

# BLACK STUDENTS FOR BETTER EDUCATION

## WHY A BSBE?

As we witness the cut backs in social services and the rise in unemployment, we find that these trends are also present in the educational system. Push-outs, inferior courses, and lack of funds all reflect the particular problems that are a part of the educational process of Blacks in America.

Recognizing this, BSBE sees the primary task of Black students as being able to organize a student movement in D.C. that represents and speaks for the broadest possible student base. BSBE also recognizes that the problems of the schools are inseparable from the problems of our communities. This means we must merge the struggles being waged by students with those of the larger black community.

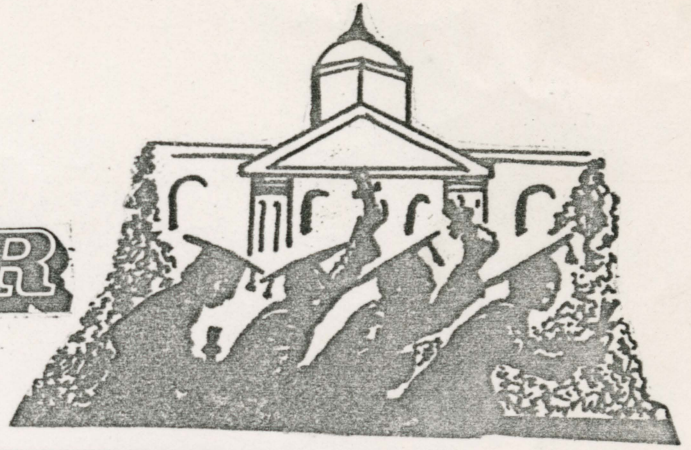
Towards this end, BSBE will work unceasingly to build unity between teachers, students, and the larger black community to change our schools into productive viable institutions.

## WHAT IS BSBE?

The Black Students for Better Education is a coalition of students and recent graduates of the D.C. High Schools who have come together in an effort to bring about quality education for students in the D.C. High Schools. Also, to work to make the education students receive more relevant to their day to day needs. Black Students for Better Education was officially formed May 12, 1973 out of the African Liberation High School Support Committee. The organization as it is presently structured is composed of students and graduates from Woodson, Western, Eastern, Wilson, McKinley Tech., Dunbar, Ballou, Roosevelt and Cardoza.



# THE EDUCATOR



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## 10 BLACK STUDENTS MURDERED IN A 2 YEAR SPAN?

The recent killing of a white Virginia school girl and the capturing of her assailant in 2 days, while the Freeway Phantom is allowed to run loose in the black community killing young black students, raises many questions in the black community.

Where are the police we pay taxes to protect us? Who do the police really work for? In Virginia where a 14 year old Arlington girl was found bound to a tree on the campus of the exclusive Madeira School for girls, it took police officials only a few hours to come up with a suspect to the murder, and the arrest of the suspect 2 days later. Is it because numerous congressmen, members of the Executive branch and federal judges including former Attorney General Elliot Richardson send their daughters to Madeira School, where the tuition is \$2,000 a year for day students and \$3,800 for boarders?

In the D.C. black community within a 2 year span there has been 10 black students murdered. The police and city officials are doing and saying little or nothing about it. There has been little effort on the part of the police to come up with any type of clues, evidence, or people that could lead to the capture of this person or persons. An example of this police negligence took place in Southeast where 20 parents in the Southeast community searched a wooded area in an attempt to find clues to the murder of a southeast school

