

MEDIA SELECTIVELY HIGHLIGHT NEGATIVE STATISTICS ON BLACK AMERICANS

HOUSTON - The results of a number of studies released this year concerning black Americans were highlighted by media. They have one thing in common: They all focus on pathological or negative behaviors among some blacks.

But a number of different study results also released this year, which reveal positive or

insightful information concerning African Americans, were largely ignored by the press.

"It appears media are anxious to report negative and detrimental behaviors among African Americans," said Willie A. Richardson, publisher of National Minority Politics, a Houston-based monthly news and opinion magazine. "Yet those

behaviors which are positive and, if emphasized, could reinforce to build stronger communities are almost completely ignored," he said.

As an example, Richardson said most major newspapers and television networks reported the findings of a University of California, Berkeley study indicating 24 percent of black mothers

drink, smoke or use drugs during pregnancy, as compared with 12 percent of whites, 9 percent of Hispanics and 7 percent of Asians.

But another study revealed black adolescents, in contrast to whites, perceive significantly lower levels of peer pressure and appear more tolerant of behavioral differences in their friendships, reflecting, in the words of the researchers, that black teens possess more "social flexibility." These findings, which major media ignored, were reported in the May 1993 issue of the relatively obscure Journal of Marriage and the Family.

Earlier this year, said Richardson, the public was

bombarded with the Census Bureau figures showing high levels of female-headed households among black Americans. But only the minimally circulated publication, Family Relations, reported the results of a University of North Carolina at Greensboro study on black grandmothers.

It appears from the study findings that black grandmothers both give to and receive more help from their grandchildren than do their counterparts. This finding is an agreement with other data which show a stronger helping network in the black than white community. The same study showed black elderly parents receive more help than

corresponding white parents irrespective of socioeconomic differences.

Richardson's explanation for media's tendency to report only bad news on blacks is that it's habitual. "Reporters generally prefer to cover bad news than good news," said Richardson. "When a report comes out on blacks which also happens to be negative, reporters reflexively gravitate to it."

Richardson added that black-owned newspapers and magazines will have to do a better job of ferreting out and disseminating positive information. "Black publications have a vested interest in presenting a more balanced picture," he said.

EOB BOARD ELECTIONS SET FOR DECEMBER 14

Five (5) seats to represent low-income residents of Clark County, City of Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas, are now open on the 15 member Board of Clark County.

EOB's Board of Directors are elected officials, individuals affiliated with community organizations and five (5) members of the public elected to represent low-income residents of the community. The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark

County is the largest nonprofit agency in Nevada with 23 different programs serving over 40,000 people yearly.

Elected representatives serve a 3 year term. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and obtain the signatures of 15 supporters who reside in the same geographic area.

Interested persons wishing to become candidates to the EOB Board may call or visit EOB Administrative Offices, 2228

Comstock Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89030. Telephone (702) 647-2010 for more information and to obtain filing cards. The filing period ends November 30, 1993.

THE RAY WILLIS REPORT

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the participants agreed the monthly sessions were having a positive impact on news coverage of African-American issues.

It must be pointed out that there are no Blacks in decision-making positions in any of the major news organizations locally. And, even if there were, they would still have to work within the established frame work.

With that in mind, I feel the effectiveness of the committee lies in the exchange of ideas and information that can serve as a catalyst for change. No one can argue that as a direct result of this group, news editors have a greater understanding of Black issues in the news. And they now cover news with a greater cultural sensitivity and awareness.

And that's what it's all about — changing perceptions from mere notions about race — into a concrete, factual, reality.

To know is to grow. Until next week.

NAARPR REPORT

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and pray to some manifestation created by Michael Angelo after sitting and contemplating the top of the Sistene Chapel. What is important is as a preacher once told me that you pass the powder. In other words, if you are engaged in a war and you are down in the trenches... The issue is the war, the struggle itself. So if you believe in Christ and you say pass the powder and bless you Jesus that is fine. The brother next to you, who also has a vested interest being engaged in the same war, may say pass

the powder and praise Allah that is also fine. The next brother may say pass the powder and don't praise nobody, that is also fine.

Because the issue is to pass the powder, not what you say after you pass the powder. At some point in time we will all have to recognize this because the struggle that unites us, which is the struggle for survival is far more than petty differences, the petty deities, and the petty beliefs that tend to fragment us. La Lucha Continua!

The Struggle Continues!

GUEST COMMENTARY

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This, no doubt, will partially be a reflection on yourselves, and how we did not help give the youths an effective way of dealing with the various problems they face out here.

Show them how to be warriors of human rights. Abandon the idea that it is always our peoples obligation to come to

you. You carry much of the burden to reach out to the people and make them hear what you are doing and what you have to say.

Do it, even if you only reach one person a day. We are in big trouble and you must come out on the streets, in the trenches with the soldiers. I am challenging you to come out here. I am asking because we need you.

Yes! You Can Buy A Home.

Our Free Home Loan Seminar Will Show You How

Wednesday, November 17
6:30-8:30 p.m.
H. P. Fitzgerald Elem. School
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Buying a home may be easier than you think! Our free seminar will concentrate on programs for first-time home buyers or those who feel that they may not be able to afford a home. It's an informational session for anyone considering applying for a home loan, equity line of credit or simply seeking more information.

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Seminar Topics Include:

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- Who is eligible for these very special loan programs
- How to apply for a home equity line of credit
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