

kids really do listen

New Oregon research confirms what most adults will tell you about their own childhood: even if you didn't acknowledge it as kids, what our parents said did influence how we behaved, what we believed and how we turned out.

Let's start with two conclusions drawn from a survey of more than 12,000 students in 128 Oregon public schools:

• *Kids hear their parents.* Among eighth-graders who said their parents believe marijuana use is "very wrong," only 9 percent used it. But among those who believe their parents view marijuana use as "not wrong," 75 percent reported using it.

• *Friends' behavior counts.* Fewer than 1 percent of eighth-graders who have no best friends using marijuana use the illegal drug themselves. But if the eighth-grader has even one best friend using it, then the

likelihood that he or she will use marijuana grows 10-fold. The trend was similar for cigarette use, which correlates highly to later marijuana use.

Parents who send firm, consistent messages against tobacco, alcohol and other drugs influences their children's behavior.

Likewise, parents who want clean and sober children should influence who their kids associate with and supervise social gatherings in which their kids are involved.

Here's another persuasive fact: The survey asked eighth-graders whether they had even one friend who used marijuana, whether they knew neighborhood adults who use tobacco, alcohol or other drugs, and what their parents believed about marijuana use.

Only two-tenths of 1 percent of students (that's 2 students out of 1,000) used marijuana if their best

friends didn't, if neighborhood adults didn't, and if their parents held strong anti-marijuana views. But among those with a best friend using marijuana, who knew neighborhood adults using drugs, and whose parents were perceived as not caring about marijuana use, 60 percent said they used marijuana (that's an alarming 600 students out of 1,000).

Among 11th-graders who reported using alcohol any time in the past year, 45 percent said they had also ridden in a car with a teen-age driver who was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Among students who reported that they hadn't consumed alcohol during the past 12 months, only 7 percent had had such a dangerous experience. A copy of the statewide student drug-use report is available by writing the state Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, 500 Summer St., N.E., Salem 97310-1016.

Hilton: Higher Education

BY DR. KEITH ORLANDO HILTON

I recently came across an issue of The Black Book Review and was struck by the solid depth and scope of its content.

Actually the first time that I really took note of it, and its publisher, Max Rodriguez, was in The Network Journal, a tabloid newspaper based in Brooklyn, New York, and published by Aziz Gueye Adetimirin, a Nigerian.

I now regularly follow the QBR top Ten Books in each edition of Black Issues in Higher Education. According to Rodriguez, "Never before have Black themed books come to press in such numbers. In nonfiction every possible theme is being exploited: Black hair, Black love, Black food, even Black astrology."

There were several letters to the editor in the edition that I read, which, in my opinion, is a good sign. Discourse is always a very good sign of communication.

One letter even dealt with trouble between Black writers and Black publishers.

Another letter was a reaction to QBR on the worldwide web. Its website address is: <http://www.qbrculture.com>. The e-mail

address is: qbrbookweb@aol.com.

It contains many reviews of weighty non-fiction and fiction throughout. The reviewers, some very acclaimed, are learned and provide valuable insight.

There are reviews of books such as Walter Mosley's, "A Little Yellow Dog," Terry McMillan's, "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" and even the autobiography of the Reverend Al Sharpton.

There is also a review of DeWayne Wickham's book, "Thinking Black." We also did a review of the book a few months earlier and titled ours, "Very Close But No Cigar: Wickham's Book of Essays by Black columnists" because although the writers are indeed some of our best, they are not the only voices out there.

It was an affront to the columnists who regularly write for this nation's 200+ plus African newspapers. Let the record show that I did get a few replies from some of the book's essayists after my column appeared. Like I said, discourse is always a very good sign.

There was another feature that I really enjoyed and that was the one on the Go On Girl! Book Club. According to QBR, it plans a series of

profiles of various reading clubs in future issues. It will be refreshing to read about book clubs from around the country and world.

