Black Americans as a group with a strong, positive self-image. As students become more job-oriented, enrollment in many Black Studies programs has dropped below survival levels. To those students

who are looking to take college courses that will pay off in terms of a job, Russell says, "Asking what can one do with a degree in Black Studies is like asking what can one do with a degree in sociology. It's a stupid question." He believes that at least one course in Black culture should be required of every Black student because "they should know about themselves and feel good about themselves." This is what Black Studies is all about.

The more successful Black Studies programs like those in the Black Studies Departments at the Universities of North Carolina, Indiana and Ohio State are preparing students to work in the Black community. It is this sense of commitment to Black community empowerment that is the motivating force in the never-ending struggle for Black Studies survival. "We have a whole race of people that we have to save in constructive ways, rather than talk about what's dying," says Dr. Bertha Maxwell, first chairperson of NCBS.

Many of the children and others in our Black and Hispanic communities are suffering to an unconscionable degree in terms of literacy enhancement because of the many negative "affective" situations within these communities. "Affective" learning, which encompasses Black Studies demands for relevancy in educational programs, is based primarily on strengthening and building a submerged ego and sense of hope. As Dr. Russell said, "They should know about themselves and feel good about themselves."

The national Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP) has specifically designed materials to fulfill what one noted philosopher called the three essential questions in life—*Who am I? Who are you? and What's around the corner for us, working respectfully and fulfilling together?*

AOIP and NCBS both are dedicated to Black community empowerment via the path of affective learning and teaching. AOIP and NCBS both are about saving our Black communities in constructive and positive ways. As NCBS virtually stands alone between the "rapid demise of Black Studies and its perpetuation as a potential educational instrument," so do the more than 80 national organizations comprising AOIP virtually stand alone between the awesome predicament of Black illiteracy and the liberation of Black individuals, families and communities.

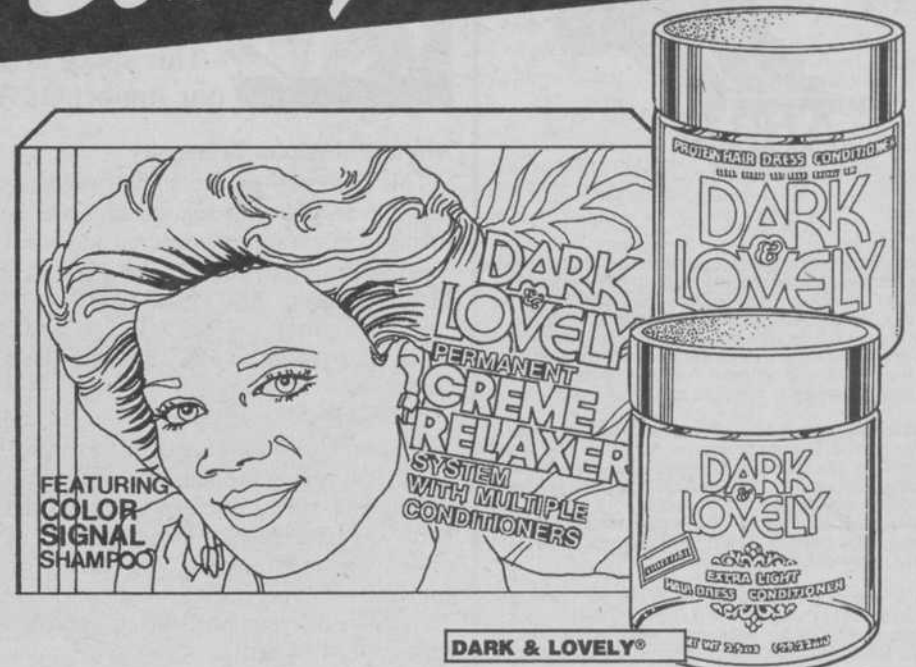
NCBS could not find a better way to achieve its goal of Black community empowerment than to align itself squarely behind the national Assault On Illiteracy Program in its literacy enhancement efforts. NCBS and AOIP—perfect together!

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