

# AS A BLACK FAMILY"

## A CRUCIAL MODEL

frequently the family was broken, it was primarily responsible for the slave's ability to survive on the plantation without becoming totally dependent on and submissive to his master. The important thing was not that the family was not recognized legally or that masters frequently encouraged monogamous mating arrangements in the quarters only when it was convenient to do so, but rather that some form of family life did exist among slaves.

Blassingame further concludes:

...While the form of family life in the quarters differed radically from that among free Negroes and whites, this does not mean that the institution was unable to perform many of the traditional functions of the family. The rearing of children was one of the most important of these functions. Since slave parents were primarily responsible for training their children, they could cushion the shock of bondage for them, help them to understand their situation, teach them values different from those their masters tried to instill in them, and give them a reference for self-esteem other than their master.

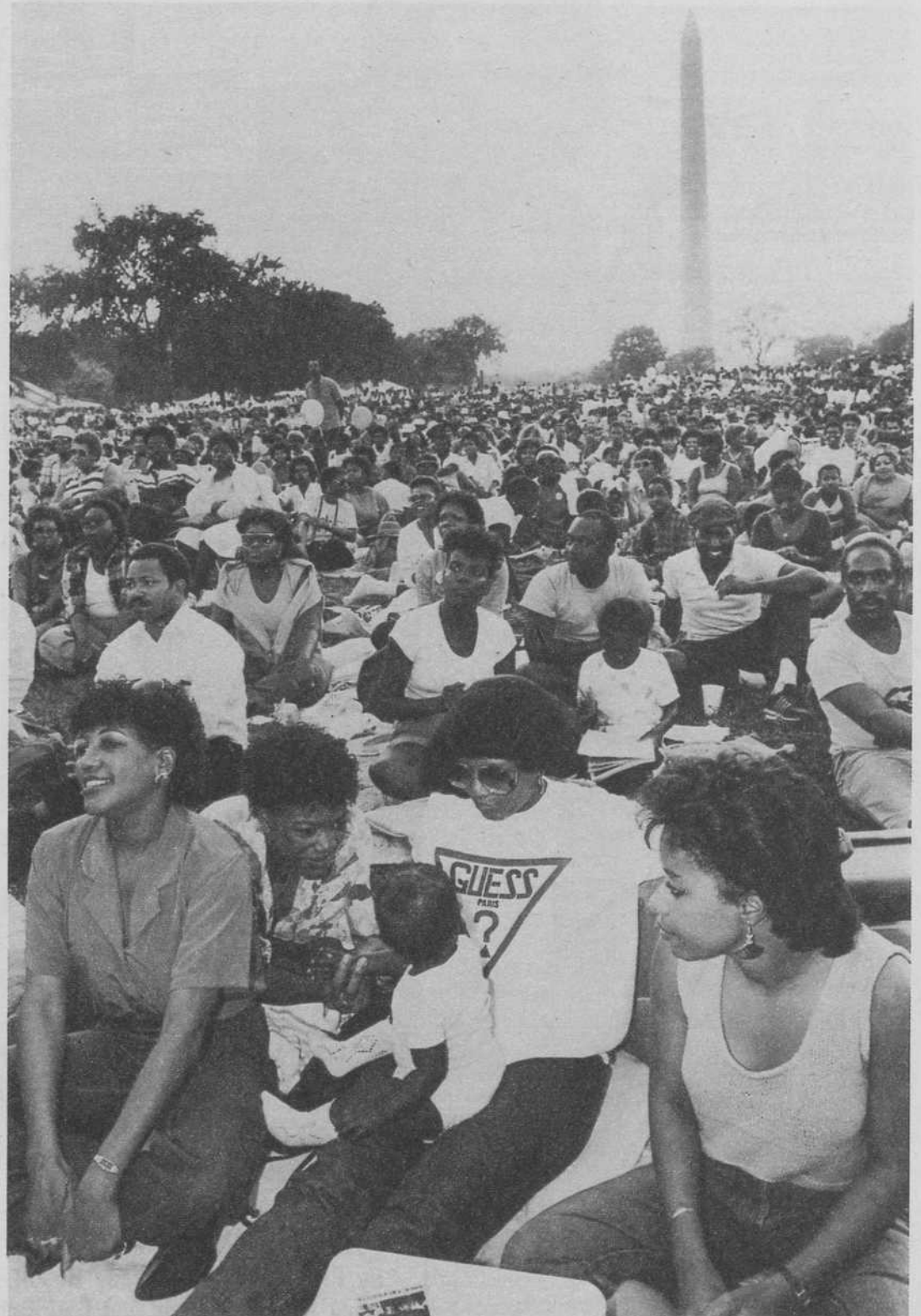
### The Black Family: Role Model for America

**W**alter Fauntroy, D.C. Delegate to the U.S. Congress and one of the Black Family Reunion speakers, stressed the importance of the Black family as a role model for the entire nation.

...The institution of the family in America is under pressure now more

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*The first annual Black Family Reunion was held on the National Mall in Washington, DC. With over 200,000 in attendance over the two days, there was not a single incident requiring police response.*



Photos courtesy of Roland Freeman

## Own Bootstraps" ...A Series