Book Review

SAUNDERS REDDING

WHITES ARE BURDENS

BLACK MAN'S BURDEN by John Oliver Killens. Trident Press, New York City. 176 pp. $3.95
WHITE MAN-BLACK MAN, by Charles Rivers Frazer, Sr. Exposition Press, 386 Park Ave. South, New York 60 pp. $3.00. .

IN A NUTSHELL

For years it has been said that the colored man has been a burden to the white man. Book Reviewer J. Saunders Redding brings you two books giving both sides of the picture. It is up to the reader to read both and decide for himself, who the burden is.

It is possible to read John Oliver Killens' new book at one sitting and within an hour- and what an hour! — but I wouldn't advise it.

For unless you go back and read it again, you will miss some of the points of an argument constructed on the premise that it is the black man who carries the white man as a burden, and, Rudyard Kipling to the contrary, not the other way around.

It is not that the points are over-subtle, or trickily intellectualized (Killens is not that kind of writer), if Black Man's Burden is not read again, or more slowly in the first place, the surface dazzle will fool you.

It flashes and slashes, shimmers and grins, and one might think that's all there is (as is so frequently the case - begging your pardon humbly- with Baldwin). And perhaps for some, that will be plenty.

Present race relations

But — again with apologies — all I can say is, Killens did not write for them. He wrote for the many others, including me. And what he wrote in these half dozen essays is his personal reaction to various aspects of the present situation in race relations.

Take non-violence, which Killens calls (mistakenly I think) a myth. For all his respect for Martin Luther King, Killens sees non-violence — which is no longer a "tactic," but a way of life— as emasculation, as self-castration, as furthering the process of unmanning the black man.

And since this is what white America has wanted all along "to" "waive the colored man's right of self-defense;" since it has wanted all along "to grind down black men bit by bit and turn them into eunuchs," is it any wonder that white people are happy to have colored people do it to themselves?

Less than human

Does not this non-violent way of life, this negation of the first law of human nature, which is self-preservation, prove once again what whites have always said about colored men that they are less than human?

Or take the myth — and thank heavens this one at least is beginning to erode— that "to write out of the frame of reference of a colored American is ipso facto anti - universal"; that to enter the so-called mainstream (Oh, much abused phrase!) of American letters requires colored writers to deny their colorness.

Who, then, will tell the real story of America? Not the literary "nitpickers" like Updike and Salinger, who "write page after page of precious prose about absolutely nothing." And not the "awant gardy" the beatnik", the "new wave" writers, black as well as white, who are not really anti-bourgeois, nor anti-white supremacy, but only anti-people.

Colored writers' duty

American colored writers, then, have the profoundest obligation, the solemnest duty it has ever been the privilege of any group of writers to bear.

They have to "un-brainwash" the rest of the Western World.

They have to make it very clear that the history of Western (white) man is not "the history of the entire human race."

For all its surface dazzle, and for all the wry smiles it will evoke, Black Man's Burden is a serious, deeply sincere and provocative book.

I am glad and grateful that John Oliver Killens wrote it.

I cannot say the same for White Man-Black Man, by Charles Rivers Frazer Sr. in the first place, it is a nonbook (and a vanity publication) mish-mash of random thoughts that express an attitude no longer tolerable.

Everything-right-wrong?

What is wrong with the colored man? Frazer asks in effect; and his answer is, in effect, everything. And what is right with white folks? The answer is the same — everything frozen doesn't believe in the colored man's protest.

"About the only thing that well-meaning citizens can do is to sit tight and await the change that is bound to come in the future."

He doesn't believe in the Civil Rights Act. It has caused "a wider breach . . . the violent destruction of property and the destroying of the business of unoffending citizens . . ."

Frazer doesn't seem to believe in much of anything, including himself — since he himself is cooled.

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OUR READERS SAY

Readers Say.
Afro Magazine Section,
628 N. Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Md. 21201

Readers are invited to write on any subject they desire. However, all letters must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request.
THE EDITOR

MOTOWN-THE SUPREMES

I am inquiring about a picture of the Supremes that recently appeared in the AFRO Magazine Section. I would like to know if I can get that photo in color. If there is any way possible, please send me the negative or the color print itself. I am willing to pay the price of the picture, if it is not too much.

I would like to have a 5 x 7 and a 3½ x 3½ photo of that photograph. I guess you know that I am one of the Supremes' fans. I have every record that they have recorded. — JAMES MEEKS, 531 E. 21st St., Baltimore, Md.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Meeks, I am sending your letter to the folks at Motown. I am sure they will be glad to help you.

