

Urban League

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nior research analyst David Bositis. "It represents a serious potential for diminishment of Black electoral, therefore, political power." Similar to the Urban League report, young African-Americans were in step with older Blacks on political and social issues. They viewed crime, economy, education and race relations as top agenda issues for Black communities.

However, in all those areas, the key distinction between them and older Blacks had to do with a greater class division within their generational pool. In many categories, such as crime and the state of the nation, young Blacks differed with each other over the severity of a given issue

along lines of education and income.

While young African-Americans who completed college found crime to be an important issue, for example, young Blacks who had only completed a high school education were much more likely to rate crime as the social issue needing most attention.

In questions regarding the national status quo (ex: "Is the country moving in the right direction?"), young African-Americans with less education and income were more likely to feel the nation was on the wrong track. Those respondents who had completed college and had incomes of over \$50,000 generally reported America was heading in the "right direction."

America

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police departments in this country and black people.

Note that I didn't say "black criminals." No, a divide — that is to say, an antagonistic relationship between police and criminals — is exactly what law-abiding citizens want.

But in Black America the law-abiding are caught, and often caught hard, by the inclination of some individual white officers, and the overt or implicit policy of some departments as a whole to consider all African-Americans (and darker-hued Latino

Americans, and Asian Americans, too) as guilty — of something — until proven innocent.

That leads to police racial profiling or other forms of police misconduct. Amid all the talk about the growing diversity of American society and the growing toler-

ance for diversity among Americans, it is with us, still, in the first years of the new century.

How long this pattern of stark contrasts characterizes the state of Black America is a question, and a responsibility, for all Americans to consider.

Tourism

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from Cuba, which anticipates tourism growth of about 9.2 percent per year. But they remain divided on whether to allow the free movement of citizens from CARICOM states, a key component of the ongoing drive toward a Caribbean-wide Single Market and Economy (SME).

Violence

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abuser. People always ask, "Why don't they just leave?" said Riley Kline, a therapist. "It's not that easy. She knows the abuser best," he said. "She knows what the abuser is capable of."

Kimberly Turner did leave, but not until she had been beaten and then raped several times. For years she did not speak about her nightmare because, she said, she just couldn't admit it. Turner shared her story with audience at the NANBPWC convention last week.

She was 22 years old and had a good job, positive friends and a loving family when she met the man who one day beat and raped her.

He was handsome, courteous, and he bought her gifts. He was attentive and called her every morning. But there was something about this man that her mother did not like.

Six months later, while he waited for a deal to close on a condominium he was selling, he asked to move in with her. She agreed.

Then the arguments started. He wanted to control everything about her, including her hair, clothes and make-up. He did not like her family nor her friends.

He called her at work four or five times every day. Sometimes he would just show up at work to "check" on her. He was often moody and defensive.

One day when she asked him a question about some blood in the bathroom sink and a spoon, he struck her. He then tearfully promised it would never happen again. But it did happen again, and again. After the beatings, he would want sex. Turner's life had become a hell.

She helped him through rehabilitation for drug abuse but the relationship did not improve.

"He blackened my eyes, called me names, kept me awake all night," she said. He tried to impregnate her against her will.

One day after a phone call from her mother, he accused her of going to her mother's to meet a man. He then grabbed her by her throat and tried to strangle her.

"I thought about killing him but he was not worth going to prison over," she said, "but I spent all night with a knife in my hand. In the morning, I called my family."

She struggled to get over the shame and guilt.

"I had a broken spirit," she said. She healed slowly. She read books to help. She worked hard. She began to heal.

She eventually opened "one of the finest salons" in her area. Talking about her experience brought her closure, she said, tearfully.

"Now, I'm succeeding as a business woman. I'm loving me and living my life to the fullest," she said.

"If there is one thing I could say to other women in abusive relationships, it would be, 'Please leave. You will survive. It isn't easy to break through the shame and guilt but make a plan and get help. You're not alone. It's not your fault and there is help. Abuse is not love and love is not abuse.'"

Domestic violence is very prevalent in African-American communities. Part of the problem stems from a lack of education about the issue, Kline said.

"Men will say I didn't hit her, I just pushed her or restrained her. But that is domestic violence," Kline said, "and so is pulling the phone of the wall so she can't call 911."

Domestic violence also crosses all socioeconomic boundaries, he said. It happens in all types of families including middle-class families. Safe Nest has been helping victims of domestic violence for twenty years. For questions about domestic violence call 646-4981 or 800-486-7282.

The Urban Chamber of Commerce, The World Conference of Mayors and Black Meetings and Tourism Magazine

Invite Your Participation in Gaming Venues II, "A Report on Inclusion on Growth"

August 9-11, 2001

MGM Grand Conference Center (3rd Floor)

**August 9
Thursday**

Morning: Ann Gregory Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Desert Inn Golf Course (Shack-Findlay Honda is offering a new car for the first hole-in-one.)

Evening: Awards and Welcome Reception (appearance by Cuba Gooding, Sr.)

Town Hall Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

(The meeting is free and open to the public)

**August 10
Friday**

Workshops

Luncheon: (Gov. Kenny Guinn will be speaking)

Banquet: (Congressman Bennie Thompson will be speaking/O.C. Smith will be performing.)

**August 11
Saturday**

Workshops

Luncheon: (Commissioner Dario Herrera will be speaking and Assemblyman Wendell Williams will be on the scene.)

Awards Banquet: (Congressman Shelley Berkley and Mayor Gary Loster will be speaking. Jazz vocalist, Janis Carter will be performing.)

The workshops will be dealing with the "good, bad and ugly" of what has happened in the gaming industry since July of 2000.

For Additional Information and to Register — Contact the Urban Chamber at 648-6222 or by Fax: 648-6223. The Chamber is located at 1048 W. Owens Ave.