



Furs up front at the Arkansas Club all-male fashion show. (Photo: Richard Brown)

The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that some of the known chronic effects of long-term marijuana use are impaired lung function, decreased sperm count and possible adverse effects on heart function.

The Arkansas Club held its First Annual All Male Fashion Show at the Royal Esquire Club Sunday, December 4. Laverne Davis was fashion coordinator. Music by Lloyd Allen.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Walt Disney Productions jointly announced that they have signed a statement of understanding designed to enhance opportunities for blacks and other minority groups in

the motion picture industry.

The Reverend Wayne M. Reynolds, pastor at Hughes Memorial United Methodist Church, is returning with his family from a visit with his relatives in Kansas City, Missouri.

Francis Worthington, Superintendent of Schools for the city of Inglewood, California, has announced her resignation effective June 30, 1983.

The Inglewood Teachers Association and a Coalition of Inglewood Citizens for Educational Reform called for Worthington's resignation. They charged her administration with mismanagement of District funds, lack of respect for teach-

ers and community concerns, and a general decline over the last several years in student performance.

The Black United Front invites you to a dance at the Esquire Club, December 17, 9:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m. Live entertainment and food. Donations, \$5.00.

This month in Black History: December 1969, Fred Hampton, 21, Illinois Party Chairman of the Black Panthers, was killed in a pre-dawn raid on his apartment in Chicago. Also, Mark Clark, 22, leader of the Panthers in Peoria, was killed. Hampton and Clark were the 27th and 28th Panthers to be killed during the year.

The Chancel Choir of Mount Olivet Baptist Church will hold its Christmas Cantata, December 12, at 5 p.m.

The Tenth Annual Conference of the Black Family in America has been set for March 10-12 at Louisville Inn in Louisville, Kentucky. The conference will bring together teachers, scholars, students and lay persons from across the country to discuss issues pertinent to the black family. Theme of the conference is "Values In The Black Community." For registration information, contact: Dr. Joseph H. McMillion, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292.

(Sponsored by American State Bank, V.F. Booker, President.)

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THE OVERSIZED SHIRT

Man vs Woman

by Muriel Maufroy
Pacific News Service

WHEN I FIRST arrived in the United States—it was in Washington, D.C., in the mid-'60s—one of my strongest impressions was of having suddenly become transparent, invisible.

While walking in the streets of Paris, or anywhere in France, one is exposed incessantly to looks of curiosity, appreciation or criticism. The eye contact game is especially active between men and women: It is a way that men reassess their "maleness" there, and women their "femaleness." Sometimes it leaves one feeling overexposed, wanting to hide. But it is exciting, too, this permanent exchange which creates a greater awareness of the sexual polarity of human beings.

I found none of that in America. On the contrary, it was as though both sexes ignored each other and applied the slogan "I mind my business, you mind yours," to all interaction. It meant more freedom, certainly, but also more loneliness and more dullness. The world seemed harder, indifferent—and somehow asexual.

At the cocktail parties the East Coast is so fond of, another phenomenon appeared. After the usual introductions and small talk, men drifted to one side of the room, women to the other. I felt in a woman's land, unable to relate to either side.

During one of these parties, as I talked to a young woman, a man came over and after a few polite questions undertook to explain in tedious detail the business of the tire company he worked for. I retreated; but I realize now that this man was at least trying to make contact, and that he really didn't know how to do it. Each time such meetings occurred I sensed that a terrific effort was put forward. But there was no excitement. Rather, there was a sense of duty to the approach.

Of course this happens in France, as well. Sometimes two people are simply not on the same wavelength. Yet in America it seemed to me that men and women were almost never on the same wavelength. People met without real curiosity or desire for potential discovery. As a result, each individual limited the other to

a presumed role, his or her social function. And as roles were, especially in that period, pretty fixed and predictable, there was little room left for innovation or surprise.

Indeed, I soon noticed that most Americans, male and female, didn't want to be surprised. Almost anything could happen if the world were suddenly proved different from one's expectations. The important thing was to keep safe, to stay on familiar ground.

A few years later, things started to change, or so people thought. Virtually everyone admitted that something was not right. And virtually everyone concluded that the problem lay in those roles which had been protected with such enthusiasm.

So down with the roles! It was a reaction especially true of women. I saw them growing angrier and angrier. They had been cheated, and they accused men of cheating them. "Down with the housewife role!" they declared. "Down with motherhood and its symbols!"

The real problem, perhaps, was not the roles after all, but the fact that here in America roles of any kind are taken so seriously—that they become straitjackets. In this more liberated age, and even in ultra-liberated California where I now live, I hear people say that they have found the solution to their dilemmas by dropping a role, when in reality they have just assumed a different one. Men and women alike are more than ever stuck in sexual ghettos.

In other words, nothing has actually changed; the dull cocktail party of 20 years ago has just become bigger.

Some time ago, Francois Giroud, a French journalist who served as a minister in the government of President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, surmised after a visit to the States that men and women here didn't like each other. "In France," she said, "we fight and quarrel, but we do like each other; there is complicity between the two sexes."

If the problem of distrust between the sexes is ever to be solved in America, it must come through a similar discovery—that collaboration and differences are not mutually exclusive.

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