

Black Males Have Positive Attitude Toward Education

Most black male high school students have positive attitudes about academic accomplishment, according to a study by a member of the faculty of Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky.

Louis B. Gallien, Jr., an assistant professor of education, says universities and colleges need to do a better job in preparing white teachers to teach and interact with black males.

"Little attention is paid to an examination of the environment, history, culture and learning styles of black youth, especially males," Gallien said. Noting that most teachers are white females, he said, "Institutions of higher learning must shoulder the responsibility for adequately preparing their students for this population."

Gallien said black males are the most at-risk segment of the population. If current trends continue, he said, it's conceivable that by the year 2000, up to 70% of the black men in this country will be either dead, in prison or addicted to drugs. He also said black males suffer from debilitating health problems to a greater degree than males in other ethnic or racial groups.

Gallien began the study when he was on the faculty of Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. He joined the Transylvania faculty in the fall of 1989 and completed the study in the fall of 1990. He surveyed black male students at five Jackson-area high schools with differing backgrounds and approaches to education.

An incident in a Jackson classroom helped inspire the project. Gal-

lien, while on the Millsaps faculty, was observing a student teacher in a predominantly black public school. When the teacher asked the students, all of whom were black, to turn in their homework assignments, all the females did so. None of the males turned in any work, and were asked to go out to the hall to complete the assignment. Gallien examined that work, and discovered that their writing had a great deal of potential. He then decided to study the attitudes of the males toward school, their academic potential, and career aspirations.

"I sensed that their attitudes about the school were good, but they still weren't getting involved academically," said Gallien. For his study, he chose five Jackson-area high schools that offered a very unusual variety of environments:

-Bailey Alternative Secondary School, an alternative magnet school that emphasizes cooperation and group learning;

-Piney Woods Country Life, a boarding school outside the city with a strong history as a predominantly black school;

-Lanier High, an inner city school; -Murrah High, which was all-white before desegregation and now is predominantly black;

-St. Joseph's Catholic High, a racially integrated suburban school.

He found that overall attitudes toward school were good; most black male students felt they could do significantly better academically; and most wanted to be known as men of charac-

ter and purpose, a finding Gallien says was especially heartening in the midst of a lack of economic and advanced educational opportunity.

He also found that no one environment was clearly best in promoting academic success. "It is clear that many different school cultures may work," he said. "The issue is options. If black communities are not given the same educational opportunities and diversity in choice as their white counterparts, then we will fail in our attempts to reach all black youth."

Gallien hopes his study will serve as a starting point for some constructive programs.

"I want to get the research out there and then do something about it where we live," he said.

One project now under way is a scholar/mentor program in which Transylvania students are matched with elementary school students in an effort to promote academic progress.

Gallien supports the concept of peer tutoring, where a black male who is doing well in school works with one who isn't.

"Research has shown time and time again that all some students need is a model," Gallien said.

Gallien also advocates opening schools in the summer and providing more summer programs for youth.

"You have to build a broad-based coalition to address the problem," he said. "I tell white people 'unless you get involved, we will have a national catastrophe on our hands, and everyone will be affected.'"

Tektronix Employees Eligible For Trade Act Assistance

The U.S. Department of Labor announced today that approximately 100 employees of Tektronix, Inc.'s Waveform Division, CRT Operation, and approximately 19 employees of the company's Integrated Circuit Operations, both located in Beaverton, Ore., have been certified as eligible to apply for assistance under the Trade Act of 1974.

Under the Act, employees who are adversely affected in employment due to increased imports of products may petition the Secretary of labor for certification to apply for benefits, which may

include job search assistance, cash benefits and relocation allowances, among others.

Employees in the Waveform Division, CRT Operation, produce cathode ray tubes and those in Integrated Circuit Operations produce integrated circuits. The department's investigation showed that Tektronix, Inc.'s major customers increased their purchases of imported cathode ray tubes and integrated circuits while decreasing purchases from the company, which contributed substantially to the total or partial separation of workers.

Employees of Tektronix, Inc.'s Waveform Division, CRT Operation, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after July 24, 1989, and employees of the company's Integrated Circuit Operations who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after August 30, 1989, are eligible to apply for benefits.

Benefits are administered by the Employment Division, State of Oregon, with funds provided by the federal government.

Need To Read Benefits Oregon Literacy

More than \$40,000 was raised during November and December for the "Need to Read" program to benefit Oregon Literacy, Inc., in its effort to continue to reach people in Oregon and Southwest Washington to read.

"Our sponsors, Safeway, Inc., Coors Brewing Company and KGON Radio, spearheaded the month-long drive to increase awareness of our program to teach people to read and help fund our programs," said Shirley Randles, executive director of Oregon Literacy, Inc.

