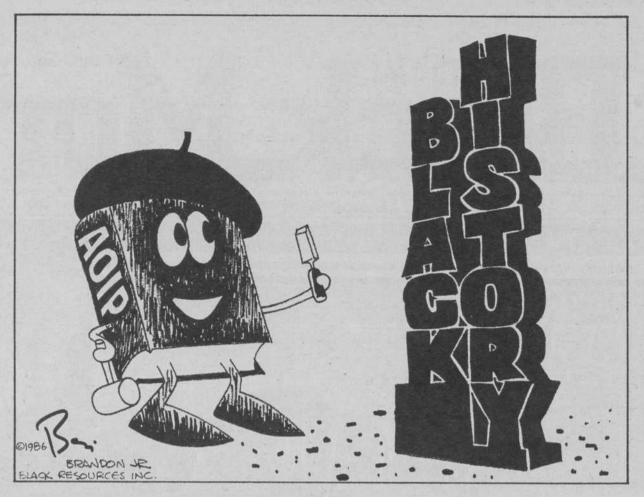
## **BMI Cooperative Newspapers** And Carriers Of The National BLACK MONITOR

\*\*Akron Reporter Group (OH)
\*\*Albany Times (GA)
\*\*Arkansas State Press (AR)
\*\*Arkansas State Press (AR)
\*\*Arkansas State Press (AR)
\*\*Arkansas State Fress (AR)
\*\*Augusta Black Focus (GA)
\*\*Augusta Black Focus (GA)
\*\*Augusta Black Focus (GA)
\*\*Batha Capital City Frin News (SC)
\*\*Birningham Times (AL)
\*\*Bloomington Voice (IL)
\*\*Boston Greater News (MA)
\*\*Buffalo Criterion (NY)
\*\*Buffalo Fine Print (NY)
\*\*Charleston Coastal Times (SC)
\*\*Charleston Coastal Times (SC)
\*\*Charleston Coastal Times (SC)
\*\*Charleston Chronicle SC)
\*\*Chicago Independent Bulletin (IL)
\*\*Chicago Tri-City Journal (IL)
\*\*Chicago

All of the newspapers in The BMI Cooperative are considered publishers of the MONITOR. Because of cost limitations in printing, we cannot provide MONITORs for all of our publishers. Those marked with a bullet are our present carriers.



## Editorial T

This month's Cover Story is about the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers (NAMAD), but it has far reaching economic and communitybuilding implications for us all.

This story is essential reading for "all Black Americans concerned about the promising potential of our people if we are willing to do far, far more for ourselves. Not only does it reflect the lengths to which White Corporate America is willing to go if we properly prepare ourselves, begin doing for ourselves and then protest. But also, it amazingly (to many) shows that many Black Americans have begun to assume far more responsibility for UPLIFT-ING our own...and that this helps us and is the only way we can negotiate with White America for the equitable treatment needed for everyone in this nation of such potential."

Black history-even though not correctly recorded-is an integral part of American history. It is American history. Nonetheless, Black contributions to the growth and development of this country, generally, have been omitted from our history books. Even today, despite limited efforts to rectify this situation, our history continues to be White-oriented to the detriment of our youth-especially our urban Black youth, who are locked into neighborhood and school environments which seem deliberately to give them the message that they are worthless. Even our U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. has never squarely faced this issue and taken any steps to redress this deterrent to learning at its root causes.

The well over 80 national organizations affiliated with the national Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP) are working together interorganizationally to confront the illiteracy predicament in Black America,

which has reached near epidemic proportions. In 1980, 44 percent of Blacks, age 18 and over, were found to be reading at about the fourth grade level. Many of these Blacks had high school diplomas. Today, the illiteracy rate is over 47 percent. If it continues, unchecked, by the year 2000, 60 percent of Black Americans will be functionally illiterate.

The AOIP experience has been that Black functional illiteracy stems not from an inability to learn but from a lack of motivation to learn that is largely reflective of low self-esteem.

The Assault On Illiteracy Program volunteers are reaching back to those who feel worthless and who feel that learning is useless. These volunteers, through their personal example and commitment, are beginning to develop confidence and hope in these young people. The work of the AOIP (Continued on page 3.)

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