### 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.

#### BLACK ENCYCLOPEDIAS

NEWARK, N.J.—Regarding the letter from C. Williams, Jr. about books about black inventors, the book, The Colored Inventor, is in print and can be purchased from Arno Press, 3 Park Ave., NYC, 10016.

Regarding Black Encyclopedias, there is The Afro-American Encyclopedia (10 vols.)

Another set of black encyclopedias
is The International Library of
Negro Life and History (10 vols.)

Incidentally, there is a book, The Black Inventors of America, by Mc Kinley Burt, Jr. published by National Book Company, 333 S.W. Park Ave., Portland, Ore., 97205.

JAMES BROWN

HOUSTON, Tex.—Please inform Mr. Williams, and the rest of your readers, that The

Educational Book Publishers, Inc., North Miami, Fla., published in 1974, a 10-volume set of encyclopedia called Afro-American Encyclopedia.

DOROTHY H. CHAPMAN

BALTIMORE, Md.—I am the proud possessor of a set of black encyclopedia and have been for several years. It is a five-volume set containing information about various aspects of Negro Life & History.

This set is called International Library of Negro Life and History. I bought the set from a door-to-door salesperson way back in the early 70s. An address on a certificate of ownership given with the books show:

Afro-American Library Program, Standard Educational Service, 130 N. Wells St., Chicago, Ill. 60606.

ELLA WILLIAMS

## The Editor's Desk

Grand opera comes nowhere near the popularity of, say r and b, or soul, in the black community, so it came as somewhat a surprise to find a thriving grand opera company which has been existence for several years.

Noted with interest too that one of the top singers in the opera is Veronica Tyler who came out of the Baltimore school systems into such noted music schools as Peabody Institute.

Can remember when the Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper adopted Veronica, and helped sponsor her through advanced music school. When DAWN Magazine first contemplated carrying a story about Opera Ebony, we had no way of knowing she was a part of the group.

But it gives us an insight into the quality of the people who do take part in the operatic presentations of the company top flight.

If there is anyone who has never heard of Lena Horne, they obviously have been hibernating in a deep dungeon for at least 50 years. But this year, Lena an-

nounced that she is retiring from show business.

So DAWN Magazine thought it would be a bright idea to talk with her and let all of our readers have the b enefit of a recent interview with this stunning woman.

It wasn't easy, but perseverance held out and after many postponements, DAWN Magazine was able to talk to the great lady.

In answer to a query from a reader, the Black History Crossword Puzzle is done by Kenneth Brown of Philadelphia, and each one is especially done for DAWN readers.

Our thanks to the many readers who took the time and trouble to let us know about the availability of reference material on black inventors and others.

There was correspondence from many librarians across the country, who were united in the pronouncement that this soughtafter material is available at most school and public libraries.

CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Thank you DAWN Magazine, for the article by Ms. Ethel Payne on the 1980 Census. I have always respected Ms. Payne's editorials because of her succinctness. This is just one more of her many informative articles.

I particularly enjoyed the statistics on the migration of blacks prior to and following the Emancipation Proclamation, her portraits of the Census advisory group, and her comprehensive explanation on why blacks should take "only 15 minutes" to fill out the short Census questionnaire.

With this clarity of understanding, I am certain all the "doubting Thomases" (and Thomasinas, of which I was one), will be enthusiastic to complete and mail the questionnaires.

BELINDA JOHNSON

MONEY INVOLVED
PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — Money
is involved.

Is it true that Lena Horne is Leslie Uggam's mother? Thank you for setting this straight once and for all.

J. MILES

This is a new one. We are used to hearing far-fetched rumors concerning the greats and near-

#### Inside:

\*Celebenit is again in its accustomed space on Page 4.

•Grand Opera exists with a twist in Philadelphia. It is performed there by Opera Ebony — a black company. Page 6.

The gorgeous Lena Horne is about to retire from show business. A look at some of her accomplishments.

Page 11.

\*Look for Amali's 'In The Stars' on Page 18.

Entries in the Poetrie Gallerie for this month may be found on Page 21.

The roundup of national news is spotlighted on Page 23.

greats of showbusiness, but this is one we have never heard before.

At any rate, Leslie Uggams and

Lena Horne are not related. Lena does have a daughter, Gail, but that's it.