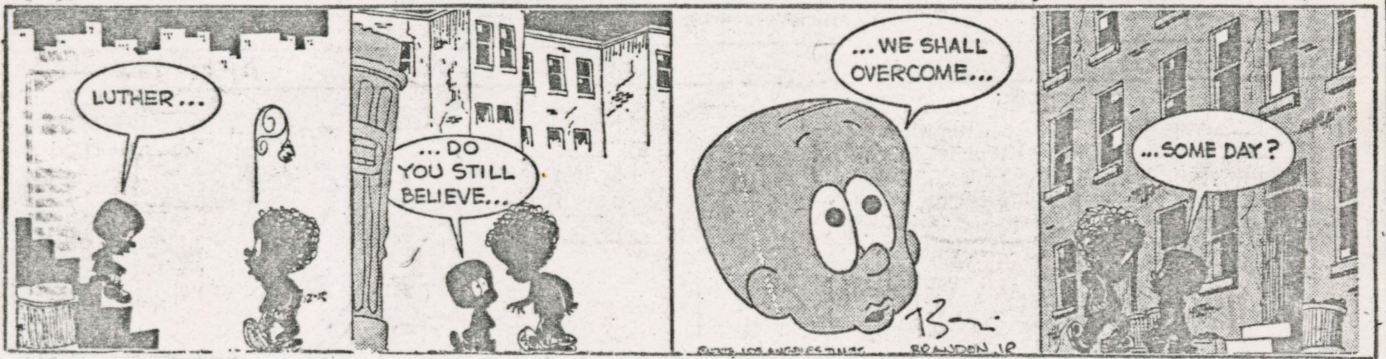


girl. The mother of the slain girl stated that the police didn't do the best that they could have, because when she asked them for assistance in searching for evidence the police ignored her. With the many police killings of black D.C. residents, police brutality, and police payoffs, it is becoming very clear to the D.C. community who the police really work for and protect.

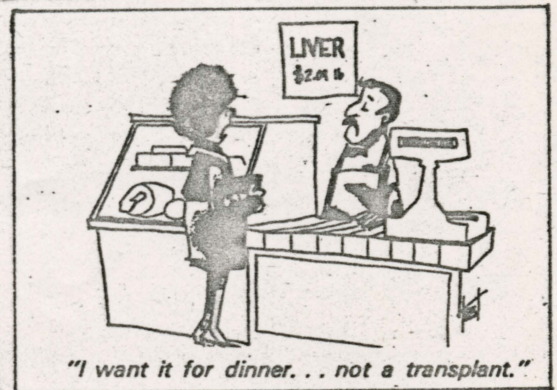
# BLACK ATTITUDES

LUTHER

By Brumsic Brandon, Jr.



WHY ARE WE IN HERE WHEN THE REAL CRIMINALS ARE OUT THERE?





# D. C. SCHOOLS

If we were to compare the schools of D.C. (majority black) with the schools in Prince Georges County (majority white) we would come to realize that as Black Students we lack both quality and relevancy in our educational process.

Quality means, the controller's of the educational system in D. C. should establish enough funds, materials, schools, counseling services, courses, and hire additional teachers to raise the standard of education for the students of D. C.

Relevancy means the education black students are noe receiving should be made relevant in order that it may enable them to solve the social, political, and economical problems that black people face.

We as students in the D. C. public schools are faced with a multitude of problems.

First, the shortage of books in the schools is a very serious and concrete problem that all individuals in our community schools concern themselves with.

In order for students to learn, there must be an adéquate supply of books for every student. The shortage of books especially in the Math, English, and Science classes damage the learning ability of the students in these classes.

Along with a shortage of books, there exist the problem of the obsolete nature of some textbooks. Obsolete means that the books that are used in the classrooms are out-dated, which in turn damages the students.

Second, the shortage of good qualified teachers to educate students is one problem that has to be resolved now. To create in the schools an atmosphere for academic excellence for students, there must be an addition of new qualified teachers to teach.

In the D. C. public schools we have about 140,000 students and 6,810 teachers, a ratio of 25 students to every 1 teacher, making it almost impossible for teachers to spend additional time with each individual student. It is a fact that we need more good teachers but there is no solution that has yet materialized where we will get them.

Third, there exist the problem of over-crowdedness in the classroom. An example of this is at Western High School where in one geometry class there are 39 students for one teacher. With this type of situation it is virtually impossible to spend enough time with each individual student.

The model classroom should be around 15-20 students per, teacher which some teachers consider a workable class.

Fourth, in the public schools we have the majority of counselors that do not work in the interest of the students burden down with clerical and other non-essential work.

Counselors do not have the time that is necessary to help each student's career more carefully. The problem is that you may have one counselor for 200 students which creates a problem for both parties concerned.

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Fifth, since most of the students who attend the D. C. public school are from working class or poor families, and parents often times do not have the money to buy school tickets. We feel there must be some form of mechanism created to provide free transportation to and from school for students.

There are of course a host of other problems which we face as students: reactionary black principals, culturally discriminatory tests, racism, and others that in future publications we will deal with.

The only solution we see available to black students is that they must organize themselves along with progressive principles, teachers, parents, Board of Education, and all other progressive elements in the community to lead the fight for better education for all students.

