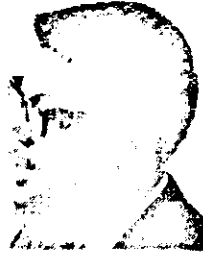


Who Cares About the Kids?



By Stan Daniels

America is a strange and sick country. It is a land where a white man can get more "time" for burning his draft card than for burning a black man's church. It is a nation where many Negro "leaders" are far more concerned with how much they will get paid for their speeches than with coming up with a program for intelligent action.

It is a republic run by people who don't mind college newspapers talking about college presidents as long as radio stations don't broadcast it and the "niggers" hear "the whole damn thing." It is a society where people spend more time and effort training their DOGS than in raising their own children! It is this last item which is of GREATEST concern during these turbulent times.

Before someone tells the SPCA that I am against dogs, let me add that I have nothing against dogs -- as long as they stay in their places, (and don't block the subway

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walkway while the cop talks with the cashier). My main question is, WHO CARES about the KIDS?

With the big race on to get to the moon, to "finger-pop," or to get a new "wig," or to get a new "gig," to "lay out" the landlord, and bribe the cop after running the red light, almost no-one has the "time of day" for today's youth. Many of today's parents are "too busy" -- (whatever that is supposed to mean) -- they are "too busy" to care for their own kids. (It's a shame that that type of "parent" was not "too busy" to have the kids in the first place, but it's too late to change that now.)

In Philadelphia, a youngster can GRADUATE from high school and NOT know enough reading to read this newspaper (or that other one that nearly everyone is SUPPOSED to read)! A girl can finish the "commercial" course and yet give ten employers grayhairs on ten different jobs before she finally learns how to spell and type! A boy in ELEVENTH grade can spend fifteen minutes fumbling at a world map before he can find VIETNAM, (a place where he might have to DIE)!

Across the nation, one out of every six kids UNDER eighteen years of age have already been before some juvenile or other court and found GUILTY of some crime. True, some might have been found "guilty" in error, BUT, if the correct figure is one out of TEN it is still far too many! Reading the current news stories of how many youths are shot, cut, beaten and stomped just because they are from (or not from) a certain "corner" makes me believe that the first figure is right.

Last year, a certain Negro judge in this city gave teenagers appearing in his court the choice of either JAIL or the WAR. (He told them that if they would not enlist in the military he would send them to jail.) It is a SICK and tragic state of affairs when that is the ONLY kind of future facing so many of our kids! WHO is really to blame for this mess?

Like the white folks who pass the buck and "can't figure out" WHAT causes riots in the big (and small) cities, far too many parents seem unable to face the FACTS when it comes to their children. If you are a parent, answer for yourself (and for your kid) the following questions. And, if you are not a parent, think about these things anyway:

If your kid is in school; When was the last time that YOU talked with his teachers? Does the youth have books for all his subjects? If he doesn't, why not? Is he doing "average" or BETTER work in school? Why or why not?

Do you care enough about your kid to "straighten him out" when he needs it, or are you "too busy" with the job that you have (or don't have) -- or with some other sham -- to "TCB"? Do the friends of YOUR child visit him or her in YOUR home or does your child and his friends feel more "comfortable" someplace else? Do you know where that "someplace else" is? Do you really CARE?

Whether your child is the result of a drug store closed on Sunday, or planned action by a married couple, YOU the parents are the key to his or her future. The school board, Welfare people, social agencies, "corners," police and others will do no more FOR (or TO) your child than YOU -- the parents -- demand or allow! There are a FEW people who care enough about people in general to do things to help your kid in the process. But, America is more and more becoming a land of "dog eat dog," and of people caring ONLY about themselves. YOU had better be caring about YOUR KID!

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