

PRESS MATERIALS FOR
"Raised Wrong, Educated Worse:
Addressing The Troubled Behavior Of Our Sons"
By Richard Clay

Biography

Author Bio

Richard Clay was born, raised and educated in Detroit, Michigan. By the age of two, a battle with eye cancer left him totally blind. Despite his inability to see, Richard never surrendered to defeat, leading him to graduate Valedictorian from Northwestern High School. After graduation, Richard went on to attend college at the prestigious University of Michigan. There he not only earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, but also a Master's Degree in Education along with Teaching Certification in Secondary Education.

Currently, Richard Clay teaches social studies classes at his alma Mata-Northwestern, a Detroit Public High School. There he also coordinates and oversees the Student Council as an advisor. Richard teaches self-esteem enhancement and life skills development classes to hundreds of inmates in Michigan's prison system.

Richard is a lifetime community activist, as well as: an educational consultant, lecturer, national speaker, and male responsibility specialist. Understanding the critical role of strong community organizations in the education reform process, in 2001, Richard co-founded and at present, is the Vice-President of the Greater Detroit Chapter of Concerned Black Men (GDMCBM). This led Richard to coordinate and participate in a wide-range of academic and social enrichment programs for students throughout Greater Detroit including: tutoring, youth counseling, conflict resolution and media discussions (film, book reviews and print ads).

Over the years, Richard Clay has traveled nationally inspiring disabled children and students from all walks of life with varied background and diverse cultures to develop strategies for facing and overcoming life's toughest challenges through his Challenge Meeters workshops and presentations. Richard tells "his story" of determination and success through the workshops, highlighting the importance of: hard work, personal drive, use of adaptive technology, goal setting, solution-oriented strategies, reliance on support networks, and good old fashioned faith.

Richard has written several articles and position papers on local and national educational issues, achieving national acclaim. He has also been recognized for his leadership and activism and presented with community service awards.

Richard resides in Detroit and has a new book, "Saving Our Sons In School," coming out this fall.



Author Photo

Other Activities

- Co-host of *FRANKLY SPEAKING*, tackling political issues in talk show format, airs on Comcast Cable Public Access Television in Detroit and Pontiac, Michigan.
- Staff Professional Development Workshop Presenter for schools grades K-College.
- Keynote and panel speaker at the Michigan Commission for the Blind's Annual Career Day Conference for Blind Students.

- Speaker at the National Federation of the Blind's (NFB) 2005 Dine with the Blind Careers Dinner.
- Keynote speaker at Northwestern High School's 2005 Rosa Parks Peace Week Student Assembly.
- Interviewed guest on: local Comcast Cable programs in Detroit, Michigan, radio programs in Highland Park, Michigan at WHPR, WURD Radio Station in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the national Tom Pope Show, Powernomics Radio in Washington, D.C.
- Prison outreach work throughout the State of Michigan.
- Delegate to biannual conference for the National Organization of Concerned Black Men.
- 2002 Finalist for Detroit Teacher of the Year Award.
- 1997-1999- Dexter-Elmhurst Family & Community Services Center, Advisory Council.

Book Information

Excerpts, Reviews and More

Selected Excerpts

Chapter 1

"Why Are They So Bad?"

Products of a Flawed Socialization Process

"What is wrong with so many black boys? Who is raising them to be so disrespectful? Why do they have such little regard for school and the entire educational process? Why are they so damn bad? These are the pressing questions that teachers, school staff members, parents, concerned family, and community members all across America are constantly asking."

"After reading this book, you should better understand the answers to these popular questions."

"This book also provides parents, teachers, school administrators, and concerned community members with some much needed in-depth guidance in understanding and correcting young Black males' troubled social behavior, especially as it relates to their daily academic performance in school."

Preview whole sections of the book online at www.amazon.com.

Most Recent Article

BLIND TEACHER DAZZLES STUDENTS

He works to reverse the plight of black urban males

By Sarah Frame / The Detroit News



DETROIT – (November 2, 2005) Tenth-grader Martez James is amazed at his government teacher's powers of observation.