## COUNSELERS

Counselors to me are the second most important persons to a student in high school next to their teacher. When it comes down to learning the basics of each individual student's life tracks and the correct route to be taken for their future this is where the counselors are needed. When confronted by a student with a problem, counselors should look over his or her permanent record and consider this student's living environment, qualities, and past accomplishments or failures in school, through a discussion with the student. But the majority of counselors in the D.C. Public Schools do not do this. They usually are too busy trying to schedule a meeting with Miss or Mr. So and So to discuss the whys and hows of the high rate of drop-outs when they could stay at their own appointed school and help the masses of students who are in need of guidance. There are a certain number of counselors who don't even bother scheduling meetings to discuss the rate of drop-outs per year. They just sit in their offices, and if a so called "problem" student is sent to them they get this idea that they are qualified enough to analyze this student's character, personality, and mental health, and records comments on his or her permanent record which could be damaging to the student when applying for a job or entering college. It all goes back to taking time and talking to the students and seeing why he or she is a "problem" child. In many cases the source of the problem could lie within the home with an alcoholic father or an irresponsible mother.

Some counselors have this one track mind about not sending Black Students to a majority or all white college. They will tell you that because you are black you do not have the cap-



abilities to compete against white students.

I'm not saying that all of the 268 counselors in the D.C. Public Schools are like this, because they aren't. I have been fortunate enough to have experienced some who relate to me as an individual with my own problems. But those who I have mentioned in this article should know that of all the black students who do attend black colleges such as Hampton, Tuskegee Institute, Morgan State, and others, those who are products of the D.C. Public Schools were on the lower level of education when it came down to competing against other black students from all over the U.S. So when you tell Denise to take "Great Western Tales" instead of World Literature or Humanities think about this article and her future.

## TEACHERS

Since the beginning of schools, teachers have been criticized by everyone. From the students to their parents and so on. They have been criticizing teachers from not teaching enough to teaching too much. Other things have been said about teachers too. Things like; they don't know what they're teaching and that they just want to hurry and get their lessons finished with no questions asked.

All of these things are true. Not for all of the teachers, but for the majority of them. Some of them will give you a line like "I got mine, now it's yours to get." Why did they get into teaching if they're going to take an attitude like this and not help the student the best he can? So that you can get yours.

Seeing how hard a job teaching is; keeping up with students, preparing lessons, giving out grades and all other sorts of things, I don't see why people who aren't going to dedicate themselves to teaching the next generation the best they can would even bother getting into the teaching profession. For when we say teaching profession, we mean professional teachers.

Some teachers go straight through a lesson day by day, week by week without stopping to explain the things that some students don't understand. Then, when the students come to the teacher for extra help, (if they ever get a chance from their other classes), the teachers will say that they're too busy or they don't have the time to teach each individual student. In other words, if you didn't catch the lesson, tough luck. So the student ends up failing, and has to take the same class over again. An that's like eating a leftover meal, boring.

Cramming a million things into your head at one time without thoroughly explaining any of it, doesn't help the student at all. It only helps the teacher to get some of her lessons finished faster. But school is supposed to benefit the student, not the teacher. These teachers should dedicate some of their time to giving the students who need it at least fifteen minutes of extra help. This, even though a short time, would help the student at least a little bit.

Then there are some teachers who will praise their "smart" students and measure them up to their "average" or "dumb" students. They'll give the so called "smart" students special reports and projects to do and let them slide easily, while the "social dumb" students have to struggle through the regular class work with little if any, help from the teacher. Come grading time, the teacher might assign a few students some "extra credit" work to help bring their grades up, but only a few. Those students caught in the middle or the "average" students. For those on the bottom, or the "dumb" students, they're too far gone to be saved.



Things like this don't make any sense. If the so called "smart" students are so smart, then the teachers should spend more of her time concentrating on helping the "average" or "dumb" students to reach the top. Then come grading time; those students who need to bring their grades up should be assigned "extra credit" work to do. Otherwise, all students should carry the same work load.

Half of the teachers in the school system don't know what they're teaching anyway. They think they're back in the nineteenth century teaching the kids of yesterday. They don't realize that times are changing, and that what they teach and their methods of teaching have to change to fit the times. This is the age of electronics, and we're still being taught how to do everything by hand.

How to type on manual typewriters is still taught in the schools, when in the world of work, electric typewriters are the only kind used. Teachers must teach for the present and future, not for the past. This is the "now" generation, not the the age of yesterday.

