

Black Women Re-Assess Their Roles

By L. F. PALMER JR.

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If the women's liberation movement has done anything for black women, it has convinced many that their mission in these times is to regroup and battle for the liberation of all black people.

BLACK WOMEN are re-evaluating and re-assessing their roles. They are involving themselves in more thorough studies of the dynamics of both black and white cultures.

They are studying the forces of political, economic and social systems.

Many black women are interpreting their place in black history in different terms and placing it in what they consider to be proper context.

BLACK WOMEN and black men were victimized from the first. In the dread days of chattel slavery, tribal groups

were dispersed, family ties were severed, communal customs were disrupted. The language and other communicative processes of the African were aborted.

The survival of blacks in this country is attributable to the personal and collective travails and triumphs of black women.

However countless black women oppose women's liberation. Their central theme is that black women have never lost the rhythms of nature, which compel women not only to transmit the culture of a species but to develop techniques to enable that species to survive under the greatest stress.

THUS, THESE women insist, the historic role of the true black woman was never in contradiction to her black mate. She was and is the martyred matriach only in the annals of white social thought and only in the minds of those

black women who fell victim to the plot to socially emasculate the black man.

To the true black woman, the black man was and is an object of pride and desire in the home and out of the home. And his role was not and is not usurped within the framework of what is known as the black experience.

What happened historically is that the black woman both accepted and protected her black man until he was better able to regain and secure his rightful place in society.

THE TRUE black woman believes that the time has come for the black man to seize that place in society and she believes that her place is at his side.

This black woman, then, has no time for so limiting a movement as women's liberation, a movement which would pit her against black men.

In Chicago, the newly organized League of Black Women is composed of black women from all levels who are dedi-

cated to changes in systems that rule the lives of blacks.

THE LEAGUE'S first convenor is Mrs Arnita Young Boswell, a University of Chicago professor and a pioneer of projects and programs geared toward freeing black and poor people from oppression.

She is the sister of the late Whitney M. Young Jr., the executive director of the National Urban League who died recently in Nigeria.

Mrs. Boswell quotes from the marriage rituals which are conducted in some of the world's eastern cultures. These words set the goals of the true black woman:

"WOMAN WAS created, not from out of the top of man's head to rule over him, not from out of man's feet to be trampled by him, not from out of man's posterior to shadow him, nor from his anterior to run ahead of him — but from out of man's side, to stand beside him, accompany him, and walk peacefully and humbly with him through his journey of life."

'Bring Children Into Discussions'

Outmoded autocratic methods of punishment and reward — threats and promises — should be replaced with cooperation and participation between parent and child, Robert L. Powers said today at the annual conference of the Iowa Welfare Assn. at Hotel Blackhawk, Davenport.

Powers is a lecturer and dean of students at the Alfred Adler Institute of Chicago, whose founder was a pioneer in community mental health — seeing an individual's problem in the context of his social life.

"AMERICANS have been in a period of rebellion since 1776, a transition from 8,000 years under kings and tyrants," Powers said.

"Yet many parents continue to retain the role of tyrant to their children, and their children react as tyrants for the sake of their individual dignity," he said.

Powers said the tyrannical — or dictatorial — parent may produce either spoiled or abusive child.

"The spoiled child is the product of a parent who chooses to be overly permissive. The result is a youngster who is himself a tyrant, using tears to get his way.

The child whose parent is an abusive dictator is the child who fights and kicks in an attempt to hurt back.

The Adlerian psychology which Powers is advancing in workshop sessions today and Tuesday demonstrates methods of how we can influence each other in our democratic society.

"WE CAN influence children and one another by participation, by inviting others into discussions of our problems to see how we each are involved

in a child's misbehavior," Power said.

"Parents should invite their children to discuss the demands on the family as a whole, to talk about common difficulties," he said.

"Parents should treat their children as the human beings they are, not as submissive underlings who are subjects of tyrannical whims," he stressed.

Mrs. Arnita Young Boswell, sister of the late Witney Young, opened the two-day conference Sunday night.

Mrs. Boswell shared the podium with Sen. John Tapscott, D-Des Moines, who said Iowa's welfare programs should be controlled by the state rather than the county.

"The state should have complete control of the county welfare offices thus taking the steps to further remove welfare from the hands of the politicians wherever possible," said Tapscott, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for Iowa governor.

