

LETTERS & EDITORIALS & OPINIONS & LETTERS & EDITORIALS & OPINIONS & LETTERS & EDITORIALS

Young, Gifted & Black
by Todd Curtis

You may believe that Black women do not have as many barriers to overcome in their lives as do Black men. My own experience in producing the show Young, Gifted, and Black would support this belief. In short, it's easier for me to find Black women for my show.

When I first produced my show, one of my goals was to profile an equal number of women and men. At the time I was in business school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, so all of my guests were MIT students. While about 70% of all MIT students were male, there were more Black females students than Black Males Students, so I had to look harder for men. In the Seattle area, I have found a similar situation-although there are large numbers of African Americans in the area who would make worthwhile guests for my show, finding male guests is harder.

I'm not implying that this situation is either bad or good, it is simply the reality I face. In the context of my show, it just means that I have to work harder to find males. In the broader context of America, it's further proof that Black males have a harder time achieving any kind of success in this society. If nothing else, this state of affairs highlights the need for positive examples for young African Americans. I do my bit to broadcast a half hour of inspiration every week. I don't know if I'm reaching my target audience of young people or if the show effectively counters the multitude of negative images of Black people that constantly pour from the television. I certainly don't know if I'll be producing Young, Gifted, and Black for years to come or if this season will be the last. I do know that for as long as African Americans as a group are somewhere below average in wealth, power, and influence, there will be a need for shows like mine. If you feel like responding to this week's column, please call me at 344-5540.

"BLACK MEN TODAY-
WHERE ARE WE AT?"
BY Larry Evans

"1993 - Year of Accountability"

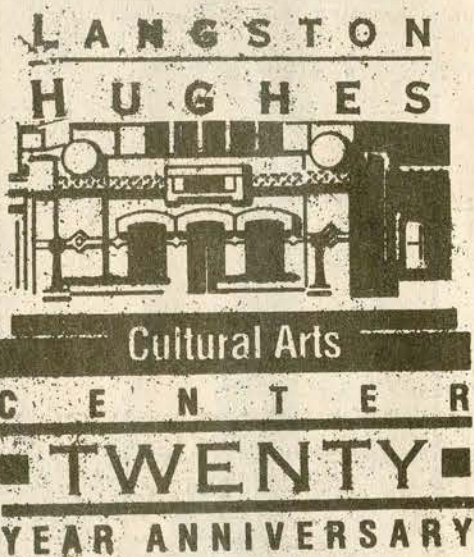
As the new year begins, it serves as a natural reflection point for many of us. With Christmas parties, Kwanzaa celebrations, and New Year's eve parties taking place, we see people that we haven't seen for a while, spend time with family and friends, and reflect on what has been and what will be. We buy things for others, set New Year's resolutions, and hopefully, give thanks for that which we have been blessed with.

For myself, I would like 1993 to be a year of accountability. I will be a better father, a better son, and a better friend. I will strive to look within myself to be more aware of who and what I am. I will strive to look within myself to be more aware of who and what I am. I will strive to be a better, stronger, and prouder Black man, the original man. I will choose my words and battle more carefully, yet I will fight harder than ever to do what I feel that I must for myself, my family, my people, and my community. I hear many people, during Kwanzaa and other functions, who appear to be doing the same thing. I hope that we will all be able to look within ourselves with the courage each of us needs to improve our own individual awareness, but more importantly, truly work together as a people. On the other hand, I will no longer wait on those in positions of power to do the right thing. With all that has happened in 1992, it should be clear to us by now what needs to be done. It should also be clear that we are the ones that must do it.

I would like to extend an invitation to any Black man out there who is tired of whining, complaining, sleeping, or acting like a powerless infant who has no control over self, or community. Every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. a group of us will be meeting at C.A.M.P. located at 722 18th Ave. We have met once already, and I was truly inspired by the wisdom, courage, and strength that was gathered in that room. Some of the brothers I have known and respected for years. Others, I met for the first time that night. But the one thing that they all had in common was a strength that I couldn't help but draw from I would like to extend my gratitude to each and every one of them for continuing to teach me what true Black manhood is about.