"No matter what, he always knows what we are up to," Martez said. "If someone opens a candy bar in the far corner of the room, Mr. Clay hears it and calls them out."

The ability to keep an eye on every corner of his classroom is especially notable, considering Richard Clay has been blind since the age of 2. Clay contracted cancer in his eyes, and he became blind after surgery to remove the tumors.

"It's hard to explain, but I can pick up on what they are doing through sound clues, and it just blows their minds," Clay said. "They think it's amazing, but it's just part of the job." The Northwestern High School social studies teacher does more than teach government and psychology. He is invested in helping his students overcome the obstacles that inner-city kids in an impoverished school district must face. It's more than a cause for him -- it's a way for him to give back to the city where he was raised.

"I'm a born and bred Detroiter," Clay, 33, said. "I graduated from Northwestern High in 1990, and I know where these kids are coming from." Clay has been teaching at Northwestern for seven years. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and a master's in education from the University of Michigan.

Eleventh-grade Advanced Placement psychology student Christa Mullins appreciates Clay's talent for making the class material relevant to her generation. "He's so much more in touch with teenagers than some teachers are," Christa said. "He knows all the songs we listen to and the shows that we watch."

"Mr. Clay will use examples from regular life to make points about psychology or our government, and it is actually interesting." Reaching out to his students is a priority for Clay. In his free time, he is a community activist who has co-founded the Greater Detroit chapter of Concerned Black Men and has written a book.

The book, "Raised Wrong, Educated Worse," was published in July 2005 and details the plight of the young black urban male. Clay has noticed how often young black boys were acting out, in the classroom and on the street, and the lackadaisical attitude many displayed toward getting an education.

"It is not uncommon for me to have 30 young black males in my classes each semester, and soon enough, 15 to 20 of them will just stop showing up, while the ones who are in class are disruptive or disinterested," Clay said. "They just don't see the value of education for their future lives or, in fact, even envision a positive future." Clay aims to resolve what he calls the "young black male crisis" in the nation by laying out tips and solutions in his book and discussing such issues on his public access talk show, "Frankly Speaking." "According to the 2000 census, 72 percent of families in the city of Detroit were headed by single black females," Clay said.

"This lack of a male presence can be extremely detrimental to black adolescent boys, especially because they just get it in their head around 12 or 13 that they are sick to death of being told what to do by women, be it their mom, grandmother or teachers, most of whom are also female."

Alonzo King, an 11th-grader and a National Honor Society student, is quiet and appreciates his teacher's ability to draw him out and include him in class discussion. "We do a lot of activities in psych

class, and I find it easier to talk and get involved in Mr. Clay's room than most," Alonzo said. "All the group stuff is a good way to get to know people."

When The Detroit News visited his classroom, Clay was instructing his psychology students to write stories, using any characters, plot line and setting that they wanted. The catch: They had to incorporate 20 of the latest vocabulary words they learned and use them in the right context. "This helps the kids be creative and also lets me know they really understand the words we are learning," Clay said. Another unconventional aspect of Clay's classroom style can be found in a presentation he makes at the beginning of each semester called "The Challenge-o-Meter." "I basically outline for the students all the stuff I have gone through to get to where I am today to make a point," Clay said. "I think my life shows them that if you really want to succeed, you can."

"My message is: 'Your environment does not need to stand in your way; it can actually serve as inspiration to be even better.'" *You can reach Sarah Frame at (313) 222-2103 or sframe@detnews.com.*



Clay hopes his book helps parents guide young men toward a promising future. He teaches social studies.

From the book: Richard Clay's tips for parents and educators on working with young black males. • From an early age, read to your sons and teach them to love reading and hearing stories. As boys age, reading begins to be seen as an unmanly activity.

