



By Dr. Keith Orlando Hilton

Man, lighten up on Eddie Murphy Dr. H

Living on Long Island, New York, I remember seeing a very young Eddie Murphy on a number of occasions strolling through Roosevelt Field wearing red sneakers (LOL). Quite a fashion statement, huh?

"It's just a movie, Dr. H. You should lighten up some," it was suggested to me recently by a college student I am mentoring.

The movie in question was Eddie Murphy's summer hit, "The Nutty Professor." On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being highest, I gave it 5.

Don't get me wrong, there were a few scenes in the movie that had me laughing, but all in all, unfortunately, its "adult" humor sends several negative messages to young people (and some of us older ones too) — and worldwide.

But I suppose Bro. Murphy is also still laughing all the way to the bank. He is probably also saying, "Who gives a — what Dr. H has to say about my movie. I got his \$6.50 too."

Unfortunately, "The Nutty Professor" is not just a movie, and the (See Hilton, Page 13)

Teens speak out on crime, guns and more

What issues concern kids most? If the national letter-writing campaign sparked by the Speak for Yourself program is any indication, crime is at the top of the list, followed by pregnancy issues, gun control, the environment and drug/alcohol abuse. Also on the list: education, homelessness, domestic policy, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, and discrimination.

"The number of letters about crime and violence nearly doubled from last year," said Barbara Glass, author of the Speak for Yourself curriculum. "The issue is obviously becoming more important to America's youth."

Speak for Yourself is a social studies curriculum distributed nationwide for 7th and 8th graders by Lutheran Brotherhood, a fraternal benefit society.

The curriculum encourages students to identify and then reflect and act on issues that affect their lives. The unit ends with students writing letters to their Congressional representatives, outlining concerns and suggesting solutions.

"Our overcrowded prisons release thousands of repeat offenders to rob, rape and murder again," one student in North Dakota told her congressman.

"...No sane society can let these monsters roam free. I think the government should spend its money on making prisons larger, not making prisoners comfortable....Prisoners should be punished for their crimes, not have better lives than the homeless."

"Education is the key to

advancement for nations and individuals," said a 7th grader in Portland, Ore., urging his representative to establish a mentor program for inner city youth.

"With that, children could find out what the possibilities are in life. Many kids get caught up in gangs due to the fact that there is no one around to show concern or give them hope and love."

This year, more than 8,000 kids wrote letters to their representatives. About 1,000 wrote about crime; 9982 addressed pregnancy issues; 972 wrote letters about gun control; 945 discussed the environment; and 878 had suggestions for dealing with alcohol and drug abuse.

Discrimination was the 10th most frequent subject of student letters. Last year, it was number six. Crime moved to the top spot, up from seventh place last year. Gun control also moved up from ninth place to third.

After the letters were sent, a winner was chosen in each participating congressional district. One student from each state and the District of Columbia was selected from the group of district winners to participate in the RespecTeen National Youth Forum in Washington. During the annual six-day forum, students discuss youth issues and national policy and present their ideas and recommendations to Congress. RespecTeen is Lutheran Brotherhood's national program aimed at helping parents, young people, congregations, schools and communities work together toward positive youth development.

EDUCATION

Delta's elect Marcia Fudge as new sorority president

Special to the Sentinel-Voice
During the 43rd national convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. held in Orlando, Fl. this past July, attorney Marcia L. Fudge was elected as the organization's 21st national president for the 1996-98 biennium.

Fudge, an attorney who resides in Warrensville Heights, Ohio succeeds Bertha Roddey of Charlotte, N.C. who served as DST president from 1992-96.

As national president, Fudge is the chief executive officer of the 190,000 member organization which has 870 plus chapters located in the United States and other countries. Delta

Sigma Theta Sorority is the largest African-American women's public service sorority and is comprised of professional women who have graduated college and has collegiate members who are currently matriculating at colleges and universities.

"I'm very excited about what Delta can become as a public service organization... and I'm happy to serve as a catalyst to make it happen," Fudge said.

"What we do in the next four to six years will determine our viability. It's time to set a new course. The newly-elected Delta president is employed as director of budget and finance/office

administrator in the Cuyahoga County prosecutor's office.

"DST sorority plays a major support role in the African-American community and during this biennium, we will focus on preparing our membership and those we serve for survival and prosperity in the 21st century."

Fudge earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration at the Ohio State University in 1975. She is a 1983 graduate of the Cleveland Marshall College of Law. She is admitted to the Ohio State Bar and the U.S. District Court, Northern District Ohio, and holds membership with the Norman S. Minor Bar Association and the



MARCIA L. FUDGE

Greater Cleveland Bar Association.

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