

Islam in Tuskegee

Sister Anna 4X Mosque No. 5

When a man discovers that a way of life and an educational system has been used to blind him to the knowledge of himself and his environment, it becomes an intelligent endeavor to seek a new way of life and a new educational system.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE strives to process black students who will fit the specifications of the American white society, i.e., a believer in American democracy, equality for all, and a desire to be accepted by the white America as a means of promoting "the highest interest of public trust"; although, I have never heard the administration specify which "public" they are referring to.

As a student at Tuskegee Institute and as one who has formerly worked with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating committee, I have had the experience of seeing my people perform back-breaking work on plantations owned by white people while the white armed look-outs prevented outside interference or any attempt by the Black field workers to become slow in performing their laborious task in the sweltering heat of the sun.

IT WAS significant to all S.N.C.C. workers in Alabama counties to get as many Black people registered to vote as possible in order to give the Black voters control of their communities wherever they were in the majority as was the case in Lowndes county.

Upon questioning residents of precincts wherein the Blacks had become intolerant of the small wages given to them, the dual system of law in their communities, and the substandard housing in which they lived, we were told of the Black families who had worked continuously over the years on the cotton and sugar cane plantations and had nev-

er been allowed to leave the land or attempt to intermingle with other Blacks in the county.

The enslavement of my people in this day and age has led me to question the purpose for which I am being "educated." As I traveled with S.N.C.C. workers in other Alabama counties for the purpose of registering Black people to vote I noticed little Black children who had injured themselves, and for lack of medical attention, the wounds had pus draining from them. I remember thinking at the time I saw these children that this sight was impossible in a land of abundant wealth.

After traveling through such places as Green, Wilcox, Lowndes, Dallas and Montgomery counties, I returned to the campus of Tuskegee Institute and began to try to understand the suffering I had seen.

AS I ATTENDED my classes, I began to question the white instructors who seemed so fond of discussing the problems of Black people. I found their answers to be sympathetic and superficial; they could offer no solution to the problem of racism because, in essence, they would be drawing the blueprint for nullifying themselves.

The most frustrating experience—for a Black student in the universities and colleges of this country occurs when he discovers that a great deal of what he is being taught is contradictory to the experiences he encounters as he moves through white society.

The white instructors who attempt to offer solutions are usually trying to disguise the truth of themselves and process a Black student incapable of recognizing their fallacies.

IT WILL take a powerful knowledge in the head of the average Black student to pull him out of the circle of lies created by the white man and into the circle of knowledge which

will give him a true knowledge of himself (The Nation of Islam).

Tuskegee Institute can not continue in its present role because the students are demanding a new direction, a direction which white America seeks to distort. If an educational institution is unable to train its students so that they can live realistically and understand themselves as well as that which goes on around them, then that institution makes itself eligible for a complete change (nationwide campus revolts).

I am thankful for the teachings of The Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Messenger of Allah (God) who came in the person of Master Fard Muhammad, to whom praises are due forever. Now, more than ever, I am convinced that the greatest educator of them all is The Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

He has given the Black people of the Nation of Islam a new way of life and a new educational system.

Thus the power of Allah is made manifest through our beloved leader and teacher. All praises are due to Allah.

Congo Stages Culture Week

BRAZZAVILLE, the Congo—The second week of a massive 'cultural festival' was completed at the Stadium of the Revolution with over 3,000 artists, athletes and culturalists from across the country participating.

THE EVENT featured popular dramas, folk dances and art exhibitions portraying the struggle waged by the Congolese for independence and its rich heritage.

Banners and placards hung around the stadium during the closing celebration summed up the purpose of the event as "for mental decolonization."