

FROM THE FRONT DOOR



From the Front Door, it's been a year now since BLACK HISTORY MONTH. Its time again to count our gains and set new goals and evaluate our position and our individual contributions to our own cause. I will isolate our needs, and let's acquire them individually until we are able to acquire them collectively as a people.

Here are four areas that we as Black people need to improve upon.

FAMILY IMPROVEMENT NEEDED:

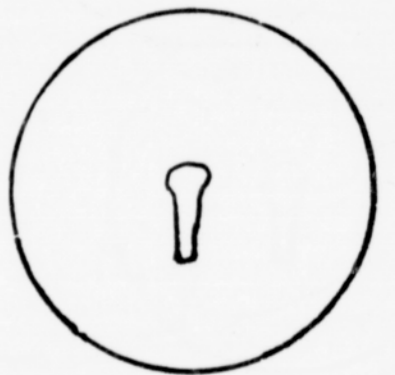
Black men need to demonstrate respectability and accountability to their families. They need to take responsibility and provide a strong role model for their children—a "for real" image of constructive, productive performance. Black men need to practice courtesy, humility and understanding along with respect and protection for their Black women. Until Black men do this they cannot expect full respect from the rest of society, or their women.

Black women need to demonstrate an image of sincere respectability

to their families and set a strong positive role model for their children—a "for real" image of constructive, productive performance. Black women need to take full responsibility for their family, remembering that it is they who give birth to their children, not welfare or any other social agency.

Until Black women understand and do these things they will not receive full respect from the rest of society, or their men.

SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT NEEDED:



As Black adults we need to become respectful, accountable and take full responsibility for our community, our children and where we live. We need to provide a clean, wholesome environment for our families, especially our children. Our community reflects our true image. If where we live is dirty, it is because we allow it to become that way. If where we

live is clean, it is because we clean up after ourselves.

Until we do this collectively, our homes and neighborhoods will project our image of substandard conditions. We shouldn't need anyone to remind us to clean up after ourselves.

POLICY OF PRINCIPLE NEEDED:

As Black adults, we need to develop policies of principle. Being Black is not one of them. Being Black is a genetic fact. We need principles of relationships—truth, honesty, courtesy, humility, accountability and respect. Especially, amongst ourselves. We need to teach our children these principles. Images of dope, alcohol, prostitution, crimes (including Black on Black crimes), stealing, and shunning responsibility should be excluded from our practice as a matter of Black policy of principle.

Black policy of principle shall read: Cleanliness, wholesomeness, honesty, truthfulness and respect shall be my policy of principle in all my relationships from this day forward; and I shall communicate this policy of principle with a positive attitude to all whom I encounter.

Until we establish this policy of principle, we will surely continue to live by the policies and principles of those who set these same standards and subject us as SLAVES to those who enforce these policies as laws.

ECONOMIC ROOT BASE NEEDED:

We as Blacks need to produce some usable product and service that we have root control over. We need to learn how to grow food, provide a sense of security and independence in our own relationships with each other. At present the only thing most Black people have to offer is LABOR and even that is controlled and priced by others. Could it be that in 1981 we are just as much slaves as our ancestors were in 1781, two hundred years ago. We are still just selling our labor and are a market of consumers for those who are in charge and are producing and controlling all the goods and services used in our society (by the way, this also includes the dope, alcohol, custom cars and the superfly costumes). None of these are produced or controlled by Blacks. Until we begin to

produce at least what we consume, we will remain dependent upon the existing establishment. For this same reason, we have nothing to bargain with, except perhaps our LABOR. How can we have pride when we only have ourselves to sell or trade. We cannot expect to get full respect from society until we collectively produce and control some specific goods and services that are unique to us as BLACK PEOPLE.

Being Black is not a virtue. Acting Black is not a virtue. It is a genetic fact. Performing and producing constructive goods and services constitute true virtue.

Come, join our Mental Health Offensive every Tuesday evening, 6 p.m. 284-7997