



Long time activist Rev. John J. Jackson talks at the General Membership meeting of the Oregon Rainbow Coalition last week. Jackson spoke about commitment and the things that helped him over the years. Reports were

given on the National Rainbow Conference held in Washington, D.C. and by the Rainbow International and Medical Task Forces.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

Dianetics Provides New Solutions to Teen Pregnancy and Child Abuse

by Ronald Harris

Nearly half of America's Black girls are pregnant by the age of 20. And 90 percent of Black babies, whose mothers are between the age of 15 and 19, are born out of wedlock. But more significantly, most of these children are raised in fatherless homes.

Although the problem of children having children spans all of American society, many Black leaders have declared that it is their number one concern. John Jacob, President of the National Urban League, recently said that, "We cannot talk about strengthening the Black community and family without facing up to the fact that teenage pregnancy is a major factor in high unemployment, the number of high school dropouts and the numbers of Blacks below the poverty line."

Researchers have determined that youngsters who get pregnant often have a history of feeling deprived and neglected. Many have been abused or raped.

It is therefore not surprising to find that statistics for child sexual abuse are also rising throughout the U.S. Official reports of abuse began to mushroom in the '70s and between 1976 and 1982 the number of cases reported to the American Human Society increased more than tenfold. While Assistant Director of the Family Violence Research Program at the University of New Hampshire, David Finkelhor found in a Boston study that 47 percent of those randomly surveyed knew of occurrences of child abuse through acquaintances.

Such figures show that child abuse has reached epidemic proportions, and while far from the only factor in teenage pregnancies, it is one of the major causes. Most abuse cases involve someone known to the child.

The Child Abuse and Family Crisis Center in Los Angeles is often called upon to work with Black families to curtail instances of child abuse. "L.A. County figures show that there has been an increase of reported abuse cases, from 36,000 in 1982 to 80,000 in 1985," says the Center's Information Officer Al Jimenez.

Like other similar services in Black communities across the country, the Los Angeles center is caught up in attempting to deal with individual cases and has little time to work on the more fundamental issue of why child abuse is spreading.

However, some scientists believe that attitudes towards sex and children are largely influenced by inherited characteristics carried by the genes. Sociobiologists even go so far as to maintain that all social behavior has a biological basis. But as yet, scientists have been unable to locate specific gene structures that coincide with sexual vio-

lence or other mental abnormalities. And hard core sociobiologists have come under attack from other scientists for their Nazi orientation.

Meanwhile new answers have emerged from quite another quarter. Research, detailed in the book DIANETICS: The Modern Science of Mental Health has revealed that an individual's attitudes are fashioned from experience, including prenatal memories, which lay below the level of consciousness. It was found that unwanted attitudes, inhibiting to the individual's survival, are passed through families and through society in general, not by the genes, but through moments of pain and unconsciousness. When such moments are alleviated in Dianetics counselling, mental aberration, such as would cause child abuse, disappears.

The people of yesterday supposed that genetic insanity must exist, for it could be observed that the children of aberrated parents were often themselves aberrated. There is genetic insanity but it is limited to the case of actually missing parts. A very small percentage of insanity falls into such a category

Many thousands of documented cases exist to support the discoveries and effectiveness of Dianetics. A woman leading a morally loose life such that she cohabited with many different sexual partners. In Dianetics counselling, it was found that this lifestyle was totally the result of beatings accompanied with accusations that she was morally loose. Once such incidents are handled through Dianetics, the person is no longer subject to their influence.

In Los Angeles, Ebony Awakening — an all-Black Dianetics group — has been formed to examine ways that Dianetics can be used to solve some of the problems facing Black communities.

"We have conducted a number of surveys," explains the group's Director Marcia Perkins, "and we've found that Blacks generally want to feel good about themselves, they want to be able to support themselves with a good job, and they want the benefit of a good education."

Perkins says that if there were enough trained Black counselors, skilled in the use of Dianetics, there would be a sharp reduction in instances of child abuse and child violence. "It's all very well to blame social conditions such as poverty for the problems we face. But if Blacks are strong as individuals, they can rise above such conditions. Dianetics not only helps a person to live up to their potentials but also restores a person to a high ethical level where he or she can pursue life with vigor."

"Waggie and Friends"

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