Letters to the Editor

DAWN Magazine welcomes letters expressing all viewpoints. Letters must include signature and mailing address. Names may be withheld for adequate reason. The editor reserves the right to condense letters. Address all correspondence to DAWN Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21203.

WW II ARMY WACS

Baltimore, Md. — During World War II, there was a group of black WACS who were sent overseas in 1944, the first black women to do so except for military nurses.

The group was called the 6888 Postal Unit, and over 600 WACs served in England and France. The unit was applauded for exemplary work in getting the mail to U.S. troops who were spread all over Europe.

I cannot help but feel DAWN Magazine could do a good story on this little-known unit, but more importantly, several of the former members of the unit have expressed a desire to hold a reunion.

Can DAWN help us in trying to reach any former WACs who were members of this group?

Pat Matthews

DAWN has started by publishing your letter. All responses will be forwarded to the letterwriter, and we hope that the unit can get together once again.

In fact, if our researchers can dig up sufficient information, we will try to put together a story on these pioneer women.

RARE RECORDINGS

Alexandria, Va. — For some time now, I have been trying to find record shops where I might obtain or order, records by "Wings Over Jordan," which was a group that sang religious songs on the radio on Sunday mornings.

Also, I am trying to locate any recordings by the Fisk Jubilee Singers. Do you have or know of any sources for these out of print recordings?

Fred L. Hill

There are many record dealers who search out little known recordings for clients. You will find some of them listed in the yellow pages of the telephone book.

In your nearby area, there is a company in Towson, Md., just outside Baltimore, which goes by the name of Record and Tape Traders. Their resources may be helpful. And, if any DAWN readers have any information, we'll certainly pass it along.

BAD VERSE

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. — As a journslist and form[illegible] editor of a black publication, I too recognize the tremendous disservice done our black readership through the publication of bad verse. For the mere fact of publication lends credence to mediocrity.

We blacks, colored (coloured), Negroes, Afriamericans or Afro-Americans are noted for possessing such an abundance of natural rhythm, which is manifested in our singing, dancing and athletic prowess.

Why then, Mr. Editor, should that excellence of form be confined primarily to the somatic, thus excluded from the psychic?

Surely part of the answer resides in the willingness of black editors and publishers to accept journalistic mediocrity as the standard for their readerships.

Your "Poetry gallerie," (1/79) unfortunately, did not contain poetry. There was, to be sure, a degree of promise. But the offerings would have been better confined to another form.

W. Earl Douglas

Nearly 200 letters a week pour into the DAWN office, most with contributions for Poetry gallerie.

Despite the protestations of classical poetry lovers, a lot of people out there like the "gallerie."

NOT A PRUDE

Baltimore, Md. — Your coverage of discomania in the January issue is a part of the fanciful phenomena of the black experience.

Although I cannot object to the content of the articles themselves, and in spite of the fact I do not consider myself a prude, I consider the photograph of the dancers on page 15 to go far beyond the bounds of common decency.

Whether a cleanedup version of

(Continued on Page 15)

In This Issue:

- Kenya has been called the Hawaii of Africa because of the beauty of the region. DAWN Magazine visited Kenya, and there is a report beginning on Page 6.
- The newest feature in DAWN, black history and black cukure will be found on Page 9.
- Michael gives the latest horoscope information for all Pisces, beginning on Page 14.
- Poetry devotees will find the "gallerie" on Page 17.
- Called one of the most far out pianists on the scene today is Cecil Taylor. You'll find a story about him on Page 20.
- National Roundup is back in full force this month. It's on Page 23.

The Editor's Desk

This week, we introduce a new feature in your DAWN Magazine, the first of a series of commemorative drawings of black historical events, and noted figures of history.

Since July, 1968, George A. Beach, head of the American Negro Commemorative Society and George Beach Inc., of Philadelphia, has issued yearly calendars depicting black history.

Illustrator of the pieces is Calvin Massey, and DAWN received permission from George Beach to reprint these materials so that youngsters and others may get to know as much as possible about black history.

The Black Culture quiz comes from the third edition of the quiz put out by the Sperry and Hutchinson Co.

Material was prepared by Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., of Bronx Community College, and Carolyn A. Dorsey, fellow at the NYU Institute of Afro - American Affairs.

Copies of the quiz booklet may be obtained by writing the above company at 330 Madison Ave., New York, 10017.

