



**TOPEKA, KANSAS**—Relatives of shooting victims leave scene here late January 22, after an unidentified man ran from door to door in this suburban area of Topeka pumping

## The End Of Rhetoric

## The Beginning Of Action

by Dassey Hagen

For decades endless rhetoric has bounced back and forth between Blacks, demanding their rightful place in communications, and whites, conceding that right, "if only qualified Blacks were available."

In May of 1972 in Washington, D. C., a Black hand-emerged from the combined resources of Black Journal and the Howard University School of Communications—stopped the rhetorical ball in mid air, at least for a time. Granted, it did not put an end to years of inactivity, but it did make an admirable score in that old game. It was named the "Black Careers in Communications Conference" and for three days it brought together qualified Black applicants and prospective employers from the print and broadcast media. The end result was the hiring of 100 Blacks and the realization that, indeed, action could replace rhetoric, given some hard work and sound organization.

Blacks in broadcasting! The order is simple enough, but the task is formidable. Often concealed beneath the white rhetoric of "yes, we will hire, just give us the skilled manpower" are those well-known, yet elusive, obstacle-fear, hatred, resistance—the step-children of racism. Such sentiments surfaced recently in a revealing TV Guide interview of representatives of the white controlled media. One unnamed top decision-maker of an important New York television station, presenting his version of the situation, said this: "You're in there to protect that station license—How many Blacks can you put on the tube before the public starts calling in a news department before the work begins to sink?—Our staff is loaded with mediocrity. When it's Black mediocrity, it feels as if somebody forced him down your craw. I grant you, it's racism."

Had he attended the "Black Careers in Communication Conference," he might have learned that he can better protect his station's license by hiring those who can bring the Black perspective to his station's programming, thereby more adequately fulfilling the needs and interest of his public—namely New York, whose Black population is two million. Had he attended the Conference, he also would have found that Blacks do not want and are not fooled by tokenism and that there are a sufficient number of experienced Blacks from which he can draw.

Of the 400 hopefuls who came to the Conference there were, in addition to students from a cross-section of Black and white colleges around the country and young professionals seeking to boost their careers forward, a number of older professionals looking for new opportunities.

His "news department," thus, might have been filled with the likes of Robert Cottrell, who came to the Conference in search of a position in reporting. Now in his fifties, Cottrell has worked as a photographer for Life, Time, Newsweek, and the Associated Press, and has just completed a job in Delaware for which he won an award.

Or he might have been able to add Arlene M. Seward to his news crew. Miss Seward of New York has a B. A. from

Columbia University, yet has been working for \$60 a week as a clerk-typist. At the Conference she accepted a job as a still photographer for \$50 a week just to work in the field.

Chances are, however, that he would have ignored these and other talented Black people because, after all, he is "used to white mediocrity" and would rather let racism lie in his "craw."

The words of Rep. William L. Clay of Missouri, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, seem strikingly appropriate here: "The mass media, institutions that remind us continually that they are opposed to evil, corruption, deception and wrong-doing of every shade, have consistently failed to point out the hypocrisies of their own existence in dealing with Blacks—These experts at exposing the wrongdoers of our society use the same rhetorical skill to hide their own failures." Their failures translate into these figures according to media research conducted by the Black Caucus: in the broadcast industry Blacks constitute only 2% of all officials and managers; 6% of all professionals; 3% of the sales workers; 15% of the laborers; and 46% of the service workers.



**RECEIVES FUNDS**—Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy, right, chancellor of A & T State University, receives \$5,000 from Wayne Mabry, director of public relations at

his own life. One woman, reportedly shot in the face with 16-gauge shotgun blast, survived and was hospitalized with serious injuries.

Yet, there are 30 million Blacks in the country, more than 65 Black colleges with the facilities to train students of media jobs, and countless schools which are attended by Blacks.

The Conference, however, was not about the facts, the statistics, nor the reason why or why not Blacks are in or out of the media world. It set those abstracts aside momentarily, replacing them with the concrete: "This was a show-down. They said we didn't exist, but we produced the bodies," said Toney Brown, executive producer of Black Journal and Dean of Howard's school of Communications, who had organized the three-day session. "It is significant to note," he continued, "that of all the commercial television stations in America, not more than six or seven took the time to pretend they were looking for Blacks—but we've forced them into a new game because from now on they will have to come or have it proven that they lied."

