What was Leadbelly's real name?

By Ida M. Peters

Q. What is it about educated men in high places? I recently attended the 75th Diamond Jubilee of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in San Francisco. On Tuesday, July 12 the impressive Plenary Session opened with the theme "Looking to the Future" with the Hon. Andrew Young, Mayor, Atlanta, Ga., speaking on "Looking to the Future in Political and Economic Empowerment." Deltas in red and white filled the Civic Center 10,000 strong. Mayor Young prefaced his remarks by talking about the achievements of his Delta daughters and then told about his son, who was raised as a "Sorry Nigger." 'He then told the Delta Sorors that they too were raising sons as "Sorry Niggers." I was insulted and knowing you were there, what is your comment?

C.O.S.
Atlantic City, N.J.

A. We heard Andrew Young of Altanta give his "Sorry Nigger" admonition and judging by the shocked looks around me, felt a sense of shame that he would use "that expression" in that place at that time. He was trying to say to the Delta women that they take great pains with thier daughters but allow their sons to be spoiled and pampered without being made to adhere to standards. However, "Nigger" has no place in our vocabulary and even if "sorry niggers" is an old south expression, it was out of place, out of line and insulting. We jump all over white people when they call us "niggers" and I hope all the Deltas in Atlanta will jump on Mayor Young . . .and explain that it takes two to tango ... a "S.N." can be shaped up by his father?

Leadbelly

Eddie Murphy

Q. How would I get in touch with Eddie Murphy? I've always thought he was a handsome fellow but, now, I see that he's a real black man and I would like to tell him as much.

DARLENE WATSON
St. Louis, Mo.

A. His current bio lists Mr. Eddie Murphy, c/o Paramount Pictures Corp., 1 Gulf and Western Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10023.

Q. Who was Leadbelly and what was his real name? Please settle a bet for us. I say he wrote the famous songs "Good Night Irene" and "On Top of Old Smokey". Who played him in the movie?

G.M.S.
Indianapolis, Ind.

A. Leadbelly, "King of the Twelve-String Guitar" born Huddie Ledbetter, was born Jan. 21, 1885, in Mooringsport, La. and died December, 1949, in New York. His musical compositions include "Good Night Irene," "On Top of Old Smokey," "Good Morning Blues," "Easy Rider" and "Rock Island Line." He joined with "Blind Lemon" Jefferson as a singing team in 1917; served a jail term for murder in Texas from 1918-1925; served another jail term in Louisiana 1930 to 1934; was pardoned after singing for Governor of Louisiana; recorded folk songs, ballads and work songs of Library of Congress; toured France in 1949. Gordon Parks' movie "Leadbelly" starred Roger Mosley in 1976.

Q. How old was Kim Fields when she first started on TV in "Facts of Life"? How long was the series on and is she in college? Where?

VANESSA JONES
Winston Salem, N.C.

A. Kim started on "Facts of Life" when she was 9 and wore roller skates for the first season because she was too short to play a character who was supposed to be 12. She is a full-time sophomore at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. The show lasted nine years. She is currently visiting various cities on an anti-drug campaign.

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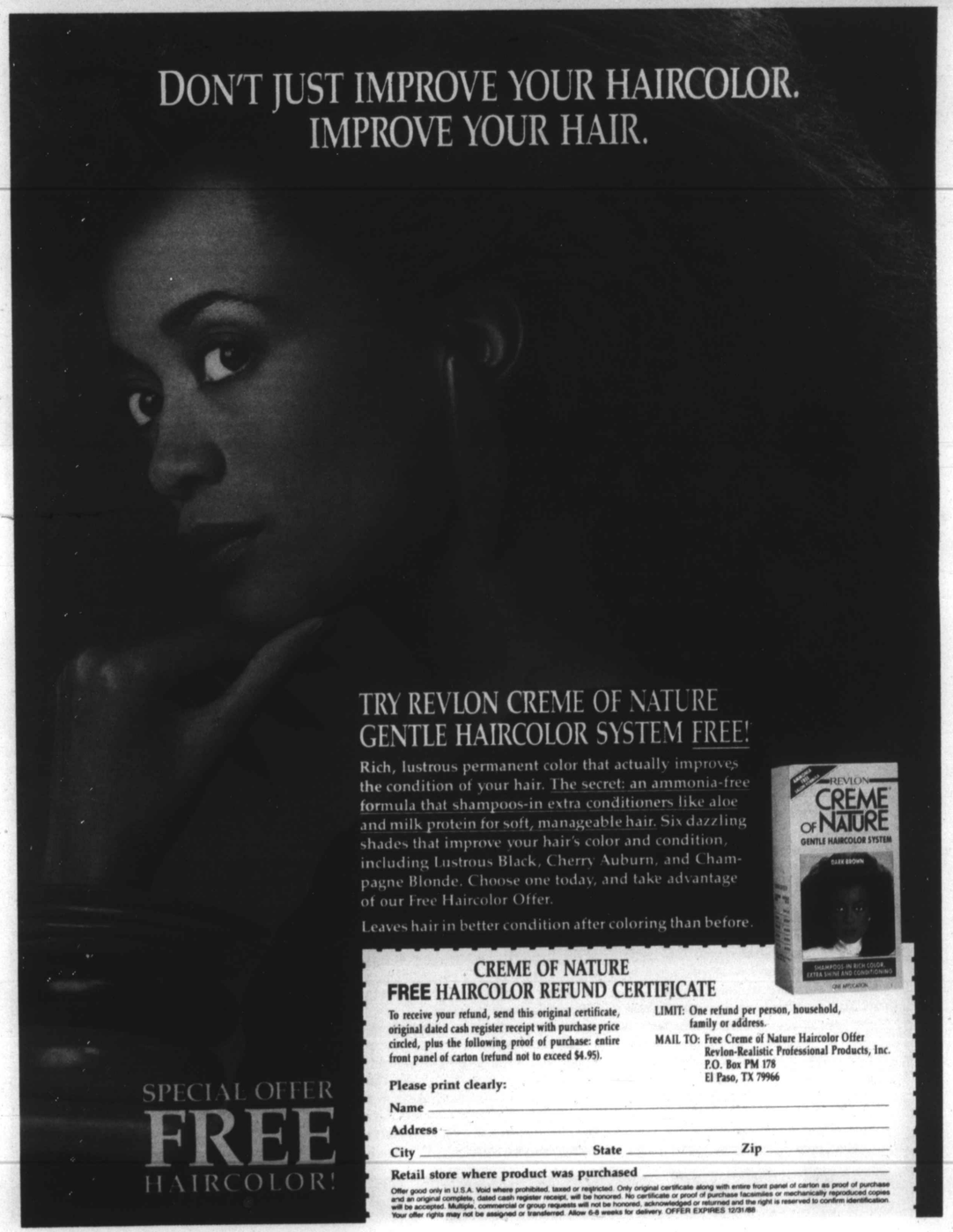

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