

Black Woman and Change

Because of her unique position, the Black woman has a special responsibility to institute change in a white society that has given blacks the short end of the stick.

So said Mrs. Robert Cummings to WSSC students during an assembly program marking the college's annual women's week celebration.

Mrs. Cummings, who with her husband, will study in Africa this summer, is an English instructor at Winston-Salem State.

"Traditionally women have been very dominant features in the black families," Mrs. Cummings said.

She said that when Black people were brought to America they were put into a completely new culture and that whites did not try to learn nor understand the African's way of life. Whites tried to make the blacks change by ridiculing their culture, she said.

"But in the white's attempt to destroy the culture, they practically destroyed the black male," Mrs. Cummings said.

After slavery was ended, she said, black women could find work, but black men had only limited employment opportunities, which further weakened his position in the family.

"If there were a man around the house, families were denied welfare," she said. "For these reasons men live home in order that their families might be provided for. The black woman then had to become both mother and father."

Because women have developed this special position in the black culture, she said, "we are extremely necessary to the movement toward black power."

She cited Mrs. Shirley Chisholm, the new congresswoman from New York, and Mrs. Rosa Parks, who helped start desegregation of transportation facilities in the South, as examples of black women who have already done a great deal.

"Black women in influential, powerful positions have, can and must continue to help other blacks change the discriminations practiced in industry, government and life," Mrs. Cummings said.

"When this is done, women will have helped greatly in demolishing the existing white society, and it will all be accomplished because you will have dared to expend your energies in the black communities."

—My Black King— I Await You!

I come before you my black king; naked; stripped of all ideals of superiority which have handicapped our black men too often. For centuries, it has been drummed into my head that I was a woman — a woman of superior capacities and educated to please the beck and call of the white man. For centuries, I have reserved my body and my mind to think and be like the white woman. Only to realize this is a fallacy in an age old tale.

Too often, I have let my king down by being something other than a black woman. For centuries I've portrayed the part of a nigger-woman, looking for the luxuries of life without my man. Only to leave you, alone and unaided.

When you needed me, I was never there. When you desired me, I never gave whole-heartedly. It is you, who I now need. It is you who can fulfill my wanton desires and relieve my tensions. It is you by whose side I want to stand and be a complete woman. It is you and only you who can help me meet my new found obligations.

My Black King — I await you!

—Janet Hunter

Let's Party In Raleigh!

During the past election campaign North Carolina saw and heard one of the most prolific and provocative parades of amateur politicians this state has seen since the "white niggers" of the Reconstruction Era made their world famous play for power. Those poor brain washed brothers and sisters didn't last long, and neither will the General Assembly if its present state of mind continues.

The attitude of the General Assembly is in more than a few ways indicative of the people who compose it. The men and women of the General Assembly are representative of a right-wing group, who this year made their play for power in national, state and local governments throughout the United States. Specifically in North Carolina, the majority of our legislative representatives are more interested in tobacco crop allotments and superior highways than in increasing the educational level and bettering living conditions of its citizens. This state already has highways far superior to other states of equal size and economic situation. Needless time is spent arguing about tobacco allotments which the federal government determines anyway.

Ironically the general assembly, encouraged by rural constituents, has gone out of its way to limit appropriations to colleges and universities. Despite the passivity and non-violent attitudes of the students at S. C., the general assembly has proposed cutting expansion funds to W.S.S.C. by nearly 40 per cent over the last biennial's appropriation.

It is becoming very clear that the eastern dominated state legislature is not so much afraid of the militants, but harbors an immense fear for the educated voter. Now that the general assembly has shown that it cannot tolerate an educated electorate, the total student community should not tolerate ignorance in state government.

You Are Invited

Molotov Cocktail Party
Where: General Assembly Building—Raleigh, North Carolina
When: When gross ignorance becomes intolerable
Time: Morning, Noon and Night

Loneliness

It's spawned out of happiness,
Of pleasure and content,
Of joy turned to sorrow
From a love t'was well meant.