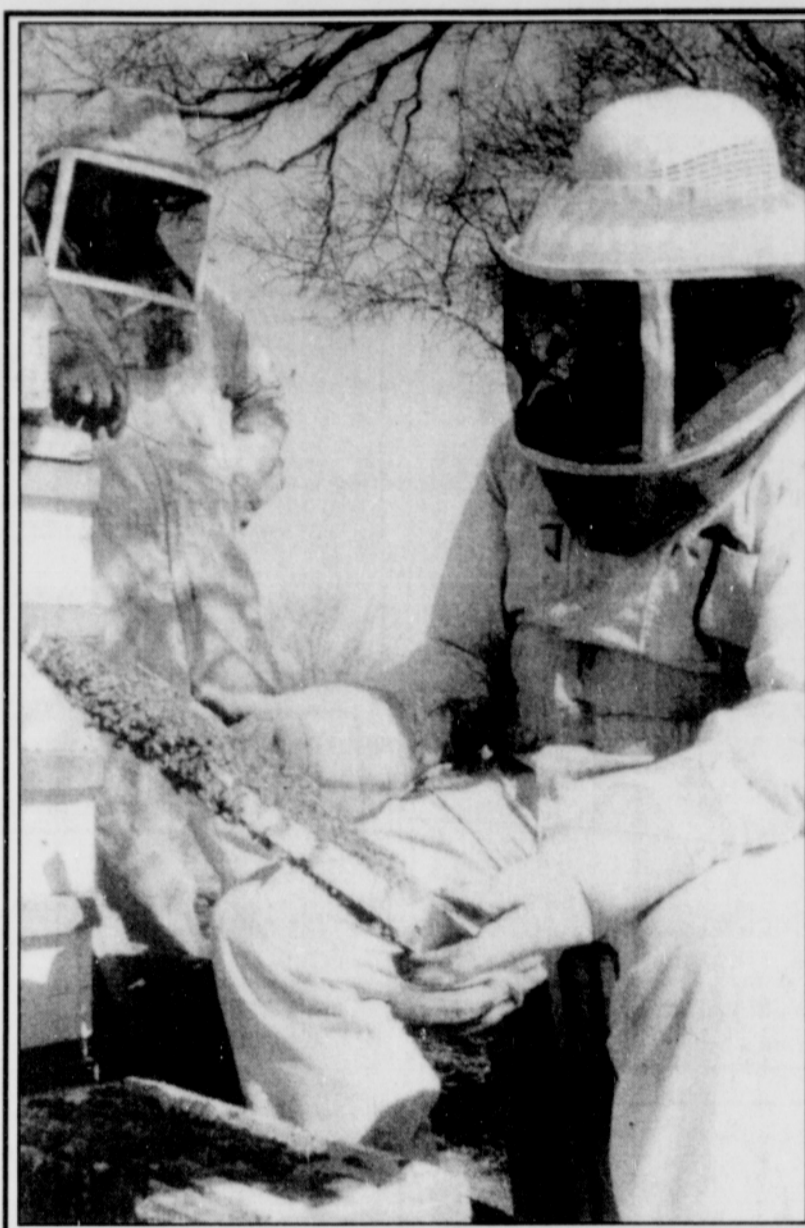
According to Target Market News, a Chicago-based, African-American marketing group, "African Americans spend more than twice as much on books than on video games, hardware and software combined."

In 1994 and 1995 respectively, African Americans spent \$297 million and \$330 million on books.

This is quite a statement, considering that the myth that African Americans do not read continues to float around. And once we add the fact that over 12 million people read African-American newspapers weekly, well...

We wish Max Rodriguez, Susan McHenry, the executive editor, and the entire staff, the very best with this quarterly publication. QBR's number is (212) 475-1010.

As always, we only hope that readers and writers of these books are doing so to re-empower the African world community and not just for elitist purposes. Now that (reempowerment) is the best way to get one's "groove back in a Stellar kind of way.



TLC, The Learning Channel: A stinging look at Killer Bees follows the route of these ravenous swarms as they buzz their way from South to North America. Premiering Wednesday, December 4, this program also tells the personal tale of conscience of geneticist Warwick Kerr, the man who brought aggressive killer bees from Africa to South America in hope of improving the honey crop. In the moist Brazilian tropics, the bees spread, killing hundreds throughout South America. Now Kerr breeds "stingless" bees and comes to terms with the destruction he never meant to wreak. Killer Bees plots the bees' path of destruction from Africa to South America. Killer bees have been blamed for two deaths in Texas and two in Arizona, and have recently turned up in New Mexico and California. Killer Bees premieres from 10:00-11:00 pm (ET). Pictured: Beekeeper. Credit: Windfall Films.

Saturday Academy

It's time for a little good news on the education front. Saturday Academy has been winning awards lately--the National Homebuilders Award (Green City Data), the "For Kids Sake" Award sponsored by KPTV, and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. These honors focus on the essential interaction between mentor and student, described in our mission as "placing inquiring young minds into direct contact with accomplished and successful professionals."

They would like you to be part of their education success stories. Through contributions from people throughout the community, we keep our fees within reason and still offer tuition assistance to any student who needs it to participate in our programs. We deliver our programs to parts of the community that needs it to participate in our programs. We deliver our programs to parts of the community that need all educational enrichment they can get. We provide contact with adults who make the case for taking those math and science classes when peer pressure leads in the other direction.

