

File:

Ex Umbra



Ebonic Thought

EX UMBRA
THE MAGAZINE OF THE ARTS
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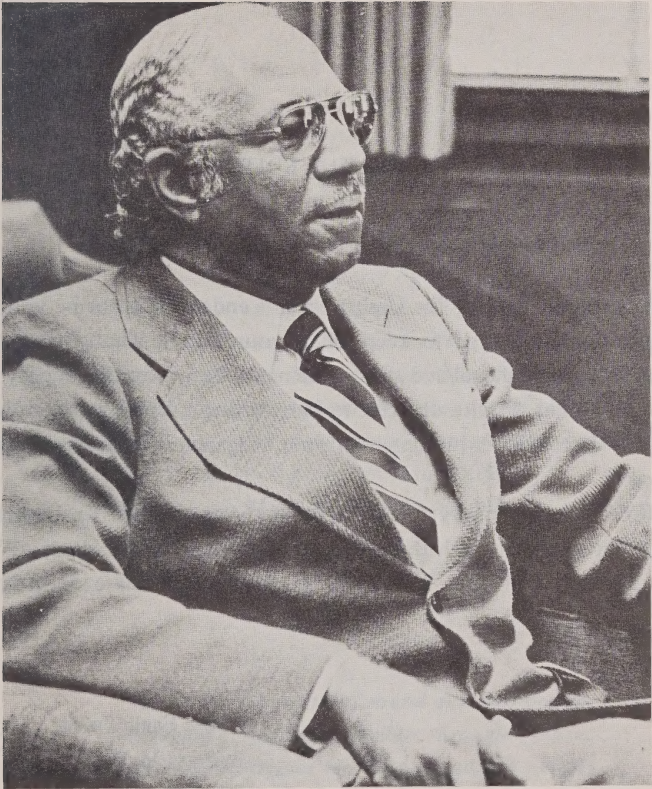
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CHANCELLOR ALBERT N. WHITING

We, the Ex Umbra Staff and members, dedicate our first publication to Dr. Albert N. Whiting, Chancellor of North Carolina Central University, for his undying support of the Cultural Arts and dedication to the mighty EAGLE family.

FROM THE EDITOR

We the members of Ex Umbra, in our endeavors to bring you your publication, have tried to keep all of your Ebonic Thoughts in mind. With so many cultural and artistic talents surfacing on this mighty campus, we found it quite difficult to narrow our cultural works down to a few. But, what's presented in your magazine is the "creme of the crops."

NCCU has some very talented people. And through Ex Umbra, we hope those of you with that gift will "come out of the shadows" into the light, so that your works will be given credit where credit is due.

In the Eagle Spirit,
Barbara McPhail
Editor-in-Chief

"This publication neither practices or condones discrimination, in any form against students, employees, subscribers, advertisers, or applicants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or handicaps.

Boston

*Boston -----the in-sur-ance capitol of the world,
And your car will be stolen.*

*Boston-----the insur-ance capitol of the world,
And your house will be burned to the ground*

*Boston-----the in-sur-ance capitol of the world,
And you are not in-sured to stay employed,*

*Boston -----the I-n-s-u-r-a-n-c-e capitol of the world,
Hell! No one can Insure Life*

And if you are Black, there is No Insurance at all!!!!

Emerging

*Tracing the labyrinth of sound and movement,
Emerging at last like travellers through a maze,
Experiencing dreams reaching glamorous heights,
Finding the world changed, yet ever so beautiful,
Drawing further upon the resources of our Love,
Hoping our destinies will forever be near.*

Sweet Kiss

*Last night, he kissed me and I saw the sunrise and flowers
bloom and I heard the birds singing.*

*When the kiss ended and I opened my eyes, there was
only the still, quiet, darkness of the night.....with my face
pressed against his neck.*

*Dance**Motions,**Feelings**Speed**Suspense**Silent**Space**Staccato**Tears**Smiles**Jumps**Spins**Hops**Leaps**Time**Measures**Shift**Lock**Return**Back**Front*

Move-----express-----revise-----improvise-----

JAZZ-----GUTSY!!!

