

So when we talk openly about our problems, we are destroying this racist myth about the inability to govern ourselves. We are in essence removing the veil of silence that has historically prevented us from recognizing our right to refuse classification based on racist and superior/inferiority schemes.

Therefore, false consciousness must be mercilessly excised. Because in doing so we are taking back our freedom to devise solutions for our own problems. We are also openly exposing the hypocrisy buried under affirmative action - which predominantly benefits white women and token "Blacks" which is a strategy to hide institutional racism and to make us forget slavery.

The slave experience is what Livingston Wedderburn correctly identifies as the soul of our history which testifies to the indestructibility of the Afrikan will to persevere. As such he points out that it cannot be compensated for with money or Trojan horses, such as technological transfers.

It is true conflicts existed in Afrika before the European imperialist scavengers arrived. These were our problems. We do not apologise for them nor am I going to sit here to try and justify them. Especially not to those who have multiplied them 10-fold in the guise of civilizing us. Not to those whose crusades, warring states period, and world wars took more human lives and caused more suffering than any Afrikan conflicts ever did.

We must never allow ourselves to be stigmatized by "black on black" racist ideology. We should never misdirect our anger and frustration into self-recrimination and guilt trips which may lead us to accept useless schemes such as drugs and alcohol rehabilitation programs, race relations committees and independent review boards. Instead, we must combat the oppressive cultural reality which retards our decision-making powers and therefore legitimize an alien presence in our house.

The question therefore, is not that if there were no problems in our community there would be no police harassment and brutality. The question is whether the problems are incentives to find our own solutions and therefore to nullify ethnocentric and paternalistic structures of domination and dependency.

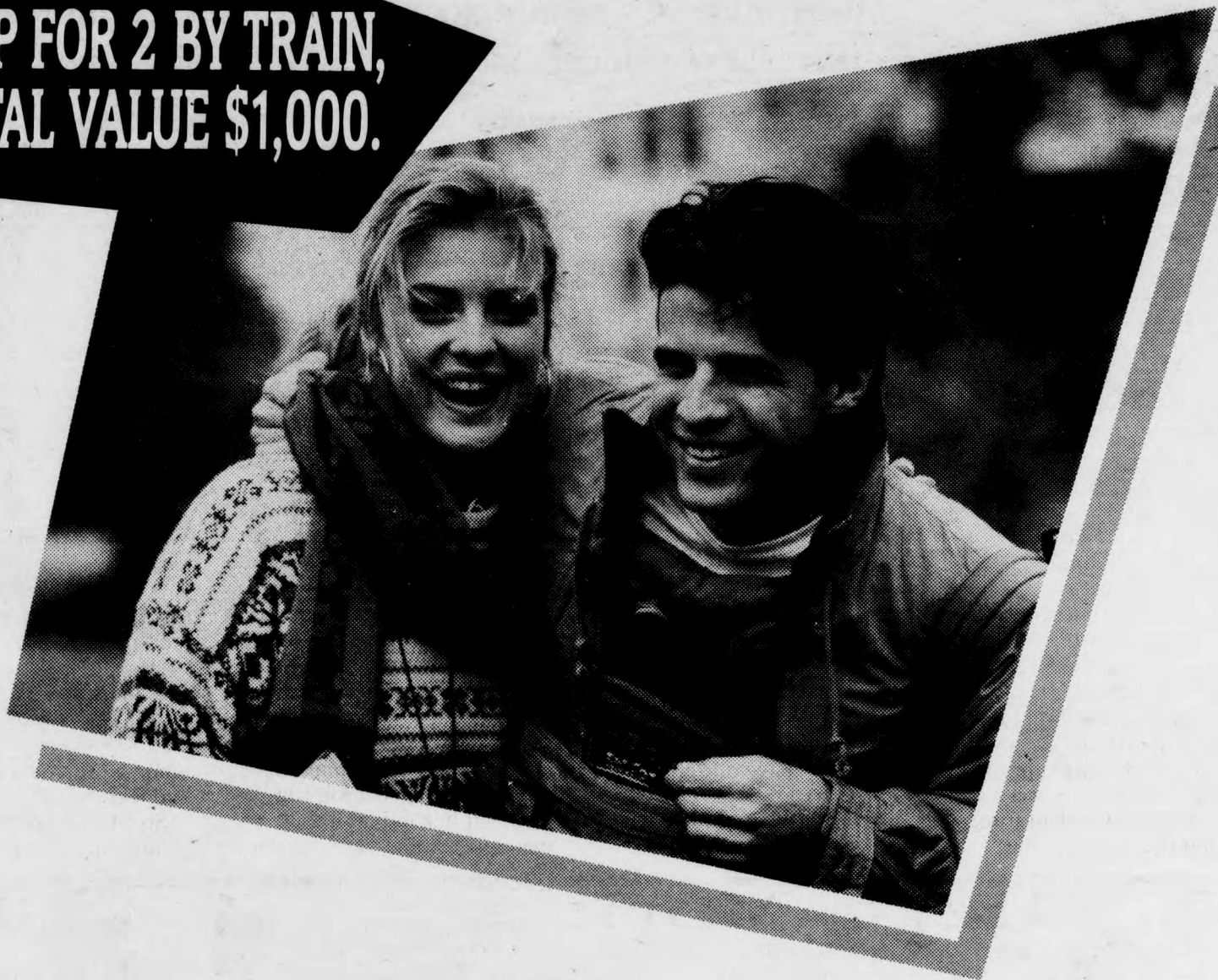
When we find our own solutions, we are in effect forcing (as opposed to begging) structural changes. We are replacing the "by any means necessary," job-seeking mentality with job-creation thinking. We are defining freedom as responsibility and self-reliance. We are, in effect, asserting that we will not be treated as children anymore.

And as we actively struggle to make it on our own, we finally realize the imperative to build on our own "indigenous" cultural institutions is the only means through which the heights of the creative genius of the Afrikan nation may once again be reached.

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