

**THE NAACP AND YOU!**

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**--The Black Males in Jeopardy--**

Meaning is the black males are in deep trouble. Excerpts from the following writers fully demonstrate this point of view. First, the "Publishers Forward" by Dr. Benjamin Hooks of the NAACP: This issue of The Crisis magazine addresses the historical and current role of the black male in America. Recently the black male has received a lot of attention in the majority media. Regrettably, most of the attention received has been in a negative vein. Unquestionably the black male has played a significant role in America under some of the most adverse conditions imaginable. He was perceived as a threat to white

males in particular, from 1619, the year when blacks first landed on these shores. Legislation was enacted which circumscribed his freedom of movement and limited the options which were available to him. He was denied in many instances the right to live with his family and to exercise his patriarchal functions which were commonplace in his native culture and in the cultures of men throughout the world.

During the days of post-reconstruction and the era of Plessy vs. Ferguson, Separate but Equal, the black man was in jeopardy if he dared to stand up for that which he believed, or endeavored to protect his family, or to challenge the white power structure.

Against his historical backdrop, and despite the current problems which plague the black man; and there are many, black men, as is the case with black women, have nonetheless made tremendous progress. The role that the black-male-led churches have played in our quest for justice is questioned. Men like Adam Clayton Powell, Walter White, Whitney Young, Martin Luther King, Jr., Tom Bradley, Julian Bond, Maynard Jackson, Coleman Young, Andrew Young, Kenneth Gibson, Carl Rowan, Bill Matney, Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis, just to mention a few, have altered drastically the American social landscape.

In every area where blacks, regardless of sex, have been given an opportunity, we have excelled. We have no reason to believe that once the remaining barriers which were erected to exclude blacks in general and black men in particular are torn down, that we will not excel in those areas also. The recent cutbacks in job training, the de-emphasizing

of affirmative action by this administration threaten to halt the progress which we have already made. The statistics on the current status of black males indicate that there is still a need to overcome seemingly incredible odds. For instance, the number one killer of blacks between the ages of 21-44 is homicide. We have a startling homicide rate of 125.2 deaths per 100,000 of white males. Unemployment among black men is approximately 2½ times that of whites; black men drop out of school at a proportionately higher rate than their white counterparts or even black women. Although black men constitute six percent of the total U.S. population, we represent over 40% of the nation's prison population and less than ten percent of the male college population. Alcoholism and drug addiction continue to plague black youth and 51% of the violent crime in the U.S. is committed by black youth. One out of every six black males will be arrested by the time they reach the age of 19. Unemployment among young black males in some cities is as high as 70%.

In spite of these bleak figures and great challenges which face black Americans in general, and black men in particular, there are some positive signs on the horizon. It is encouraging to note that a number of fraternal, civic and religious groups and organizations are embarking upon programs designed to reach many of our young black men who have been alienated by a society which

offers them few opportunities and little hope.

We at the NAACP, will continue to lead, not only doing what we can for ourselves but insist on Government doing its part.

**SCHOOL**

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changes reflect on the needs of these students. When we could identify the number of credits needed for graduation by adding English, math, art, and computer science, such recommendations may be most appropriate for the college bound youth, and should be considered so, but are they appropriate for that student who will enter the world of work and become an electrician, plumber, carpenter, or health technician upon graduation.

In open hearings, the Clark County School District administration and teachers have opposed such changes, yet the State Department continues with its thrust to improve the scores for the State of Nevada on two nationally recognized college entrance examinations. Decline in test scores on these examinations caused the initial study to be completed at the national level, but a second document, reflecting the needs of vocational students, received little publicity and less agreement. It dealt with America's work force for tomorrow. The comprehensive high school for five decades of America's history has produced students literate and

a major percentage of our youth and their educational needs. Certainly, there is a need for appropriate educational reform, reform that is prompted by careful study of needs identified by student interest, state and national interest, and the direct "mission" of the public schools.

When twenty-five percent of the students who begin public school drop out before graduation, adding more of the "same" doesn't appear to be the answer. In the next few weeks, the State Board of Education will pass or reject the proposed recommendations for educational reform. Let's hope that vocational education does not become a casualty of that reform movement.

**ROOSEVELT**

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prepared for the work force. Vocational subjects now may be in jeopardy if we make all of our changes requisite to college entrance and neglect will either do it with them or without them. Hmmmmmm.

Because of recent events, domestic terrorism must be reevaluated in light of our new national policy: "No terrorist will find sanctuary anywhere on this planet." We, who have been terrorized for years, have learned, in the past week, how to deal with terrorists. Now, if I could only find an F-111.

**CHURCH**

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our Director General, for inviting me along with other concerned pastors to be a part of this much needed group. When I received a call from Pastor Sanders one Saturday morning concerning a problem with one of the ministers in the community, I shared the feelings of the minister involved because I too have been a victim of unholy gossip blown out of proportion by our local black papers." He added, "Part of what we ask is that the paper, especially our black papers be as fair to the blacks in the community as the white press are to others. We realize that news is news, and are not trying to keep newspapers from presenting the news, but we are asking that both sides be presented. If a decision is to be made, let the reader make it by reading both sides of the matter."

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