


World of Books
by Dottie Butler



THE BLUEST EYE, A NOVEL
by **Toni Morrison**
(Holt, Rinehart, Winston, 1970)

Tucked away on the fiction shelves of East Winston Library is a seldom-read book by a talented young black female author, Toni Morrison. This story is told in the first person by ten-year-old Claudia who learns much about life, love and pain during the early 1940's.

Claudia and her sister Frieda belong to a staunch loving family who, although of moderate means, providing strong guidance and values for its members.

Living in Lorain, Ohio, they encounter the agony of integrated schools, the arrogance associated with beauty and mulatto-skin, the torment of vengeful young boys and envious young girls, the world of prostitution, the hypocrisy of self-proclaimed Christians and the consequences of alcoholism and incest.

Quiet as it's kept, there were no marigolds in the fall of 1941. We thought at the time that it was because Pecola was going to have her father's baby that the marigolds did not grow.

Twelve-year-old Pecola was not pretty by any means. Her family was poor and her mother found pleasure in giving time and attention to the wealthy white family for which she worked. Time and attention which she failed to give to her own.

Cholly, Pecola's father, could only find solace in the bottle. And that day when he came home drunk and saw Pecola standing at the sink scratching her leg with her foot, it reminded him of when he first saw her mother sitting on the fence with her back to him scratching her leg with her foot. At that moment Cholly loved Pecola. He wanted to give her something of himself, he wanted to give her love in the only way he knew how.

Out of the union grew a seed. Claudia and Frieda thought that if they planted a seed in the ground and they planted it deep enough, Pecola's baby would live.

It was a long time before my sister and I admitted to ourselves that no green was going to spring from our seeds... I had planted them too far down in the earth. It never occurred to either of us that the earth itself might have been unyielding.

Cholly is dead, Pauline continues to work for the white folks and Pecola's only consolation is in having blue eyes. She always felt that if she had blue eyes people would like her, that she would be pretty. And now she walks around talking to herself and marvelling to herself about her beauty which comes from the bluest eyes.

New Klugh, Old Supremes Top Charts

1. The original Supremes are back on the charts once more with re-release of some of their most famous hits on a 12-inch LP entitled "Diana Ross and The Supremes Medley of Hits (Motown)."

"Stop In The Name of Love; Back In My Arms Again; Come See About Me; Love Is Like An Itching In My Heart; Where Did Our Love Go and Baby Love," all written by the team of Holland-Dozier-Holland have been re-mixed and now have a slight disco flair.

The flip side of the record, which is Diana Ross alone singing "No One Gets The Prize/The Boss, makes the record a double value.

A must for Supremes and Diana Ross fans. This week ranked number 55 on the top 100 disco chart after nine weeks.

2. Dan Hartman, who topped the disco charts with "Instant Replay, This Is It and Countdown," has done it again with "Vertigo/Relight My Fire," (Blue Sky).

Hartman adds orchestration and disco singer Loleatta Holloway as back-up for the sound that stayed on the top of the charts for 11 weeks.

All serious disco fans, or anyone that likes up-beat, good, dancing music will like this record.

3. Earl Klugh fans, if you loved Heart String, then, his latest album, "Dream Come True," (United Artists) is a necessity.

All the songs are written by Klugh except for "Message to Michael," originally written for Dionne Warwick by Burt Bacharach and Hal David.

Billboard magazine lists the album at number four on the jazz charts and the album is rising rapidly.

"Amazon," one side has already been released as a single as well as the title song, "Dream Come True."

Klugh continues to deliver a kind of soulful, classical jazz that is a first for acoustical guitar.

Black Music Month Set For June

PHILADELPHIA--Many major artists have joined Billy Eckstine and Dionne Warwick, co-chairs of the 1980 Black Music Month Committee, in support of the June Black Music Month Celebration.

In addition to the Black Music Association's (BMA) Corporate Government, members of the Committee include: Roy Ayers, Cameo, Betty Carter, Stanley Clarke, Commodores, Sarah Dash, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Sammy Davis Jr., Earth, Wind & Fire, Aretha Franklin, Isaac Hayes, Alberta Hunter, Millie Jackson, Coretta Scott King, Gladys Knight & The Pips, Ramsey Lewis, Stephanie Mills, Melba Moore, Odyssey, Lee Oskar, Teddy Pendergrass, Leontyne Price, Patrice Rushen, Ntozake Shange, Lonnie Liston Smith, Spinners, Third World Band, Barry White, and Betty Wright.



Top Art Students

Winston-Salem State University seniors Jay Carlton, Gene Douglas and Spergeon Thompson, all of Winston-Salem recently received certificates of recognition from The Links, Inc. The three art majors were cited as outstanding students in their discipline. The students were recommended for the award by the faculty of the Art Department at WSSU.



'Art Is' Winners

Anthony Joyner, center, seated, won the first place in the spring competition of the Urban Arts "Art Is" after-school program. Next to him are sixth place winner Sonita Grimes and third place winner, Deborah Chadwick. Other participants are: Deborah Ferree, Carlos Butler, Stephanie Jackson, Kevin Williams and Anthony Burns. Winners received prizes from the Twin City Art League for their work, which has been posted on the walls of the children's room at the library.

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