TAPSCOTT SAID welfare appropriations should be increased from "81 per cent of minimum need based on the 1969 cost of living to 100 per cent of need based on the present standard cost of living."

Tapscott blamed the self-interest of the rich as the source of the problems in our society that make welfare necessary.

"Political misfits encourage the average citizen to believe that the welfare recipient is his enemy. The enemy of the working man is and always has been the man substantially above him in income — the man who reaps extra rewards from the system because of special privilege and protects them through special interest tax legislation," he maintained.

Utility monopolies that charge excessive rates and farmers who receive grain subsidies were singled out by Tapscott as examples of "socialism for the rich and capitalism for the poor."

"IT IS VIOLENT and criminal to call welfare recipients lazy and shiftless while 6,000 white American farmers are receiving \$25,000 a year to do nothing.

"It is violent and criminal to promote self-help and the virtues of the 'free-enterprise' system for a group of people living in an economy where property has always been more important than people," he continued.

Dr. John McQueen of the University of Iowa addressed this afternoon's session on "Health Planning in Iowa."

Nicholas Johnson, Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, will conclude the conference with an address at 9 a.m. Wednesday.

His topic will be "The Impact of Mass Communications on Life Styles."

Johnson has been with the communications unit since 1968 and is former administrator of the Maritime Commission. He is a native of Iowa City, Iowa.

RI Lawyer Seeks Judgeship

Frederick P. Patton, Rock Island lawyer, announced today he is a Republican candidate for judge of the 3rd Appellate District in the March 21, 1972, primary election.

Patton, 48, is chairman of the Rock Island County Republican Central Committee.



State Sen. John Tapscott, D-Des Moines, keynote speaker at Sunday's opening of the Iowa Welfare Assn. conference in Davenport, exchanges ideas with Mrs. Cecil Cooper, Davenport, left, and Mrs. Arnita Young Boswell, sister of the late Witney Young, national director of the Urban League. (Staff Photo)

Stereotype of Black Woman Is Target of Organization

BY LUCI HORTON

A new organization of black women is striving to break away from the traditional roles and stereotyped images of black womanhood.

"Historically, black women have been promoted and allowed access to various social and economic positions as part of a national policy to keep black men in positions of servitude," said Mrs. Jorga English, a founder and officer in the League of Black Women.

"In forming the League of Black Women, we decided that black women needed to become serious toward advancing the lead and authority of black men, as well as enhance their own supportive positions of leadership—beside and with black men," Mrs. English, a community program specialist for the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, explained. "We realize, of course, that it's a tremendous task to change certain social contracts that have given some black women an illusionary sense of power and social status."

Started After Campaign

In existence since April of last year, the league grew out of the efforts of a group of women who unsuccessfully campaigned to elect Warren H. Bacon as president of the Chicago School Board.

Under the direction of Dr. Arnita Young Boswell, a social scientist at the University of

Chicago, the group has grown from its initial 15 members to approximately 500 women throughout the Chicago area. The league, with offices at 841 E. 63d St., held a special tribute to Ald. Anna Langford as its first formal program last year.

"At initial league meetings, we discussed the fact that since women are the universal transmitters of culture, we had to take more positive steps in spite of the stereotype of the black matriarch," Mrs. English noted. "Yes, we've been stereotyped. Black women have done what they had to do as other people—particularly oppressed people—have done."

"We feel that it is our duty to aid and assist the imagery of black male authority and the rightful position taken historically toward their men."

Wants No Back Seat

She said that this does not mean that women should "take a back seat," however. "We

feel that the time has come for black women who have been exposed to educational and social processes to step forward and lend support to black men," she said. "Human skills and abilities must not and should not be stifled regardless of or because of race."

In an effort to carry out league principles, the organization is divided into working committees including health, social welfare, cultural endeavors, and political action. The structure also includes a 25-member executive committee comprised of representatives from various aspects of community life.

The league work thus far has included helping to raise \$18,000 as part of the recent sickle cell anemia telethon, raising funds for those black leaders who have made "significant" contributions to the community, and speaking out against injustices.



OMBE DIGNITARIES — Discussing activities at the First National Conference on Business Opportunities for Women held recently in Washington, D. C., are left to right: John L. Jenkins, director, Office of Minority Business Enterprise, sponsor of the conference; Sally Peterson, honorary chairwomen and wife of Commerce Secretary Peter G.

