

Charms Of Women Are Affirmed

Seven leading Black men praised the charms of Black women in an article affirming their love, appreciation, and respect.

Writing in the current issue of Essence magazine, now on newstands, the top Black men asserted that Black women today are not walking behind Black men but rather at their side.

However, comedian and political activist Dick Gregory said, "Black women are probably the most beautiful women on the face of the earth. The sad thing is that they get hung up in the degenerate concept of white beauty."

That times are changing, though, was pointed out by Hugh Masekela, the South African musician, who noted, "When I came to the U. S. from Africa in 1960, I couldn't understand Black women. They had a very unnatural look; their hair was straightened, they had red on their cheeks and lips, and they acted kind of whitish. It was difficult to communicate with them."

"Around 1968 and Malcolm X's time, when people began to realize their heritage, the sisters transformed in front of my eyes. Now they have become so beautiful, I cannot look at anything else. I can visually relate to their new fresh natural look."

"They have a definite look of newness and oldness—they've gotten rid of that white thing," Masekela concluded.

Comedian Richard Pryor was not alone in commenting on what Black women have done to help their men. "The Black woman went through a lot of Hell to keep her man alive and had to do a lot of s--- that no other woman in the world would have done. After the white woman hated you, the white man degraded you and the Black man put you down, you still loved us. We owe you a lot."

Actor-singer Cleavon Little called the Black woman "the culmination of every woman in the world" and TV star Flip Wilson added, "My mother was Black, my two daughters are Black, all my girl friends are Black, and 'Geraldine' is Black, need I say more?"

Writer John O. Killens pointed out, "For almost 400 years the American white Establishment has worked, deliberately and diabolically, to transform Black men into women and Black women into men."

"Whites sought to dehumanize us, but they in turn, became the most inhumane race. The Black woman is the universal woman," Killens added that when he thought of Black womanhood, he thought of Black women "walking, not three paces to the rear, but side by side with their Black men."

The use of protective ear plugs by persons who must work in noisy environments is strongly advocated by the Beltone Crusade for Hearing Conservation. However crusade officials also stress that the plugs must fit properly to be effective as a loose, poor-fitting ear plug is useless.

'Profile' Of School Desegregation And Education Available

ATLANTA, Ga. - A profile of school desegregation and education throughout the South is featured in the current issue of South Today, a monthly digest of Southern affairs published by the Southern Regional Council.

Yes, We All Talk

BY MARCUS H. BOULWARE
SPEECH COMMUNICATION IS REMARKABLE
People talk approximately 92 percent of the time when they communicate; that is, they either listen or talk. It is word of mouth; everyone does it. Acceptably? Effectively? Convincingly? Not always for any of us. Never for some; that's why we need to teach speech!

Why teach speech, some of us will say? We have been talking for years and no complaints. Well, if some had complained, you may well have become angry.

The point we are trying to make is that good speech skills, like other human skills, are subject to improvement. Speech and voice skills vary in degree from person to person. Some folks are endowed with better vocal structures than others; by reason environmental influences, learn speech better than others. Yet, everyone is capable of improvement.

Some individuals have not been convinced that they have speech problems; and therefore, they lack motivation to work hard in order to improve their oral communication.

To get some idea of how hard one should work to improve his speech, I invite each reader to see the movie "My Fair Lady." The reader will also enjoy the music included in the cinema.

READERS: For my pamphlet on group discussion, send two stamps and a long self-addressed business envelope to M. H. Boulware, Florida A & M University, Box 193, Tallahassee, Florida--32307.

A report on North Carolina, written by Mrs. Naomi Myles, staff member of the Charlotte Observer, discloses that total private school enrollment has almost tripled since 1964, jumping from 8,721 pupils in 1964 to more than 49,000 this year.

"Fifty new private schools opened their doors for the first time this September, bringing the total of private schools established since 1964 to 131," reports Mrs. Myles. Some 257 private schools are now operating in the state and the number is expected to grow.

In Jackson, Miss., the school front is relatively quiet, reports Mrs. Eleanor Cliff, an editorial assistant in the Southeastern bureau of Newsweek. According to Mrs. Cliff, dinner table conversation in Jackson is now focused on the trouble up North.

The Jackson School Board,

concerned about the city's loss of industry due to its inadequate schools, did not wait for the court to apply the Swann ruling to them. They took the initiative and drew up an integration plan involving busing. Some 9,000 black and white students in the 30,000 pupil Jackson school are now being bused. Meanwhile two educational parks, housing fifth and sixth graders, are being built at opposite ends of

town on "neutral sites." They will replace nine schools, both white and black, which will be closed, two of them to be converted to day care centers. In return for these commitments, the NAACP has agreed not to reopen its long standing case against the Jackson schools for three years, allowing a moratorium during which a more stable educational atmosphere can develop.

Census Official Takes Part In Mental Health

WASHINGTON, D. C. - Mrs. Nampoo McKenney, an official of the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, was one of the participants in a recent two-day planning session on black mental health programs at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn. Mrs. McKenney is assistant chief of the Bureau's Ethnic Origins Statistics Branch.

new Center for Minority Group Mental Health Programs of the National Institute of Mental Health, was to determine current and future needs for improving mental health among blacks. The Center, located in Rockville, Md., is an agency of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Information compiled by the Center was used by participants at the Meharry meeting to assess the needs, goals, and priorities of an improved program in the field of black mental health as well as to eval-

While a hearing test should be a part of everyone's annual physical checkup, this is particularly important for persons 55-years - of - age and older according to the Beltone Crusade for Hearing Conservation. Crusade officials point out an annual hearing test for persons 55 and older is particularly important because persons in this age category frequently encounter presbycusis, or a loss of hearing because of aging.

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