But all of our teachers aren't like those described above. There are some who are trying to teach us the things of today. But only a few. These "progressive" teachers as we call them, are trying their best to help the student of today get ahead. They got theirs but they want to be sure that you get yours also. These progressive teachers try to make their classes more interesting by getting away from the "traditional" textbooks and using books of today that will keep you up with the times. They deal more with the present than with the past. Sure, its great to know history, but you also want to know whats going on today.

These teachers are a must in our school system if we are planning to get ahead. If Black students are going to get a quality education that will help them in these days and times, we must get these teachers and keep these teachers in our schools. They must work with these progressive teachers in order to become progressive students. We must put pressure on the School Board to get these "traditional" teachers out of our schools. They aren't teaching us, they're keeping us from learning. In order for us to progress, we must have progressive teachers.

Solution: We as Black students and students of color and the parents of these students in order for us to get a good education to better understand ourselves and the problems of the world we live in must put pressure on these "traditional" teachers and the School Board to get them out of our schools and replace them with progressive teachers. Question your teachers on why they teach the way they do and why won't they teach you what you want to learn and need to learn.

Bring about a change in the teaching process. Make your teachers keep up to date with teaching methods and the things that need to be taught. If they refuse, ask them why. Make them give you an answer. Work with the progressive teachers to help bring about progressive students. Unite, stay strong and continue your fight until you stand the winner. Only then will you stand a chance of getting a real education. And that is what we need.

**STUDENTS MUST**

**UNITE**

**TO**

**CHANGE**

**BLACK SCHOOLS**



# BARBARA A. SIZEMORE

## NAMED NEW

## SUPERINTENDENT

The District of Columbia Board of Education named Barbara A. Sizemore, 45, our new Superintendent of schools. Mrs. Sizemore will be the first Black woman superintendent of a big school system.

She officially became Washington's school superintendent September 30, 1973, chosen for the job over 98 other applicants. Mrs. Sizemore was chosen because of her record in Chicago, where she headed a community-control experiment known as Woodlawn Experimental Schools Project, and where she demonstrated a concern for black children's education that most members of the D.C. school board said they found impressive.

Mrs. Sizemore is a woman often described as a "brilliant educator" with definite ideas about how black children should be educated.

She maintained in Chicago, as she later did in her interviews for the Washington job, that the education of black children cannot be accomplished by using traditional teaching methods.

Mrs. Sizemore believes that "Students cannot work within the framework of an institution which denies them the right of participation in decision-making, which violates their rights as human beings worthy of dignity and respect." "Most high schools and small colleges are administered like small police states, dictating from the superior the rules and regulations which govern the social and political lives of the 'inmates'."

