

For And About Teenagers



THIS WEEK'S LETTER: I'm 15 years old and I like this guy that is 18. The problem is, he's my brother's friend and my brother doesn't like the idea of me going with his friend. My brother is trying to do everything to stop us. I'm not even sure if the friend likes me anymore. At one time I'm sure he did. I asked him once, after I found out my brother was making trouble. All he said was: "I don't know." What should I do? Thanks, Confused.

OUR REPLY: Dear Confused—the first thing you should do is tell your friend that his answer isn't good enough. The truth is he does know...so make him tell you whether he wants to go

out with you or not. As for your brother, communicate with him that you don't appreciate his meddling. Keep all of these relationships separate. your brother should do the same. The main thing is to be certain how you feel and what you want. Share that with both your brother and the friend. Take responsibility for making sure they are clear on where you're coming from. Then, give them the freedom to do what they're going to do anyway...but don't get hung up in somebody else's nonsense.

(Because of the volume of mail, requests for personal replies cannot be accommodated. Editorial panel selects for weekly use, letter which best represents questions and/or comments from readers. FOR AND ABOUT TEENAGERS, BOX 539, FRANKFORT, KY. 40601.)

Donald Byrd Lectures on Black Black Music

It was certainly a night to be remembered by those who attended Tuesday night's session of Black History Week at North Carolina Central university and what happened took many by surprise. Donald Byrd went before the audience and did not play a single note, but instead gave a brief lecture on black music, and specifically in the area of jazz which he has been so prominent in for so many years.

"Part of the wise acceptance of jazz," he began, "has been due to the academia of the black college campuses."

He talked about the Blackbyrds, a soul jazz group made up of students from Howard University where he once taught.

"The concept of the Blackbyrds is not a new thing," he said. "It's an old idea that's just been revived. I just wanted to give these young guys a chance to do their own thing."

The Blackbyrds are currently one of the top groups in the country with a number one single hit, "Happy Music," which was written and produced by Byrd.

He talked briefly about some of the great jazz composers who were connected with universities like Erskin Hawkins and Jimmy Lunceford. "What I'm trying to do is to get black people to respect all facets of black music," he said.

Then came another treat. He introduced, for the first time to the public, a group he had been working with for some time. They were all made up of NCCU music students.

"I'm going to do the same thing here that I've done at Howard," said Bird, who admitted that many of the concepts that he put into the Blackbyrds, he had gotten while working at NCCU about ten years ago. He is currently a visiting lecturer at the university.

He continued, "So what I want you to do now is get together and raise a whole lotta hell that's gonna kick the

Blackbyrds a--." And that's just about what they did! It was obvious that they had done their homework with their instruments and their arrangements of the various tunes that they played and sang. Their rhythm, vocals, beat and pitch was masterful and one of their songs, "Supertrick", I predict will be a million seller because it has all the necessary ingredients. It is an obvious rhythm and blues piece with a jazz format, especially the saxophone and trumpet solos. (The latter which has many traces of Bird's jazz style) Most of all, they were a unified group and that says a lot for any group. Not unified in the sense that they must all be bosom buddies. But in their music. So many new (and old for that matter) black groups that are coming on the scene today are

Girls May Enter Teenage Pageant as At-Large Contestants

DANVILLE, Va. — Trudie Ferguson, Contestant Coordinator of Pageants Unlimited, Inc., and the Miss Black Teenage World Pageant, announced recently that teenagers interested in entering Pageant '76 may enter as At-Large-Contestants from States where there is no

Official Miss Black Teenage World Pageant. At-Large-Contestant may secure applications from Pageants Unlimited, Inc., Post Office Box 1139, Danville, Virginia 24541. All At-Large-Contestant Application Forms must be returned to the PUI National

Headquarters by June 1, 1976.

The year's Pageant will again present over \$50,000 in College Scholarships to its finalists. Contestant compete in Sportswear; Talent; Creative Expression; Eveningwear and Personal Projection. Prizes are presented all winners with special awards to the most outstanding Talent presentation; the most outstanding Creative Expression; to Miss Together, who is selected by the contestants as the one contestant who best exemplifies the concept of the PUI Program.

Honor Roll

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Cheryl Hogg, Kim Johnson, Vincent Laurence, Raymond Pace, Sheneta Webb, Dana Anglin, Regina Carlisle, Barbara Dezern, Calvin Green, Ivan Harrell, Sharon Parks, and Arine Robertson.

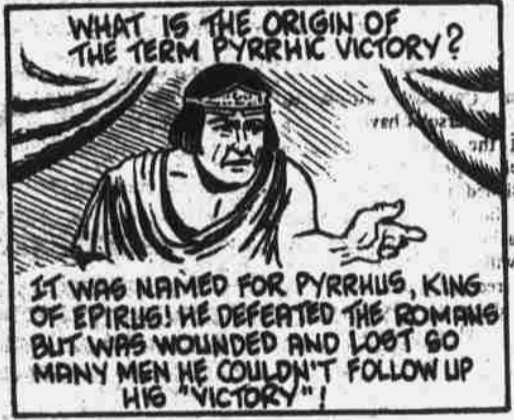
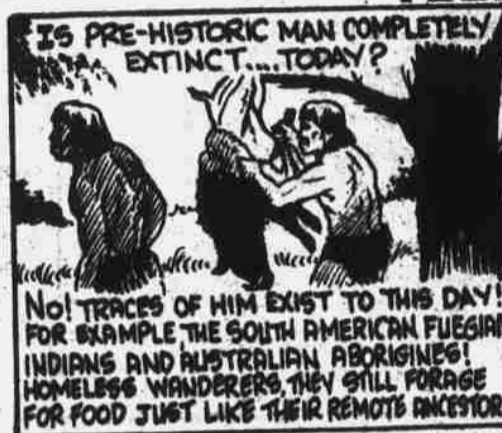
Durham County Demo Party Meets

The Durham County Democratic Party held precinct

meetings to elect precinct officers for 1976 on Thursday, February 12. The meetings were held at the regular polling places for each of the forty-three precincts. not striving for perfection, rather, they are just putting out enough to "get over." With this group, their music was clean with hardly a flaw and, it must be remembered that this was their first public appearance! So, where do they go from here? Ladies and gentlemen, there is only one direction - up.

There were two exceptions: Precinct 10 (Whitted School) met in the Fellowship Hall of Mount Vernon Baptist Church.; Precinct 9 (Forest Hills) met on Feb. 11 at 8:00 p.m.

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