

Mind and Stuff

By Dr. Na'im Akbar

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There are so many things in the society which work in opposition to constructive mental activity. Scientists have only just begun to investigate the numerous mental contaminants which we have permitted to get out of control. As citizens of this society we must inform ourselves and demand that the mental contaminants be removed.

One of the most common of these mental contaminants is loud, noisy

music. The recent wide usage of electrical instruments has introduced a very real mental and physical danger. Doctors have recently revealed that frequent exposure to the high frequency sounds which are produced by electrical musical instruments is damaging to the hearing. There is an appreciable decline in the hearing ability and in some instances permanent damage occurs to the ear drum.

Psychologists have demonstrated that loud noises interfere with learning. They have shown that a

person exposed to loud noises immediately after learning are less capable of recalling what they have learned. Over an extended period of time, the continued exposure to loud noises begins to interfere with the ability to learn in general and ultimately serves to dull the intelligence.

Perhaps, the association between loud noises and dulled intelligence begins to explain some of the learning difficulties affecting young people these days. There have been several recent scandals of young people completing high school who have been completely unable to read. The school system has taken the blame for these defective products because of the extreme deficiency of these cases.

However, the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, N.J., producers of the widely used Scholastic Aptitude Test (S.A.T.) required by most colleges for admission, has reported a marked and general overall decline in test scores over the last five years.

There are those who claim that the decline is due to the increase in minority students taking the tests.



Na'im Akbar, Ph.D.

We would venture to suggest that the increase in noise exposure from the loud music and general noise levels in the youth environments has a great deal to do with the decrease in test performance.

Similar reports of decreases in academic achievement throughout the educational system suggest a more pervasive problem. The evidence which has been accumulated would certainly suggest some relationship between the loud music to which our youth are exposed and the decline in their mental functioning.

Leon Muhammad

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juke box discs the voice of Bessie Smith moaning "I done sold my soul to the devil/And my heart done turned to stone."

He didn't want that to happen to him. Didn't want to ever become a cold, bitter man.

"But still there was no religion for me. Only what my grandmother made up. She made me go to church, but I sure didn't want to. Church never made any sense to me. I never joined the NAACP or anything either. Not Father Divine or Daddy Grace. But when I heard Islam, I accepted it right away.

ALWAYS LOVED MUSLIMS

"From the first time I saw the Muslims I loved them," he remembers. "I loved the way they were do disciplined, and acted and dressed—with their bow ties and so forth. They were telling me who they

thought God was, and brother, I loved them."

Islam not only led Mr. Muhammad to God, literacy and peace, it also strengthened in him a desire to continue seeing more of a world which he had started to travel around as a merchant seaman.

As a seaman, he traveled to ports and cities in Germany, Egypt, Libya, Australia, England, and other countries, while working on freighters as a cook, waiter and cleaner of the living quarters for sailors.

And he never married until 1973, when he met Sis. Wageda Muhammad in Chicago.

"The day I got married, it was 11:00 a.m. down at City Hall. I felt so good, that on the way home, I just had to get off the bus and sell a little bit. I got off at 35th and King Drive. And, brother, I'm telling you—before I knew it it was 7:00 in the evening!"

Young scientist interviewed

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have been working with Dr. Gilchrist, a professor of physics at North Carolina A & T State University, assisting and doing experiments in the physics laboratory of the Department of Physics. This fall I plan to enter A & T State University as a special student in Engineering Physics until I take the Scholastic Aptitude Test. (SAT) in November. (Brother Um'rani credits the World Community of Al Islam in the West and the inspiring speeches and writings of Emam Wallace D. Muhammad with improving the quality of and putting many positive values in his life and that of his family.)

BN: When did you become a Muslim?

UM'RANI: When my parents joined the Nation of Islam in November 1973.

BN: How did that effect you?

UM'RANI: It made me happy because of the changes that occurred in my parents' lives and in my life.

BN: Brother Um'rani, when did you enter Sister Clara Muhammad Elementary and Secondary School?

UM'RANI: In January 1974. I was in the 7th grade then.

(His teachers informed this writer that he had been made to repeat the 7th grade in the public school. However, although very quiet and

very seldom saying anything unless spoken to, he made rapid and remarkable progress in his classroom work in Sister Clara Muhammad School. In the first month of his school junior year he scored on the California Achievement Test at the level of a college freshman, who has completed six months of his college studies. His teachers pointed out also that his Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test scores placed him in the upper 15 per cent nationally of all students taking the test. In addition, his teachers report that he expresses himself very well in writing and in speech, when he has something to say.)

BN: Do you have anything that you would like to say to your fellow students here and elsewhere?

UM'RANI: Yes, Sir. "If you have enough interest in something, you'll pursue it persistently and get whatever is to be gotten out of it."

To be sure, Um'rani is an unusual human being by today's standards of physical, moral, intellectual and spiritual behavior. However, there are many "Kenneth Um'rani's" all over Bilalian America. Let us, their elders, find them, encourage them, inspire them, prepare them, and present them to the world that they may remake it in accord with the natural order of things.

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