On the cover this week are Masai women dancers at a lodge outside Nairobi, Kenya. Photograph is by Emmett George.

* * * * *

COMING: next month will feature gospel music, and the people who make it. The cover will be of Shirley Caesar, who is considered one of the tops in the field.

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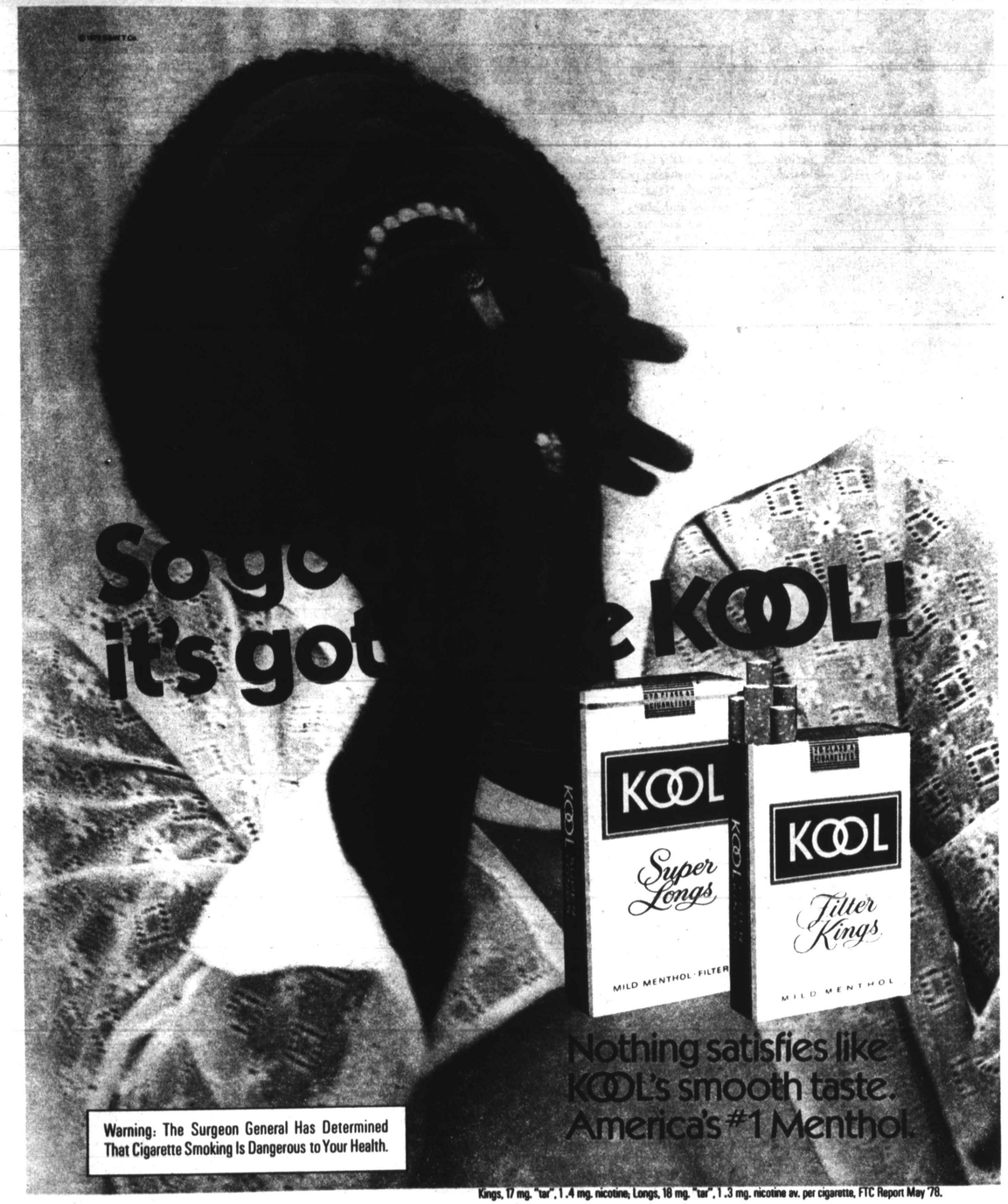

Kings, 17 mg. "tar", 1.4 mg. nicotine; Longs, 18 mg. "tar", 1.3 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report May '78.