ADAGIO

*I had once kissed the mistress of ceremonies,
 who still wore long hair and striped jerseys
 and did not appear now much different
 from when she seduced my mind.*

*Black hands crashed a keyboard
 as an aged man, miraculous survivor,
 acquaintance of Joplin, effused
 a touching tedium of notes and bars,
 his back to a silently melting throng.*

Would the song never end?

*It was hot. I was ten
 on a languid Sunday afternoon of hard pews,
 free birds warbling vague shapes outside the amber glass
 in tall white-painted windowframes.*

*I could not look at the piano.
 I told me eyes: slip out of focus like a suffering blind man.
 A droning purple wasp up high tap-tapped the peeling white
 boards, then circled slowly lower.*

Would the song never end?

Would the song never end?

*They all had beards around her, but I had shaved until I thought
 the smoothness was some virtue; although I once was bearded
 too. She did not meet my eyes within the crowd.*

*She did not recognize. She did not know me, and it did not
 matter.*

As once-song trails to nothingness.

*I walked down where the sign directed, to see the house the
 Black Episcopalians devoted to Saint Titus.*

*Asphalt parking lot, a small brick modern house of God
 dispelled my hope of finding imago from the past.*

*The old St. Titus was demolished some years back, I learned.
 Squeezed in between the present edifice and property adjoining,
 some half a dozen tumbled, leaning tombstones hunched.
 The "Wolf's Den" it is called by some.*

A song here paused.

A song here paused.

*My eye leaped from spot to spot, circling, moving slowly
 downward. A glint of metal...badge...a deputy on the next
 downward. A glint of metal...badge...a deputy on the next.*

(cont'd)

*We Are Today**Black, I felt when I saw you**Ahead of a day when no one asked, "What's Up?" - our future -
Need I say. Trouble is we are to one another serious, then delirious
and in present, we have no word of what it is to be called...**comrade, rather militantly**friend, rather questionably**brother, rather loosely**people, rather vaguely**companion, rather sexually**of or what of - Black rather solidly**but uncertainly I felt when I saw you, how Black we are today ,**But what of tonight - times up - our future needs to say**We're-----What's up, what's up, what's up**....We Are.....TODAY**ADAGIO (cont'd)**block.....some distance off.....stood on a paint-deserted porch to
supervise eviction.**Will that song never end?**I turned back up the street toward the campus, plodding up Dupree,
beardless, shorn of images, somehow more free, though older now;
---freshly wrinkled, proud; faint notes of music flowing into empty
places, parting leaves and leaping out. Surrounding me! What pattern**What new songs might we sing (almost) in unison?**Could any one among us write a new song?*



But then again

Are you that nigger in the alley

Your momma seems to think so. But then again, what do you care. Well, what do you say to a nigger in the alley? Well, that really depends on where your head is and where the other person's head is.....but then again, who the hell is talking about heads! They say all is fair in love and peace, But then again....

You ain't gonna find no trouble here says the man. But, then again, who the hell is he? You say things aren't going right, and you have no one to blame. Well you want to know what I think? Well, anyway, I think you need to take some out and try to get your head together, because sometime or another, I know you are gonna need some help from someone. A friend? Perhaps. Take some time to use your mind for things aren't as bad as they may seem. Start off slow, so you know you will not slide behind, keep your thoughts on the same track. Whether you be going forward, reverse, or if you decide to do some heavy side-stepping. Ha-Ha. For who wants to see a grown man fall in his tracks? Not he. "He who laughs last....Now what's that suppose to mean? They say times are rough so you better watch out for the shadows in the well. Peace of mind. They say their all out to get you. Silver bells or cockershells.. ..How does your head gear grow? Very slowly. They say the price has gone up. What does it matter? You claim you are rich. But then Again....who the hell cares or who the hell knows. Only the Gardener knows for sure. Peace of mind? Is that all you are looking for. Of course you know there's a price to pay. But then again. Who said it's cash?