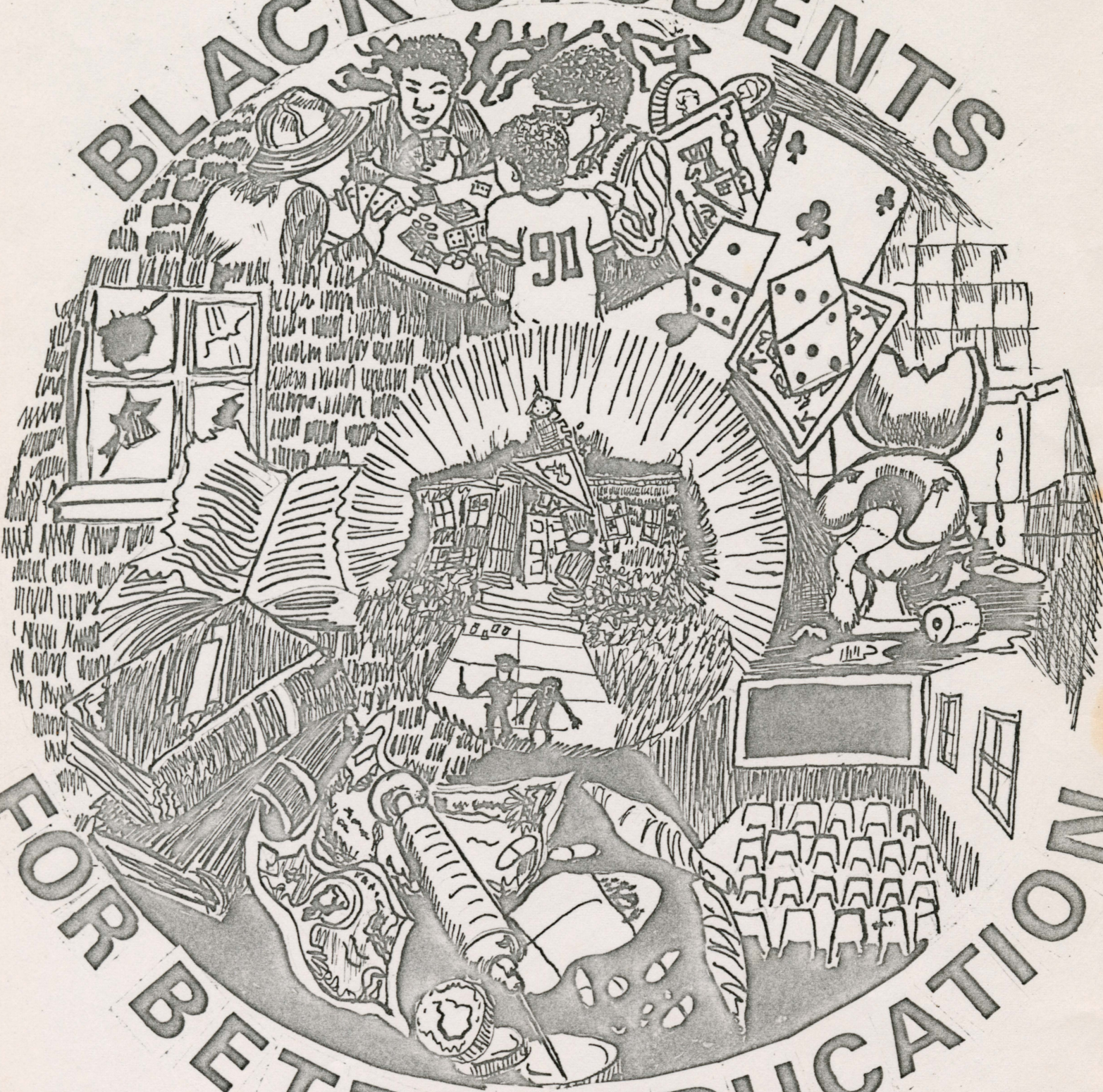
William Raspberry, member of the Editorial Staff of the Washington Post says that we should "Listen to Barbara Sizemore. Especially listen to Barbara Sizemore on the question of classroom discipline. Listen, not for an opening to shoot her down or to score a debating point, but to learn."

As Black high school students you should support Mrs. Sizemore, because from her statements she supports you.



# SUPPORT

## BLACK STUDENTS



## FOR BETTER EDUCATION

WE MUST UNITE TO CHANGE BLACK SCHOOLS



# LUNCH PRICES UP QUALITY

## THE SAME

Even in the public schools the price of food has risen but the quality of the school lunches has remain the same. Last year the cost of lunch on the average was 30 cents now on the eve of Watergate the has risen to 40 cents and their is no telling were the limit well be set at. At Western High School were Washingtonian Magazine reported the worse lunches in the school system are served the price of plain milk last year was 2 cents now its 8 cents, chocolate milk 3 cents now 10cents. The raise in the cost of lunches creates problems for these student who do not recieve free lunch tickets because he or she has to pay ridiculous prices for what little they do recieve.

The BSBE believes that there should be free lunches for all students regarles for the income of the parents. This can be done because in New York all students recieve free lunch and with no pink card. Also both the quality of the food should be raisen in standard and if a student want a second lunch for himself then give it to him.

## SUPPORT YOUR SAC

### WHAT IS SAC

The Student Advisory Council is a student organization made up of Student Government president, student government representatives and concerned students of the D. C. public senior and junior high schools. These students review proposals before the Board of Education, make proposals to the Board and also insure the students of the school system and adequate organized and official voice in all policies affecting the D. C. Public Schools. The student Advisory Council was officially formed May, 1970.



# The Rising Cost For Higher Education

An important realization that confront graduating black high school students is that they cannot make it in this society unless they obtain a "higher education".

With today's rising cost for a higher education its not surprising that many black students cannot financially pursue a college education.

Despite the problems of students meeting the tuition fees of colleges, many of the institutions themselves are lacking in funds, estate planning, and improved basic management.

From research I have been exposed to the fact that practically all colleges raise their tuition on a yearly basis. A perfect example of this is Howard University's 1971-72 tuition per semester was \$350.00. Now, the tuition per semester for 1973-74 has risen to \$546.50, a difference of \$196.50.

With the cost of colleges being raised steadily, black students are turning to outside ways in which to finance their education such as financial aide.

