

JONES

From Page 3

my son needed to understand the principal had instructed him to be perfect and he couldn't afford to slip up. There were no other problems until the bell rang for Christmas vacation. The students were running and pushing leaving the gym after an assembly. My son says a kid fell into him, and he into another kid, who in turn fell into a teacher. The teacher called both students aside. She later let one go and kept my son. There was an RPC hearing. This is what was explained:

The school district has a contract with its employees to guarantee their safety during assemblies. "Any willful act on the part of a student that results directly or indirectly in the injury of a teacher can result in an Opportunity School referral." My youngster was once again referred to Opportunity School, even though the teacher was not injured, and everyone agreed it was an accident.

Infuriated by the decision, I realized it was time to address the real issue, "the growing intolerance of black males." I had recently read in three local papers that according to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, Black male students are twice as likely as whites to be suspended from school and most at risk for disciplinary action. Hav-

ing spoken with parents of other black male students, I found they were constantly being threatened with Opportunity School and were being RPCd for minor incidents. I knew it was time to act. I called the National Coalition of Advocacy for Students (NCAS) in Boston and what they told me was frightening. The Coalition consists of 21 different student advocacy groups across the country. They strongly believe the "study doesn't mean black and other minority students are breaking school rules more often. However there is evidence of the failing of schools to be peopled by adults skilled in handling students from diverse backgrounds."

Many young students today are striving to overcome the obstacles this society places before them and I will not allow my son to be a casualty. My son has been depicted as being a nuisance and disruptive. I contend the problem lies with the principal, primarily his inability to accept the board's decision. I believe my son's very presence is disturbing to the administrator. He may engage in typical adolescent misbehavior and some may perceive him to be flip, arrogant and even cocky but those of broader vision will admire his confidence, creativity and spontaneity; all this coupled with his African name is a bit much for some. Kwasi is coming into his own and expects to be

treated equally and fairly. You cannot put him on a shelf and ignore him; he will not go away. He has a sense of diplomacy and a sense of himself. Like his older brother, he knows how to live in both worlds.

The appeal was heard Friday, January 21, 1989, and the ruling was in our favor. However, the board recommended he be sent to another school. I didn't agree with the recommendation but was unaware until later that it was really an order. I was informed that I may choose one of two options — either a different school, or Opportunity School, which has tunity School which I feel very strongly has quite a stigma.

Though it's called a victory, in essence, it's not. My son should be able to walk once again on that campus with his head held high. If the school district agrees he has not done anything serious enough to warrant the alternative school referral, and if they cannot guarantee that he will be treated equal and just, then they should remove the administrator, not the student. If the student body and the faculty never see him again he has suffered the same consequence as if he had been kicked out. I expressed this opinion to my attorney and to the school district and I was told something quite disturbing. If I do not exercise the two options offered, I will be charged with educational neglect. My son has missed four weeks of school waiting for appeals and hearings. I have done everything to fight for him. The school district should be charged with educational neglect, not me.

My concern is not just for my children, but for all of the children in the district. I guarantee you, mine will be protected, but what about the others who have no one who will go as far as I have? You see, my son has a right to public education without differential treatment or racial disparity in disciplinary action. He has a right to be a kid, and I have a right to defend and protect him. He may engage in typical adolescent misbehavior, but he is not involved with gangs, weapons, drugs, or any other criminal or anti-social behavior.

We must address the problem of the abuse of disciplinary power on the part of the principal and dean at John C. Fremont.

It has been said to be born black and male in America is

BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO FEATURE NATIONWIDE RADIO BROADCASTS ON ROLE OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN SHAPING U.S. CONSTITUTION

More than 200 Radio Stations To Present Series of Eight Half-Hour Broadcasts

NEW YORK—In commemoration of Black History Month, more than 200 radio stations nationwide will broadcast eight half-hour programs entitled, "Afro-Americans And The Evolution Of a Living Constitution," during the month of February.

These broadcasts will feature some of the nation's foremost Constitutional analysts and policy experts. They will also examine the role of Afro-Americans in shaping the Constitution through their struggle for racial equality and full citizenship.

