

Kappa Alpha Psi Polemarch Says Too Many Urban Black Males Are Becoming a Part of a Lost Generation

There is a seemingly persistent segment of Black urban males — perhaps as much as 50 percent of young Black males in certain cities — that still find themselves cut off from the American mainstream, according to Randall C. Bacon, Grand Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

"They are unemployed and undereducated. They seem unable, and in some cases perhaps unwilling to become a part of the broader Society," Grand Polemarch Bacon noted.

Even though Black men account for only 6 percent of America's population, they make up half if its male prisoners. The leading cause of death among young Black men is murder. A Black man has a one in 21 chance of becoming a murder victim. This is more than six times greater than the population as a whole. While the national unemployment rate is 6.9 percent, for Black men it is 15 percent, and for Black teenagers it remains at more than 40 percent. Approximately 18 percent of Black males drop out of high school.

"There are many causes for these problems. Some causes are chronic unemployment, segregated ghettos, poor education and the sweeping changes in America's industrial environment, many Black men have turned to the drug culture. Unfortunately, drugs have produced an alternative economy that for some

provide high wages and self-esteem which they cannot earn in the mainstream of society," said Grand Polemarch Bacon.

"As a consequence of the deteriorating situation in Black Urban America, it has been estimated that there are fewer than 50 marriageable Black men between the age of 20 and 24 for every 100 Black women of the same age group," said Grand Polemarch Bacon. "To be sure, there is a crisis that is existing, whether it is admitted or not, among many of our young Black males."

"Domestic policies of the Reagan Administration, which have cut social spending, have hit poor Blacks particularly hard," Grand Polemarch Bacon asserted.

"Kappa Alpha Psi believes that it is a waste of human talent to allow the continued deterioration of Black males in our urban cities," said Grand Polemarch Bacon. "We believe that it is the responsibility not only of all Black organizations, but also of the government to institute programs to help change what is happening in our urban cities."

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., supports efforts to eradicate this problem and calls upon its affiliates around the nation to pay particular attention to encouraging the development of programs which will help to eliminate this deplorable situation, Grand Polemarch Bacon concluded.

MEETING

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met nationally four times before, in 1967, 1969, 1975 and 1974. Beginning in 1988, national meetings will be held every four years, coinciding with presidential election years, Williams said. Leaders and representatives of about ten major organizations, ranging from the Congressional Black Caucus to the national Caucus of Black School Board Members have been invited.

The chairpersons and presidents include Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif), CBS; George Vaughn, NC-BSBM, Alexandria, VA.; Judge Thelma Wyatt-Cummings, (GA.) Judicial Council of the National Bar Association; Webster J. Guillory, (DC) National

Association of Black County Officials; John Barnes, National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (DC); David P. Richardson, Jr., National Black Caucus of State Legislators, (DC); and John H. Smith, National Conference of Black Mayors (Atlanta).

Observers say the convention could stimulate calls for revival of national black political convention, similar to sessions first held in 1968. The last black political convention was held in 1978.

CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HILL

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strong religious values, education, individual enterprise and hard work. These values are matched by a strong set of civic values in the face of racial discrimination.

In spite of these black values, the report says, one tenth of American Whites are poor and one third of Blacks are poor. Most of the Black poor are concentrated in badly deteriorated inner cities — poorly educated, without skills and experience required in today's workplace. These conditions exist because of declining male labor force participation, high rates of out-of-wedlock births, female-headed households and a high level of welfare dependency. Sweeping economic and technological changes and global economic changes have resulted in a decline in relative competitiveness of major segments of the U.S. economy in well-paying jobs of modest skills, which brought other Americans into the middle-class, have exacerbated Black poor conditions.

But traditional Black self-help is still alive in the Black community. It is alive through the efforts of church programs, the financial contributions of Black sororities and fraternities and other Black organizations. However, greater leadership is needed to mobilize and enhance these efforts and values. Black middle class must reach more broadly and deeply to aid the poorest Blacks.

