

born out of wedlock also have increased. However, those births have not been balanced by births of married middle-class Blacks, because the latter has elected to have fewer children. This is a clear sign of assimilation and entry into middle and upper-class status.

In this era of a rising economy, why does so much of the under-class depend on the government for support?

Nicholas Lehman, writing in the "Atlanta Monthly," believes that the Black under-class suffers from a sharecropper mentality. He even went so far as to develop an analogy between a welfare recipient and a sharecropper, for both depend upon the system for everything.

Having children perpetuates the status quo of both systems. Education and formal marriage is not a priority. Add substandard housing and poor fiscal management and both the welfare and sharecropper systems will tend to perpetuate themselves.

How did the upper-class really develop? One theory is that when the poorly educated sharecropper moved from his rural home environment, the social structures that acted as an inhibitor to negative behavior, were removed. Without a real support system in the urban areas (either south or north), it was inevitable that the family structure would collapse. When the middle-class left, the ghetto was without positive role models and leaders. Disorganization began to grow with an increase in violent, "Black-on-Black" crimes. No one in the ghetto is immune from illegitimacy, illiteracy, drugs and high unemployment even if he is not an active participant. When

hunger, devastation and deprivation are constant companions, it is difficult to watch Dynasty, Dallas, or All My Children without comparing fantasy and reality and wanting some of the good life portrayed on the screen. The story lines often deal with the realities of the ghetto; illegitimacy, murder, and anger—become acceptable. Unless strong, positive values are developed at home, many of the residents of the ghetto do anything to emulate their TV hero/ine. Just as Buppies (Black urban professionals) are members of the Now generation, so too are Guppies (ghetto urban poor). The difference is in the medium of exchange. Buppies use plastic, guppies use steel.

Poverty must be overcome! To do so requires education and employment programs. It's obvious that the traditional public school has not been successful. Dedicated teachers with small classes in a motivating environment—one that's bright, colorful, and non-threatening, must replace the dreary holding pens that pass for schools. Discipline must be enforced; but here again, the focus should be on developing self-discipline. Supplies, tests, texts—all kinds of materials that are written in relevant language must be used. Expensive? Yes. However, when you match the \$5,000 cost of these changes annually against the \$25 thousand it costs per year per inmate—which makes more sense?

Industry must be involved in helping to eliminate the deepest poverty. It's ironic that jobs at the bottom (fast food chains, supermarkets, etc.) that pay minimum wages go begging. Nobody wants to work for \$5 per hour when drug dealers can buy a car (or at least the down payment) in a

month. Again—positive images must be developed. When self-discipline and deferred gratification are learned, many will be willing to go on to higher education, or at least have enough potential for corporations to become willing to take a chance on hiring and training the ghetto resident.

Pride in living accommodations is difficult when your residence is a "welfare" hotel. In every city, there are enough city-owned houses or apartments that can be converted to habitable dwellings at a lower cost than using hotels. It's understandable that the latter may be a stop gap measure, but little appears to be done to indicate that the hotels are anything but permanent. "60 Minutes" had a program on welfare hotels in the spring. Far from shaming city fathers in a large eastern city into making apartments available to the welfare recipients, that city just shipped out numbers of ghetto residents to another hotel in another state!

Once these things are done, the backbone of the people must be re-examined for strength—the family. Group counseling and workshops in parenting, consumerism, rights, hygiene, home economics, politics, intragroup dynamics and values must be mandated. Again, it is crucial that the group leader be sympathetic but firm and hold the absolute respect of the members of the group. This again is education. They must be educated on the power of the vote; and exercise that power. When Black political clout is shown in Washington, more programs that are essential to eliminate the crippling effects of poverty will be instituted. Once more the cry of "Black Power" will be heard, and pride—a positive self-image, and the elimination of poverty will be the legacy of each of us to those yet unborn.

Are Buppies in Touch With the Real World?

How They Use Education as a Force For Change

Much has been written about the deterioration of Urban America; its ghettoization and abandonment. Under the policies of the present administration, the percentage of families living below the poverty line is again on the increase, and unemployment for the Black underclass is double that for whites. Affirmative action, school, and job integration no longer seem to be popular issues with the government agencies and civil rights attorneys.

