

JCSU BOOSTERS



PHOTO: PAUL WILLIAMS III

The JCSU 100 Booster Club has bought a house. Not just any house, mind you. This is across from the campus and was home to a longtime professor, Ms. Washington, now deceased. Saturday, the club is sponsoring a clean up at the home, which has been unoccupied for sometime. The booster's Hall of Fame Banquet will be Sept. 20, at 6 p.m. in the First Union Atrium uptown. Tickets are \$50 per couple and \$35, singles and may be purchased through the JCSU athletic department or from any booster club member.

The Negro Problem and Democracy

MELODY MICERE STEWART

In the spirit of Ma'at



"The Negro question is too often put forward merely as the Negro question. It is just as much, and even more seriously, the question of democracy." Alain Locke, father of the Harlem Renaissance, and a Ph.D. graduate of Harvard University, reframed the debate on the condition of blacks in America. Placing the "Negro question" within the "question of democracy," he concluded "The position of the Negro in American society is just one great outstanding anomaly."

African Americans are still an anomaly in American society today, albeit an accepted abnormality. From economics to education, from health to politics, African Americans still hold bottom rank in virtually all statistics of wellness. While notable exceptions are often cited, black America's general plight has become an accepted reality so much so that the dialogue of debate has virtually ceased.

In reference to the "question of democracy," Martin King wrote, "In the future we must become intensive

political activists. We must be guided in this direction because we need political strength more desperately than any other group in American society." Yet, as we approach another presidential election, we find ourselves trapped in our loyalty to a marginally responsive Democratic party, while Gen. Colin Powell envisions a Republican Party that doesn't exist!

How do we, as conscious African Americans, create a better future and move our people forward toward the 21st century? Our history indicates that we must do some inside work for the next level of outside change. We have become disconnected within ourselves and must first repair the internal bonds of our race. Most of our historical leaders advocated racial unity as a necessary step for achieving racial equality.

In his last book, "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?," King wrote, "...the Negro must work passionately for group identity. Group unity necessarily involves group trust and reconciliation. One of the most serious effects of the Negro's damaged ego has been his frequent loss of respect for himself and for other Negroes.

He ends up with an ambivalence toward his own kind." The "ambivalence" King wrote about is particularly evident within the black middle and upper classes, as recently noted by influential TIME magazine editor and writer, Jack E. White. (April 1996)

Again, history provides critical commentary in the writings of Martin King: "Only by being reconciled to ourselves will we be able to build upon the resources we already have at our disposal."

Kids fill bachelors life

Continued from page 1A

out too good."

The children are then dropped off at day care. Housch spends his day doing housework and laundry. To accommodate his boys' schedules, Housch now works overnight on weekends, giving him more time during the week with his children. Working five days a week, with two children potty training proved a difficult task.

"We go to the park and to the movies during the week," Housch said. "I want them to know that they are important."

Housch is an active member of Little Rock AME Zion Church and credits his supporters, including a brother who lives in Charlotte, as well as a host of family and friends for his success with his boys.

Housch has made an extreme sacrifice to take care of his charges. But there are still many more children in the Department of Social Services Protective Care Program, who placed the boys with Housch.

The number of teens and pre-teens who come to DSS because of proven abuse in the home or uncontrollable behavior is increasing. DSS tries to keep the children in the home, but many children need outside care.

"There are around 553 children in 300 foster homes," said DSS's Betty Love estimates that around 85 percent of the children in DSS custody are African American.

Love, a 25-year employee of DSS, cannot explain the proliferation of African American children in need of temporary or foster care, but cites changes in the role of the extended family as a possible reason.

"It has not always been like this," said Love. "Now black grandmothers are younger and still in the work force. The extended family is not as strong - there is no one to take the children."

DSS subjects potential care providers to a rigorous 10-week training course. To get to that point, parents also under go stringent screening that includes criminal background checks, home studies, and the fingerprinting of everyone in the home over 18 years of age.

"It is not an exact science," said Love. "Experience and a social worker's intuition goes into it."

In Housch's case the screening and classes seem to have paid off. Housch said his experiences growing up with nine brothers and sisters also helps.

"There are so many kids that don't have male figures in their lives," Housch said. "It is a way to make a difference in a child's life."

"This is something that will probably not be permanent," he added. "But I will provide for the kids and give them the love and support while I have them."

Interested in more information about foster parenting: Contact the Department of Social Services at 366-CARE.

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