Rodney King, the L.A. riots, brother Green who was beat to death in Detroit by the police, the many acts of violence here in our own community, the drugs, the alcohol, and the brothers without hope of shame of selling drugs on our corners uncontested. Surely we must see that the time for comfort is over. If you don't think it's your problem, keep sleeping. You may wake up by some confused, young brother sticking a 9mm in your left ear, talking about you giving up that car that you mistakenly attach so much of your manhood to, or taking a bullet.

1993. The year of accountability. If not now, when? If not us, who?

Langston Hughes
Cultural Arts Center
Show Auditions

Auditions for the touring show "Colors of the Forest" will be held on Saturday, January 9th at 12:00 noon at the Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center. The touring production deals with the sensitive subject of racism. All actors/actresses are encouraged to apply. Finalist must be available during daytime hours for performances. For more information call 684-4757.

WISDOM DIVINE
Dealing With Reality
by Omari Tahir

Religious Rhetoric or Positive Action

Worldwide institutionalized religions have people fighting and killing one another? In India and Pakistan Hindus and Muslims are killing each other. In Palestine European Jewish colonizers are killing Muslims. In Eastern Europe European Christians are killing European Muslims. In the Sudan Arab Muslims are fighting and killing African Christians. In the Philippines, Filipino Christians are fighting and killing Filipino Muslims.

What about internal religious infighting? In Somalia Muslims are killing Muslims while the women and children starve to death. In South Africa European Christians are fighting and killing their African Christian brothers in the name of apartheid. In the British Isles Christian Catholics are fighting and killing Christian Protestants. Former Nazis in Germany Christian Neo-Nazis are fighting and killing foreigners, Christians or other religious preference makes no difference. Here in the Christian U.S. Christian Ku Klux Klaners and Neo Nazis attempt to maintain White supremacy/apartheid while Judeo-Christian demopublicans of all colors uphold and maintain the White supremacy U.S. Constitution that "legalized" genocide against Native Americans and "legalized" African slavery (kidnapping, rape, murder and White terrorism).

In your own back yard Christian African American youth are killing each other at a greater rate than the KKK and Neo Nazis ever dreamed of. So what are the religious leaders of America, particularly NERPS (Negro Establishment Responsible Preacher Politicians) doing about the reality of hell here on earth? So much religious rhetoric and hypocrisy is poisoning people's minds against organized religious begging and outright theft of poor people's dimes and dollars that a growing number of people automatically check for their wallet and keep it protected when talking to someone who says they're a preacher, pastor, reverend or common pick pocket street thief.

If Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Christ, Muhammad and any other of the great spiritual teachers of the world were to come back and observe the religious magicians for the world tricking God's children in the name of spiritual uplifting and development, they probably would join the Mafia or the Internal Revenue Service. At least their clean air clear down to the dollar. Please God, save us from the religious charlatans and money changers, we can take care of the common thieves ourselves.

TRAVELING WITH
PIAZZ
by Doris

HARRISON HOT SPRINGS - call PIAZZ TRAVEL regarding the two day trip, February 20 and 21st of 1993. To secure your space a \$20 deposit is due no later than January 8, 1993.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON - Horse racing, the sport of kings. Thoroughbred horse racing at Playfair Race track opens in the spring and runs through the summer. Spokane also has regularly scheduled polo matches.

Spokane's Skywalk - a unique skywalk system links 15 downtown city blocks to form a giant weatherproof shopping mall in the center of Spokane. Covered parking along with the skywalk system gives the city a two-level selection of shops, department stores and restaurants.

Cheney Cowles Museum - Artifacts, exhibits, Native American art and the flora fauna of eastern Washington, beautifully displayed in a Victorian mansion.

Interstate Fairgrounds - site of the annual Spokane Interstate Fair in September and numerous other shows during the year.

Runners - one of the world's largest running races, the Bloomsday Race annually attracts over 50,000 runners competing in a 10,000 meter course winding through the city.