"There are more than 450,000 Oregon adults who cannot read, and we

call these people functionally illiterate," said Randles. "Twenty-four percent of adults in this state did not complete high school.

"There is a real need out there to reach these people and help them help themselves by learning to read.

"In November, phone calls to the toll-free statewide hotline doubled," said Randles. About half of the callers volunteered to teach, and the others asked for help in learning to read.

Funds raised will be given back to the literacy councils in communities across the state and in Southwest Washington. Local councils will apply to

Oregon Literacy, Inc. for grants to meet their local literacy needs.

In addition to the fundraising efforts by Safeway, Coors and KGON, Security Pacific Bank offices statewide hosted a book drive, gathering more than 10,000 books to be distributed to local literacy councils throughout the area. James River Corporation also made a donation of \$1,500 to OLI to help support their programs.

For further information regarding Oregon Literacy, Inc. and its programs, to volunteer to teach or to learn to read, call (503) 244-3898 or 1-800-322-8715.

Black Studies' New Star To Speak In Portland

Dubbed "Black Studies' New Star" by The New York Times Magazine, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. addresses a Portland Arts & Lectures audience Wednesday, February 13, 1991, at 7:30 pm. The evening with Gates is supported by the Black Studies Department at Portland State University, Catbird Seat Bookstore, the Collins Foundation, Portland Public Schools, the Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust, and the US West Foundation. Tickets for the Special Event are \$10 and available at Catbird Seat Bookstore, or by mail through Portland Arts & Lectures (812 SW Washington St., Suite 225, Portland, OR 97205, 241-0543). In his lecture, Gates will talk about multiculturalism in the humanities. Gates speaks at the First Congregational Church, 1126

SW Park Avenue.

Professor of African-American literature at Duke University, editor, scholar, writer, major proponent of autonomous black studies programs, Henry Louis "Skip" Gates, Jr. has risen to the top of African-American Literature at Duke University, editor, scholar, writer, major proponent of autonomous black studies programs, Henry Louis "Skip" Gates, Jr. has risen to the top of African-American studies in America. Controversial in his beliefs as well as in his "entrepreneurial P.T. Barnum" style, this young, energetic professor has done much to improve the emerging discipline of African-American studies on campus and in the bookstores. General editor of the 30-volume The Schomburg Library of

Nineteenth Century Black Women Writers, Gates is also editor of several seminal resources: The Oxford Companion to Afro-American Literature, co-edited with Houston A. Baker; A Dictionary of Global Literacy, and, he is editing six volumes of critical essays for Warner Books, and books for Vintage and New American Library. Gates is also putting together The Norton Anthology of Afro-American Literature, the first of its kind and destined to be required reading in every black studies department.

The reputation as an entrepreneur is well earned. In addition to his publishing credits, Gates has worked exhaustively on the advancement of black studies and literature. He was partly responsible for the hiring of nine black

faculty members at Cornell, his place of employment before being lured to Duke University this fall.

While he is courted by prestigious universities across the country, Gates continues his many causes, largely unfazed by those critical of his methods and beliefs. In his efforts to create a "revised canon," a broader representation of non-European cultures in the basic university curriculum and a concurrent emphasis on the contribution of women to Western civilization" (The New York Times Magazine), he walks a fine line between the staid conventions of academia and the uncharted territory of a developing canon. But, as he concedes, "You have to have a canon so the next generation can come along and explode it."

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school boards will use this decision to void the impact of Brown, accelerating educational inequality.

The way forward beyond the current impasse created by the Rehnquist Court may be provided in a recent legal suit filed on behalf of 37 children in state circuit court in Montgomery, Alabama, against the Alabama Department of Education and other agencies supervising public schools. The suit challenges the amount of money given per student allocated in Alabama's 129 school districts. Litigants pointed out that students in one white district receive \$4,302 per student, compared to only \$2,563 in a poor predominately Black school district per child. Nearly two thirds of all local school district financing comes from the state government, and only one sixth comes from property taxes.

The suit charges that the state of Alabama's formula for allocating educational funds is inherently discriminatory, and should be declared unconstitutional. Alabama is the fourteenth state in the past four years which has been sued concerning the issue of school financing.

It is clear that the majority of white Americans no longer support busing for school integration. In order to improve urban schools for minority children, our most effective means is the unequal allocation of financial resources between districts, to upgrade the quality of schooling in low income areas. This is the next challenge in the struggle for educational equality

YMCA To Hold N.E. Meeting

The Northeast YMCA is holding a community meeting. Residents of N.E. Portland are invited to attend and make recommendation about how the YWCA may best serve our community. The N.E. YWCA will also be recruiting Advisory Committee members. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February fifth from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the N.E. YWCA at 5630 N.E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. For more information, call Mary Sanders-Miller at 223-6281.

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