

# For And About You

By Harriett Muhammad

**DEAR HARRIETT:** I am 15 years old and not allowed to date. Can you imagine such an embarrassing situation? All, simply all my buddies, can. But my mother is as unmovable on the subject as a mole is on the skin!

The other day I asked her if four of us could double-date and go to a movie and she wouldn't even go for that. All she says is "You're only 15."

How can I let her know that I can be counted on to really and truly "act my age" and behave?

—OLD ENOUGH

**DEAR MISS OLD ENOUGH:** Sorry, I'm on your mother's side most of the way. However I think that she should explain her convictions to you so that even though you may not like them now, you'll be more tolerant of the "old-school" of thought.

Let me tell you what my mother told me when I was 15 and sang the same tune: "Harriett," she said, "you are only 15 and you have your whole life in front of you. If you start dating now, by the time you're 18 you probably will have gone too many places and seen too many things — you'll have nothing new to look forward to."

Today, I look back on my situation and am very thankful to have had a mother who was firm with me, knowing that I couldn't conceive the dangers in dating too soon.

It may be that all your mother's "don'ts" would be replaced by the "go aheads"

and "it's alrights" of your peers. Herein lies the risks in dating too soon.

Your mother knows you can be counted on "to really and truly" act your age and behave—but what sort of behavior can be expected? It's not a matter of mistrust, but simply a matter of fact.

In another year or two, your comprehension of life will make itself manifest. Then your mother will probably let your own judgment be your guide.

Something on your mind? Write and tell me about it.

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If your letter has not yet been answered, it will appear in forthcoming articles.

**THE FIRST HONORARY** diploma from the University of Islam was presented to Sister Clara Muhammad, wife of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, leader and teacher of the great Islam movement in North America, at the recent graduation exercises of the University of Islam in Chicago. Sister Clara

also received a special gift from the school children of the University, presented by Salahedine Muhammad, one of the graduates. A bust of the famous black woman abolitionist, Harriet Tubman, and slides on African-American history and mathematics were presented the school as a class gift.



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