

Islam in Tuskegee

Islam Re-educates Blacks To Become Really Free

By Sister Anna Karriem
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During the month of April, 1968, representatives of the Tuskegee Institute student body presented the Board of Trustees and President Luther H. Foster with a mandate entitled "A Black University Concept." In the mandate it was asked that Tuskegee Institute adopt a redirection of goals for the Institute as a whole and begin to instill a Black Community concept in its students. It was further stated by the students that "All Social Science disciplines at Tuskegee Institute, should be oriented in the Black Experience or a black Experience should be the frame of reference in the teaching of Economics, Sociology, History, Anthropology and Related Arts."

OPEN confrontation between the trustees, the President and students followed the presentation of this mandate among 21 other documents presented, as the students locked the trustees and President in the Institute guest house until their demands were met. The confrontation ended with the forced closing of school.

During the summer months, the President formed a Joint

Committee of student representatives, faculty personnel, and administrators to study each mandate presented and decide upon the best solution to the students demands. As a Sub-Committee studying the Black University Concept began its work they decided that a definition of a Black University was needed. The following definition was adopted from a periodical entitled *The Negro Digest*, March, 1968, P. 15:

"A Black University should be the kind of Institution best designed to provide adequate opportunities for Black teachers and students to develop their capabilities fully to serve the Black community effectively and to gain pride in and knowledge of their heritage and themselves."

The Sub-Committee accepted this working definition on the basis of the following assumptions: (1) service to the Black community is also service to the world community, and (2) a Black University may also employ some white teachers and enroll some white students just as some White Universities employ some Black teachers and enroll some Black students.

If you would analyze this definition you would see that Tuske-

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gee Institute's administration had no intention of making the Institute relevant to the needs of the Black student body. Therefore, they have continued to hire white instructors as a means of showing their white financial backers that they are not trying to be independent and do something for themselves as well as the students.

As I worked with the committee, I witnessed a deliberate effort on the part of Tuskegee officials to keep the channels of communication open to whites and to close all channels that might lead to an understanding and awareness of the great teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Messenger of Allah, who came in the person of Master Fard Muhammad, to whom praises are due forever.

WHENEVER I mentioned the name "Elijah Muhammad" the whites in the conference room would become angry and the Black administrators would show a nervous disposition. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad extended an invitation to President Luther H. Foster to come and discuss the concept of a Black University with him at his home. However, President Foster said his "summer schedule would not allow him to make such a trip."

It is my contention that the opportunity to receive the guidance of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is to be valued and cherished rather than rejected. The President of this institution is in need of guidance because he and his administrative cabinet have allowed the most inferior, deceitful and corrupt organisms (white people) on earth to come to Tuskegee and attempt to teach my beloved Black brothers and sisters.

Specifically, the humanities courses are primarily being taught by white instructors. Three students from one of these courses have come to me to find out what they should say in their class as they were discussing the question of "What does it mean to be Black?" I was told by them that their white instructor initiated this discussion and allows the Black students to converse in the classroom while he observes them. The frustration on the faces of the students who spoke with me demonstrated their constant search for guidance and knowledge of themselves.

A FEW DAYS later, I met the

instructor of this course and during my conversation with him (Hans Moening) learned how he had planned to teach the Black students in his class what it meant to be Black. The instructor began by saying that "I will teach them that Black males have a thing about white women."

When I told him of the deceit he was trying to perpetuate, he became profane. Before he could finish, I told him that he never was and never would be qualified to teach my people. I left the company of this filth requested by the administration. It cannot be denied that the beloved Black man and woman are in need of a master teacher and that teacher is none other than Allah's (God) Messenger, The Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

I later learned that the instructor had mentioned me in his class, but with the intention of teaching the students that the Muslims on campus felt superior to them. This is the same old tactic of divide and conquer. He does not realize that there is a Black student in his class who realizes that she is being taught by an inferior being and has begun to take the necessary steps to become a student of a far greater teacher, The Honorable Elijah Muhammad. All praises are due to Allah.

THE CORRUPT practices of the whites on this campus fail to make the Black administrators wake up and cast them out of their midst. The constant array of conversations I have had and continue to have with the Black students about the teachings of The Honorable Elijah Muhammad prove that the students on this campus are waking up and sensing that The Honorable Elijah Muhammad and his followers are the best companions they will ever have. The situation I described above involving the white instructor is the tragedy of what happens when Black administrations play the game of integration. This game costs the Black student more than it costs the school administration to hire whites for such a foolish purpose.

May Allah continue to guide the students of this campus toward His Messenger, The Honorable Elijah Muhammad who has prepared a place for them, the glorious Nation of Islam. All praises are due to Allah.