TOP PROMOTERS MIAMI, Fla.—I have just finished reading the article on "Street and Street" in the May edition of DAWN Magazine.

I am an avid jazz fan and would love to attend the festival that is being planned for Atlantic City, N.J. Can you supply me with the dates the event will take place.

HATTIE BURNETT

The festival is slated for the Fourth of July weekend at Convention Hall in Atlantic City.

# DAWN MAGAZINE

June 1980, Vol. 7 No. 5



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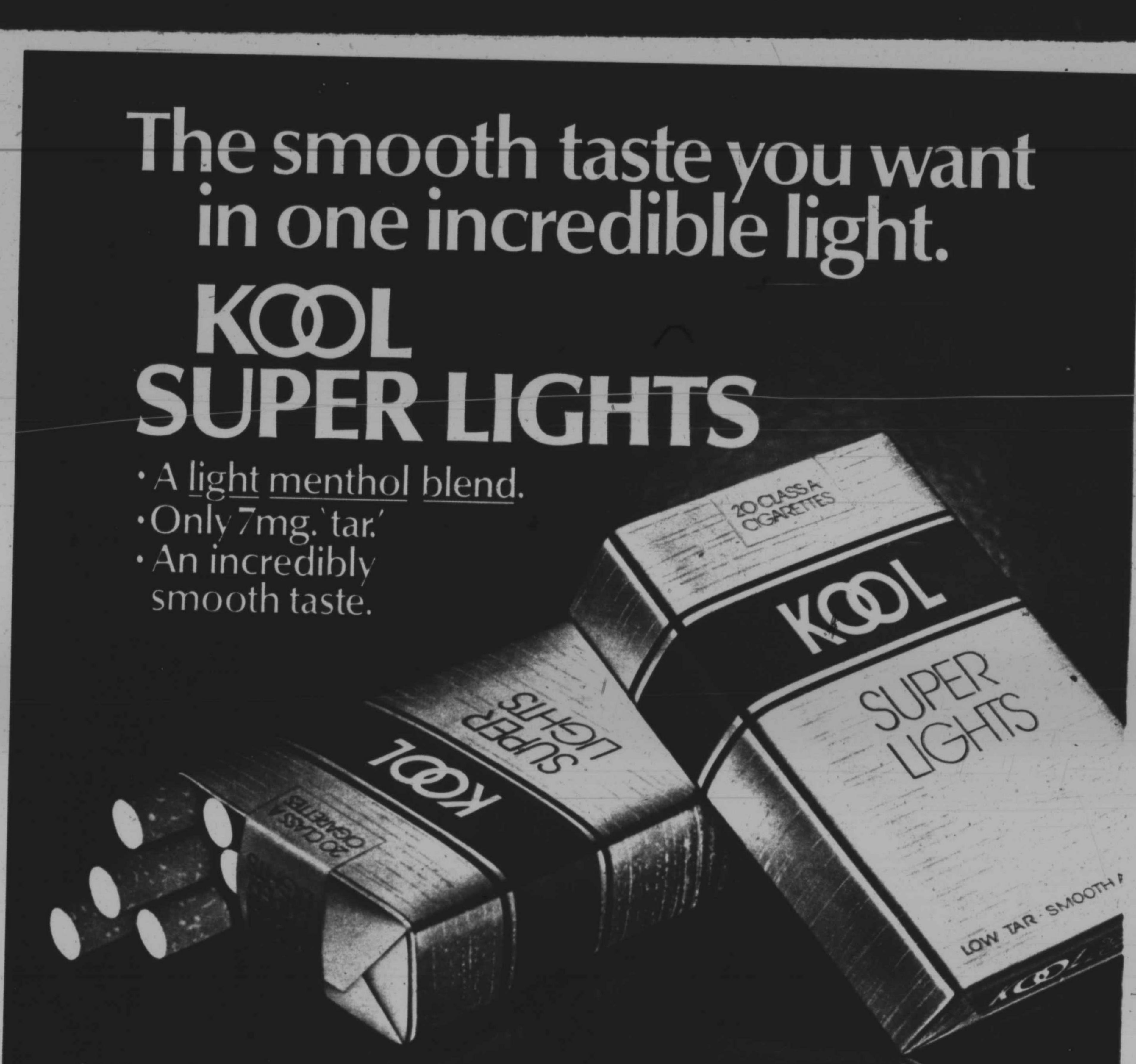
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