For example, a gift of \$1,000 would help sponsor an eight-week summer internship or develop a new class; a gift of \$500 would buy supplies and field equipment for one of our student/teacher watershed monitoring teams; gifts in the \$100-\$250 range would help terrifically with tuition support for the Classes program, as would gifts of \$25 and \$50.

Your contribution to Saturday Academy delivers more of this good, hands-on education to our children. And, thanks to a generous contribution from the Tektronix Foundation, your gift will be matched one-to-one.

Please say yes to excellent investment.--William C. Crane, Annual Director.

Teacher of the Year

Ford Morishita, a biology teacher at Clackamas High School, is the 1997 Oregon Teacher of the Year.

Joseph Azar, a former student, said Morishita uses a number of unique teaching methods uncommon to the science classroom, such as student essays and debates.

Morishita has won numerous awards including the Presidential Award for Excellence in the Science Teaching and Oregon Biology Teacher of the Year.

This year his students are studying ethnobotany by examining the diverse practices of herbal medicine by different Native American tribes. They use the Internet to exchange ideas with students throughout the country.

Morishita has taught 18 years. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Lewis & Clark College. He is eligible for national teacher of the year in a program sponsored by the Council of Chief State Officers and Scholastic, Inc.

Strep and rheumatic fever

Serious group A streptococcal infections for centuries were responsible for large epidemics of rheumatic fever and a major cause of infection-associated mortality among infants, children and adults. It has reemerged as a public health problem, according to a June 1996 Supplement of Pediatrics, the official publication of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Facts on strep infections and rheumatic fever

- A group A streptococcal infection in the throat is called streptococcal pharyngitis or strep throat. Strep throat is not caused by viruses. It is caused by streptococcus bacteria.
- Strep throat should be diagnosed by a pediatrician or family physician using a throat culture.
- Strep throat should be treated with penicillin, as recommended in the June 1996 supplement of Pediatrics and by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the World Health Organization and the American Heart Association. Penicillin is also available as a single injection, which is preferable when adherence to a ten-day regimen of oral penicillin might be difficult.
- Strep throat can be distinguished from other sore throats by its suddenness and trademark high fever (over 101), redness and swelling at the back of the mouth, swollen, tender lymph nodes on the neck, and the possible absence of a runny nose and coughing.
- Strep throat can lead to rheumatic fever in as little as two weeks if the strep is not properly diagnosed and treated. Children between five and 15 are most commonly affected. Symptoms include fever with pain, inflammation and swelling in one or more joints. Heart damage can develop slowly, often resulting in a thickening and scarring of the heart valves that can eventually require surgery.
- Symptoms of rheumatic fever include continued fever, swollen wrists, knees or ankles, a warm feeling in the swollen joints, and swelling migrating

from joint to joint.

• Treatment for rheumatic fever includes penicillin and the bed rest for more than a month. To avoid another attack, a child must receive preventative treatment with penicillin once every month until he or she is 18 years old or older.

• Rheumatic fever and other complications of group A strep infections are now more of a concern for health care providers because serious group A streptococcal infections have reemerged during the last ten years as a public health problem. Many current strains of group A strep may be virulent and result in a higher risk of mortality for both children and adults.

• Other complications of group A strep include streptococcal toxic shock syndrome and tissue infections such as a necrotizing fasciitis, the flesh eating virus, both of which have a reported mortality rate of 30 percent or higher.

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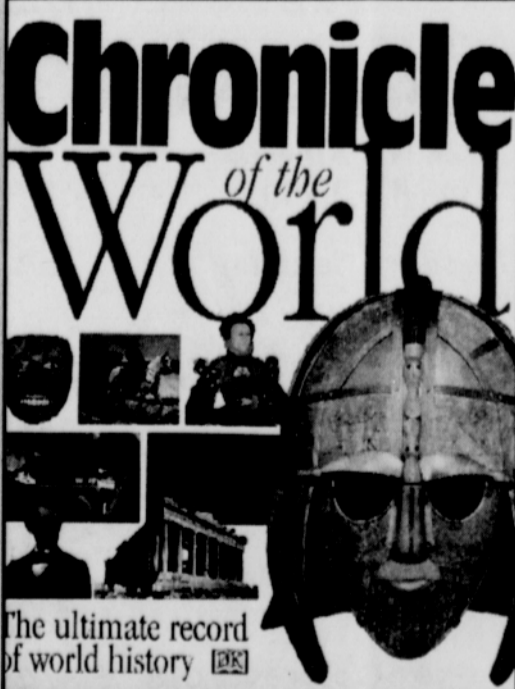
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