

By Harriett Muhammad

Some friends of mine were discussing with me the American male Negro and his quirks. We were not knocking our men just for the heck of it, but we're really concerned. It seems to us that our men don't want to accept responsibility — not nearly as readily as we do and have to do.

IF A COUPLE split up and children are involved, we women usually end up with 75 per cent of the burden of support and rearing. If times get really bad financially, we women usually do something sooner than the men. We're usually the ones most concerned with paying off bills and paying them punctually.

We get out there on the job and work; come home and work, and if everything isn't like it's supposed to be, then we hear complaints, instead of offers to help. Then, to hear them talk, any woman is better than a Negro woman—"Can't no Negro women do nothin' for me."

THE FEW Negro men that do go into business or into a profession seem to think so big and want to live so lavishly until they many times defeat their own purpose. Now, we're aware of the damages that the institution of slavery has caused. But times are different now. Sure, the white man still keep our men down, but many of our men don't try any harder than they do because they're just lazy.

EVERYTHING can't be

put on "Charles," you know. Why do they continue to rely on excuses and rely on us so much? We don't have anyone to rely on, but we make it. What's the matter with our men?

The Disgusted Ones.
New York, New York

DEAR LADIES: You have hit upon a very touchy and painful subject — one on which volumes could be written. But because it is so important to so many of us, I'd like to make my answer a bit longer than usual and continue the rest of it next week.

I would like to discuss the relationship between man and woman as I see it. Looking at the situation from various angles may help to widen our understanding. Most of the statements you have made are true, but why, and how could the situation be remedied? This is what is important today.

Most of the "quirks" that can be found in the black man are reflections of different "quirks" in the black woman. We have been placed (by this society) in the position of the man's role so much and so often until



WAVES OF young Negro girls, Mae Patterson of Cincinnati, (l.) Jackson (r.) of Memphis, Tennessee, receive support and encouragement for training, particularly office preparation, summer jobs. Although job cer

we have learned to be better men than the men.

HOWEVER, most of us have forgotten how to be real women. After all, the concepts of "woman's role or place" and "man's role or place" are more cultural in aspect than biological.

When you examine all the cultures of this earth, you find that there are only two generalities found — women bear the babies and men have more physical strength. I only mention this to remind you of the limited scope with which we are dealing. Some things that I will mention will overlap cultural and racial boundaries—as do your complaints—but I'll be mainly concerned with the black man and woman in America.

TO BE CONTINUED

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