PIX OF PUPPY

Dear Miss Magazine Editor, is the puppy that appeared on page 8 of your AFRO Magazine Section for sale? He is the cutest little thing, and I would like to buy him.—MRS. V. BOSWELL, Baltimore, Md.

EDITORS NOTE: Sorry, Mrs. Boswell, but that cute little pup just happened to be a picture we had on hand. We knew it would appeal to our readers. Thanks for your interest, anyway. Your local dog pound probably has one just as cute, if you are still interested.

BUMBLE CONTEST

Dear Sir: Currently in our fourth grade class we are studying about famous colored men, living and dead. We are interested in their main goals in life, their contributions to mankind, and the ways these contributions affect us today.

Our teacher, Miss Betty Louise Jackson, told us about your present contest. We decided to enter it since it is exactly what we are doing in class.

Enclosed you will find eighteen of our best short stories on Frederick Douglass, Freedom Fighter. These stores were put together after a week of research in our school library and class discussions.

We have learned so many new and wonderful things about our people that we feel all children should study about famous colored people, especially colored children. Then, they will have much to be proud of, as we do.

We hope we have at least one winner. We enjoyed entering the contest and are looking forward to another one.

Feel free to come and visit us to talk about our people. Sincerely yours, GRADE 4, ROOM 209, Johnston Square Elementary School No. 16, Valley and Biddle Sts., Balto., Md. 21201.

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★'S AND YOU

TAURUS April 21 - May 21. A HUM of activity fills the air. Confidence is contagious and others look to you as a leader. Money figures prominently and you'll be justified in taking a chance. Lucky number 11, color red.

• • •

GEMINI May 2 - June 21 A GOOD time to entertain or go visiting. You are relaxed and natural. Moderate your spending for there may be another expense coming up soon. Avoid haste. Lucky number 7, color yellow.

• • •

CANCER June 22 - July 23. CREATIVE ideas gain you attention and admiration. You come close to realizing a personal wish. Lucky number 2, color brown.

• • •

LEO July 24 - Aug. 23. INTERESTING and progressive week, but don't take on too much. You know exactly what is wanted in a family issue and others look to you for guidance. Lucky number 12, color mauve.

• • •

VIRGO Aug. 24 - Sept. 23. A TRICKY phase requiring all your tact and diplomacy. Some changes scheduled for later in the week. Lucky number 15, color amber.

• • •

LIBRA Sept. 24 - Oct. 23 YOU'LL discover that there are more ways to overcome obstacles than by direct assault. Consult an experienced friend in a matter close to your heart. Social outlook appears bright. Lucky number 10, color fawn.

• • •

SCORPIO Oct. 24 - Nov. 22. ARRANGE a social program to suit yourself; others will soon fall in with your plans. A rather quiet week at work. Lucky number 16, color blue.

• • •

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 22. YOU'LL clear an old hurdle and be ready to start on something new. A grand opportunity to talk over a scheme with a partner or friend. Lively entertainment and gay company. Lucky number 19, color pink.

• • •

CAPRICORN Dec. 23-Jan. 20. DON'T be carried away by romantic ideas. A small item could develop into something big. Domestic reshuffle likely. Lucky number 5, color black.

• • •

AQUARIUS Jan. 21 - Feb. 19. BE grateful for what you have. A mid - week situation blows over and you'll be on better terms than ever with a work associate. Be cautious over money. Lucky number 4, color silver.

• • •

PISCES Feb. 20 - Mar. 20. PAY attention to a message; it could save an unnecessary trip. The weekend is strongly social. Use creative talent to the full. Lucky number 1, color green.

• • •

ARIES Mar. 21 - April 20. YOU'LL only make trouble if you try to argue your way out of a difficulty. Good rewards for hard work. The weekend favors contact with relatives. Lucky number 3, color grey.

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MR. BUMBLE SAYS

Douglass Contest Is Over

By MR. BUMBLE

A record-breaking contest was my last contest, "Frederick Douglass, the Freedom Fighter." Readers kept letters coming in until the last day, as usual.

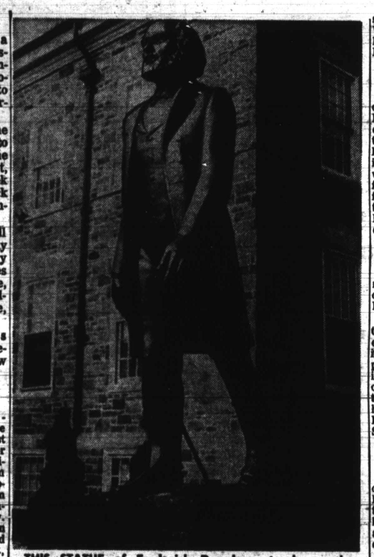
Many readers were disqualified for not sticking to the rules. Some gave excellent biographies on Douglass, but failed to connect him as the freedom fighter. Many wrote very long stories. Some were printed, because they were good, but even these will be eliminated in the final judging. Rules must be kept, when deciding on my four top winners of $50, $25, $15 and $10.