On a tour through urban America, it appears to be easy to make the generalization as to which race lives in what neighborhood. In New York City, for example, on a trip north on Park Avenue or Central Park West, the change past 106th street is nothing short of dramatic.

However, young Blacks are moving into the enclaves that were formerly all white: board rooms, corporate headquarters, occupations, and neighborhoods. Along with these moves has come a new term "Buppies" or

Black Urban Professionals.


What is a buppy? Like their white yuppie counterpart, they jet to Europe, Africa, or the Caribbean, are patrons of the museums and professional theatres, are paid board members of large corporations, and are subscribers to Fortune, Business Week, Forbes Magazine and The Wall Street Journal. In short, they have "arrived." Some are conspicuous consumers deserting the large American cars of their predecessors for BMWs or a Mercedes. They shop at Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue or small specialty shops whose craftsmen offer only the finest selection of leather or furs to their upscale clientele.

Others are "reverse snobs", preferring to boast of their Perry Ellis or

stridently advocating feminism while buppies were "burning the midnight oil" and protesting for more educational opportunities. One young Black wanted to know why the term "wuppies"—white urban professionals rather than yuppies—young urban professionals wasn't used since yuppies could stand for either race.

Education has always been a tool for advancement in this country. One of the most positive happenings for all—but most particularly Blacks—was World War II. For at its close, the "G.I. Bill" became law. This enabled hundreds of thousands of young Blacks to receive a college education, and the trend continues for the sons and daughters of the veterans are themselves students or college graduates. There are five times as many Blacks enrolled in college today as there was in 1960. Between 1970 and 1981, white colleges increased their enrollment by 37% while predominantly Black institutions grew by 71%. Currently there are 1.1 million Blacks

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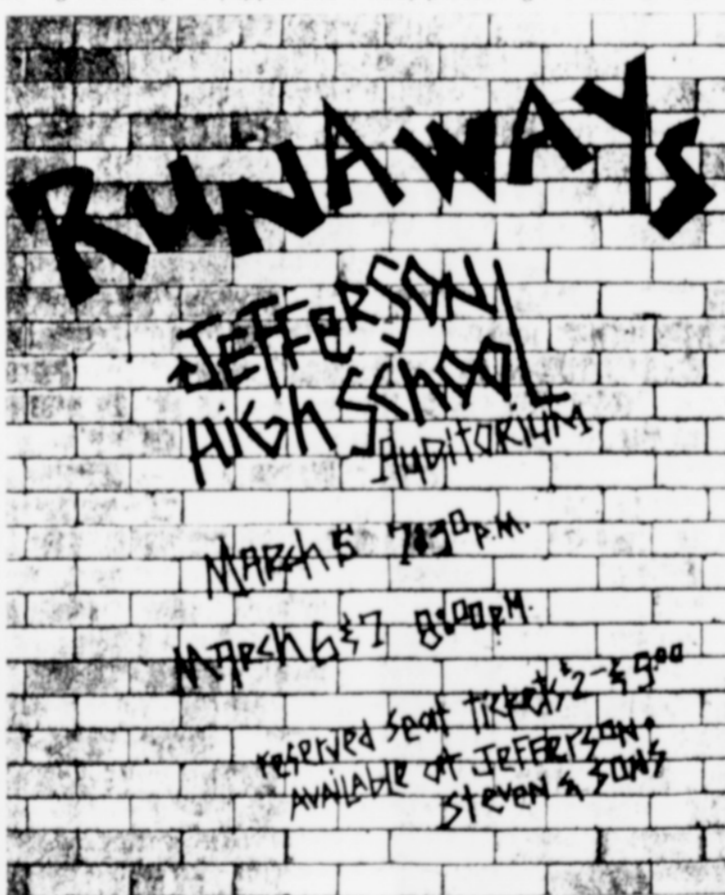
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There are 1.1 million Blacks in colleges today.

Anne Klein purchases at 50% off in an outlet mall. Most are goal oriented—but their contributions are immeasurable. Physicians—male and female—sing in their church choirs, accountants volunteer as tutors in public housing projects or give free advice—as do attorneys—for non-profit ventures; consultants supply their expertise in writing proposals for fledgling entrepreneurs.

During the 60's, the yuppies were busy protesting the Vietnam war and



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