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Editorial Notes

This month the *National BLACK MONITOR* salutes the dynamic business and professional women of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. This year marks the 56th birthday of this community-building organization that continues to stimulate, inspire, foster and give mutual assistance to more than 3,000 sorors in 90 chapters in the United States, the Virgin Islands and India. In turn, these valiant women serve their communities in a variety of creative and salutary ways.

This month the *National BLACK MONITOR* also salutes the birth of the Black-oriented press. On March 16, 1827, John B. Russwurm and Samuel Cornish began publishing the first Black-owned newspaper in America.

In his first editorial, John Russwurm, its editor and the first Black college graduate in America, gave the reasons

for the creation of a Black-oriented newspaper. He said:

We wish to plead our own cause.... Too long have others spoken for us. Too long has the public been deceived by misrepresentations in things which concern us dearly, though in the estimation of some mere trifles; for though there are many in society who exercise toward us benevolent feelings; still (with sorrow we confess it) there are others who make it their business to enlarge upon the least trifle, which tends to the discredit of any person of colour; and pronounce anathemas and denounce our whole body for the misconduct of the guilty one.

Today there is a continued need for a Black-oriented press because of its unique and pride-building functions.

First and foremost, the Black-oriented press covers the happenings in Black America that the White-oriented press does not deem newsworthy. They cover the community-building activities of our many local and national organizations. They report the good things that are happening in Black America—our church news, our social news, our educational and business achievements.

Secondly, the Black-oriented press sifts through the "news" with which we are bombarded each day and analyzes it from a Black perspective. The Black-oriented press across the country is known for its biting and thought-provoking editorials and editorial cartoons.

Thirdly, the Black-oriented press recognizes that when Blacks know about their heritage, pride becomes inescapable. The Black-oriented press provides a treasury of Black history material, and it frequently provides exposure to budding Black poets and writers.

A fourth and fundamental focus of the Black-oriented press is to crusade continually for justice and equity. It also provides a distortion-free forum for our Black political leaders that is frequently denied them in the White-oriented press.

The fifth role of the Black-oriented press is to inspire Black Americans to support each other and to work together to develop our communities to their fullest potential for the good of Black Americans—and all Americans.

These are among the functions of the

BMI Cooperative Newspapers and Carriers of the National BLACK MONITOR

- Akron Reporter Group (OH)
- Albany Southwest Georgian (GA)
- Albany Times (GA)
- Atlanta People's Crusader (GA)
- Augusta Black Focus (GA)
- Augusta News Review (GA)
- Austin Capital City Argus (TX)
- Bakersfield Metro Star (CA)
- Bakersfield News Observer (CA)
- Bennetsville Fine Print News (SC)
- Birmingham Times (AL)
- Bloomington Voice (IL)
- Boston Greater News (MA)
- Buffalo Criterion (NY)
- Buffalo Fine Print (NY)
- Charleston Black Times (SC)
- Charleston Coastal Times (SC)
- Charleston Chronicle (SC)
- Chattanooga North Star (TN)
- Chicago Citizen Group (IL)
- Chicago Independent Bulletin (IL)
- Chicago Observer (IL)
- Chicago Tri-City Journal (IL)
- Chicago World News Examiner (IL)
- Cleveland Metro (Bedford Hgts., OH)
- Columbia Black News Group (SC)
- Columbus Times (GA)
- Cordele Southeastern News (GA)
- Dallas Weekly (TX)
- Daytona Times (FL)
- Decatur Speaking Out (AL)
- Decatur Voice (IL)
- Denver Weekly News (CO)
- Detroit/Ecorse Telegram (MI)
- East St. Louis Monitor (IL)
- Florence Black Sun (SC)
- Florence Shoals News Leader (AL)
- Fort Pierce Chronicle (FL)
- Fort Wayne Frost Illustrated (IN)
- Fresno California Advocate (CA)
- Gary Info (IN)
- Goldsboro Metro Times (NC)
- Grand Rapids Times (MI)
- Greensboro Carolina Peacemaker (NC)
- Greenville Black Star (SC)
- Greenville Palmetto Leader (SC)
- Houston Defender (TX)
- Indianapolis Indiana Herald (IN)
- Jackson Blazer (MI)
- Jacksonville Advocate (FL)
- Kansas City Globe (MO)
- Las Vegas Sentinel (NV)
- Little Rock Southern Mediator (AR)
- L.A./Bay Area News Observer (CA)
- L.A. Metro Gazette (CA)
- L.A. TV Journal & News Magazine (CA)
- L.A. Watts Times (CA)
- Lubbock S.W. Digest (TX)
- Macon Times (GA)
- Marion Pee Dee Observer (SC)
- Memphis Mid-South Express (TN)
- Mobile Inner City News (AL)
- Montgomery/Tuskegee Times (AL)
- Muskogee Oklahoma Eagle (OK)
- Newark/Essex Suburban Greater News (NJ)
- New Orleans Black Data Weekly (AL)
- New York Daily Challenge (NY)
- New York L.I. Black Advocate (New York) L.I. Courier (New York) L.I. Recorder (NY)
- Orangeburg Black Voice (SC)
- Orangeburg View South News (SC)
- Orlando Sun Review (FL)
- Orlando Times (FL)
- Pasadena Gazette (CA)
- Pensacola Voice (FL)
- Peoria Voice of the Valley (IL)
- Philadelphia New Observer (PA)
- Philadelphia Spirit (PA)
- Pittsburgh Homewood-Brushton News (PA)
- Portland/Vancouver Skanner (OR)
- Riverside Black Voice News (CA)
- Rochester Communicate (NY)
- Rock Hill Black Views (SC)
- St. Louis Crusader (MO)
- St. Louis Morning News (MO)
- Sacramento Black Market (CA)
- San Francisco New Bayview News (CA)
- San Francisco/Sacramento Observer Newspapers Group (CA)
- Sarasota Weekly Bulletin (FL)
- Savannah Tribune (GA)
- Seattle Facts (WA)
- Sumpter Black Post (SC)
- Tacoma Facts (WA)
- Tacoma N.W. Dispatch (WA)
- Tallahassee Capital Outlook (FL)
- Tampa Dollar Stretcher (FL)
- Tulsa Oklahoma Eagle (OK)
- Washington Informer (DC)
- Washington New Observer (DC)
- W. Palm Beach Florida Photo News (FL)

All of the newspapers in The BMI Cooperative are considered publishers of the MONITOR. Because of cost limitations in printing, we cannot provide MONITORS for all of our publishers. Those marked with a bullet are our present carriers.

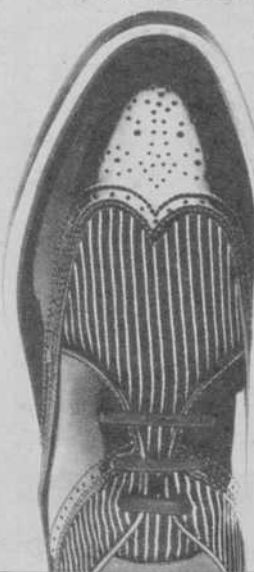
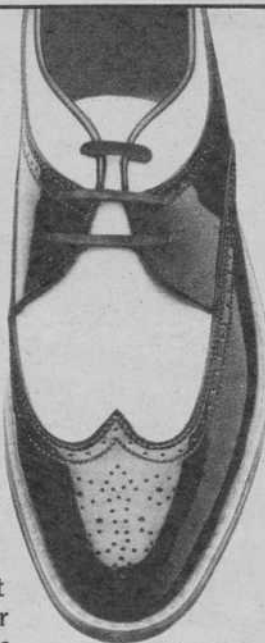
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