Some classes participated in this contest and made it a class project for Negro History Week; other students entered it voluntarily, but people everywhere wanted to write on one thing—Frederick Douglass.

Soon we will be printing the winning letters and trying to tell you something about the people who wrote them. But, in the meanwhile, next week more letters in the Frederick Douglass contest will continue to appear.

For those of you who still have a itching finger ready to start work again, get busy on my new contest. Prizes are the same: first-place, $50; second-place, $25; third-place, $15, and fourth-place, $10.

Read along with me this week's entries while you begin thinking about the new contest.



THIS STATUE of Frederick Douglass stands on the campus of Morgan State College in Baltimore.

Had many interests

Frederic Douglass, a self - educated former slave, is to be admired. As an abolitionist and statesman, he worked for freedom. Working as an abolitionist, men began to hate him and beat him. His extemporaneous speeches helped him to be employed by the Massachusetts Anti - Slavery Society. Douglass showed interest in suffrage, women's rights and peace. ROSALYN CARTER, School No. 118, Fifth Grade, Baltimore, Md. 21217

Newspaper helps

Frederick Douglass was born a slave on a plantation in Tuckahoe, Maryland, February 14, 1817. He lived until February, 1895.

When he was older he escaped and went north where he played an important part in the anti - slavery movement by making public speeches against slavery and publishing a newspaper. He used his paper to help the colored people fight for freedom. BEVERLY JONES, 9 years old, Grade 4, Room 209, Johnston Square Elementary School No. 16, Baltimore, Md. 21201

All not slaves

As a child, Frederick Douglass suffered hunger and cruelty, but as he grew up he learned that not all black people were slaves and not all white people were cruel.

Later Douglass was to become an agent of the government urging colored freedmen to volunteer for army service in the Civil War. He was also a strong advocator for woman's suffrage.

Douglass was equal to Lincoln as a commanding speaker and writer. MICHAEL WILLIAMS, 62 Highland St., Roxbury, Mass. 02119

Supreme Court speaker

Frederick Douglass was born a slave, under the name of Frederick Bailey, on the Eastern Shore, Md. He escaped from slavery in 1838 and assumed the name Douglass. The muscular, intelligent and articulate ex - slave at one time described his experiences of slavery, to William Lloyd Garrison.

Douglass was the first speaker on "The Supreme Court Decision in 1883." He fought for his freedom with the determination to win. (Miss) VERNEDIA BURT, Box 412 Holland Hall, A and T College, Greensboro, N.C. 27411.

Colored soldiers

The name of Frederick Douglass is remembered in our history for his ability as an orator, journalist, statesman, marshal and recorder of deeds for the D.C.

At 21, he escaped from slavery and later received his papers from England saying that he was free.

About this time, the war between the states started and Frederick encouraged the President to use colored soldiers in the Army. Lincoln agreed. Frederick's speeches had helped.

The fight that Frederick Douglass fought for freedom of the colored men was a good one. EVANGELINE TAYLOR, Rt. 1, Box 129, Como, N.C. 27818

First freedom rider

Born a slave, Frederick Douglass escaped to freedom while still young and devoted a long and fruitful life to the winning of freedom for all colored people.

He was the first of the "Freedom Riders and the Sit-Inners." He felt that true freedom could not come for him until all colored persons were free and equal. (Miss) STEPHANIE D. HENRY, 819 West Saratoga St., Apt. No. 6, Baltimore, Md. 21201

Path was rough

Frederick Douglass was born a slave, an insignificant figure on a great plantation. But later in his life the chance came that eventually changed the course of his life and made history.

On Sept. 3, 1838, Douglass began making preparations for his escape to the North. Finally, when he had gotten his freedom, he dedicated his life to the cause of freedom for all men.