Financial aide as a means of support for a higher education is an ever constant necessity. Financial aide is based solely upon the student's need. This form of support is made up of loans, grants and scholarships, and there is a limited amount to be given out. *Continued on Next Page*



Colleges look upon every factor of a student's life when determining if that student is an eligible recipient.

Students used to be able to work during the summer after high school and their salaries would pay for a large portion of their education but with the minimum wage bill today's summer earnings can only roughly pay for about one-fifth of their college expenses depending upon the school.

The enrollment of black students has doubled since 1968, but with the increasing cost of tuition, this enrollment will probably drop off considerably, due to the lack of funds.

## College Directory

American University \*\*\* 626-2075

Minority Recruiter: Dr. Charles Rett : Student Aid Office  
The Frederick Douglas Program

Catholic University \*\*\* 635-5126

The Partnership Program  
Minority Recruiter: Ms. Linda Wells (Director of Program)

Georgetown University \*\*\* 625-4056

Community Scholars Program  
Director of Program: Mr. Douglas Gordon  
Minority Recruiters: Dave Cuttino, Bill White, and Laura Pendleton

George Washington University \*\*\* 676-7010

Educational Opportunity Program  
Director of Program: Ms. Abba Thomas

Howard University \*\*\* 636-6206

Minority Recruiter: Dr. Williams



# Millions DYing IN West Africa

During the past year a crisis has developed in the Sahelian area of Africa which threatens to starve 6 million Africans to death. This crisis has become known as the African Drought. There are about 24 million people in the areas which have been hardest hit by the drought; Mauritana, Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger and Chad. Even in traditionally fertile areas, on the coast and beside the rivers, there is no surplus food available to meet the needs of the starving people.

The six countries most affected are already desperately poor and are those countries classified as underdeveloped by richer countries.

This drought comes to an area where already 40 to 80% of the livestock are dead. With a large number of their livestock dead or dying and their culture totally disrupted, nomads are driven to suicide, a phenomenon previously unknown to this society.

Ironically, it is the impending rainy season that may cause the biggest threat to the millions of people involved. The rains make surface travel difficult in the areas where the destitute people are, so relief supplies are piling up in African ports and docks until the authorities can solve the transportation problems.

In March, Ministers of the six worst hit countries met and agreed to coordinate their emergency programs; further meetings have followed. Neighboring Dahomey and Nigeria, although themselves afflicted by drought, opened their frontiers for pastoralists and the transportation of animal products to market in the interior of their countries. The Algerian government has sent 48 trucks across the Sahara Desert with food and medicine, and Saudi Arabia has given \$1 million to Niger.

The U.S. has so far given about \$18 million in foodstuff and \$2 million in non-food aid. However, the contribution is greatly limited because \$15 million of the \$30 million voted by Congress for food relief was spent on the Bangladesh disaster.

At present, U.S. aid to Africa is 10% of the total foreign aid budget. This aid is only to 10 of the 41 countries who are members of the O.A.U. (Organization of African Unity).

**OVER 6 MILLION BLACK FAMILIES**

**WILL DIE**

**IF YOU FAIL TO BECOME CONCERNED**

**IF YOU FAIL TO LISTEN.....**



# Poets Conner

Michelle Chisley

## RIGHT ON!

Black brothers and sisters  
Standing in the streets  
Hollering.  
Right On! brother man!  
Right On! sister woman!  
While theres some Black people in the  
Ghetto  
Who's not able to say  
Right On!  
All he's got to say is:  
I'm hungry  
I'm sleepy  
I'm cold  
I'm sick!  
While his Black brothers and sisters  
Who claim to help their own kind  
Are out buying  
Fifty dollar shoes  
and  
Seventy-five dollar suits  
and  
Eating good  
and  
Looking good  
and  
Hollering  
Black Power!  
Too bad they can't tell the  
Ghetto Blacks  
Right On!

## Through These Mean Streets

Through these mean streets come  
muggers mugging  
robbers robbing  
lovers hugging  
old men hobbling.  
Through these mean streets.

Through these mean streets come  
pushers pushing  
whores whoring  
niggas twin bushing  
pigs are scoring.  
Through these mean streets.

Through these mean streets come  
junkies O.D.ing  
gay guys playing  
honkies fleeing  
black hips swaying.  
Through these mean streets.

Through these mean streets come  
the corruptness of the world  
the end of the land  
to hell will be hurled  
the destuction of man.  
Through these mean streets.