Efforts of the Black community cannot stand alone in remedying the conditions. Many of these problems are beyond the capacity of the Black community to correct. The report states that Blacks cannot create the amount of needed jobs; nor can they restore the economy to include jobs of moderate skill and decent pay that created the White middle class. They

'Vic' Edwards

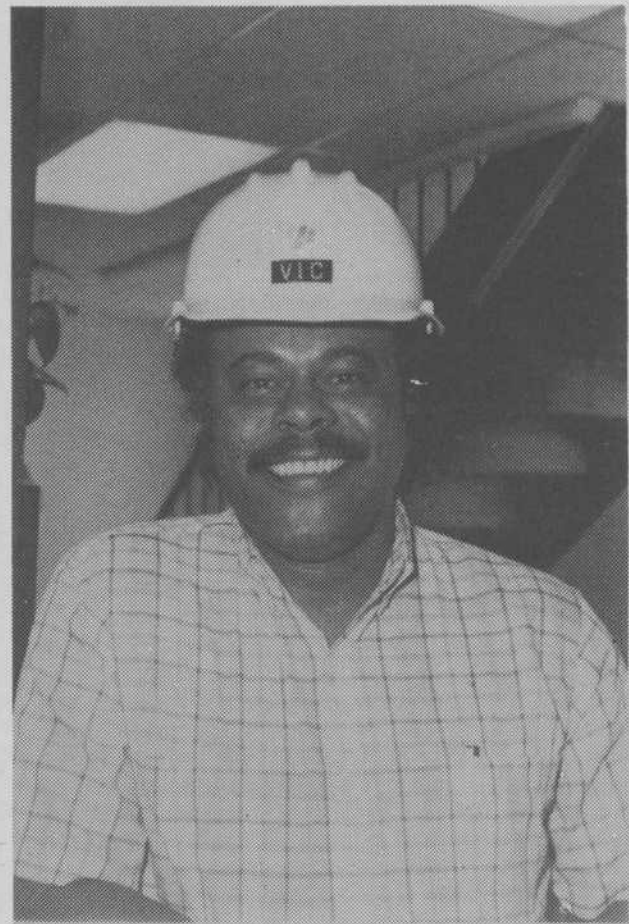
Promoted At Nevada Power

Victor "Vic" Edwards was promoted to warehouse supervisor at Nevada Power's Reid Gardner generating station on June 1, Reid Gardner plant Supervisor Terry Leavitt announced. Edwards will be responsible for supervising staff and administrative functions in connection with ordering and storing all materials used at the plant.

Edwards joined the company in 1982 as an operating helper and was promoted to auxiliary operator, then warehouse foreman in 1985. He holds a bachelors degree in management from Park College, Parkville, Mo., and has done graduate work at Central Michigan University and National University.

He is serving his third term as Imperial Deputy for the Prince Hall Shriners, the top position in the state of Nevada. He is also a Mason.

He and his wife Patricia have a son, Christopher.



Victor "Vic" Edwards

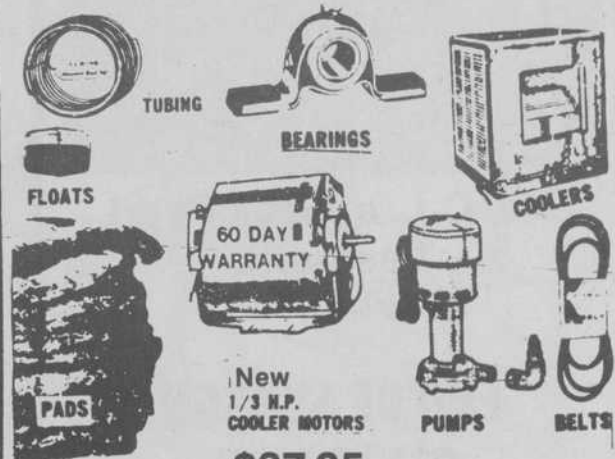
cannot restore the deteriorated infrastructure of the cities that provide the framework for ghetto conditions and attitudes. These must be done by government.

The report shows how the government in the past has ensured civil rights, removed blatant racial discrimination and has acted to alleviate severe poverty. It says, "since 1981, however, it has retreated on all fronts — deepening Black problems, especially in employment, health, education and family stability."

Government must assume its role to establish a democratic, humane and stable society.

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- 1 I am easily irritated when required to stand in line.
- 2 My level of refinement is average.
- 3 Off-color language is embarrassing.
- 4 Perfection is often just an accident.
- 5 Most people would consider me unsophisticated.
- 6 I dislike having to get dressed up to go out.
- 7 Early hotel check-out times are annoying.
- 8 People place too much emphasis on sex these days.
- 9 Moral values are lower now than ever before.
- 10 Love and commitment should precede sex.