

CULTURE

Culture, we believe is a way of life and also that culture manifests itself in different and myriad facets. Colonialism has managed to inculcate slave mentality into the black people of the continent. We believe that in order to liberate the people we first got to inculcate into the people a sense of pride, and dignity consciousness, a sense of awareness, self-reliance and self-assertion.

This can be done by re-directing Art. We believe that art has a purpose, and its purpose is action it contains the energy which could change things and are therefore committed to liberating the people through the different manifestation of culture.

This commission found that it agrees with the findings of last year's cultural commission and which unfortunately because of that forces of evil of the system - intimidation and death, and bannings CULCOM could not implement most of the recommendations and suggestions tabled.

BLACK POETRY AND LITERATURE:

1. The commission felt that it can not stipulate set of rules which govern the style the poetry should adopt as this can destroy organality.
2. It is suggested that CULCOM can only direct the theme of poetry and literature geared at changing the system and liberating the people.
3. One form of doing it is suggested, that CULCOM arrange competition of writers on a relevant theme.
4. It is suggested that CULCOM should promote a Black Writers Union.
5. The commission found that there is a need to establish an independant black publishing house. This will ensure that the abundant relevant material does not lay waste and remain unknown.
6. Like any publishing house, it will have a board of directors consisting of the members of CULCOM. The board of directors shall appoint readers who of necessity shall be black, these will edit the material received,
7. The commission suggested that CULCOM meets relevant writers and poets with a view to collecting relevant works and publishing them.
8. Members of the commission who happen to be Artists viz: Dashiki, Wally, Mathe, suggested that this material be published through SASO's publication and committed themselves to selling this. The proceeds there of it was suggested should be used in establishing the said publishing house.
9. The commission found that the younger generation is being sadly neglected. To inculcate a sense of pride and black awareness the young generation writers should be encouraged to write works which would be comprehensive to children. This introduces the question of language to be su used.

MUSIC:

As a part of culture shall also be relevant and give direction situationally. However, the commission found that it cannot dictate as to the rhythm and style black music should take. Indigenous music should be promoted and encouraged.

POSSIBILITIES OF PROMOTIONS:

We envisaged a recording house of the same type as the publishing house control. This recording house will not only record music but also programs of the type presented by Dashiki and the poets.

To popularise black poetry and literature, music, fine art groups like Dashiki will use this house as a base; and arrange wagon tours round the country, popularising the programs recorded. One of the problems found would be SPONSORSHIP. The type of sponsorship we recommend is one which will ensure that the groups will be together, as much as possible without having to find employment. Musicians should be encouraged to write amongst other work, freedom songs and songs that are aimed at inculcating self-respect, pride and self-reliance in both children and adults. One idea of promotion of this, is writing a song and giving it to "infant" choirs and have them presenting it at a specially arranged competition.

CULCOM should also look into the protection of the rights of artists. Example of this, is Mdali which was formed in reaction to the white controlled SAMRO (South African Musicians rights organisations) CULCOM must contact both Mdali and SABTU in this regard.

FINE ARTS:

Should have the sole purpose of reflecting and sensitizing on the black experience with a view to inculcating consciousness, pride, dignity and respect. The work should be situational so that it would be easily understood by members of the community thus giving direction and being instrumental in change

3/ To enable the.....

To enable the artist to put his soul into the work, selling his work should not be his priority. CULCOM should be responsible for sale and distribution of the work.

One of the main places where this art should be distributed is at schools, offices of black organisations, peoples' homes.

It was strongly suggested that black artists should make portraits of relevant black leaders which should be accompanied by biographies of such leaders.

CULCOM has to look into the establishing of a black arts gallery which will serve as one of the resource centres. A "know your artists" booklet with the work of the artist, the life, the picture of the artist, should be distributed in the black community. One of the functions of the artists would be the designing of national BLACK [DRAMA] dress.

It is felt in drama, like in other works of art, we cannot give rigid standards on styles, speech, decor, etc. But it was recommended the drama being situational, should not alienate the artist from the audience in order to make an impact on the minds of the people. A classical example here would be TECON's recent Production on the "banned right".

Drama should be used as a mouthpiece by the people and for the people. Types of production the main areas that MUST CHANGE in this racist country. Sponsorship of drama is also very important.

FILM TAPE:

This could be used further to impress the message of the production. Filming should also high-light things that need must change. Brevity is important.

This could be used in a number of ways e.g. recording and filming G.S.C. This would also abviate the problem of the white press.

RESOURCE CENTERS:

Establishment of Resource centres should be look into. Materials for resource centres could be:

relevant literacy works, written as well as recorded music, drama scripts, films and tape-recordings etc. Whose distribution and care will be seen to by the person in charge.

One of the things we MUST have at resource centres are things like beadwork, and other black handicrafts. This would be used counter to the exploitation by liberal white exploitive organisations such as DEV CRAFT.

Noting that the publications director is ex-officio member of CULCOM- we have five other volunteers who are prepared to start work immediately, with the publications director.

These are:

poetry - Wally Serote
Music - Lefifi
Fine Art - Fikile
Film and tapes - Vusumuzi Mchunu
Drama - Molefe Pheto
Resource Centre - control thereof Welile Nhlape

This is subject to ratification by G.S.C.

MOTION:

THAT THIS G.S.C. noting that:

- i) the Black child is subjected to indoctrination at an early age.
- ii) the psychological impact this has on the child such that he views everything Black along negative lines.
- iii) that this being the (most) important stage at which permanent thinking patterns are formed.

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

- i) that Black poets should be urged to write relevant poems which will instill a sense of self-pride, self-love and self-identity in the children.
- ii) that private poetry workshops be established and implemented especially during weekends thus directing the energy of the youth.
- iii) that we should see to it that this poetry is distributed as far and wide as possible.
- iv) to arrange poetry-reading competitions so as to inculcate Black awareness.

Mover : P. MAJEKE

Seconder: M. MAKHALE

ABSTAINING

AGAINST

FOR

CARRIED/UNAN

NEM CON

WITHDRAWN

DEFEATED

RESOLUTION