It's spawned out of age,
Decrepid and cold.
To face true reality no one
Wants you when you're old.

It's spawned out of grief,
Of pity and of pride.
Hurt, depressed by them all,
We seek someplace to hide.

It's spawned out of discrimination,
Of handicaps and resentment.
For we all get that feeling
When they think we're a bit different.

Pretending to be happy,
Witty, charming, and gay,
For you want no one to know
That you feel this way.

To amble a discorded path by day.
To roam the still of a garden by night.
The forlorned misery mounting within.
Longing to behold what's not in sight.

Walking through life
Seemingly free as a bird.
Yet, when someone speaks
You haven't heard a word.

Yes, this is the feeling which makes
The strongest of men cry.
Tortured by the pulsating pain
Till you just want to die.

Yes, it has happened to most all,
Those alive and at rest.
Experiencing this feeling to be alone;
Alone with loneliness.

—William L. Richardson

Hell On Earth

As the dusk settled down
We prepared for the night.
Then! The sound of a flare
And suddenly there was light.

They fired, and fired,
And fired, and fled.
Seventy of us had started,
Now forty were dead.

The sky was pale gray
Though the sun quite bright.
As we trudged through the jungle,
Following that terrifying night.

We walked along cautiously
Feeling weary and tired.
A sharp crack rang out
And our scout screamed and died.

We searched and we searched,
But in his hole the rat did flee.
It is so very hard to fight
When the enemy we cannot see.

We came out of cover,
Twenty-nine of us now.
Knowing we had to make it,
But not knowing how

As we neared the jungle end
A rice patty came into sight.
And our hearts filled with hatred
O the upcoming fight.

Looking the land over,
Not a sound could we hear.
Quite enough knowledge to know
The enemy was near.

They came out of hiding
Thus the fight began.
Forced to retreat for cover,
Into the jungle we ran.

We fought, and fought, and fought;
Then the dead began to fall.
How many died that frightful day
I never can recall.

When the killing stopped
And the firing had ceased
I began to reminisce.
I have often dreamed of hell,
But never was it like this.

—William L. Richardson

Why Study African History?

WE LIED! We tried to hide the shame of slavery in this country by calling Africans lazy and uncivilized. We taught the lie; we murmured it over tea and coffee. In truth MAN'S sunrise glowed first in Africa. He began there. All mankind — ALL, THE SO-CALLED RACES of mankind.

In West Africa, the historical homeland for most American blacks, the Africans built the powerful states of Mali, Songhai, Kenem, Benin, Mossi-Dagomba, that thrived long before Europeans came. The old Ghana Empire lasted 1,000 years to 1240 AD. Black people can boast that Nok and Ile had no equal. (See LOOK Jan., 1969.)

Realizing that integration attempts have failed in these United States, the black people of this country are now attempting to develop in their community more than voting strength. The black community needs CULTURAL STRENGTH. This kind of strength can develop an understanding of the African heritage of the Afro-American and thus give him a sense of spiritual equality and, more important, a sense of historical achievement and historical participation in world developments.

To this date, he has been deprived of all belief in himself and thus considers himself the inferior of all men. This is due to the MYTHS OF THE BLACK MAN'S PAST, which validates his concept of inferiority, which may be outlined as follows:

1. Negroes are naturally of a child-like character, and adjust easily to the most unsatisfactory social conditions, which they accept readily and even happily;
2. Only the poorer stock of Africa was enslaved, the more intelligent members of the African communities raided were clever enough to elude the slave-hunters;
3. Even granting enough Negroes of a given tribe had the opportunity to live together, and that they had the will and ability to continue their customary modes of behavior, the cultures of Africa were so savage and relatively so low in the scale of human civilization that the apparent superiority of Europeans as observed in the behaviors of the whites, would have caused and actually did cause the slave to give up such aboriginal traditions as they may otherwise have desired to preserve;
4. The Negro is thus a man without a past.

