

ALONG THE COLOR LINE

"A Message To The Black Youth"

By Dr. Manning Marable

The black revolutionary writer Frantz Fanon once asserted that each generation, out of relative obscurity, must discover its own destiny. then it has a choice: it may fulfill that destiny, or betray

it. How can today's rising generation of African-American young people come to terms with their own destiny? What is the meaning of the challenges and opportunities which history has

planned for them? What kind of ethics or moral anchor are required for group empowerment and collective advancement?

As a historian of the black American, I know that the question of values and ethics is inextricably connected with memory and collective experience. What we can know ourselves and how we define our own aspirations is informed by what we believe has been the meaning of our historical and contemporary experience. What we believe we can accomplish as individuals is often prefigured by the dimensions of community, by our sense of connection and responsibility to others, and by the values which inform how we treat others and expect to be treated in return.

As the years progress, what young women and men will discover is that the most lasting and rewarding educational experiences come not from specific information provided in classroom lectures or assigned textbooks, but from the values obtained in the active engagement in meaningful issues. We achieve for ourselves, only as we appreciate the problems and concerns of others, and only as we see our own lives as part of a much greater social purpose.

Philosophy as a discipline tells us about the search for meaning — why we are here, and what is the point of our existence? At this point in your lives, African American young people must ask hard questions of themselves. What are the problems and pains, the struggle and challenges of my world, however that world is defined — from the block in one's neighborhood, to the global village of the world? How can my skills, my intellectual gifts, my knowledge and training, be of some service to others in that community? How can my voice

speaking for those who denied a voice in our society — whether by poverty or disease, hunger or homelessness, by race, gender, sexual orientation or physical ability? We find real meaning in the work we perform, when our efforts empower others, as they generate new human possibilities and new visions for those who do not have the opportunities we take for granted.

The Quakers have an expression: those who fight against social injustice, those who take a stand for human freedom and equality, must "speak truth to power." So I would urge African American young people, no matter what education they may attain, or vocation they pursue, or social, religious and political affiliations they may have, to "speak truth to

power." If you go forward to law school or professional school, acquiring skills of advocacy and technical information, speak truth to power by applying those credentials to a fearless examination of inequality and social injustice. If you become a teacher, teach in a manner which will empower your students to recognize oppression and racism, to liberate themselves from bigotry and inequality. If you become a journalist, writer or poet, use your creative talents to unearth the cultural roots of contemporary social problems.

Speaking truth to power means standing for a set of principles and acting courageously, finding one's own voice, struggling with joyful hope and a deep love for the promise of humanity. To continue our collective commitment to the



DR. MANNING MARABLE struggle for freedom and equality, to revive the vision of Martin and Malcolm, is the generational challenge for young African Americans.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African American studies, Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" appears in 300 newspapers and journals and is broadcast by over 800 radio stations worldwide.

THE NAACP AND YOU



The Grand Opening of our new facilities will be held Saturday, August 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at 600 West Owens Avenue. The purpose of the event is to inform the community of our new location.

Our commitment toward positive social change and to help prepare us all for the difficult days-ahead.

All members and those who would like to be members are encouraged to participate in the festivities.

There will be free food and entertainment. Voter registration will be available as the NAACP

encourages your political involvement. Many citizens in our area are in need of legal assistance. The branch will feature a presentation by the Legal Redress Committee.

If you, your group or organization (i.e. dancers, drill teams, bands, poets, etc.) would like to participate, please call the local branch immediately at 657-0599. Although this will be a festive event, all eyes are on the prize (freedom and equality). For more information, please call your local branch of the NAACP.

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WESTSIDE STORY

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I can't forget the all-out white mental cases. Manson, Dahmer, and hundreds of others who take human life for no other reason than to eat the flesh or to make up for coming from a one-parent household. Are you kiddin' me? Black children grow to be doctors, sports heroes and national figures from single parent homes! Not demented murderers!

Finally, although there are clean-hearted white people who try to do the right thing, we realize that at every point in American history, they are murdered or sabotaged out of power or popularity. With no blacks, whites hate other whites. Ask Hitler. Ask King George. Thomas Jefferson didn't start writing the Constitution because the British wanted America to be free and happy.

They wanted his head and George Washington's too. So all the hate will still be here. It will just be for each other instead.

Finally, when blacks regain economic freedom and live in Africa, Jamaica, Australia and Polynesia, whites will be lonely. The music, the sports, the entertainment, the culture, education, expression, dancing,

RAY WILLIS REPORT

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out. If they don't have a book you desire to read, they can quickly get it from another branch. I also am impressed with those who patronize the library as well. It is clear though, from my observations, that the library is being under used. Not enough people are taking advantage of this tremendous resource called the public library.

Unfortunately, many of our people don't heed the wake up call to read until they are up against the wall. It's well-known that prison inmates are among the most voracious readers among African Americans. What a sad commentary though.

If you do not currently read

gospel, mortality and soul of the country will have slipped away...gone.

And just would happen then? They would likely ask if we would come back and provide the missing culture. peace...

on a regular basis, may I suggest that you commit yourself to setting aside a few minutes every day to read. Before long you'll find yourself enjoying the active pursuit of absorbing knowledge the old fashioned way. Become an avid reader. Reading on a regular basis opens the door to an unlimited future.

Kudos to a group called Appreciating Books in our Community (ABC). They read an afrocentric book each month and get together to review it at the West Las Vegas Library.

Like my friend the noted psychiatrist and author Dr. Frances Cress Welsing says all the time and over and over again: "Go to the library (or book store) and read, read, read, read, read!"

To know is to grow. Until next week.

Political Points

(Continued from Page 2) need to go through a fence or go where there is no fence at all if \$270 billion is taken from Medicare, because there will be no prescriptions to fill.

Let's be real careful about fighting for Dry Victories when the economy, housing and health care is drying up. Maybe someday there will be no injustice in America, and we'll have little to do except scream and whine over non-issues.

However, until then...

