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ECENTRIC TANTRUMS
The Last Bastion of Institutionalized Racism
Your Friendly Neighborhood Hair Salon

The *Police Gazette* has long been a proponent of the tonsorial arts and the important social role that the barber shop has played in American culture. For years the *Gazette* itself was an indispensable part of the social beehive that was the traditional American barber shop. Which is why we feel it apropos—in this age when social and racial barriers are falling, seemingly, on a weekly basis—to highlight the one area where institutionalized racism remains as firmly entrenched as ever. Yes, it is at our beloved barber shops and hair salons.

Freedom of choice is among the loftiest of American ideals and one that this publication would defend with every ounce of our vigor. If one chooses to go to a particular salon and that establishment just happens to have an all-black or all-white clientele, then so be it. But it is when the woman of African descent strolls into a salon staffed by whites and is told by them "sorry, we don't do ethnic hair," that is when we have a problem. It turns out the staff of that salon, though having attended and graduated styling school, have never been trained in the wooly ways of the African head. The well-rounded education they should have received in that school was not so well rounded after all and categorically excluded a full 13% of the American population.

The rejection the black woman faces at the white-staffed salon is akin to the rejection black home buyers faced when told as recently as the 1960s that New York City law prohibited them from living in certain neighborhoods. If the chancellor of our styling schools and academies were former Alabama governor George Wallace, we could understand. George Wallace was not shy about speaking his truth and proclaiming his belief in segregation. But what we have now is a much stealthier and more insidious form of institutionalized segregation. This malevolent malady is a present-day peek at what it must have been like for those choosing to sit in the front of a bus only to be told they couldn't because of their race.

Today's coiffeur and coiffeuse owe it to themselves to correct this hirsute injustice. And styling schools and academies must begin to require ALL students to learn how to style ALL heads before they may receive their degree or certification.



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CORRESPONDENCE
Letters from the Vault:
May 1965

MAYOR PRAISES CANCER FIGHT
 A new product to tenderize meat might need checking in your never-ending and admirable fight against cancer-causing agents in foods to which the American public is so shamelessly and so profitably exposed.

I get every issue of your wonderful *Gazette*, and let me add that without such exposés as yours the public would be much more victimized than it is.

It's too bad there are no teeth in laws that would eradicate these vicious practices, or perhaps we need more backbone in the agencies which could but don't enforce the laws we have, such as they are. Perhaps there are not enough men in these agencies to cover the entire food-processing industry.

—Ivan W. Ginther, mayor, South Bend, WA

HARMFUL CHEMICALS IN FOOD
 I was attracted to the *Police Gazette* through the articles exposing the harmful effects of many of the chemicals used in our food products.

Please let me commend you for the crusade you have conducted during the past ten years.

—Mrs. Mary Calhoun, Atlanta, GA

PREDICTED HITLER'S ESCAPE
 The escape of Adolf Hitler from embattled Berlin in 1945, exposed in the *Police Gazette*, is foretold in the book *Prophecies of Nostradamus*, of which I own a copy.

The Axis's collapse after attempting to invade on all fronts is predicted, as well as the escape of the "chief criminal," Hitler, in a submarine.

I buy your magazine every month and was interested to see that it bears out the Nostradamus prophecy which I first read in 1954.

—Celia Campbell, Portland, ME
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