

VIEWPOINT

Boogie oogie racism

Mick Jagger says Black women like to f--- all night in the song "Some Girls."

Rev. Jesse Jackson was outraged and tried to muster support in the Black community. He didn't get it.

Interestingly, Jagger had the audacity to jump on the stage, make some guttural noises and go into convulsions alongside reggae star Peter Tosh on a recent version of "Saturday Night Live." He was supposed to be singing and dancing.

Of course, Jagger is somewhat of an old had of insulting Black women. Remember the song "Brown Sugar" from a few years back? And Jagger isn't by himself. Elton John, bless his short, balding self, performed "Island Girl," an equally offensive Top 40 hit, a few years ago and received few complaints.

Why the lack of a fuss?

Well, one possible explanation is that many of us don't listen to lyrics. If it has a beat to it we dance to it without giving a second thought to what the artist is trying to say.

Which may be fortunate, since many of them haven't been saying a whole lot lately. And which leads us to our second reason.

Everybody's in love nowadays. The lyrical militance and activism of the 60s has been replaced by the sultry sex of the late 70s. It has become almost common practice of male artists to substitute female moans for spots in their songs where they couldn't think of lyrics.

Now, I've got nothing against female moans, but enough is enough. Females moan often enough in black music to make you wonder whether or not Mick Jagger is right. In just a mere glance of black music of late, the Blackbyrds, Donna Summer (the princess of stereophonic orgasm), the Staple Singers, Teddy Pendergrass, Major Harris, Rufus, Bootsy's Rubberband, Betty Wright, George Duke, Isaac Hayes and numerous others have worn the poor old feminine moan out. If a songwriter can't convey intimacy and sensuality without being so heavy-handed, he ought to leave it alone.

Believe it or not, I'm not playing the role of holier than thou moralist. I have nothing against sex. But somehow, a record laced with moans gets to be like one of those cheap, X-rated movies. In the movies, they use a poor excuse for a plot to link together sexual scenes.

In the recording industry they use poor excuses for music to link together moans.

A BSM report card

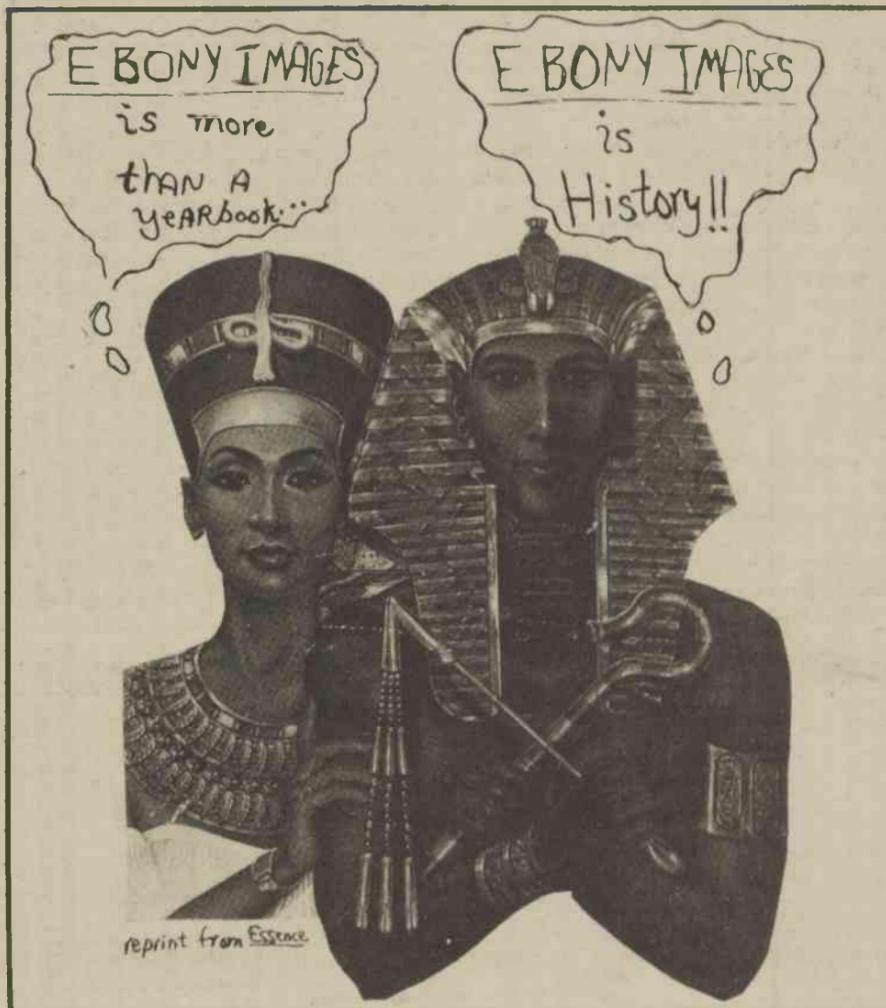
The first BSM "Mid-Year Report" appears in this issue of Black Ink. The two-page spread highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the current administration and will seek to serve as a report card for the Central Committee, said Chairperson Allen Johnson in a recent interview.