Lift your head to the sky, the Stars will twinkle with delight at your stupidity. Be it near, be it far. Are you slow, will you go, Say what you don't know. Well how's about giving it a try. Cause, before I go I want you to know that I know where to begin, helping you that is.....

BUT THEN AGAIN

Gangs, Gangs

*Gangs, Gangs, what does it mean
You don't have to be in a gang to make the scene.*

*Hey everybody, Billy just stabbed Mat
Billy is in jail, now he knows that's not where it's at.*

*Hey everybody, John just robbed a store
But now he wished he thought about it before*

*Blackmen going around killing each other like they never
knew the meaning of brother*

*So kill, brothers, kill until we all are gone
But see where you end up later on.*

Come with me, I will take you

*Come with me I will take you to a land where there is no
corruption, where there is no killing, where there is no abor-
tion, where there is no noise or air pollution
Come with me, for my name is*

-----"Peace"

My Last Day

*If this was my last day on earth, I could never say, I never loved,
because I Loved You. How much did I Love You?
So much that it hurt at times.....*

*If this was my last day on earth, I could never say I had nothing to
be thankful for because I Had You.*

*Even if I did not have all of you, I found someone in You I wanted
to Love*

How Much did I love you? Simply, with everything I have got...

*If this was my last day on earth, In the name of heaven , may the
Lord through his almighty Goodness, Bless me with His Salvation
and Eternal Life so I could be with You once again, as he would
I was half of me when you were away....*

*If this was your last day on earth, you could never say You had ne-
ver been loved...because You were.. are, and will be Loved By Me.*

*If this was your last day, my dying day would be here for this day
would surely be my last day on earth too...*

How Much did I Love You?

That's How Much I Loved You....

*Bless You with the same on Your day. How much did I Love You?
I was half of me when you were away.....*

*If this was your last day on earth, you could never say You had ne-
ver been loved...because You were.. are, and will be Loved By Me.*

*If this was your last day, my dying day would be here for this day
would surely be my last day on earth too...*

How Much did I Love You?

That's How Much I Loved You....

BLACK MAN

You are not the Black Minority, but the chosen few

Black Man, the whole world is watching you

Black Man, BLACK MAN, what will you do?

The system is out to destroy you

Used to be they would throw you some crumbs

But times are so hard now, that that is no longer done

-----Black Man, this is not fake

Black Man, this is not fake

What you get from now on, you have to TAKE

The ignorance of violence will never win

I'm talking about destroying this monster from within

Black Man, not just part

Go straight and destroy its wretched heart

Don't let it all go up in smoke

Black Man, save yourself before you choke

You who have survived the abomination of slavery

Go forth now in a spirit of bravery

Black Man, I must you

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

The whole WORLD is watching YOU

Wherever you go and whatever you do

Remember these words I have shared with you

You are NOT the Black Minority

But GOD'S own chosen few:-----

To Lose

*To lose a friend is bad
 To lose a mother takes all you had.
 To lose a sister or a brother really hurts
 But to lose a lover is even worst.
 To lose anything is a great pain
 To lose a lover is even greater
 But to lose what I have lost is the greatest
 YOU!!!!*

A Thought

One of the most two-faced words ever composed is the four-letter word....'home'

The word 'home' seems to appeal to all our senses.