From a lowly slave boy, Douglass forged his way to become a great statesman, newsman, orator and writer. The path was rough, but the goal was well worth winning. (Mrs.) LOUISE GREGG, 1612 21 S., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

Polished language

Frederick Douglass soured the spirit of his contemporaries, and was more successful than all of them. He was dignified in appearance, polished in his language and gentlemanly. He made his way to eminence because he demanded of rights for the colored man as well as being an intelligent slave speaking for himself. WILLY MARIE RIDLEY, 103 Humphrey Street, Farmville, N.C. 27828

Black founders

I feel the title "The Freedom Fighter" fits Frederick Douglass perfectly. He dedicated his life to fighting for the freedom of colored men. He became a great abolitionist for the colored man. He went as far in his fight for freedom as to declare that the founders of the world civilization were black people. V. M. POPE, Rt. 2, Box 208, Wicomico Ct., Va. 23579

Voice and pen

No voice or pen contributed more effectively to the cause of freedom than those of Frederick Douglass.

He travelled extensively for the Massachusetts Anti - Slavery Society, making abolitionist speeches. Douglass also published a newspaper exposing the evils of slavery. His oratory against slavery was the greatest achievement of his life. (Mrs.) LILLIAN M. DILWORTH, 953 N. 48th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19131

Symbol of freedom

He was a self - educated orator, writer and abolitionist. He had experienced the cruelty of slavery and this created hatred which stirred him to action to do - away with slavery.

Being an impressive orator, Douglass made speeches and published an abolitionist newspaper. He also worked for an underground railroad and was very successful in freeing many slaves from the South. His name was a symbol of freedom. He accomplished the task undertaken. (Mrs.) MARY E. OLIVER, 815 N. E. Laird St., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73104

Why be a slave?

Douglass was born a slave, but he wanted to know why he must be one. He was not afraid to try to get his freedom; and he got it. When Douglass broke a slave - breaker, he became one of the leading forces for slave abolition in the country. LINDA DARNELLA BRACEY, Route 1, Box 18-B, Hoffman, N.C. 28347

His image today?

I would like to see Mr. Douglass's image today — one who stood up for his brothers and sisters the whole length of his life. I read where Feb. 14 would make 149 years of celebrating his days as a true freedom fighter.

Self - taught and a speaker with no equal in his days, Douglass was a man who had "the world as his oyster." (Mrs.) LILLIAM BLOUNT, 2066 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10035

Constant agitation

Frederick Douglass, who conspired successfully for freedom, had the ideal of constant agitation for early social equality. He began his career as an influential orator and agent of the Massachusetts Anti - Slavery Society and fought segregation as well as slavery.

Douglass published the "North Star" which demanded emancipation and woman suffrage. MRS. ELEANOR G. ELLIS, Box 26, Warrenton, North Carolina 27589

Need respect

Frederick Douglass opposed slavery during his lifetime, 1817-1895. He stated that the colored soldiers should receive the same treatment as the confederate soldiers and not be treated as felons. Douglass wrote Lincoln that the colored race can never be respected anywhere until they are respected in America. MRS. FANNIE MAE THOMPSON, 367 Campbell St., Elberton, Ga. 30635.

family budget contest

By MR. BUMBLE

One of the biggest problems of most married couples is the question of "Who should control the budget?" For that reason Mr. Booker T. Bumble wants to know how his readers feel about this. Maybe one reader's solution will be helpful to another.

Who controls the budget in your household — bubby, wife, mother, dad?

Do you have a budget? Should a husband turn his paycheck over to his wife — especially if she does not work? If both partners work, how should the budget be controlled? Should children play a role in planning the family budget?

These and many other questions will be answered by readers who participate in my next contest — so put your thinking caps on and start writing.

As usual, I will have four prizes, to give away in my new contest — $50 - first - place; $25 - second - place; $15 - third - place and $10 fourth - place.

It's easy to do. Just follow these simple rules:

1. Write a letter of 50 words or less on this subject: WHO SHOULD PLAN THE FAMILY BUDGET AND WHY?

2. If necessary, print or type your story. Neatness counts.

3. Send your letter to Mr. Bumble, AFRO Magazine, P. O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203.

4. Make sure your full name, address and zip code are on the letter.

5. Keep the Deadline Date in mind — MARCH 19.

No struggle; no progress

Frederick Douglass was born in 1817, he escaped slavery in 1838, by borrowing a sailor suit and an official - looking paper which had a big American eagle on it, and he went to New York.

Once in New York he worked with men like the freed colored man, Charles Lenox Remond, and a white man, William Lloyd Garrison, on the protest movement.

Douglass was a very good speaker, and the people liked to listen to him speak. He said "If there is no struggle, then there is no progress."

Douglass did not accept discrimination and segregation; he believed that every door open to a human could also open for him.

He not only fought for right and truth, but he lived for it. Frederick Douglass is the Father of the Protest Movement. —MISS ROSE REDDING, 3041 Gadson Drive, Macon, Georgia, 31204