Riverfront Park - the legacy of the expo '74 World's Fair is in the center of the city's business district. The Opera House, Convention Center, Carrousel and Entertainment Pavilion host many diverse activities throughout the year. The Imax Theatre, located in the park, is one of 50 around the world that show spectacular films created exclusively for a screen five stories tall.

Skiing - looking for powder or groomed runs? Northeast Washington has your slope with plenty of skiing within a two-hour drive of Spokane. Numerous areas ranked among the best in North America: uncrowded, uncomplicated, unbelievable.

Parks - enjoy the many public parks, strategically located in every corner of the city. Especially plan to visit Manito Park and the Japanese Gardens.

Whatever your travel needs are, PIAZZ TRAVEL can assist you with reservations, including hotel, airline, rental car, Amtrak, cruise ship or freighter. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 9:30a to 5:30p; Saturday, 10:00a to 2:00p; located at 300 14th Ave. South in Seattle; ample parking; tel. (206) 322-1987; toll free 1-800-55-CLASS; fax (206) 322-1901; major credit cards accepted. Allow us to make all your travel arrangements. You'll be glad you did!

More - Letters To The Editor

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dwight Hudson. I am presently in King County jail. Before I accepted Christ in my life I, too, was a gun-slingin' Satan worshipper. Satan came to me as he does so many of us, in his glamorous disguise. (Now I've taken his blinders from my eyes) It saddens and hurts me very, very deeply to see my young African-American brothers and sisters follow Satan down the dark part I've regrettably ventured.

An incident that recently happened here in Seattle on December 26, 1992 at the Paramount Theatre stands so vividly in my mind. I pray to God that these senseless shootings stop. Ironically, this sad incident took place at a time when even the large scale wars of the world ceased fire, in respect for the Prince of Peace (Jesus Christ) my young brothers continue their empty acts for Satan. It is also ironic this happened on the night, Lou Rawls, along with many other entertainers were on national TV soliciting donations for our young to grow in their much valued lives.

RAQIB SPEAKS
OUT
by RaqibMalcolm X. The Man
Part III

As Malcolm began to study and meditate on current events in his life, he decided with the encouragement of Wallace D. Muhammad to study the true Islam, the (orthodox) Islam. Included in this broadening of vision was a trip to Mecca during the month of Hajj, thus he would fulfill the last pillar of Al-Islam; the pilgrimage to Mecca. On this trip, for the first time in his life he saw men of all nationalities, including blue-eyed, white men, living and worshipping in what appeared to be true brotherhood. Malcolm said in Mecca standing before the creator was the first time he had felt truly like a human being. From these words you can understand all of his life until then. It was then that he perceived that this religion, Al-Islam, could be a salvation not only for Black people but for the whole of America.

Malcolm was a man who made significant changes that were actually a reflective of the community. All the changes he made were based on religious enlightenment. Yet most of the propaganda about Malcolm is political and racial. Malcolm's political stance was based on his religious convictions. Malcolm went from Malcolm Little, (Detroit Red) the hustler, through Malcolm X, the militant visionary, to Al-Hajj Malik Shabazz the dignified Muslim man, striving to learn and spread the truth of God that he found in Al-Islam. All these changes were the result of seeking the truth about God and acting on it. What ever else Malik Shabazz was, he was foremost a Muslim. People who refuse to accept Malik Shabazz are like the slave master who refused to accept Kunta Kente but insisted on Toby.

Contrary to popular moaning and crying; we are not without leadership, we are not without hope because Malik Shabazz is dead. He left behind a legacy of hope and a guide to direct us. The legacy of hope is in Al-Islam the direction he turned to and painted for us, the leader and guide is his constant companion and mentor, the Honorable W. Deen Mohammed, the son of the late Elijah Muhammad. If you don't accept Malik's changes and growth, that's alright, but don't try to pimp his image. It is sad that this community is so weak they refuse to stand up and clean up, then so hypocritical they try to excuse this weakness by saying, "Our hope died in Malcolm X." As-Salaam-Alaikum.

Forty Acres
by e.j. shaw

H.O.M.E.