## The White House

Your door is shut against my tightened face,  
And I am sharp as steel with discontent;  
But I possess the courage and the grace  
To bear my anger proudly and unbent.  
The pavement slabs burn loose beneath my feet,  
A chafing savage, down the decent street;  
And passion rends my vitals as I pass,  
Where boldly shines your shuttered door of glass,  
Oh, I must search for wisdom every hour,  
Deep in my wrathful bosom sore and raw,  
And find in it the superhuman power  
To hold me to the letter of your law!  
Oh, I must keep my heart inviolate  
Against the potent poison of your hate.



# Food For Thought

## CREEPING GENOCIDE

Genocide is defined as the deliberate and systematic destruction of a particular group. Groups are usually defined racially, politically or culturally. Classic historical references to genocide include the American Indian and the Jewish people.

However, a proper study of history will disqualify the often asserted position that history repeats itself. History instead of a repetitive process becomes an enlightening instrument which promotes understanding of the present and increases one's ability to accurately project the future.

Too often excited quasi-students of history have prophesied that Genocide is on the immediate horizon and that it will take the form of large scale brutal slaying of Black people as was the case of the Indians and the German Jews.

Careful examination will reveal, however, that deliberate and systematic destruction of Black people is now in progress:

- **THE MILITARY:** Black men are "deliberately and systematically" being induced to join the armed forces in woefully disproportionate numbers. As members of the armed forces, Black men are compelled to fight in death zones in disproportionate numbers. This is Genocide.

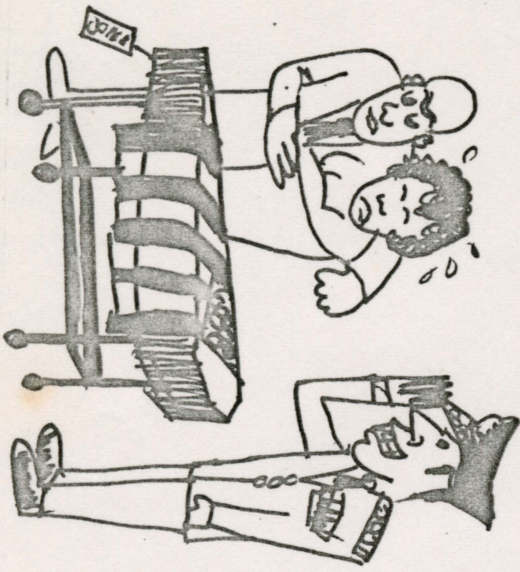
- **BIRTH CONTROL:** Black women (and men) are "deliberately and systematically" being induced or forced through propaganda and various social welfare programs to submit to sterilization and other forms of birth control. This is Genocide.

- **DRUGS:** The Black community is "deliberately and systematically" being flooded with drugs. Drugs not only kill directly, but also create a state of desperation which propels its users to disrupt their own communities. This is Genocide.

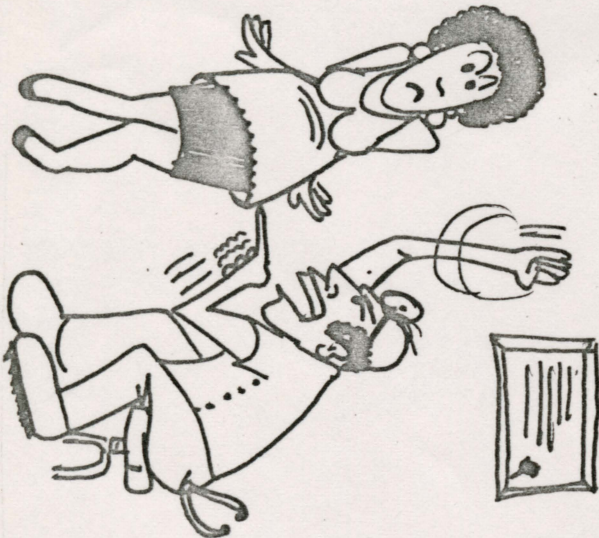
- **PRISONS:** Black men and women are "deliberately and systematically" being locked in cells and being brutalized and killed. In Georgia, the Black population is approximately 30 per cent, yet Black people make up 80 per cent of the total number of prisoners in the state of Georgia. This is Genocide.

Creeping Genocide is a reality in the Black Community now !

