

she takes care of her children (fathered by one man) and allows her husband to assume masculine responsibilities by providing for his family sufficiently.

Superficially, Womanism, or Black feminism, gives voice to Black females, which the (white) Women's Movement excludes. Womanism aims to reform welfare organizations and increase skilled labor opportunities for Blacks. However, to proclaim Womanism as a means by which to elevate the socioeconomic status of Black women thereby providing racial upliftment only substantiates the myth that all Black women lack financial independence and familial stability. Underlying implications of their goals conclude that Black women remain in a subordinate, disadvantaged position in society. It simultaneously diminishes the prospect that highly educated, independent, middle to upper class Black women do exist. Ignoring the possibility that they might assume positions of power, the existing trend within Black feminism of focusing on poverty-stricken, working class Blacks serves as a detriment to Black women as a whole. It internalizes derogatory stereotypes lingering from slavery and promotes them as fact today. Thus, the time has come for Black women to fight back, and give feminism a new face.

Delving beyond the exterior and breaking societal myths, the new face of feminism breathes life into a group of women traditionally silenced by mainstream America. She is strong, intelligent, financially independent, yet aesthetically stunning simultane-



Photo: Jonathan Friday

ously. She is every college student striving to better herself via education; she is every strong Black woman pursuing careers of choice and living comfortably, with or without male accompaniment. She is you and I.

Though still succumbing to the double jeopardy of racism and sexism, Womanists exclude the affluent, independent, goal-oriented Black woman from gaining voice in the struggle. Envisioning the new face of feminism, I foresee a strong, successful, independent person that adds validity to the existence of the "professional Black woman." Only upon the emergence and recognition of today's successful Black woman will we uplift and empower our sisters in despair. So, ladies hold your head high and aspirations even higher; we've got work to do.