It seems to suggest a sort of pleasantry,

A blind showing of gracious aesthetic behavior

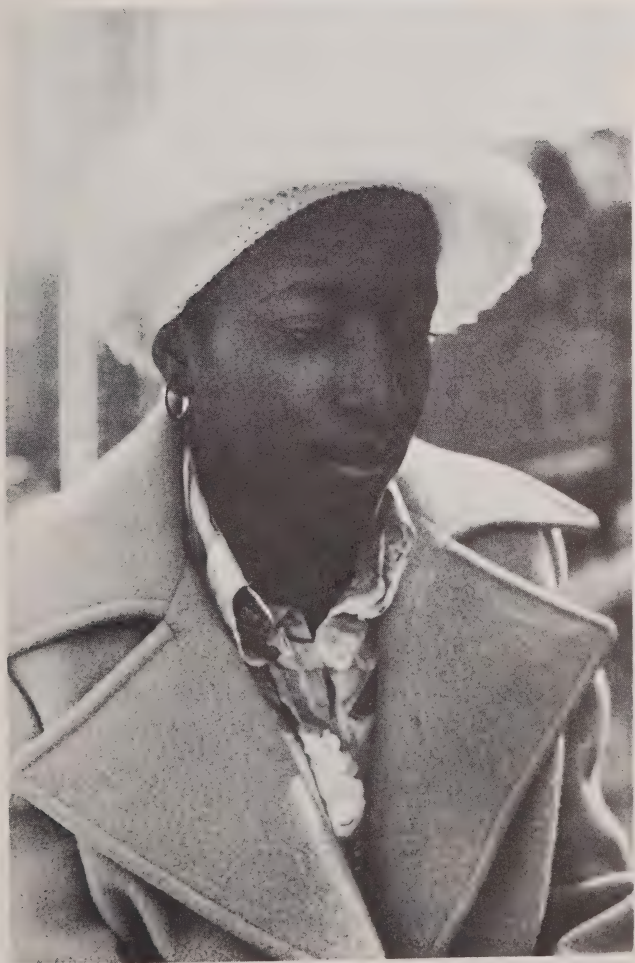
A sense of freedom and relaxation unparalleled on this earth.

This four-letter word 'home' can be a measuring role in everyone's life.

It can be a dark cloud as so when mentioned, visions and better-off forgotten memories are revived,

Or it can be the silent bearer of one of life's most never wished secrets...

LONELINESS



THE JEWEL OF GOD'S CREATION

*The Jewel of God's creations
The nucleus of her childrens' success
A mother with an untarnished spirit,
and a dream - for them the best.*

*To benefit her children she'll do,
For their happiness she'll pursue.
Children be happy, children be thankful
for this woman surely LOVES you.*

Life for her is her children.

*For they are her satisfaction for STRUGGLING:
For being PUSHED around; for being BEAT
upon; for being MISTREATED; for being
WALKED upon.*

*Aye world THIS is a woman, a mother
of distinction, a lady with pride, one
that deserves the recognition for so long
denied....*

*...Mother we appreciate you for being you.
We're priviledged to be of your relation.
For we hold YOU to be THE Jewel Of
GOD'S CREATIONS...*

*Mother we love you.
We love you mother.
Yes mother we really do.*

Rain

*Yes,----- An unhappy
sky drowning its sorrows with tears*

The earth is its comforter absorbing all of its grief

The Sun is hope drying the tears.

The rainbow - tomorrow.

After the Rainbow

*Skies are blue,
spirits are calm
after the rainbow.*

*Air is sweet,
grass is green,
After the rainbow,*

*Tides turn,
Life derives,
After the rainbow,*

*Pain Ends
Life Begins
With my Rainbow.*

Feelings From Within

You've managed to explore my inner - most feelings,

Feelings no other man has dared to explore.

You've managed to possess my inner - mind,

a mind no other man has dared to control.

*I've never really understood our meeting from the beginning,
and now that it's blossomed into a beautiful love affair,*

I've stopped trying to understand it.

I'm just enjoying it.

Although it's only been a short time, it seems like an eternity.

*I couldn't love you any less than I've loved you in the past,
and any more than I will love you in the future.*

Our physical love may be visible, but our inner love is untouchable.

