

## EDITORIAL NOTES

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ress and a maker of modern civilization."

Woodson's extensive research showed conclusively that "in his native country...the Negro produced in ancient times a civilization...[which] influenced the [Mediterranean] cultures...he taught the modern world trial by jury, music by stringed instruments, domestication of the sheep, goat, and cow, and the use of iron, by which science and invention have made the universe."

As we go to press, our nation has just observed the third anniversary of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a national holiday, joining such illustrious Americans as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The celebration of the life of this most outstanding man provides Americans with a means of displaying the long delayed recognition of the innumerable and unsung contributions of Blacks to American life.

Our Cover Story this month invites you, our readers, to "Take Pride in African American Authors." This is most appropriate for Black History Month. We as a people must become more involved in reading and collecting the works of fellow African Americans. We must assume the responsibility of seeing that books by Black authors are collected, since as one collector observes, "[Books by Black authors] don't stay in print very long and large quantities of them are usually not printed...."

The Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP), a unique literacy enhancement and community-building coalition of more than 90 national Black-led organizations, is a prime example of Black empowerment efforts, replicating similar achievements of every generation. February is a time of accounting for all of us in AOIP. This month, we hold our national Awards Ceremonies to celebrate those who have done what we consider "exemplary" things to help complete the unfinished work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This is the time also when we look at our overall progress and need for reassessment.

An important facet of this reassessment is meeting the deadlines for our Year 2000 goals, which are:

1. To completely eradicate all "functional illiteracy."
2. To have 80 percent of our Black population give priority support (including tithing) to a Black religious institution and have 100 percent accountability from these institutions.
3. To have at least 80 percent of our college-bound students attend a historically Black college....
4. Have at least 80 percent of our community businesses owned by Blacks....
5. Eliminate the need for unemployment entirely by having skill training and equitable opportunities for all.
6. Eliminate teen pregnancy, substance abuse, child abuse and crime from our neighborhoods.
7. Own and support fully...all of the means of communications which are working totally on our behalf.
8. Have all corporations...to deal equitably with the Black community as set forth in our Credo For Justice and Equity.
9. Have our people in proportionate bargaining positions in all major political parties....
10. Have Black Americans assuming full fiscal obligations for the basic needs of our interorganizational, interdependency-producing efforts....
11. Have at least 80 percent of our Black families investing in ownership/savings plans...and the same percentages strengthening their family ties both spiritually and economically.

Because of the unusual support of the advertisers in all issues of the National BLACK MONITOR, The ADVANCER—AOIP's family and Community Reading Newspaper, produced and distributed at cost—now serves many thousands which we want to turn into millions of potential learners of all ages. Thus, your extraordinary support of these concerned advertisers is requested.

Growing priority support for our Black-owned businesses and African American institutions, first, is the focus of AOIP's community-uplifting thrust, as well as the Credo For Justice and Equity, which is published quarterly in the National BLACK MONITOR.

Second, we are concerned with demonstrating our long-term support to those entities outside our African American communities, which are helping us rebuild our communities into our own "oases of hope" for the good of all in America.

### AOIP CORPORATE REPORT CARD

By continuing to advertise their products and services in these community-building media (please see

listing on Page 3), these national advertisers are helping the AOIP media and the AOIP organizations continue not only their efforts to eradicate illiteracy, but also all of its resultant ills that plague America as a whole.

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We encourage you to remember and be particularly supportive (in your buying habits) of the advertisers you see not only in the National BLACK MONITOR, but also in your local AOIP-cooperating newspapers whenever you are shopping for goods and services.

The world of the 1990s and 21st century will be strongly influenced by those who are best able to deal with science, math and technology . . .

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Educators . . .  
Business people . . .  
Civic leaders . . .  
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Those who care . . .



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