



100 BLACK MEN OF MADISON, INC.

A CHAPTER OF 100 BLACK MEN OF AMERICA, INC.

Volume 1, Number 1

A COMMUNITY REPORT ON 100 BLACK MEN OF MADISON, INC.

SPRING 1995

100 Black Men: Answering The Call

The idea of 100 Black Men was born in New York City in 1963 when a body of successful men from the fields of business, industry, public affairs, government, and the professions decided to pool their resources to improve the quality of life for Blacks and other minorities. Among those early founders were David Dinkins, Livingston Wingate, and Andrew Hatcher.

In the 1970's, the concept of developing individual, independent chapters in other cities took hold and in 1973, the 100 Black Men of New Jersey was formed by Dr. William Hayling and others.

After New Jersey came Los Angeles, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area, Nassau/Suffolk, and Sacramento. In 1986, these nine successful chapters resolved to create "100 Black Men of America, Inc." as a national confederation with Dr. Hayling as the founding president.

Currently, there are 50 chapters in 21 states, with development under way in many communities throughout the country.

In August 1994, the need for such an organization was recognized by several Black men in the Madison community. Enis Ragland, Arthur Morgan II, and Will Smith, with the help of many others, began planning what has now become *100 Black Men of Madison, Inc.* Since that time, the organization has increased its membership to thirty-five outstanding men whose collective skills, training, and abilities will be used to provide meaningful gains for the African American community.

To realize our goals, our organization will focus considerable time and resources on:



Cherokee Middle School students pose for a picture after taking first place in the First Annual Black Trivia Contest.

- Mentoring African American Males
- Education
- Non-Violence
- Economic and Social Development
- Promoting African/African-American Culture
- Re-affirming the Foundation of the Black Family

Currently, *100 Black Men of Madison, Inc.* is sponsoring a city-wide Mentorship/Training Program, a series of workshops and training in two Madison Middle Schools, and an Annual Black History Trivia Contest. It is clear to us, that the only way to improve the chances for greater future generations is to work toward economic, educational, and social empowerment for our own people, in our communities.

New Mentorship Program for African American Males

100 Black Men of Madison, Inc. is now sponsoring a mentorship training program at two Madison middle schools; Velma Hamilton and Sennett. The program, **Project Power**, is designed to have a positive effect on the social, intellectual, physical, and spiritual development of African American males in the greater Madison Metropolitan

(Mentorship cont. from Page 1)

area.

The goals of the program are:

- To promote self-esteem and self-worth through confidence building exercises and activities.
- To promote values of group cooperation, sharing, and interpersonal communication.
- To improve the academic performance of African American males.
- To promote a positive image of African American men to all cultures.
- To promote positive life affirming values.
- To promote a bright future for African American youth by providing time and resources.
- To encourage responsibility, accountability, and commitment to family and community.
- To assist young men in the transition from manhood to adulthood.
- To promote the truth of African/African American culture.

Currently, we are seeking volunteer assistance for future workshops. Topics include, career planning, AODA, Conflict resolution, Brotherhood, CPR training, Black males and Police Departments: What's really wrong?, African/African American history: Not Just Slavery and Martin Luther King, Possessing an African World View, Where do we go from here?, etc. There will be six more workshops this school year.

During the 1995-96 school year, we are planning to expand our program and include the four public high schools and two additional middle schools, develop a 100 Young Black Men of Madison, provide support and assistance to the African American Ethnic Academy, Inc., and sponsor a conference that will focus on the needs of students of color.

Afrocentric Socialization: Its Meaning and Importance

The Afrocentric model has been drawing attention in the Black communities as a means to educate both the delinquent and non-delinquent black youths. Firmly grounded in African and African American culture and history, Afrocentric

socialization inspires black parents and adults to structure their behavior, values, and institutions in new ways. They are encouraged to teach children values emphasizing cooperation, mutual respect, commitment, and love of family, race, community, and nation.

This approach encourages blacks to define behavior that is destructive to self and others as being counterproductive to themselves and to the Black Community. These behaviors include compulsive masculinity, dealing in or abusing drugs, and violence.