Houses of Meaningful Emergency

For those of us that lag in our knowledge of what's going on in the here and now, let's catch up. H.O.M.E. is an idea conceived by a body of very conscientious individuals with altering backgrounds and specific experiences that recognize a very pressing need for an alternative concept towards the plight of the homeless throughout our nation.

With the help and ambition of the Riggins family of Seattle (by way of Giddings, Texas), in their quest to further enhance their belief in mankind, and the general kindness of their hearts, they offered and thereby made properties available to help the project get off the ground. Thus, the first (and second of a targeted one hundred) neighborhood homes now exist and are in operation.

The first house of H.O.M.E., located at 1808 East Denny Way, is immersed in a pilot of learning and training the H.O.M.E. management concept, policies and behavior modification methods; instill change...not merely abstinence to substance abuse; promote a sense of independence to the mentally ill; and provide support and care to those infected with the HIV virus/AIDS. As a non-profit organization, H.O.M.E. presents an opportunity for all concerned individuals and organizations to lend and contribute their time and effort to help and further the cause of 'Houses of Meaningful Emergency.'

I personally am gratified at the fine work I've witnessed by brother Ron Myles Baye who originated and suggested the title of H.O.M.E., and many of its founding concepts; brother John Taylor, director and house manager; Yehohanan Reu and the host of many friends and supporters. God watches and helps such efforts as H.O.M.E., and so should we all.

NOTE: We regret and acknowledge the recent passing of the Riggins family's matriarch, Mrs. Emma Lee Riggins. It is in her memory that I hope will rededicate, all of us, to the work of good will to all mankind. Ashante/Kwaheri...and a mule.

This one young brother, Ice Cube, his managers or any other person connected with the show should have been mature and responsible enough to stop the concert and express to those lost sheep that their acts of hate should cease. This should have been done when the first sign of any violence escalated in the audience. It saddens me even more when Ice Cube was asked by the media to make a comment about the commotions, he said nothing! I'm sure this being a message to the young brothers that their actions were right on. Ice Cube's attitude projected to me that his true concern for his own is less than zero, saying to the other young African American men "I care nothing about you brothers as long as I get mine. Meaning the small pocket change for the hate he injects into our children's minds."

Personally I think many of the young brothers in the entertainment field should re-evaluate their positions as mentors of our Black children. And if we find that these entertainers are being irresponsible to our culture, we should ban them and their destructive influences from public appearances.

I sincerely hope you'll find a need to publish my letter, for the debauch Zeitgeist existing in our midst truly infuriates me.

May God's Love and Peace Penetrate the hearts of all of us.

D. Hudson

PAINE'S
LANE
by Adriel Paine

Hi there all you happy, caring people, hope your New Year started out caring. Make caring your top priority this 1993 year and years to come. That was our biggest problem to me in as not caring about others, our children, friends, our community, churches, helpful organizations, selves and most of all not caring about anything. We should pick Martin Luther King's birthday as a day everybody in our community and other communities to think caring at 1:00 p.m., with all minds working together we can make a better change together. We, as African Americans, need to really, really, really work on working together, Baptist, Catholics, BGD's, young, old, craps, rich, poor, light skinned, dark skinned, fat, skinny, White, Black, like I said so many times before: Together we stand, divided we fall, that's what they want us to do, stay fighting among each other so we won't progress. They're not going to stop us, but we will reach all our goals if we come together as ONE. I'm in the music business and I need a lot of help with my business. People like Steve Sneed, Rico Bembry, Maurice Jones, Michael Clark, Alisha Cross, Roger Mitchell, Rashan Shannon, Wendell Princeton and myself, Adriel Paine of B.O.S.S. Productions, need to get together and leave egos outside the meeting and start working on getting our music scene together, use all of our resources together and put Seattle on the map, not as the rock capital of the U.S. but the rap, singing, dancing, acting, entertainment capital of the U.S. We can do this if all the above get together and come up with ideas together not worrying about who's going to get the most and we will be the "Northwest Family Best". We will all reach our goals faster together. By the way, in case you don't know all the people I mentioned, they are in the Seattle, African American music community. We all have good acts. So let's work together and make them GREAT. We all can help each other. So if this sounds like a winner call me at 789-3992, B.O.S.S. Productions Promotions. Okay, let's start working on this NOW! Remember, stay in the right lane with Paine and share, care and come together.

