

Black Prodigy Baffles Educators

Muslim's Son Starts Reading at Age of One

(Pan African Press)

BALTIMORE — The brilliant three-year-old prodigy son of a Muslim couple here has astonished educators and skeptics alike by correctly and unhesitatingly reading material which gives trouble to the average college student.

KELVIN X, the first child of Fred X and Mary Ellen 6X (Childs), began his aston-



BLACK GENIUS, three-year-old Kelvin X (Childs), writes his name for skeptics who refuse to believe the young Muslim child can read and write at his age. He later read articles from local newspapers.

ishing reading at the age of one, when he began to talk.

"We taught him numbers and the alphabet and he learned the rest by himself," explained his mother. "Sometimes he plays with his toys for a while, then he plays with other children. Then, for no known reason, he leaves the others, picks up his books and begins reading."

His mother said she tutors him from Muslim literature, such as **MUHAMMAD SPEAKS** newspaper, "Message to the Blackman," and

"Muhammad's Children."

KELVIN QUICKLY reads headlines from local newspapers, also, such as "Mayor Orders Fair Housing," and the subheads, "Profiles: Jehovah's Ministers."

"After teaching him the alphabet," his mother said, "I noticed that he began reading advertisements, first one word, then paragraphs and eventually entire articles."

His father, Fred, said that if Kelvin misses a word, he gives him time, "then he will pronounce it and say, 'Is that right Daddy?'"

"**WHATEVER** he does," his mother said, "we praise him and give him full recognition."

His mother, Mary Ellen 6X, says sometimes Kelvin frightens her. "I forget that he is not just an average child, sometimes — but then he will do or say something which shows far too much insight for a three-year-old."

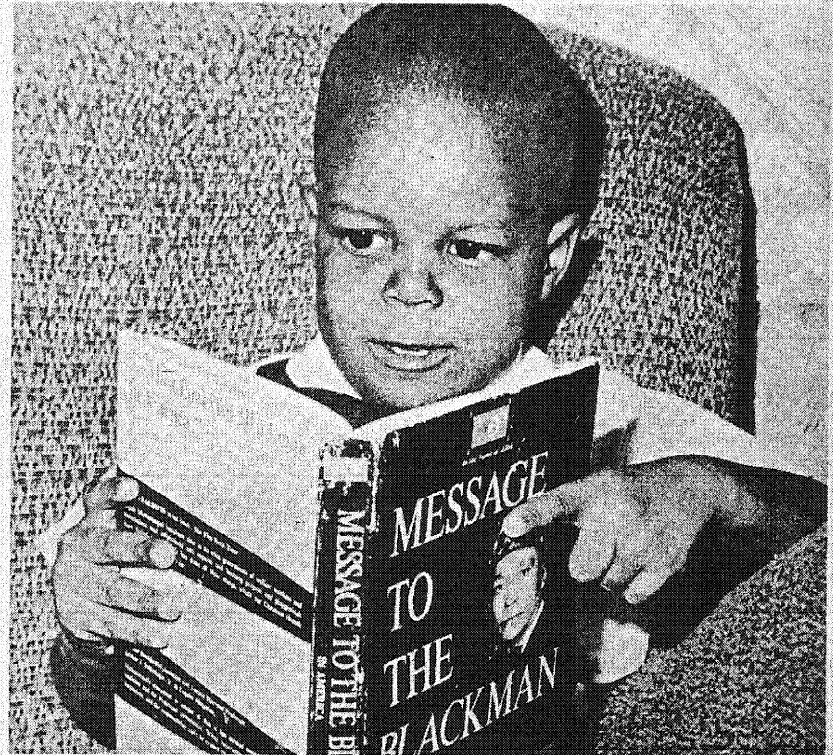
She said Kelvin continues to amaze her. "He shocked me once when I left a note on the table for my husband," she said. "He picked up the note and read every word. I really have to be extra-careful around him."

THE PRODIGY'S mother said people do not believe Kelvin can read. "That's why we let them choose their own literature to test him."

One lady who has a difficult surname still could not believe it when she asked Kelvin to read her name on her automobile license.

"Oh, my goodness," the skeptic said. "I don't believe it. He pronounced my name better than most grown people do."

KELVIN GOES further



CHILD PRODIGY, Kelvin X (Childs), son of a Muslim couple in Baltimore, practices reading from the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's enlightening book, "Message to the Blackman in America." His parents, Fred X and Mary

Ellen 6X, say they encourage the three-year-old genius to read literature of varying difficulty to broaden his outlook on life as well as his reading skill.

than this. If adults mispronounce a word or name, he is quick to correct them.

Kelvin has a two-year-old brother, Jamal, and a sister, Sharon, 20 months. His parents say the only conflict which occurs between them is when the younger children disturb Kelvin while he is reading.

"Other than that Kelvin is a normal child, running and playing with his brother and sister, who look up to him and try to imitate his actions," his father said.

"**HE TRIES** to get them to read and count like he does. If they don't, he really gets angry."

His parents say other things which disturb him are people who continue to demand that he read for them. "When he doesn't feel like reading, he says, 'I'm tired,' and he doesn't read any more."

"Sometimes, I take him to the store with me," his father said, "and he will spin the revolving bookshelf around as he reads the titles of books. Once a school-teacher looked our way and said, 'Are you sure he's only three years old?'"

HIS PARENTS are not certain what is going to happen to Kelvin. They have not yet seen anybody about sending him to a special school. They do not know his I.Q., nor his reading speed or comprehension. They do know that he

wants to start school immediately tomorrow." They lately. He is forever saying, hope he will get his wish "Mother, I want to go to very soon."

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PARENTAL ENCOURAGEMENT is considered largely responsible for the emergence of black child prodigy, Kelvin X, whose parents, Fred X and Mary Ellen 6X, both followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, said they taught Kelvin numbers and the alphabet only. Then the young genius began to read on his own.