We've had more than our share of discouragements,

but through it all we belong to each other,

a love no man has dared to separate

What to Listen for in JAZZ

*Listen to the downbeat,
 Yeah! Listen to the stress
 And strain of notes; feel the heat.
 Listen to the Bird song and Train at rest:
 Listen to the music - Yeee, Yeeee, Beee-bop, Bee-bop
 Dat-dee-dat-dee-dat-dee - Yeeee
 Avant-garde!!!
 the sound of police sirens
 bells and tambourines
 and babies crying and young girls sighing.
 Listen to the long line of lonely;
 Standing on the corners,
 in the bars,
 on the bus - And the last pure note of Mingus!
 on the stoops,
 in the pews,
 by the hogs - sweet sounds in view.
 Listen to the mood of Love and sadness spell,
 of the noon day bell; with quivering
 chords and syncopated blue.
 Octaves in believing the truth of the groove.
 Beginning an old tune of empty dreams and rhythmic schemes.
 Whew! Whew!
 Whew! Whew!
 the garbage cans falling
 and a neon b-flat calling
 the sound of the hallways creaking
 and the smell of gasoline in the air -
 And some mother's child humming be-bop in despair
 Listen to the tone-----
 Of Nina Simone
 I ain't Never Done Nothing to Nobody.....*

"US"

*The friendships we remember,
 Mistakes that we regret.
 The ending of a love affair;
 We simply can't forget.
 Since memories keep on building;
 Each day can be the start.
 Of making new and happy ones;
 To store within our hearts.*

A KISS

A Kiss

*Is a precious Pearl.
 It's the most cherished
 Gift in the world.*

*It enlightens my heart
 And brightens the stars.
 It removes my sadness
 And brings me gladness.*

Who Knows

*No one knows, like I know;
How hard I tried.*

*No one knows like you thought;
And did not know.*

No one knows like they think and feel

Who knows!

*No one knows, like we know;
How lonesome it is.*

*No one knows like you know;
Until it is them.*

*No one knows, like they know;
Until they try*

Who knows!

*No one knows, like I know;
How hard I tried and still make a mess of my LIFE.*

They Say

*They say life is a World of Wonders,
I say, Wonder is a World of life.*

Ivory Syncopation

*Play your ivory keys
Improvise to jazzy lyrics.
Express beat-----as a desire.
Love-----as a need.*

*Sensuous vibrations add a touch of class to your manner of sophis-
tication.*

*White, Black, Creole nature.
Play your ivory keys
Improvise-----a creation.
Your life.*

Black

There is no definition

Only a reality.-----!



*Happiness is.....
 Knowing the one You Love
 Really, really, really
 Loves You*

Stalemate

*Trying to be everywhere
 You are going no where.
 Trying to be somebody;
 You are nobody special.
 Playing the outside clown;
 You are the inside fool.
 Caring about people;
 They don't care about you.
 Giving respect;
 You are getting none.
 Asking for so much;
 You are getting so little.*

*TIMES ARE GETTING
 VERY HARD
 DO THE BEST YOU CAN
 WITH WHAT YOU'VE GOT!!!!!!*

Life

*I was not placed on this earth to live up to your expectations or
born to live with shame, stupidity, or pride.*

I am here to live my life, and live until I die.

*If you don't like me because of my ways, I forgive your unfor-
tunate side,*

*for you only like and cater to those who are blind behind your
eyes.*

*The way I dress, the way I speak, the ease of my elusive ways
Are only helping to show the world that what I do is unique -
okay.*

*So the silent treatments, I can do without
and....also, away with the fronts,*

*Get rid of the corrupt, evil ways and let your inner beauty shine
through - at least, Once.*

Live your life.

