

In August Edition

Ebony Focuses On Black Women

By Jacquie Levister
Post Staff Writer

What are the psychological and social hazards of being a black woman in American society today? In its fourteenth annual special issue, Ebony magazine goes behind the old discredited myths about the black woman, revealing the black woman of our times.

According to a press release from Ebony, "No other woman has struggled for so long against such formidable odds, and no other woman has done more with such meager material resources" says John H. Johnson in his Publisher's statement. From Harriett Tubman to Rosa Parks, Black women have been in the forefront for freedom. From Phyllis Wheatley to Gwendolyn Brooks, black women have blazed new paths in art and culture. From Aunt Hagar to the nameless and unsung heroines of a thousand kitchens, black women have been the institutional anchors of our community.

Eleven years ago, Ebony magazine, during the middle of the Negro Revolution, "published a highly informative special issue on "The Negro Woman." Since that time, the black woman and the realities surrounding the black woman have changed. In response to these changes, this year's August Special Issue of Ebony presents a second installment on the same subject. As a sign of the changes that have taken place in the intervening years, the special issue is called "The Black Woman."

Some of the major contributors to the August Special Issue of Ebony include: Richard and Joanne Tyson who together write an enlightening feature, "Sex and The Black Woman." The black woman is now seeking advice on sex Ebony reports. "Many are just beginning to get in touch with their own sexuality," say the authors.

The release goes on to say four prominent black american men, Julian Bond, Dr. Benjamin Mays, Dr. J.H.

Jackson, and Benjamin L. Hooks, each describe "The Most Extraordinary Black Woman I Have Ever Known."

"Is a Woman Over the Hill At Forty? Verta Mae Smart-Grosvenor tells why she thinks this notion is a yesterday's myth.

Harvard psychiatrist, Dr. Alvin Poussaint and his psychologist wife, Ann Ashmore Poussaint, explore a wide range of problems in contemporary "Black Woman-Black Men Relations." Has something gone wrong between the Black male and the Black Female? Is there a power struggle emerging between them, a sexual revolution, an economic revolution? The Poussaints examine these and

other questions in an exclusive interview.

The Black woman has fought long and hard for her present status. She has kept her families together - fed, clothed and housed them, when circumstances prevented her man from doing so.

"The black woman today continues to represent the multitude of paradoxes of her people," says Dr. Joyce A. Ladner. "Yet, she continues, through her sheer genius for survival, to press forward and increasingly to triumph and make unprecedented achievements." In telling just where she stands today, the August Special Issue of Ebony is a heartfelt tribute to all black women.

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