

• Educator
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HILTON

**Some 1995 Education Inspirations:
Some People and Organizations**



BY KEITH O. HILTON

Listed are a few of our 1995 education sources and not all are of African descent. Some have helped directly and often and some have inspired us indirectly. This is how bridges are built and barriers toppled.

NAFEO; THE NATIONAL

ASSOCIATION FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION: NAFEO, consisting of 117 predominantly African American colleges and universities, is a world education power.

DR. YOSEF BEN-

JOCHANNAN:

Egyptologist and world class scholar. Along with Dr. John Henrick Clark, Dr. Ben is one of the African world's most valuable elders.

BLACK ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION:

This Virginia/Washington DC based publication has become the bible for many folks working in the academy. Frank Matthews and William Cox, thanks for keeping the message out front.

DR. EDISON O. JACKSON:

President of Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York. Doc has been a leader in African American higher

education from coast to coast. In my opinion, he ranks among the most innovative executives in the nation.

ASSOCIATION FOR

EDUCATION IN JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION (AEJMC): On a professional level, AEJMC has served as a
(See HILTON, Page 21)

Middle School Years Can Be Tough On Students

Houston — The middle school years can be tough for even the best of students.

"Not only are children going through adolescence and puberty, but they also are experiencing changes at school," said Dr. Lou Ann Todd Mock, a psychologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

The nurturing environment of elementary school is a dramatic contrast to middle school, or junior high, world of class changes, increased discipline, larger student bodies and fewer personal relationships with teachers. All this change tends to intensify any existing behavior problems.

"Conduct problems may increase, and the larger school often makes it easier to skip class," Mock said. "Children who have been depressed or withdrawn may become more so."

Mock urges parents to be aware of the following events common to middle school:

*Peer groups begin to exert tremendous pull.

*Independence is shown in clothing and hairstyles.

*Grades may fluctuate at the start of school due to new class routines.

*Identity questions arise — who am I? What am I going to be?

*Substance abuse becomes more prevalent.

*Sexual identity and sexual activity become issues.

"This also is the time when

children become terminally embarrassed by their parents," Mock said. "Wise parents understand that and do not take it too personally."

She suggests that parents help bridge the gap between elementary and middle school by being aware of and willing to talk about the additional stressors their child is facing.

"Communication is vitally important during the next few years," Mock said. "Remain non-judgmental, non-critical and available. Your goal is to raise a child who is independent but can also feel comfortable talking to you."

Parental involvement at school can be a positive influence, as can a child's involvement in after-school activities.

"Be supportive of any interest your child shows in developing a talent or skill," Mock said. "These activities provide your child with a supportive and positive peer group."

Focusing on the positives is another key to surviving this often confusing time.

"Work toward an encouraging environment at home," Mock said.

"When discussing some needed change, let your children know that you still think they are wonderful. Even as they try their wings, your approval and support remain important."



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Senator Joe Neal Teaches CCSN Legislative Course

State Senator Joe Neal, one of Nevada's senior legislators, will be teaching a political science course, "The Legislative Process" at the Community College of Southern Nevada for the fall semester.

A veteran of three special and 12 regular sessions (22 years) in the Nevada Legislature, Senator Neal will provide students with an analysis of the legislative process at the state and national level, with particular attention to Nevada. In the 1995 session, he served on three Senate committees: Commerce and Labor, Human Resources and Facilities, and Transportation.

The course, offered by CCSN's Department of Philosophical and Regional Studies, is a three-credit elective also listed as Political Science 295/Section 001.

It will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Cheyenne Campus, 3200 E. Cheyenne. Classes begin September 9 and continue through December 16.

Those interested in more information should call the department at 651-4008. To register for the course, call CCSN Admissions at 651-4060.