

For a multicultural country, Canada has far to go

I love my culture. It's fun, colourful, and proud. The music is loud and truthful in its words. People walk around calling each other "sister" and "brother" on basis of colour. Black people have a large influence upon society.

Slavery is still not totally understood. People need to be further educated on this subject.

Why is there such a distinction between Black and White? Why can't we just be people? We're all part of the human race, aren't we? We, in Canada, are supposedly multicultural.

So why don't we act like it? Because the country is predominantly White. The Black people are a minority in this country, I understand, but we still deserve to be recognized, if this country is so multicultural. We should recognize people of different races as being here. For example, we should include Black people in our magazines such as *Chatelaine* and *Flare*, and the other magazines on our racks.

The malls that are in our country deserve to be bettered, in the sense that there needs to be a section in the mall devoted to Blacks, Italians, Portuguese, etc., for everybody's benefit.

Different stores

In malls, they have exotic foods, so therefore, why shouldn't there be clothing stores like that? You can find separate culture stores all over the place, but you don't exactly find Spanish and African clothes together in one mall.

Canada needs to band together in this respect, to really benefit from all the different cultures living in this country. There are many beautiful and interesting cultures out there.

And there the media comes in. The media has the most influence on everyone in this society. There are separate magazines, separate food stores, and the list goes on. I once read a letter in *Ebony*, a Black magazine, and in this letter an eight year old was talking about how much she liked to see people of different skin colours being together in one magazine.

Her mother explained to her that *Ebony* was a special magazine for Black people. I wish that all young children were like that. Perfectly open about the subject of racism. But, as we get older, we become more aware of such things as racism.

We learn, by simple things as those the media influences us with, that Black and White are to be kept separate. An example is the *Cosby* Show. You don't see one White person in that show, except for the occasional friends of Vanessa and Theo, and even they are very few.

Their friends are mostly Black, and even Rudy has found a Black boy, Kenny, as her best friend, even though she has many others.

Both Black and White people need to work together to find a way to mix cultures in shows and magazines.

One example of a show that mixes cultures is 'True Colors'. It has both Black and White people on it on a regular basis.

Inaccurate maps

In maps, Africa is three times as large as Greenland, and the proper map is not shown in schools. It needs to be.

In school, I feel nervous around a big group of White people, wondering, "Am I going to be accepted?" when really, I have nothing to worry about.

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

with NATALIE JACKMAN

People say, be yourself, and that's all I'm trying to be. If I walk into a room, the first thing I notice is 'I'm

Black. They're White. How am I going to fit in? I'm sure everybody is noticing me. I stand out so much, and I hate it.

As far as I'm concerned, we are all one race. The Human Race. And we should band together to keep that in the minds of everyone. Not Black, White, Indian, or whatever race you

happen to be, but a part, and a vital part, of the human race.

Vital part

Although we still have a long way to go, I congratulate the fact that we are realizing that other races are a vital part of society. I was talking about the *Cosby* show, and how it

featured only Black people. That is the first step in banding together, mixing races in TV shows. We're getting there. It's just like the song, 'Ebony and Ivory'. We need to work together in perfect harmony. We're getting there little by little, and we're doing great so far. Congratulations, Canada!

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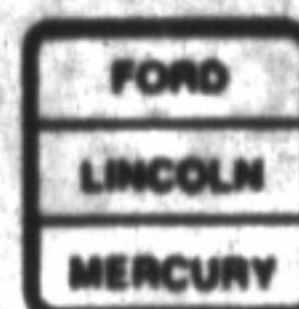
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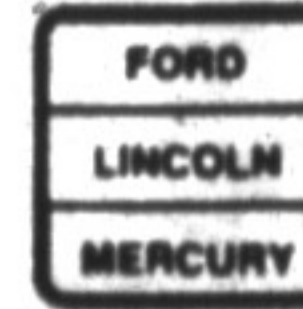
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