

By Harriett Muhammad

**DEAR HARRIETT:** Eight years ago I gave birth to a boy out of wedlock. The baby's father had promised to marry me, but he kept putting me off and we continued to live common-law.

Well, after a few years I gave up on the idea of marriage to him and moved out of his apartment with my son. We would see each other pretty regularly and my son didn't seem to mind the arrangement (being still very young).

Now, at eight, he is torn between his love for me and his father. But now, more than ever, there seems to be little that can be reconciled. You see, my son's father has married and has started another family, and they live in our neighborhood. My son knows this and seems to want his father more than

anything. He is emotionally upset because of our situation and his school work is failing noticeably. Also, his father tells him things contrary to what I want him to do and this adds more conflict. I get no financial support for my son whatsoever from him, and I think I should have the final say even though I'm the mother.

What suggestions do you have? Should I move away or should I refuse to let my son visit with his father?

—Woman in a Web

**DEAR WOMAN IN A WEB:** You had better take a stand now, (something you should have done years ago) before a very bad situation becomes worse and you discover that your son is mentally ill.

Any man who would deprive his son of his name and who does not support him in any way has lost his claims of authority over the child. I have two suggestions. The first is that you meet with this man and his wife and tell them what is happening to the boy emotionally because of this situation. Ask him again if he is willing to claim the boy and share in all the responsibilities of raising him. You should decide once and for all.

Your son should be com-

pletely under your supervision or his, but not both. Your son should have one set of rules, so to speak, to abide by and the two of you should respect the decision that is made. If possible one of you should have visiting privileges only with your son and make him understand this.

If you can make some arrangement, try it out for a few months and see if it will work. If it doesn't or if you fail to reach a mutual understanding, then my second suggestion is that you move far enough to break all contacts.

This last step would be difficult for all; but, I believe, would save all a lot more heartache than if you

## Black History Retold by Amistad Unit

Frederick Douglass, the fiery black freedom fighter of the 19th century, was commemorated in a series of skits performed by the Student Advocates of Negro History and sponsored by the Amistad Society. The skits were the highlight of the Society's observance of Negro History week. They described Douglass' role as leader, journalist, and statesman.

The Amistad Society consists of a group of educators and scholars active in the study and promotion of Negro History.



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They conduct lectures for teachers and youth groups, as well as civic leaders.

Last Fall the Society's members testified at a pub-

were to allow this dual environment to continue. Surely your son would be very hurt at first, but if he is normal and you give him the love attention and understanding he needs to adjust, he would probably mend in a short while. You owe it to your son to act now.

**ATTENTION:** Here is a young man who is looking for a pen pal. He is: Mr. Sammie Franklin; Box 1010, Register No. SH-72; Canon City, Colo.

**ATTENTION:** Stranded, Newark, N.J. Please send me your name and address for a personal answer.

Something on your mind? Write and tell me about it.

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Board of Education, calling on the Board to prepare a Negro History booklet to supplement textbooks now being used in Chicago public schools.

Amistad also urged the immediate recall of Muzey's *Our Country's History*, a text which "maligms people of African descent through rank distortions and glaring omissions."

The Society is famed for its contributions to the Mississippi Summer Project, having written the Negro History curriculum used in 26 Freedom Schools and

community centers in Mississippi.

## Says African Whites 'Beyond Human Hope'

DURBAN, South Africa — The white South African "can do nothing about the (racial) situation and certainly does not intend to crusade for changes that may wreck his own life in the end," states the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Durban.

Archbishop Denis Eugene Hurley, addressing the an-