

INTRODUCTION

Raised Wrong, Educated Worse: Addressing The Troubled Behavior Of Our Sons” is an insightful critique of some of the flawed processes that we are using to raise and educate young Black males.

This book closely examines popular behavior trends among young Black males that are causing national concern, and contributing to a devastating educational crisis in which their national high school graduation rate is only 42.8%, according to a recently released report.

This recent report documents the strong ‘cause and effect’ links between the poor socialization of young Black males by parents, family members, oppressed Black communities, and the racist, money hungry larger society; the intentional mis–education and under–education of them by the American educational system; and the often unproductive, self–destructive, rebellious behaviors that they commonly embrace and act out in school.

The title of this book summarizes the over-all state of our sons’ behavior as troubled. According to *Roget’s Thesaurus*, the following words are synonyms for the adjective ‘troubled’: *difficult, afflicted, problematic, tricky, awkward, unsettled, unfortunate, anxious, bothered, worried, concerned, distressed, disturbed, and uneasy.*

As this book demonstrates on both national and local levels, observing or reflecting on our sons’ daily behavior in school and at home brings to mind many of these synonyms. Their behavior is very troubled and self–defeating in many ways. What is most troubling however, is the observable fact that their behavior is progressively

getting worse. And it will continue to steadily decline until we begin to use this book, along with other related critical resources, as tools to adequately and simultaneously address their behavior both at home and in school.

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.

This is an important and timely book – in that it seeks to end the on-going blame game about who is responsible for causing and solving the education crisis among our sons.

Parents, teachers, administrators, politicians, and even students have all been busy pointing their fingers at each other. Amidst all of the random finger pointing, the government and large private corporations have been organizing to destroy urban public schooling as we know it; through the clever and profitable use of charter schools, private school vouchers, and poorly planned takeovers of whole urban public school districts.

“Raised Wrong, Educated Worse”, lays out the controversial truth that all of these parties bear some of the blame; and therefore, all of us that are concerned bear the responsibility of working towards solving the crisis. Moving far beyond the ‘blame game’, the book represents my attempt to unite all readers in action around some plausible recommendations for resolving the crisis.

As you read this book, please keep in mind that as of yet, there exists no comprehensive ‘how to’ guide for parents or teachers of young Black males to follow in rais-

ing and educating them. Nor is this that type of book. This fact, combined with the fact that we are all human beings, guarantees that we are going to make some mistakes in the process. However, in these turbulent anti–youth times, there are some rather costly mistakes that we cannot afford to repeat; and many that we need not make at all in raising and educating our sons.

All parents and teachers can and should benefit from sound research, observation, and experience-based wisdom and advice on how to better understand and correct our sons' behavior. Such understanding of their overall behavior and how best to correct their troubled behavior is the key that will guide us in improving how we raise and educate them from this day forward.

“Raised Wrong, Educated Worse”, is a small collection of my learned wisdom and advice on this subject. Take from it and use wisely, whatever tidbits you can. Let us act urgently, efficiently, and with firmness on the recommendations made here so that we can immediately begin to reverse the tragic plight of our sons.