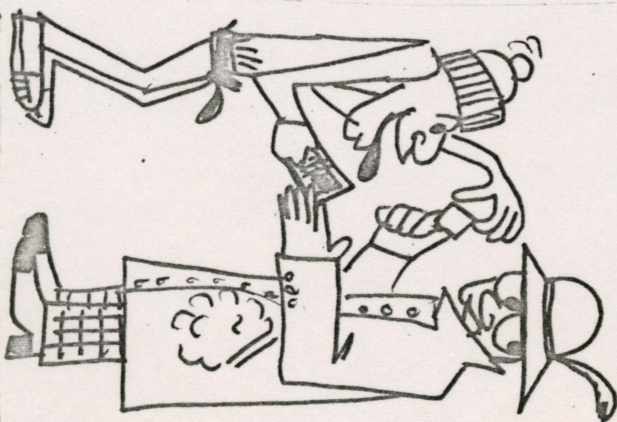
HE DIED A HERO MR. & MRS. JONES



"NOW WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT NOT TAKING THOSE PILLS!"



... AND BE SURE TO TELL ALL YOUR BOYS!

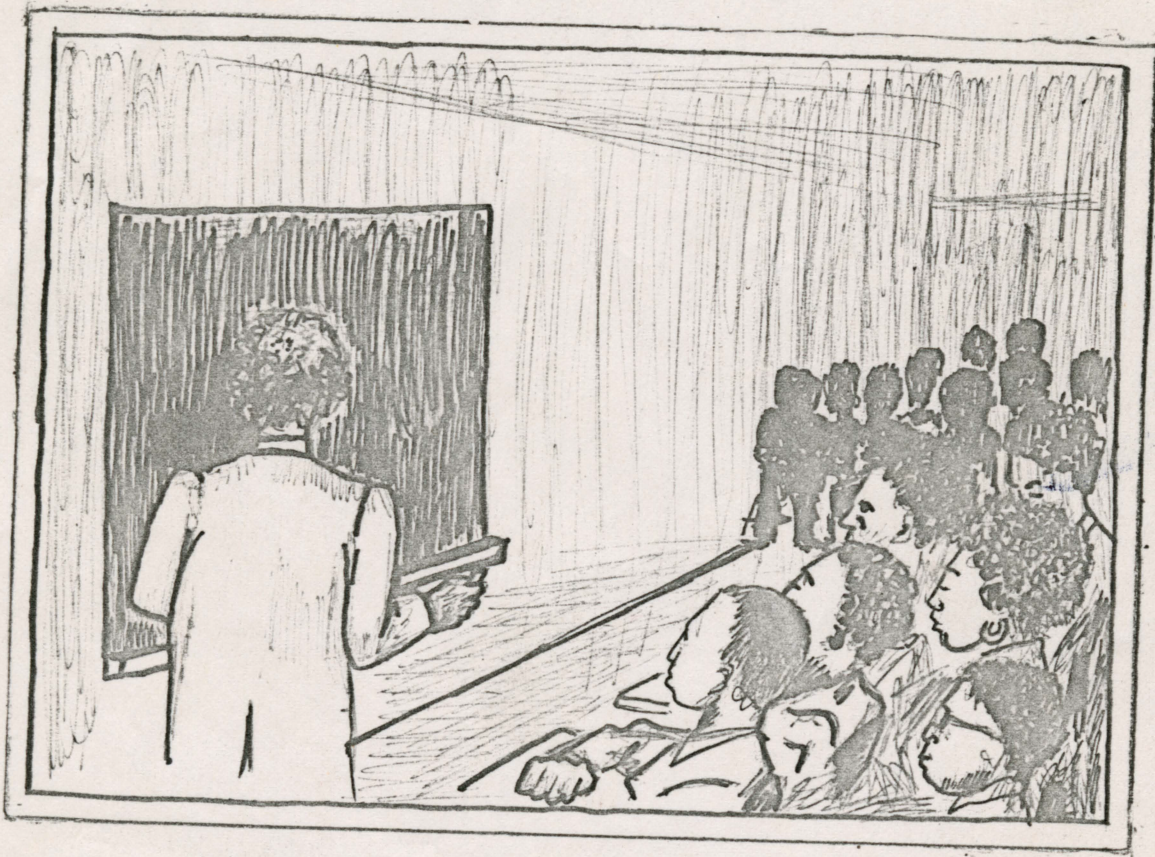




# BLACK STUDENTS

# FOR

# BETTER



# EDUCATION

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