Dr. John Hope Franklin, Professor of Legal History, Duke University School of Law, makes the point in one broadcast that the rights proclaimed by the Constitution were not originally meant for blacks. He said the framers of the Constitution brought "a century and a half experience with slavery and a similar period of discrimination against blacks who were not slaves."

In another broadcast, Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Philadelphia, Pa., "reported" on a fictional conversation in heaven in which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gives Thomas Jefferson a black perspective on the Constitution.

Eddie N. Williams, President, Joint Center for Political Studies, is the moderator of the special broadcasts.

Other analysts include: Dr. Mary Frances Berry, Member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; U.S. Representative George Crockett (D-MI); A.E. Dick Howard, Professor of Law, University of Virginia Law School; Frank R. Parker, President, Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights Under Law; the late Wiley Branton, former Dean of the Howard University Law School and David J. Garrow, Professor, Political Science Department, City

double jeopardy. The combination of gender and ethnicity constitutes a threat to those who control this society — to some white males in particular.

To be a black male student of accomplishment, athletic ability, and popularity demands a high price in our school system, but the cost of failure is even higher.



BLACKS AND THE CONSTITUTION TO AIR NATIONALLY! Dr. John Hope Franklin, right, an expert on the U.S. Constitution and Eddie N. Williams, President of the Joint Center for Political Studies, are among several scholars featured in "Afro-Americans And The Evolution Of A Living Constitution," a radio series commemorating Black History Month. The series is scheduled for February broadcasts on more than 200 stations nationwide. This series of eight, half hour broadcasts was edited from last year's symposium on the subject. The program was jointly sponsored by the Joint Center for Political Studies and the Smithsonian Institution. Philip Morris Companies Inc., a co-sponsor of the symposium, has underwritten the radio broadcasts. The series was produced by Radio America, the Joint Center for Political Studies and the Smithsonian Institution.

College of New York and winner of a Pulitzer prize for the book, "Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (1987)."

"We at Philip Morris were pleased to support the symposium as a serious and important assessment of the Constitution and also to underwrite the radio broadcasts," said George L. Knox, III, Staff Vice President, Public Affairs, Philip Morris Companies, Inc.

Knox said: "The radio series will make the essential points of this important symposium available to many more people. We feel that for this to be a living constitution

requires the understanding and interest of all Americans if it is to provide for the common good."

The radio broadcasts were produced by Radio America in cooperation with the Joint Center and the Smithsonian Institution and were underwritten by Philip Morris Companies Inc. This radio series was edited from last year's historic two-day seminar sponsored by the Joint Center and the Smithsonian on "Afro-Americans And The Evolution Of A Living Constitution."

Persons wanting schedules for these broadcasts should contact their local stations or call Radio America, 202-488-7122.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

CANSHARE: A support group for cancer patients, family and friends is held every Monday night at 5:30 P.M. in the American Cancer Society offices.

Free SKIN CANCER SCREENING: Dates: January 26th, February 9th, February 23rd, March 9th, March 23rd.

Time: 12:30 P.M., Place: The American Cancer Society Cancer Education Center, Please call to register at 798-6877.

Free ORAL CANCER SCREENINGS: Dates: March 1st, May 3rd. Time: 6:00 P.M. Place: The American Cancer Society Cancer Education Center. Please call to register at 798-6877.

FRESH START: This stop smoking program (free to the public) will be held **February 20th through the 23rd** and again **March 20th through the 23rd**. There will be sessions held at noon and at 6:30 P.M. each day at the American Cancer Society Cancer Education Center. Please call to register at 798-6877.

HEATERS




ARVIN - MARKEL - TITAN - SUPERELECTRIC

At Phil's you will find the largest selection in Las Vegas of Automatic 110-220 Volt Wall and Portable Heaters, plus, Gas Furnaces, Kerosene, Oil and Diesel Fuel Heaters.





**PHIL'S SALVAGE, INC.
BUILDER'S EMPORIUM
1131 So. Main Street
382-7528 382-5004
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**