

# Black press observes 150th anniversary



Staff photo by James Parker

Black Ink past and present: on the inside pages of this special section Black Ink editor, Allen Johnson explores the brief but illustrious history of "The Official Publication of the Black Student Movement."

Nora Parker  
Staff Writer

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Black Press in America. This first Black newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*, was founded by Samuel Cornish and John Russwurm March 16, 1827, in New York City.

"We wish to plead our own case. Too long have others spoken for us." This plea, the main point of the paper, was aimed at freedmen, sympathetic whites and abolitionists in America and abroad. *Freedom's Journal* included poetry and literature, reported religious events and emphasized racial issues.

Other Black newspapers soon sprang up, some more militant than *Freedom's Journal*, but they followed a similar format of reporting.

Bernadine Moses teaches a course about the Black Press in the Afro-American Studies curriculum. Moses said, "The Black Press has acted as the champion of Black people through illuminating the

merits of education, community identity, achievements, nationalism and enfranchisement. It further projected the plight and determination for equality to the United States government and people.

"The Black Press," added Moses, "has been the Black community's health, education and welfare department—our critic and conscience."

Dr. Sonja Stone, co-chairman of the African and Afro-American Studies curriculum commented, "The Black Press has been a forefront of the struggle for equality and human rights. It is also a primary source of Black history at the international, national and local levels."

Both Moses and Stone are co-directors of the Southeastern Regional Black Press Institute, which will analyze and develop strategies for leadership of the Black Press. A Rockefeller Grant has been awarded to the institute, which is in the final stages of development.

## Black magazines

### A tradition of education

Bernard McIntyre  
Staff Writer

Although the Black magazine between 1930 and 1950 had its weaknesses, it contributed significantly to the impetus of the Age of Rights. *The Crisis*, *The Black Man*, and *Negro Digest* all played an integral role in educating the Black masses to the societal circumstances that their fellow man had to deal with—their educational institutions and their identity which circumvented their heritage. Edited by Roy Wilkins, *The Crisis*' major concern was to give the Negro an opportunity to speak out.

The Blacks who did speak out educated other Blacks through the revelations of their experiences. In the June issue of *The Crisis* in 1945, Howard Baer wrote a non-fictional article, "Glen from the Boetheel."

In an effort to make other Blacks aware of their plight in America, Baer summed up Glen's dilemma: "Glen Strickland cannot act like a man in front of his boss. He wants to, but then he needs the work and he cannot keep both his manhood and his job."

When asked by another white man why he refers to his boss as Mr. Nick, Glen responded with his head between his hands, "He makes me. He says he won't have any nigger calling him plain Nick." Numerous articles appeared throughout *The Crisis* revealing similar experiences of fellow Blacks and coping mechanisms to deal with such oppressive situations.

Marcus Garvey proposed another coping mechanism in *Black Man*. "A race that does not think is left to the mercy of those who think, which is white society," Garvey declared. *The Black Man* advocated that it was highly impossible to achieve in organizations like the NAACP when intoxicated with white supremacy. Thus, Blacks

were made aware that it was essential for them to change their thoughts concerning white civilization.

*The Black Man* was one of the few Black magazines during that time which let the Black man know that he was living on the shores of a

(cont. on 3B)

## The other Black Press

### Players - a waste of journalistic talent?

Chiquetta Shackelford  
Staff Writer

Webster defines "player" as one who performs for amusement, and *Players* magazine, "the magazine designed to turn you on!", boasts of beautiful sisters from L.A. to Africa, the coolest sounds in jazz, rock, blues and classical, films and fiction, books and articles, fabulous fashions and much, much more—all for your amusement.

*Players* magazine, although basically a pornographic publication, is different from all the other porno magazines in one very obvious aspect: all its birthday-suited beauties are Black. From Queen Regina, to Brandy "the *Players*' Choice, to the Fox of the Month, Black women are exposed in every sensuously revealing, voluptuous pose imaginable, none of which leave anything to the imagination.

In polling the opinions of Black students here, both male and female, opinions were almost evenly weighted on opposite poles. Men's comments ranged from the usual "I read it for the interesting intellectual articles" to "There's no doubt about it, the ladies are bad!", while most females found it just like all other pornographic magazines—dirty.

## Special Section - The Black Press

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"*Players* really does have a lot of good articles on stereotypes and sound systems," commented one male senior, "but you can't help glancing at the pictures. There are a lot of good looking bombs on those pages," he laughed.



Players: slick pornography or good journalism?

"Yes, I like *Players*," admitted another male sophomore, "and I won't deny that I buy it just to look at those beautiful naked sisters—they're breath-taking!"

Most females, however, found *Players* as typical as other porno-

graphic magazines such as *Playboy* and *Oui*.

"*Players* is just as exploiting and chauvinistic as any other pornographic magazine," said one female senior. "The whole purpose seems to be exposing the female body in every degrading pose imaginable. I believe that the human body is beautiful, but there's nothing beautiful about pornography."

Along those same lines, another female sophomore complained, "What upsets me about *Players* and all other pornographic magazines geared strictly for male audiences is that the women in them are completely exposed, and when I say completely, I mean completely, but the men show practically nothing at all. I think *Players* should take special pains to be geared equally to both sexes, in both articles and in pictures."

While most people did comment on the issue of *Players* which I practically forced in their hands to get an opinion, quite a few were genuinely "pissed off" with what they saw. One young woman simply threw the magazine to the floor.

Another female commented,

(cont. on 4B)