

Education

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HILTON

The NNPA's Literacy Program: Part One



KEITH O. HILTON

As an educator, one of the highlights of attending the National Newspaper Publishers 50th Anniversary Convention in Chicago was the opportunity to learn more about the position of the African American press with regards to this nation's literacy situation.

This effort, coordinated by one of this nation's premiere educators and publishers, Dr. Ruth Love, will generate much needed attention to the educational plight of young African American children in particular.

One of our biggest concerns, however, is that the less than positive introductory tone of the NNPA's position paper not overshadow the substance of its deeper and positive message - with very real solutions.

From our vantage point, we note that position papers pertaining to Africans, and especially written by

Africans, are more readily received (by Africans) when they are introduced in the affirmative.

Misery research, as we call it, is too often the dominant mode of research done on African American communities. By misery research, we are referring to an overabundance of statistics that paint a picture of despair. The NNPA's literacy program is NOT misery research, but rather a solid program.

A second concern of HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is that U.S. African publishers, journalists and educators not distance themselves from this effort. It is easy to fall prey to a Them vs. Us syndrome when it comes to "education" and "economics."

What follows are capsule highlights of major categories of the NNPA's position paper along with a

few of our comments. The bulk of part one of this two part column, as you will note, is primarily on structure. As we mentioned, this excellent position paper was developed by one of the best.

THE LITERACY PROBLEM and CHALLENGE

"Today, in our advanced technological society, some 23 million adults are functionally illiterate. Another 35 million are semi-literate. Schools are graduating students who are functionally illiterate. Each year, some two million people are added to these categories. For African-American children and youth, the situation is even graver, with 40% of them falling in the functionally illiterate range. In fact, far too many students fall farther and farther behind, the longer they remain in school."

H:HE: A more positive title for this introduction section could have been **The Literacy Challenge and Answer**. The final two paragraphs could have been lead paragraphs because they imply confidence and action. They read as follows: "The Black Press is a potent force in communities throughout America. As such, Black newspapers have a significant role in stimulating interest in reading, mathematics and thinking skills.

Because the stories relate to the world of the students, they are powerful in motivating children and youth. Research tells us that Black newspapers are kept in homes longer and read repeatedly."

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world

KCEP Resumes A-Team Program

The "A" Team is a program designed to encourage and motivate students to do their best in school and to reward them for their outstanding achievement, as a result of their efforts. It's educational as well as fun. The "A" Team consists of students from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Students can score an "A" on any assignment given by a teacher, have it signed by him/her and bring it to KCEP Radio. They then qualify for the "A" Team. Applications must be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian.

"A" papers will be accepted Monday through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with a deadline ending at 3 p.m. on Mondays.

Six (6) winners will be selected at random and their names will be read on the air every Monday at 4 p.m. These winners will receive prizes like albums, cassettes and posters. The last Friday, of each month, all of the names selected during that month will be eligible for the Grand Prize, which will be announced the week of the Grand Drawing.

The starting date for applications will be September 17, 1990 and the first Grand Prize drawing will be the last Friday of October, which will be the 26th.

readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to school classrooms. Let's talk. (714) 899-0650.

Money For College: It's Still Available

By Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins

As many high school graduates prepare for their first college experience in the fall, many capable youngsters may fail to advance their education because of one substantial obstacle: money.

Therefore, in this column I would like to identify sources of tuition funds available to students needing financial assistance. There are both grants, which need not be repaid, and low interest loans, which require repayment upon graduation from college or upon leaving school.

The Pell Grant is available to undergraduates who have not earned a bachelor's or first professional degree. The maximum award is \$2,200 per academic year and is limited to five full years of academic study -- a sixth year is permissible if your degree requires more than four years to complete. For complete details on this grant program and others mentioned, contact the Department of Education in Washington, D.C., the college financial aid office where you intend to enroll, and perhaps your high school guidance counselor.

A Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) is for undergraduates with exceptional financial need (priority is given to Pell Grant recipients). Up to \$4,000 per year may be available. Unlike the Pell Grant program, the Department of Education may not have ample funds to provide all SEOG applicants with money.

The Perkins Loan program

is a low-interest loan (5%) that is available for both undergraduate and graduate students. Various amounts are available depending on your level of study and other restrictions.

*\$4,500 if you're enrolled in a vocational program or have less than two years toward your bachelor's degree.

*\$9,000 for undergraduates completing more than two years academic work and reaching third year status. (Includes sums under Perkins and National Direct Student Loan[NDSL].)

*\$18,000 for graduate or professional study. This amount also includes past Perkins/NDSL funds.

The Stafford Loan program (formerly the Guaranteed Student Loan) is a low-interest loan from banks and credit unions.

And of course, there is the College Work Study program. This program provides jobs for undergraduates and graduate students who need financial aid to pay for college expenses.

The above assistance programs are a few of the federal assistance programs. Parents and students should also inquire into state programs now available and various other college assistance programs.

A lack of money should not prevent capable students from advancing their education. Getting it, however, will require intense homework.

**NEED HELP
WITH READING,
WRITING, MATH,
& GED — AGE: 16+**

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"Highest rated car we've ever tested...
Setting new standards in overall excellence!"

Consumer Reports Magazine

"It's not a car...
it's a high speed cloud with a leather interior!"

Car & Driver



The new Lexus LS 400 has received lofty praise from the automotive press. But why not form your own opinion? Come in to Fletcher Jones Lexus on Rancho Road near Sahara, right next door to our Mercedes-Benz dealership and test drive one today. We think you'll find that while the Lexus LS 400 elevates luxury car performance, its price is anything but sky-high.



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THING TO DEVELOP"