



HILTON

By Dr. Keith Orlando Hilton

I recently had a productive meeting with a Continental African educator based in Los Angeles. We discussed several possibilities for alternative education models that would be of value to traditional and non-traditional African-American students.

We also reflected on the advantages of CLEP and PEP exams for school credit.

These proficiency exams are designed for more mature students, rather than traditional age college students (18-22), so in many cases they are considered much easier and more practical.

Two independent national agencies administer about 100 different exams. They are designed to be equivalent to the final exam in a typical college class, and the assumption is that if you score high enough, you get the same amount of credit you would have gotten by taking the class.

CLEP is the College Level Examination Program, offered by the College Entrance Examination Board and PEP is the Proficiency Examination Program, offered in the state of New York by the Regents External Degree and elsewhere by the American College Testing Program.

Most of the tests offered by both CLEP and PEP are between 90 minutes and three hours and are multiple choice. A few are essay only, lasting up to seven hours.

Each college or university sets its own standards for passing grades, and also decides how much credit to give for each exam. Anywhere from one to six credits may be earned for each hour of testing. The five basic CLEP tests, for instance, are 90 minutes of multiple choice questions each, and are worth anywhere from 18 to 30 semester units, depending on the school. Thus it is possible to complete the equivalent of an entire year of college in these tests. Most exams are relatively inexpensive, CLEP tests are given over a two-day period once each month at about 1,000 centers, most of them on college or university campuses.

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CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

EDUCATION

Standing for children in 1997

By Bernice Powell Jackson
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Last year on June 1 over 300,000 Americans came together in Washington, D.C. at the single largest demonstration ever on behalf of America's children. Sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund and co-sponsored by 3,700 plus other organizations, Stand for Children showed that Americans do care about what happens to our children and re-committed themselves to caring for all our nation's children.

In 1997 the Children's Defense Fund is once again sponsoring Stand for Children on June 1, but this year's version will not take place in the nation's capital, but in our own communities. This year Stand for Children will focus on the health of our children because there are 10 million children (one in every seven children) who have no health insurance. Nine in ten of them live in working families. Likewise, every day 466 babies are being born to mothers who received little or no prenatal care and 788 babies are born

below normal birthweight.

Stand for Children will focus on the health of children because one in four children under age two are not fully immunized and one million babies and toddlers have anemia and hundreds of thousands suffer from life-threatening asthma and undetected and untreated vision, hearing and learning problems. Stand for Children will focus on health of children because every day 16 children die from gunfire.

This year the Honorary Chairpersons of Stand for Children are Rosa Parks and Rosie O'Donnell, who believe that the precarious health of so many American children is morally wrong and unnecessary. Indeed, meeting all our children's health coverage needs is an urgent and achievable goal for our nation.

Each community will participate in Stand for Children in its own way. Some will have a rally or parade, some will have immunization

fairs, some will have playground clean-ups, some will have student-led drives against cigarette smoking and alcohol abuse, some will have church-sponsored programs for safe spaces for children.

Complementing the local Stand for Children Day activities will be a "Virtual Stand for Children," an online event that will take place on the internet from May 25-June 7. During these two weeks people will be able to come together at the Stand for Children web site to sign a petition, to find out about local events and get information on



Bernice Powell Jackson

children's health.

If you are interested in participating in Stand for Children 1997 write to them at 1834 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 or call 800-663-4032 or fax 202-234-0217.

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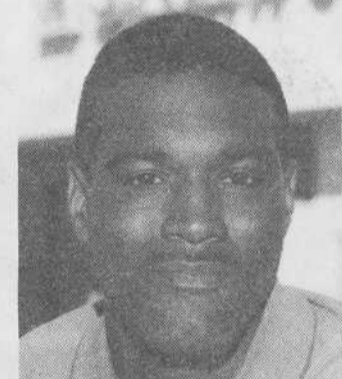
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