These are known MYTHS of the past of black folks. African history agrees with ONLY one of the above statements: The Negro is a man without a past — that is, without a past any place other than in

Enrichment Center Adds New Learning Aids

The Winston-Salem State College Enrichment Center presently is in the process of adding numerous new learning aids to its already bulging shelves. Center coordinator Dr. Hazel M. Naugle explained that the recent additions to the center's collection has increased enrollment, which recently reached 550 students.

Spearheading the list of new arrivals is a College Level Reading Program which makes it possible for serious users to better their comprehension and speed in everyday reading. Aids to business aspirants are most numerous among the new equipment. Specific additions include audio visual aids to business relations, banking, and programmed shorthand.

A wide range of records in philosophy are currently being added.

The most noticeable aid to the growth of the Enrichment Center Materials has been numerous faculty contributions. Recent contributors among faculty members are Mr. A. T. Clark, Mrs. Walls, Mrs. Mosely and Mrs. Parker

the confines of these United States.

AFRICANS ARE NOT NEGROES.

The Negro has been scientifically created by the American white society. As a Negro, we can not find an historical past which gives the needed historical traditions and cultural depth of achievements which are considered significant in the growth of world civilizations. In order that the Negro realize his true worth and value in the growth and development of world civilizations, he must shed his Negroism and become BLACK. He must accept the fact of his BLACKNESS. Note, there is no Negro land; no Negro language; which leaves the Negro without the depth of historical existence. Only as a black man, therefore, is he able to relate to his REAL past: That of African descent. Here, he can find the achievements of his people as they relate to world civilizations.

Why study Africa? Africa is the spiritual homeland to many black Americans who look with pride at their cultural heritage, and rightly so. For the American blacks must now begin to react TOWARD Africa and not FROM Africa. This is not the first time that this kind of concern for Africa has developed, but now more than at any other time in our history, it has become wide-spread and thus can prove of an enduring nature.

Why Africa? People tend to develop pride in those things in which they can relate. The ideas of the Greco-Roman worlds are beautiful to us because they have been given to us as western cultural heritage — we have always been proud to relate to this because all of the world stands as a symbol of the greatness of western thought. Africa has ALSO contributed MUCH to that greatness of the West. We need to know this. With an understanding of this contribution, the Black man will feel more a contributing factor in the present scheme of things. He has been sub-humanized and segregated from his contributions to the extent that he actually feels that he IS inferior because he hasn't done anything. THIS BELIEF IS MOST UNTRUE. African history will bear this untruth out. African art and sculpture will proclaim this belief erroneous. African kingdoms will correct this lie in the minds of black people thus giving them something to be proud of. Research in African history and cultures has excavated civilizations that had to be beyond Europe's reach and so beyond her recognition — thus it was also out of the realm of black history.

Africa has had its own rich sweep of events outside those which European conquest and settlement have recorded. This era of European dominance is short within the thin margin of human history. Long before, in the evolution of man himself, Africa had helped shape history — world-wide. And while the centres of European culture flourished, decayed, and sprouted in their turn, empires in Africa rose, ruled, resisted, and succumbed. Scholars studied and disputed in Timbuctu as in Paris, and what the Italians accomplished with pigment, the artists of Benin achieved with bronze. The cultures were different, but only on the horizontal. The vertical, the separation into superior and inferior worlds and peoples, was a product of conquest.

Much of Africa's past has now been excavated from ignorance and error. Yet the study of African history has hardly begun. Those who have undertaken it are the explorers of an unknown human heritage. Their discoveries are of much more than African moment. They must enrich man everywhere. Then when we read the great historians, they will differ with Arnold Toynbee and others, who proclaimed "The only one of the primary races which has not made a creative contribution to any one of our 21 civilizations is the black race." WE LIED . . .!

—Robert Cummings