The Afrocentric ideology is a value system based on African civilization and philosophy. It is not anti-white, but it is an ideology that encourages Black Americans to transcend their problems by reclaiming traditional African values. According to William Oliver, these emphasize humanity's oneness with nature, spirituality, and collectivism. This perspective is in direct contrast to the Eurocentric world view, which encourages controlling nature, materialism, and individualism.

Afrocentrism is a collective philosophy underpinned by meaningful cultural traditions and institutions-that will promote the growth of blacks as individuals and as members of a community. This is no less than what other American racial and ethnic groups have established to ensure their success in America. Some argue that the failure of blacks to develop such a world view before now has made them vulnerable to structural pressures that ultimately cause social problems and violence. Some observers view decay in the black community as the result of constant exposure to the

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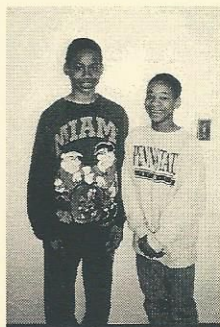
The 100 Black Men newsletter is Published by 100 Black Men of Madison, Inc. In the future, this newsletter will be called THE UNITED FRONT and be published quarterly for the purpose of reporting on the affairs of 100 Black Men and news that is important to Madison's Black community. We welcome your suggestions, questions, and criticism. **If you have any comments, call (608)276-7768.**

Kaleem Caire, Editor
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Eurocentric value system. By emphasizing individualism and materialism, Eurocentric values fit neither African history nor the black experience in America.

Those who fall under the Eurocentric world view are likely to develop an acute interest in, and desire for, material goods—precisely the path less open to African Americans. Historically, native-born Africans have been socialized to view themselves in the context of family and social obligation to community. The Eurocentric world view neutralizes values such as unity, cooperation, and mutual respect. The Afrocentric ideology attempts to socialize children (or resocialize adults) toward values that elevate the interests of the community over those of the individual. As Oliver notes, the Afrocentric perspective helps blacks to assert themselves: “I am because we are, and because we are, therefore I am.”

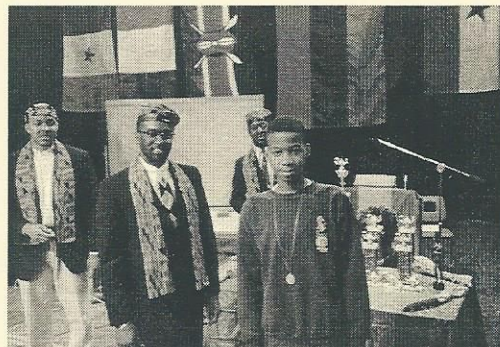
-This article is an excerpt from Dr. Richard Majors book titled “Cool Pose: The Dilemmas of Black Manhood in America” and permission to reprint this article was given by the author. Dr. Majors is currently the Senior Research Associate at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. He will be in Madison, WI April 20, 1995 at Edgewood College. Please contact the college for further information. Published by Simon and Schuster, 1992.



Future Black Leaders: Mack Rimson and Cory Raymond, both 8th graders at Black Hawk Middle School

Madison's First Annual Black History Trivia Contest a Success

On February 25th, 100 Black Men sponsored Madison's First Annual Black History Trivia Contest at La Follette High School. Twenty-eight



From L to R: Kaleem Caire, Enis Ragland, and Arthur Morgan look on as a student is honored for taking fifth place by himself.



Black Hawk Middle School is presented with second place trophies.

students and six schools participated in the competition including: Velma Hamilton, Sennett, Black Hawk, Jefferson, Whitehorse, and Cherokee, which won the competition by 100 points.

For six hours, students were questioned about African/African American peoples impact on science, technology, inventions, sports, music, education, medicine, exploration, and the arts. The questions covered approximately 2000 years of Black history.

All participating students came prepared, as many of them answered the questions before Arthur Morgan (Vice President and MC for the event) could finish asking the question. All of the students questioned after the event stated that they had never known that African/African Americans had, and continue to have, such a large impact on the development of civilization. Most of them only new about slavery and civil rights.

Next year, 100 Black Men plans on opening the competition to all middle schools and high schools in the Madison area. Details about the Second Annual Black History Trivia Contest will be made available in October 1995. We would like to thank all participants, schools, and volunteers for helping make our first trivia contest a success.

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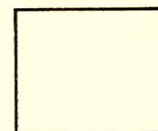
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