Phoenix Op. Ed, continued from page 14

Clark basically delegates the day-to-day interface to this students' parents to the five vice principals, the teachers, and school counselors. Eastside High has two PTA's: one black, one Hispanic. Each holds monthly meetings for each of the four grade levels (9-12) with a vice principal in charge of each level's PTA meeting. Approximately 40-50 parents participate.

This lack of participation does not disturb Clark, who finds that inner-city parents look to the school to control their children because, in many instances, they cannot or will not. "My functions are 'multiplistic,' "he says. "I'm a drug..., alcohol..., sex..., pregnancy..., (and) truancy coordinator. I have to deal with incest,...abortions, a vast array of things (including) behavioral...(and) family problems." Clark sees the

necessity of his involvement in these aspects of his students' lives in order to foster a climate for order, pride, and academic achievement, "It can't happen otherwise, given the decimated condition of the black inner-city family structure" with women struggling as heads of households and black fathers absent for a variety of reasons. Role of Black

Businesses

"Young black people don't perceive the notion that they can be in business," Clark contends. With the exception of morticians they do not see "concrete evidence of black folk being viable and being successful," therefore there are no role models available. He cited bad experiences with products and services provided by black businesses and other obstacles that "stand in the way as far as motivating

voung black kids to get involved in business." Clark uses the "mom and pop stores" in further examples of those obstacles saying, "Black people don't have that pertinacity, that assiduity to work 15-16 hours a day. We did it for the man in the cotton fields, but we won't do it for ourselves."

ger at the mushrooming drug problem as negating the need for "some young blacks...to get involved in good business endeavors because they can make \$1,000, \$2,000 a day selling drugs." He also states that the black community condones that behavior, as well as condoning welfare, the epidemic of illegitimate teenage pregnancies, and other factors that inhibit or prohibit the ability of black youth to become actively involved in business.

See Clark, page 18

Clark also points a fin-Hunt!

Where You Can Pick Us Up PHOENIX RACK LOCATIONS

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