

# New Directions

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## Poems

Editorial Staff

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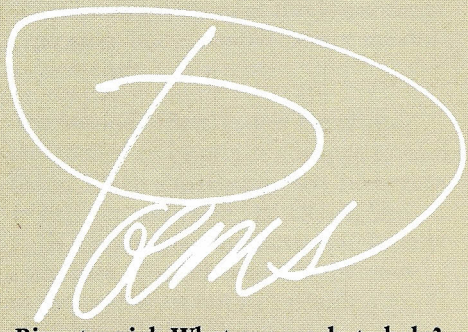
Staff Poems

We have a million everyday celebrations  
 — a lover's  
 smile is a cherished memory: Keep on  
 Doing what  
 You're doing. It sure is good to some . . .

Toni Sullivan  
 Danville, Ill.

Around the fire we danced, singing,  
 jumping,  
 And telling the tales of our lives,  
 The past, the present, and the future . . .

K. Pobbi-Asamani  
 Howard University



**Bicentennial: What can we do to help?**

We reach out continuously to those  
 that don't want to  
 be touched,  
 and love those that don't desire to  
 be loved.

We write, but no one reads.  
 We express, but no one hears.  
 We expend ourselves waiting on those  
 that never come,  
 cook dinners for guests that arrive late,  
 and who  
 are not hungry.

We work so others might eat,  
 Slave so that our own will have a home.  
 We listen and shed tears over a  
 sentimental song,  
 and remember lovers, we still wish  
 we had.

We miss our dead Aunties who were  
 more understanding,  
 and yet, we never visit their gravesites.  
 We have re-occurring dreams that old  
 so and so came  
 and took our man away.  
 But why? Is suffering so important?  
 We take the bitter with the sweet  
 cause we are strong,  
 Black, slave, loving women, chained,  
 maimed, mauled,  
 beaten, bruised, forgotten, gullible,  
 loved, limited,  
 cautious, creative, and desirable.

**Expand**

Experience your life, don't hide beneath  
 your face  
 Leave sinful thoughts behind, join  
 the human race  
 Fulfill all your dreams don't leave  
 them in a bind  
 Cause dreaming is a favor existing  
 for mankind  
 Eliminate distrust and all your  
 thoughts of hate  
 Bound loosely in your head at a golden  
 gate  
 Watch out for the blues, you know they  
 want a part  
 In your class of feelings that have no  
 end or start  
 Experience yourself while letting  
 yourself know  
 If you want to be on stage in your  
 own life show  
 Believe me I won't school you on this  
 natural act  
 That's put on by your mind and life  
 is a fact  
 So experience yourself don't live  
 your time too fast  
 Start living for the future and live  
 down all the past

Joseph Oliver  
 Arlington, Va.

**The Elephant Hunt**

All day we wandered into the forest;  
 The sun was high; the eagles were above  
 In the skies to stare at the living dead.

On and on we trekked till we could  
 see no more,  
 We made the fire, and prepared the  
 evening meal,  
 To feel fat our hunger, and rest our  
 aching feet.

Around the fire we danced,  
 Singing, jumping and telling the tale  
 of our lives;  
 The past, the present, and the future.  
 Till the king of the forest (the lion)  
 called for order.

It was time to retire, but we spoke  
 Of the big elephant, the small elephant,  
 The dead elephant, and the one which  
 got away.

**The Presidential Race**  
*(Promises, Promises!)*

I think I'll run for President!  
 Here are my credentials . . .  
 And, my fellow countrymen,  
 They're MORE than MERE  
 ESSENTIALS:

I'll pat dogs' heads and kiss all babies—  
 Thus running the risk of measles and  
 rabies!  
 Stick out your hand, and I'll shake it,  
 Ask me for cake, and I'll bake it!

I'll turn water almost into wine;  
 I'll rid the world of prejudiced swine!  
 I'll build "high-risers" up in the stars,  
 With rent-free housing on the planet  
 Mars!

I'll raise all teachers' "take-home" pay  
 To a hundred thousand dollars a day!  
 A ninety per cent tax CUT I'll propose,  
 And I'll meet *all opponents nose to nose!*  
 I'll stop all wars with a wave of my  
 hand,  
 And bring Peace and Love to our  
 troubled land!

Let me tell you, it's the WOMAN'S  
 TOUCH  
 That our country needs so much!  
 'Tis WOMAN who makes the world go  
 round;  
 'Tis SHE who'll make the dollar *sound!*

And since I am of this persuasion,  
 I take advantage of this occasion  
 To let you know that I'm *available . . .*  
 With a record *unassailable!*

My dear friends, I'll make you see  
 That I'M a MUST that JUST MUST BE!  
 THESE are things that you should  
 NOTE,  
 When it's time for you to VOTE!

So, I'm SURE I'll run for PRESIDENT!  
 I've GIVEN MY CREDENTIALS . . .  
 And, my fellow countrymen,  
 They're MORE than MERE  
 ESSENTIALS!  
 (I THANK you for LISTENING!!!)

Valerie Parks Brown  
 Washington, D. C.

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