The People For
Truth
Yahweh Ben YahwehJury Acquits Yahweh Defendants; State Drops
Remaining Charges

Miami, December 17, 1992.-A jury took less than two hours to return NOT GUILTY verdicts in the first degree murder trial of Yahweh Ben Yahweh and three co-defendants. "These were quick verdicts," stated Wende Rush, coordinator for the defense team. "When a jury responds so quickly, it usually sends a sound message to the losing side, and the message was for the prosecution that repeatedly said this case is not about religion, then tried to condemn Yahweh Ben Yahweh with religious teachings, and a prosecution that used the likes of Robert Rozier to interpret those teachings."

Key in defense attorneys' reasons for the acquittals was the playing of a video tape recorded in October, 1985 which showed Rozier being reprimanded by Yahweh Ben Yahweh for immoral behavior. "What I think the jury saw on that tape was that followers had a choice to stay or leave the Temple. This is the opposite of what Rozier was trying to portray and contrary to what the media wants the public to believe," expressed Rayfield McGhee, attorney for Abiri Israel, who was also acquitted.

"We played that tape because we wanted the jury to see the real Yahweh Ben Yahweh," commented Jayne Weintraub, lead counsel for Yahweh Ben Yahweh. Facing the electric chair for four of the seven murders he committed, Rozier agreed to testify against Yahweh and others in exchange for a sweetheart deal of only 22 years in prison and Yahweh gave Rozier a valuable bargaining chip. "What better than a new, controversial, successful Black leader in Miami?" Weintraub asked the jury.

"The video gave jurors a glimpse at a caring, considerate, and compassionate leader, who wanted to build and bring his followers to a better way of life," Weintraub remarked.

The day after the verdicts were handed down, prosecutors dropped remaining murder charges against Yahweh Ben Yahweh and disciple Aher Israel. While there was no statement associated with their decision to drop the charges, defense attorneys speculate that the dismissals were the result of prosecutors' fears that another jury might also reject Rozier's testimony. "I think that's certainly part of their decision, but I believe that they also had to realize that Rozier had not accurately depicted his role in the temple and had failed to describe the real Yahweh Ben Yahweh as not guilty!" said Rush of the prosecutors' dismissals.

Editor, The Facts

On behalf of the staff and volunteers of United Way of King County, I wish to thank your readers for their contributions to people in need in our communities. Whether they've given through United Way, their church or other charitable organizations, the residents of the Puget Sound area have demonstrated that they are among the most giving people across our country.

During United Way of King County's autumn fund-raising campaign, we anticipated contributions might be negatively impacted due to increased unemployment and concerns about job security. Instead, we found an outpouring of help raising \$1 million more dollars than last year.

To raise over \$46.5 million for health and human services during recessionary times certainly speaks to the generosity of the human spirit throughout our communities. Each donation goes a long way to help homeless families find shelter, to provide skills for a single mom to become self-sufficient to offer energy assistance to senior citizens who must choose between buying food or having heat, or to provide a safe environment for a child suffering from abuse. These are just some examples of how United Way donations help people in our communities, many who are finding themselves in need for the first time in their lives.

The holidays remind us that when we give to someone in need, we often receive more in return. For those of you who helped make a difference in our communities by giving to United Way, we thank you.

Gerald R. Swanson, Volunteer Chairman of the Board
United Way of King County 206/233-2300

In The Mix
with Meko

Earl Lancaster has had the reputation as the prince of golden shears for over ten years, working the past five years for Gary Ladd's Hair Salon. Earl received his formal training at the Seattle Central Community College Department of Cosmetology, but clients know he has natural talent. In fact he has been dubbed "Master Blaster" by friends, a tribute to his hair cutting skills.

