



Sojourner Truth...Alias

Flonnie Anderson

Chronicle Profile

Mrs. "A" Is Teacher Of Rare Quality

Like two peas in a pod...Sojourner Truth and Mrs. "A". There are so many similarities. Outspoken, forceful, determination and many more.

A high school english and drama teacher, Mrs. Flonnie T. Anderson recently portrayed Sojourner Truth during a four-part television special "We the People" which was sponsored by WXII, channel 12 television.

However, there are not enough adjectives in the dictionary to describe Mrs. A. (as she is commonly called by her students).

She is one of those conventional type teachers who firmly believes that students can and must learn in order to succeed.

"When students enter my room, there are two things I always tell them: You've either got to sink or swim. The vast majority try their best to swim," she says.

She makes no apology for her method of teaching. "Too many students today can honestly say that they have gone through school, but they can't actually say that they have actually learned anything IN school," she said.

A native of Winston-Salem, Mrs. Anderson is a graduate of West Virginia State College where she received a degree in drama and English. She did further studies at A&T State University and Columbia University. She received her master's degree in English and drama.

She has taught at Atkins and Anderson High School and is presently teaching at Parkland Senior High School.

Although she loves acting, she directs plays with the city's recreation department.

A lover of students and teenagers, Mrs. Anderson emphatically believes that through her students she is able to make them more aware of what the theater has to offer.

"Working with teenagers is a pleasure...they are so flexible. They have no hangups like the grownups. And, they are also very talented. There's something about their personality which lends itself to creativity," she said.

"And creativity," she mused, "is what the theater is all about."

A woman who is not willing to take second best, Mrs. A. refuses to do something that is not of top-notch quality.

Even though she has worked with semi-professionals and has performed off-broadway, she still loves her work with students.

One of the saddening things about this city to Mrs. A., is that of all the plays which are produced, many of them are still using blacks as the stereotypes--butlers, maids, etc.

"I would like to see this community utilize the black talent in major roles rather than the supporting ones," she stated.

"The talent is out there, because I have helped develop it for nearly 20 years. This city needs a community theater to do nothing but theater, with no regard to color," she quipped.

A theater like that was organized several years ago.

It was called the "Twin City Players." Although it folded, it was the kind of theater she wanted.

Not only is she an actress, director, she is also a playwright. "The Gold Finders," which she wrote has recently been published by the Dramatic Publishing Co. She also has four others which are now being considered for publication.

Mrs. Anderson is married to Rudy Anderson, Sr., and is the mother of four children, Rudy Anderson, Jr., who writes for Sports Illustrated, Luron, a student at Livingstone College and Mica and Deirdre of the home.

Of her performance of Sojourner Truth she stated she was really fascinated about it. "She was a powerful woman.

"Although she was illiterate, she had her own dialect, she demanded the attention of people.

"And by getting into the psyche of her. I am positive that I did a good performance."

James Smith

Dear Liz'

"Black Chics too Aggressive"

Dear Liz,

What is it with Black chics these days? They are so aggressive and compromising. It's not that I don't want to get down with them, but some of them have taken the challenge out of rapping and getting acquainted.

I just recently got out of the army, so maybe I've missed something. What's happening Liz?

Uninformed

Dear Uninformed, Women's Lib and the shortage of men, that's the happenings, son.

Dear Liz,

I'm a single woman in my middle twenties. My male friend and I have dated for the last nine years. He keeps telling me we are going to get married, but we haven't as yet. The reason he says is because he is not ready to settle down. In some ways I feel I haven't been the woman

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he wants me to be. Sometimes, I think he just wants his cake and everything to go along with it.

Liz can you give me some advice on helping me to let him know that I'm all the woman he needs?

Thanks for listening.

Wanting

Dear Wanting,

Your friend wants his cake and everything to go along.

including the frosting without any kind of responsibility. For nine years you have let him get away with his excuse of not being ready to settle down. Nine years is enough time for any dude to get ready for marriage. Let him know if he is not ready in the next six months, you will have to look for someone new, because time waits for no one and soon you will be in your mid-thirties.



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