

by Bayybah Sharrief

Prior to my living at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, I never saw a group of Black people so dedicated to learning. The young adults at the university were very serious-minded.

CLASSES were held from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. The majority of the students in the faculties of Arts and Economics did not begin classes until 10 a.m. The science students primarily had their classes at 7 a.m.

I did not find students "skipping classes" or pretending to be sick, so as to be excused from their classes, as is the "norm" here in America and in western institutions of higher learning. The Sudanese university students usually went to the library when they had free periods before 2 p.m. It was a wonderful experience to be in a university of Black students who were so dedicated to learning in order to help their people.

THERE being only one university in the Republic of the Sudan, the competition to attend the university was very high, and those who were selected were honor students from all over the country. During my stay at the university, there were approximately 3,000 Sudanese students and 20 foreign students (from Uganda, Nigeria, and India).

The students in the Sudan, unlike students in America, were highly respected by the general public. They were "looked up to" by the people who knew that these were the future leaders of their country. The students knew how much their people respected them and they knew too, how very much was expected of them.

THEY WERE particularly careful of their behavior and actions in public (off campus), for they knew that the public would know that they were university students by their appearance and mannerisms.

They carried themselves with much dignity and they were very careful not to break the general laws of Islam. They very seldom participated in any sport. The European instructors at the university tried to interest the student body in what westerners term "extra curricular activities," but very seldom were these projects successful.

The university administration tried to make the life of their students as comfortable as possible so that they could study without being under any stress or strain. The university paid their students a small allowance to cover their laundry bills and personal needs. Their lodging was free.

The university was, as the students told me, a place to gain knowledge and not a place to meet for sport and play.

The university had an indoor swimming pool, but the females and the males were not allowed to swim together. The pool was open from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoons for female students to learn how to swim. No men were ever allowed in or around the building in which the swimming pool was located.

NO ONE swam in the Nile river. Although there were some sandy portions along the banks of the Nile, no one, male or female swam in the Nile. Public showing of swimmers in bathing suits was considered filthy and no one would or could expose themselves to this kind of disgrace.

The foreigners in the Sudan had their own swimming pools surrounded by a high wall and only those of their country were allowed to swim in their pools.

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for example: the Americans had a pool open for Americans only; the English had a pool open for Englishmen only; the Italians had a pool open for Italians only, etc.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad the Messenger from Allah (Who Came in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad, to Whom praises are due forever) to us has the divine message which if followed withdraws us from the filthy society of sport and play and puts us into the

reality of the vast and immense knowledge of the universe.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad has said that we, the Aboriginal Black man, are to strive for the perfection of His (Allah's) universe.

Hearing these words from this Honorable man has made me reflect on the determined and serious-minded young Sudanese university students to help their people and country.

We who follow the Honorable Elijah Muhammad are determined to help him to help our people.