Peterson; Inez Kaiser, conference chairwoman and consultant to OMBE, and national coordinator of its business opportunities for women program; and Armita Young Boswell, executive chairwoman of the League of Black Women, Chicago.

Women question real reasons behind OMBE's conference

By HAZEL GARLAND
(Women's Editor)

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The First Annual Conference on Business Opportunities for Women has left a number of questions unanswered for a number of black women attending the historic meeting.

Was it as some seem to think, a political gimmick put on by the present administration to get black and Spanish speaking women on the Nixon bandwagon? Or was it really as stated an effort to stimulate women into becoming business entrepreneurs.

If the former wasn't the case, why were the majority of women present black? And why were most of the participants either black or Spanish-speaking?

Another thing that some women questioned was the reason behind putting the conference on in such a hurry. After all the idea was only presented to a few key women across the country and hastily put together in just six weeks time.

Why the rush?

A surprising number seem to think that it was planned to coincide with the big \$100-plate dinner sponsored by some black Republicans the same weekend, to raise funds to help in the campaign to re-elect Richard Nixon President.

As stated before, these are just some of the questions in a number of women's minds that have yet to be answered.

However, if it did nothing else, the Conference brought women of diverse interests together to discuss a common problem which was an accomplishment in itself.

The women approximately 500 strong, came from all parts of the country. They represented almost every racial and ethnic background and every business and profession.

The Conference was sponsored by the Office of Minority Business Enterprise, U. S. Department of Commerce on June 7-10 at the Sheraton Park Hotel here. During the two-day session a series of seminars and workshops were held, with women and a few men participating on the various panels.

In her keynote address, Inez Kaiser, National Coordinator and President of Inez Kaiser and Associates, Inc., Kansas City, Mo., stated the purpose of the Conference.

According to Mrs. Kaiser, it was held primarily to stimulate women's interest and involvement as entrepreneurs in business enterprise.

Its objectives: "To identify the unmet business needs of existing and potential businesswomen; and to devise a strategy to make more accessible to them the business resources of the public and private sectors."

"Since women are this country's largest minority, OMBE (Office of Minority Enterprise) felt a conference of this kind would be beneficial to all." Mrs. Kaiser added.

Many of the women had been asked to serve as area vice chairwomen. Most arrived Wednesday night and got together at a get-acquainted party following registration.

The Conference proper began Thursday morning with Trudy Haynes, News Reporter from KYW-TV, Phila-

delphia, Pa., presiding. She introduced John L. Jenkins, Director of OMBE, who in turn made opening remarks.

After welcoming the delegation of black, brown, red, white and yellow women present, Jenkins went on to say:

"If our nation is to realize its full economic potential no segment of our population must be denied the opportunity to share equally at the starting line of our enterprise system." Continuing Jenkins added: "Out of identification of some of the problems traditionally faced by minority businesswomen, and guidelines to help solve them."

"Mrs. Sally Peterson, wife of Secretary of Commerce Peter G. Peterson, served as Honorary Chairman and gave brief remarks after being introduced by Mrs. Armita Young Boswell.

Mrs. Boswell, sister of the late Urban League Executive, Whitney Young, and

League of Black Women in Chicago, said during her remarks, "I was particularly impressed by the age span of women attending the conference, from young minority women to the middle-aged."

She added, "The role of the Federal Government is important in creating more opportunities for women in business. I suggest the establishment of a new Department of Minority Businesswoman with more consultants and support services to help prevent business failures."

Feeling that the first phase of a "new thrust" to bring more black and other minority women into the economic mainstream as entrepreneurs had begun, Mrs. Peterson commented, following the conference: "We set out to raise questions, to surface problems facing women entering business and I believe we have done that."

"For the first time, in fact, some 500 American women — many in business, many seeking to enter the business world — spent two full days together discussing the problems they face. Our task in the future is to begin in a systematic way to seek solutions to those problems."

There were so many speakers during the two-day meeting that space won't permit listing them all. However, two other minority women made an impact on the gathering with their remarks.

Mrs. Polly Gallardo, conference representative for Spanish speaking and Indian women in the Southwest stated: "There are common problems that confront all women in business.

And I think we all need to unite and work more closely together in order to really achieve the benefits that I think are possible."



For His Honor...