"I've noticed that big corporations give their stockholders periodic reports on financial progress," he said. "And even though the BSM is far from a big corporation, the General Body holds stock in the organization and needs to know what it's doing."

"Since I've been here as a student, the General Body has often been completely befuddled as to what the Central Committee has been up to. We at least hope this is a step in the right direction."

The BSM has taken other steps to increase accountability as well, said Johnson. "We've conducted surveys and randomly phoned numbers," Johnson said. "They've both let us know some things that we didn't know." Although Johnson said the "Gripe Line" call-in service has not received as much usage as he hoped, the service has spawned some good ideas and will be continued into the spring. "I just wish more people would call," he said.

In a final reference to the Mid-Year Report, Johnson said an anatomical metaphor he used may get him in trouble. "I compared the BSM to a woman's behind," he said. "Somebody will get me for that. Still, that comparison gets my point across. What's more, it'll cause some people to read the article who ordinarily wouldn't."



Male drop-outs do better in job market than degreed women

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CPS)—Who makes more annually—male drop-outs from high school, or female college graduates?

Most people might assume the college graduate would earn more, but statistics compiled by the Scientific Manpower Commission indicates that it isn't so. Male drop-outs earned an average \$9000 in 1976, while female graduates averaged only \$7000. And the commission's report showed that statistics like these are consistent for almost every profession.

The commission, a private, non-profit organization of the country's major scientific societies, recently catalogued the position of women and minorities in all the professional fields, including the sciences, engineering, arts, humanities, and education. In the resultant 288-page report, they discovered that, while the last decade of equal opportunity mandates had contributed to a sharp increase of women and minorities getting degrees of all kinds, the laws apparently aren't that effective in the job market.

Minority and majority women, the report finds, are still passed over for jobs, and slighted in salary and promotion. This, the report says, holds true in the government, academia, and the private sector.

Specifically, the report found:
—Unemployment rates for the professionally-trained women continue to be two-to-five times higher than for men in the same field with the same level of training, and the gap increases at higher degree levels. For example, among all 1977 history doctorates, 2.9 percent of the men were unemployed and seeking employment, compared with 10.4 percent of

the women. In the social sciences, the unemployment rate for male doctors was one percent, while women's was four percent.

—Except for beginning engineers and new bachelor's level chemists employed by industry, professional women's salaries were lower than those of men with comparable training and experience at every age, every degree level, in every field and with every type of employer.

—The federal government, a major employer of professionals, also appears to discriminate. Women of all races still lag well behind their male counterparts in grade level, and thus salary. For example, the government employs almost 1700 microbiologists, of whom 31 percent are women and 6.5 percent are Black, with one-third of blacks being women. The average grade of the men is 12.17 compared to 11.31 for women, translating to average salaries of \$23,260 for men and \$18,550 for women. For Black men, the average grade is 11.19 and for Black women 10.21, translating to average salaries of \$19,000 for men and \$18,200 for women.

—While employment of women in higher education has grown slowly through the 1970's, their progress up the academic ladder is still far behind that of men. Among academically employed Ph.D's in the sciences and engineering who earned those Ph.D's between 1970 and 1974, 4.4 percent of the men but only two percent of the women have reached the rank of professor. Among men, almost 30 percent are associate professors, but less than 18 percent of the women have reached this rank.