One white editor has been reported as saying: "Listen, I want excellence, I've been looking for competent Blacks for years and can't find one—Where are the Blacks who can

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## PREGNANCY PLANNING AND HEALTH

by Mrs. Gloria Riggsbee

Dear Mrs. Riggsbee:

I am 13 years old and I have a few questions. I want to know if a person could get pregnant if she had intercourse only 4 or 5 minutes. Could a girl get pregnant at my age? Could a girl get pregnant the first time she had intercourse? Do you think a person 13 years old is old enough to have intercourse?

H.N.

Dear H.N.:

1. In order for a woman to become pregnant the man's sperm must meet the woman's egg. All the man has to do is deposit sperm inside the woman's tubes where they could meet an egg. Therefore, no matter how long or how short the duration of the intercourse, if sperm were left inside the woman's body, she could become pregnant.

2. Yes, many girls of 13 are capable of becoming pregnant.

3. Yes, a girl can get pregnant the first time she has sex. If an egg is in the tubes, a girl can get pregnant — no matter whether it is the first time she has sex, or whether she has sex only once. It only takes one time.

4. In my opinion, 13 is definitely too young to be engaging in sex. As you question indicates, you know very little

about how your body works, you have no idea how to prevent unwanted pregnancy, and I seriously doubt that you are ready to accept the responsibilities involved in mature sexual relationships, much less the responsibilities of a child.

Sex is not a game. It carries with it many responsibilities; responsibilities to yourself as an individual who has the right to plan and control her life; responsibilities to others, who have the very same right; responsibilities to children — who have the right to be brought into the world by parents who are in a position to support, feed, clothe and educate him, in addition to giving him a great deal of time and care and love. Being adult, being mature, doesn't mean that you engage in sex. It means that if and when you do, you are aware of the responsibilities to yourself and to others and are ready to accept them. This is impossible at the age of 13.

Dear Mrs. Riggsbee:

I had my tubes tied about eight years ago. Now I'm planning on getting married again and I haven't told my husband to-be that I can't have more children. I have two children by my first marriage. What are the chances that the doctor

### SLATED FOR SUCCESS



For these Indian school-boys, the road to knowledge

is still mapped out on old-fashioned slates. You can help chalk up a victory for education by sending a donation to any Catholic church or to American Catholic Overseas Aid Fund, Empire State Building, New York, N.Y. 10001. Through Catholic Relief Services, 39 cents will buy a Third World child a school kit containing four notebooks, an inkwell and ink, a penholder and three points, a piece of chalk and a writing slate.

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**WASHINGTON**—Members of the Task Force of "Operation Homecoming" verify names of prisoners of war and missing in action as they are received from Paris here January 27. Standing, 2nd left,

is Peur Admiral Daniel J. Murphy, senior military assistant to the Secretary of Defense. Seated, right, is Major General Daniel (Chapple) James, USAF Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs).

Standing next to James is Dr. Roger E. Shields (holding telephone), assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs. Remaining persons are unidentified.

will untie my tubes?

B.M.

Dear Mrs. M.:

I'm sorry to tell you that I don't think your chances of having more children are very good. Putting the woman's tubes back together again is a very difficult and quite expensive operation, and it is only about 20% successful. So, even if you are willing to spend the money and the time in the hospital for this operation, you would have only one chance in five that you would be able to have children again.

I'm certain that when you

had your tubes tied eight years ago, the doctor explained to you then that you would never be able to have children again. I'm sorry that you did not completely understand how difficult it would be to have the operation reversed.

I suggest that you contact a gynecologist and discuss the

operation thoroughly with him. I also suggest that you tell your husband-to-be exactly what your situation is.

Address letters and requests for free booklets on any of the permanent methods of birth control to: Mrs. Gloria Riggsbee, 214 Cameron Avenue, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

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Read All About It on Yellow Page 127

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