Chu Mu-chih, leader of the delegation of 21 journalists from the People's Republic of China that is touring the United States, is shown here being held by the mayor and John H. Sengstacke, publisher of the Daily Defender. Presented Mayor Daley with a Chinese tapestry, which is



Welcome...

The 21-member delegation of Chinese journalists were greeted, upon their arrival in Chicago, by John H. Sengstacke, publisher of the Daily Defender. Lengthy exchanges of information took place between the journalists and editorial members of the Daily Defender staff during the four-day Chicago visit.

Chinese and blacks communicate

By ETHEL L. PAYNE

The Chinese journalists wound up their four-day visit to Chicago loaded with facts and figures on beef raising and auto manufacturing, but short of their desire to meet more U.S. blacks on a one-to-one basis. From the questions they asked at lunch last Monday at the Johnson Publishing Company, it was clear that closer affinity with blacks throughout the Third World is an avowed objective of the Peoples' Republic of China. Running behind in their schedule and feeling the fatigue of their journey, the visitors reluctantly consented to the cancellation of an inspection of an apartment in the Robert Taylor homes, a local public housing project.

Slate Department security men traveling with the party objected to the "house call" on the grounds that they would not be able to handle the situation if an incident were to occur. So, the Chinese settled for a question period with a small group of residents held in the offices of the project. They expressed great interest in the relationship between the tenants' income and the rent paid, which varies according to the number of persons in the family and other factors.

At lunch, Chu Mu-Chih, director of the Shinhua News Agency and leader of the delegation of 21 journalists and staff members, probed with searching questions on the influence of Martin Luther King, Jr., and quoted Chairman Mao, saying, "We will dig tunnels deep, conserve brain power and never seek hegemony." (Meaning that China will not be aggressive, but at the same time will defend its own interests.)

Li Po-ti, deputy editor-in-chief of "China Reconstructs" and one of the two women deputy leaders of the delegation, was fascinated with what Mrs. Arnita Young Boswell had to say on the role of black women. She told the journalist that until black men are liberated, the black family will not be free. "We are walking beside our men, not behind them, not in front of them, but with them," said Mrs. Boswell. Afterwards, Miss Li said, "She speaks exactly what we Chinese women think. That is the way we are building our society—as partners, not competitors."

Asked what she would like to see more of on her American tour, Miss Li replied promptly, "We would like to meet more American workers and their families."



At Robert Taylor...

A tour of the Robert R. Taylor Homes and interviews with some residents were included in the full days of events for the Chinese journalists.



Heads up...

The Museum of Science and Industry was toured by the Chinese journalists. The periscope of the German submarine captured the eye of the visitor pictured here.



An exchange...

An exchange of presents and pleasantries was shared by Chu Mu-chih (center, right) and Daily Defender Publisher John H. Sengstacke (left). Mu-chih, director of the Shinhua News Agency and head of the visiting delegation, asked many questions of his hosts about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Regional news
Deaths

METRO

Lincoln Foundation celebrates 75 years of civil-rights work

By **BETTY WINSTON BAYE**
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Arnita Young Boswell, daughter of the late Kentucky educator Whitney M. Young Sr., recalled the time many years ago when she and other members of the Kentucky State University choir walked out on a performance they were scheduled to give as part of the Kentucky Derby festivities at the old Brown Hotel in Louisville.

Mrs. Boswell, who is the sister of the late Whitney M. Young Jr., one of America's most respected civil-rights leaders, was the keynote speaker at The Lincoln Foundation's 75th-anniversary banquet at Master-son's restaurant last night.

She told the 350 people in attendance that members of the all-black choir walked out on their performance after being asked to come in through the hotel's back door and to wear aprons and bandanas while they sang.

Mrs. Boswell, a Chicago resident, now has earned an international reputation for her involvement in civil rights, women's rights and social work. She spoke of the choir incident as a reminder of Kentucky's segregated past.

She said the state has come a long way in race relations, but still has a

long way to go. That is why, Mrs. Boswell said, the Lincoln Foundation is as important to Kentucky's future as it was to its past.

"As difficult as it may be, we must keep ourselves and others aware of the major issues that face this country," she said.

The Lincoln Foundation was established in 1910 to manage the assets of the Lincoln Institute, a school for blacks created by the Berea College trustees after the state legislature outlawed integrated education in 1904. For the 39 previous years, blacks and whites had attended school together at Berea.