- Fill your home with pictures and examples of positive, successful African-American people and families. Buy magazines, books and art that present black people, particularly men, in responsible, powerful roles.
- Do whatever is possible to engender high self-esteem by using positive reinforcement such as verbal congratulations and goal-setting exercises that encourage self-reflection and future planning.
- Set firm rules and discipline standards and stick to them. Young black men, as well as young people in general, respond well to firm boundaries and clear consequences. This helps them develop self-discipline and respect for authority.
- Find a way to introduce black men as mentors and role models into the lives of young black men. These folks don't need to be CEOs, just good citizens who care about young people and take an interest in their lives.

Source: "Raised Wrong, Educated Worse" by Richard Clay, available on Amazon.com.

Editorial Reviews

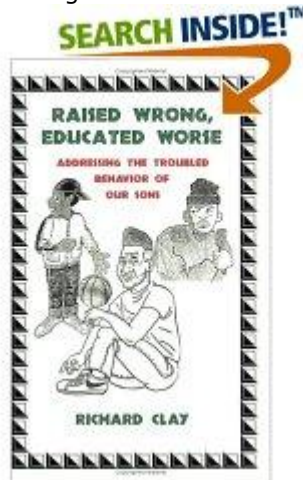
Readers are calling *Raised Wrong, Educated Worse* "the most insightful and provocative book that has been written about black males since Juanzaa Kunjufu's 1985 classic *Countering The Conspiracy To Destroy Black Boys*."

Written by Teacher/Insider, Male Responsibility Specialist, and Educational Consultant Richard Clay, the book examines many of the current powerful social trends that are turning our sons against school and influencing their overall behavior. After reading this book, you will no longer yearn to ask anyone else, "Why do young Black males act so damn bad in school?" You will better understand their behavior and culture. Additionally, you will know how to proactively address their troubled behavior if or when you encounter it.

If you are currently raising, educating, or working closely with young black males, the eye-opening book is an absolute "must-read" for you.

Book Cover

Book cover designed by Kenny Anderson. Cover can be seen online at www.amazon.com. Book title: Raised Wrong, Educated Worse: Addressing the Troubled Behavior of Our Sons (Paperback)



Press Releases

TBA

Upcoming Events

New book release this fall, 2006

“Saving Our Sons In School: An Ultimate Guide To Understanding and Educating Young Black Males”

Publicity Event Flyer

- Book Signings and Staff Consultations
 - Summer Youth Employment Program, July-August 2006, Michigan Commission for the Blind
 - Summer Youth Employment Program, June 2006, Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute
 - Annual June Teenth Celebration, June 2006, Akwaba Community Center
 - Grandparents As Parents Support Group, May 2006, New Prospect Baptist Church
 - Believe And Achieve Male Career Day, May 2006, City High School
 - Academic Achievement For At Risk Students, May 2006, Northwestern High School
 - National Organization of Concerned Black Men Annual Convention, May 2006, Washington, D.C.
 - Men’s Day, May 2006, Golightly Career And Technical Center
 - NAACP Freedom Fund Weekend, April 2006, Cobo Hall
 - Detroit Public Schools Constellation B Principals Meeting, March 2006, Northwestern High School
 - Sixth Annual African American Child Symposium, February 2006, Cobo Hall
 - National Association of Black School Educators (NASBE) Annual Conference, November 2005, Cobo Hall
 - God’s World, November 2005
 - The Schoolhouse, November 2005
 - Old School Parenting Conference, October 2005, Cobo Hall
 - Hotel St. Regis, August 2005

Book Orders

Books are available online at www.amazon.com. Bookstores wishing to order copies of *Raised Wrong* or publicity materials, please contact:

Review Copies

Newspaper or magazine book editors wishing to receive review copies, please contact: Richard Clay at savingoursonsrc@yahoo.com or via USPS at Greater Detroit Michigan Chapter of Concerned Black Men, 19401 W. McNichols, Suite 330, Detroit, MI 48219.

Contact Info

For interviews and all other inquiries, please contact Richard Clay via email at savingoursonsrc@yahoo.com, via USPS at Greater Detroit Michigan Chapter of Concerned Black Men, 19401 W. McNichols, Suite 330, Detroit, MI 48219, or via phone at (313) 247-3301.