In the tradition of passing the torch, Gary Ladd gave Earl the opportunity to take over and become the new owner. Earl proudly took the challenge and the beginning of December marked the grand opening of "EARL'S CUT & STYLE!" Gary is still doing hair, and works out of his second shop on 52nd and Dawson. Earl appreciates the guidance and experience he received under Gary and has large plans for his new shop.

Earl's sister, Tara Lancaster, works for him as his receptionist and keeps the shop in order daily. I asked Tara what styles Earl specializes in. "There just really isn't a whole lot that Earl can't do. He does Hi-Fades, Lo-Fades, Lines, Curly tops, dramatic and sculpture cuts," she replied. "Earl usually works with the customer until they're both happy."

Customer satisfaction and making the customer comfortable seem to be Earl and Tara's motto. Earl has worked to make the shop more spacious, and displays beautiful pictures of Black art. For customers waiting there are plush, oversized seats to wait in, music plays throughout the day, and conversation is always lively. Tara says, "We like to have a real chill atmosphere for our customers, someplace to relax while they are waiting."

EARL'S CUT AND STYLE, located at 1102 23rd Ave. is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Haircuts are scheduled by appointment only and the telephone number is 322-2687.

THE BOTTOM LINE
Charlie James

Some of Africa's Best

We are the only group of people, in the history of the world to be enslaved, transported across the world, stripped of our heritage and eventually freed in the land of our oppressor. Who did not have the benefit of going back home or to promised land and who knows more about our oppressors land and culture than we do our own.

This has never happened to any other race of people. It is unprecedented that 131 years after slavery, only three generations later, we are one of the most powerful groups of people in America, the land in which we were enslaved. This may surprise some of you because we spend so much time whining and crying about how bad we are doing. We're doing a lot better than we admit but what we are really saying is we would be awesome if we had a level playing field.

As 1993 comes in and the world that we live in is changing so rapidly African Americans must take a new look at ourselves and the role we play in the cities, states, nation and ultimately the world live in. We are not a helpless race of people and we are one of the best organized people in America.

We have hundreds of Mayors and City Council men and women. Hundreds of State Representatives and Senators. 39 Congress people, 1 United States Senator, the Chairman of the Joint chief of Staff and now four African Americans in the President's cabinet. No one other than white America has so much political power...but what do we do about it?

The point I am making is that we are the finest group of Africans that the world has possibly ever seen. Look what we have done with what we have had to work with. We set the tempo and the direction for Africans all over the world because we are in the middle of the greatest nation in the world and we have the most information and the political and economical leverage to make things happen.

We built this nation for someone else and now we must carve off a big piece for ourselves and help feed our brothers in every corner of the globe. To make all of this work means that you have to invest some money into an organization that is designed to do nothing but look out for you. The ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN UNITY is formulated to do all of the above. We claim the gang bangers, the jail birds, the welfare mothers, the lost and the lonely in our communities. Not because we feel sorry for those poor Black people but because we are eager to have the privilege of organizing one of the greatest race of people the world has ever seen. Possibly the best group that Africa has ever produced...This is Charlie James with the BOTTOM LINE.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On December 17, 1992 a fire raged through a two story apartment in Auburn killing five people, among them three children. The apartment had a smoke alarm but it did not prevent a father, his three children and their friend from being trapped and burned to death on the second floor of the apartment by a fire that had started in the downstairs. When the father went upstairs to awaken his children and their friend their only escape was blocked by the intense fire. This tragedy may have been avoided by having an accessible way out of the second floor apartment. What a joyous Christmas this would have been for this family if only they had been equipped with E-Z Scape fire equipment. Smoke alarms are not enough, but alert your attention. There is a new product on the market called E-Z Scape that is a downspout device. These devices have been installed on HUD homes with excellent results. The fire equipment provides a fast and safe evacuation from situations that devastated the Allen family in Auburn. For more information write to ICM Unlimited Assoc. 2701 California SW, Ste 236, Seattle, WA 98136. This product can save lives. It's too late for the Allens but not for others.

Sincerely,
Arthur B. Williams, Executive Director