For more than 40 years, Whitney Young Sr. was president of the institute. Mrs. Boswell said last night that her father impressed on his children that the destinies of blacks and whites "are tied into each other's, and we cannot walk alone."

The Lincoln Institute graduated its last class in 1966. It closed as a result of the 1954 Supreme Court decision that outlawed "separate but equal" education for blacks and whites.

Former state Rep. Mae Street Kidd, who is president of the foundation's board, also talked about the importance of the Lincoln Foundation last night. She said the purposes of the 75th-anniversary festivities,

which began earlier this month, are to celebrate and also to raise money for the program.

The Lincoln Foundation has continued to serve intellectually gifted but economically disadvantaged students. Today, the foundation, which is based in Louisville, administers several scholarships and programs designed to enrich educational opportunities for minorities in fields including math, science and business.

Jacques David, president of the student body at St. Xavier High School, says he benefited from the Lincoln Foundation's programs. He said last night that he has had invaluable experiences during the three summers he has studied microbiology in the foundation's program at the University of Louisville medical school.

"The Lincoln Foundation means opportunity," he said.

Sam Robinson, the foundation's director, said there is "a new sense of urgency" in ensuring that minority students have equal opportunities to excel.

"The foundation has to address these issues in terms of the type of programs that we develop and design," he said. "We are celebrating our past, and looking seriously toward the future."

Womanews

Movement needs to bolster membership, activist says

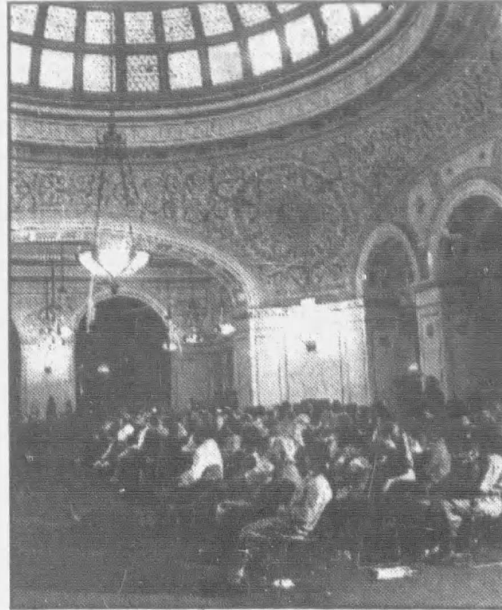
The women's movement in Chicago needs younger members and more women in public office.

That was the message delivered by Arnita Young-Boswell, a longtime civil rights activist and founder of Chicago's League of Black Women, to leaders of area women's groups at a Women's Solidarity Reception organized by the Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Women.

"This movement for women in Chicago involves the same women it has always had," said Young-Boswell, the event's keynote speaker. "We need to bring young women into this movement. Last week, I was the first woman to speak to the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. When I hear things like that, I realize we are much further behind now than we were in the 1960s."

Young-Boswell, 70, also called for the women present to lobby for adding more women's history to educational curriculums.

The late March reception, held in the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, was attended by about 250 women representing more than a dozen area groups, including Women Employed, Chicago Women's Health Center, Cook County Democratic Women, the Sexual Assault Services Network, Native American and African-American women's groups, the Illinois Women's Agenda and Chicago Women in Trades.



About 250 gathered in the Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall.

The Advisory Council on Women has replaced the Commission on Women as the voice for women's groups in city government. Its new executive director, Judith Kohler, said the reception was held to recognize the contributions of area women's groups and bring their members together, as well as to mark Women's History Month.

Kohler, 48, formerly worked with the Illinois Commission on the Status of Women. She took the new post in February, replacing Carol Ronen, now deputy director of Mayor Richard



Tribune photos by Carl Wagner

Arnita Young-Boswell (left) with friend Sandra Miranda at the reception.

Daley's re-election campaign.

The Advisory Council on Women has 19 members, appointed by the mayor. Its four committees—on economic development, health and human services, community relations and violence against women—are open to interested public members. The committees monitor issues and provides information to city officials through the women's council and then the Human Relations Commission.

Kohler said the advisory council is a

channel through which area women's groups can communicate with city government. She said the council will continue to promote women in non-traditional city jobs, as had the Commission on Women.

One of the more ambitious new projects on its drawing board is creating a model workplace environment at a city agency that would experiment with flexible hours, parental leave and on-site training against sexual harassment, Kohler said.

Nina Burleigh