Darker Brother

*Darker Brother, Darker Brother of mine
Smile so bright, skin so fine*

*Darker Brother, Dark man of woe
Tell me a story of the sorrow you know*

*Darker Brother, Dark fountain of love
Flow into me, send me high above*

*Darker Brother, Darker Brother of mine
With your smile so bright
And your skin so fine.*

Oh Beautiful Black Woman

*Oh what have you done to your beautiful Black man?
 You have taken him and cuddled him and held his hand.
 You have tricked him and cajoled him and led him astray.
 You have left him alone to come back someday.*

*Oh when will you learn, O prize of my life
 I want a Black woman and I want a Black wife
 To have and to hold till death do us part
 Oh what have you done to my beautiful Black heart?*

*You know how to cook and you know how to sew
 But there's many other things you really don't know
 You are a beautiful Black woman, O Lily of the Valley
 Oh why have you filled my heart with such malice?*

*Oh woman of knowledge and woman of careers
 You have given me your days, but not your years
 Woman I know you had better do soemthing soon
 Oh what have you done to this beautiful Black coon?*

*You called me old man and you called me your nigger
 While the gap between us grew bigger and bigger
 I put you on a pedestal for all to see
 Oh beautiful Black woman come back to me!*

The Seventh Dimension

To love you, to undo you, You Girl

You just don't know, know Girl

*What it means to hold you. What it does to my mentality
What it uproots physically. How the oohs and ahhs affects
my chemistry.*

*Hey baby, you don't know, know Girl what I'm trying to
let out, Let Out Girl. A World of deep exotic emotions.*

*A second dimension of twilight love vibes. An interearth
core of mid-climaxing jubilation. Aye, baby, you know the
split second of climactic eminence at its greatest.*

*Oh Baby, just once. Once Baby to have, to hold, to cherish
to adore, to manipulate, to soar baby, to reach....that never
before explored region - The Seventh Dimension.*

*Baby, take me, let me take you.....Oh Baby, Let's go together
No one else, You and me. Us. Alone in the immense heavens
of the Seventh Dimensions.*

*Oh Baby, come, come baby. Ooh, ahh, um-um-um. Ha,
what don't stop. Peopl, cars, nowhere, everywhere.*

Baby, I love you. Don't, you can't, we must.

*Oh Baby, we made it. Yes Baby we made it. I never thought
girl.*

Let's Go Again!!!!!!

Waiting

I don't mind waiting, very much

I'm not that important.

*The course of history will change very little because I sit here
an extra ten minutes.*

The Stock Market will not crash,

My souffle ' will not fall

My baby will not be born in a taxi

I will not die.

In fact, I don't mind waiting at all

Checking out the chicks and dudes strolling by,

Watching the wheels rolling by

Reading, studying, meditating , Just Grooving

Naw, I don't mind waiting at All!

******Where the hell have you been!*

Don't you know I have just been sitting here

WAITING?

DAYS OF GROWING

Monday.....a start

Tuesday.....a step

Wednesday.....a direction

Thursday.....a destiny

Friday.....a perception

Saturday.....an understanding

Sunday.....learning by Grace and teaching

DETERMINATION

SHINING STAR

I've walked in the concepts of darkness and never once did I see the light, but I knew it was shining bright as ever a day.

I can not find myself into your mind now I know what makes you the man you are. I feel something far beyond the powers of an obstacle that stands in my path towards my destiny.

For I have encountered in my life's struggles as a beautiful Black Sister...pain and sorrow. I feel the pains of loneliness when I'm away from you. That power snarles and pulls at my mind and soul until I am unable to control my mind and the reactions this power causes.

Each night when the sky is clear and I find a star in the dark blue skies, I sit for hours, dreaming of fears far beyond my capabilities in dealing with them.

My new concepts as a woman...bringing forth the capsize of all moralizations and witness an internal awareness of my love life and universal understanding for you're like

A

SHINING STAR

BLACKNESS

You look at my hands
YOU SEE BLACKNESS
You don't see hands
YOU JUST SEE BLACKNESS
Hands just like yours
Hands on a man
JUST LIKE YOU
But you don't see a man
You just see
BLACKNESS

"A Quiet Prayer"

Blow me away
To where the souls of my ancestors are.
Toss me needlessly,
To the vultures of mankind's greed.
Show me without a reason,
Why I must be tortured in this HELL.

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| | |
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| OH BEAUTIFUL BLACK WOMAN | Milton Davis |
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