

## After Montreal and Moscow...What Next?

by Fidel Essono

The ancient Greeks gave birth to the olympics as a symbol of unification in order to demonstrate the ability and competency of the body through various athletic performances. In the beginning, the olympics carried this message without endangering human relations. The great Greek civilization has discovered a tool of expression to harmoniously serve the human family. The pure meaning of the olympics had also brought a sense of athletic competition to the modern world. The political undercurrent came to the olympics when the French Baron Pierre De Coubertin established the modern games. They lost their expressive value when country identification appeared on the podium when honoring the winning athlete. Since that time, the games has had a more political tone, rather than the idea of sportsmanship that Coubertin had visions of. His idea was an organization where groups of people could come together without thoughts of prejudices of ethnic origins and creeds. A note of thanks goes to Coubertin, for he deserves much more than the insults inflicted on his cultural masterpiece. From its' inception, the olympic games has known many disappointments that has weakened its' foundation, and the spiritual quality of the organization.

Some facts such as the exclusion of the Ranijitsinhji member of the 1894 British Cricket team who was expelled because he belonged to a dirty race (Black), and for whom the coach almost lost his job for committing such an offense. In 1911, Winston Churchill, British Minister of Internal Affairs, cancelled the fight between the Black American Jack Johnson and Britain's Matt Wells. His fear was that Johnson's victory could create a feeling of superiority in the inferior race. A few years later, Adolf Hitler in the 1936 Olympic Games, refused to shake the hand of triple gold medal winner, Jesse Owens. By doing so would have contradicted his theme of the "German supreme race". The primary objective of the Olympics is to reunite people of all nations together in a symbolic event to promote understanding, peace, and brotherhood. The expression of freedom and dignity are the fundamental and basic rules of any cultural event. A violation or abuse of these principles destroy the spirit and jeopardize the future of the games.

We can see that politics has been playing an important role in the existence of the olympics by checking athlete's performances from various countries. Taking politics out of sporting events seems an impossible task, for the only reason that national flags are flown is to express ideological aspirations. The repressive apartheid policy of South Africa, which does not allow Blacks to participate in sports has excluded that country from being a part of the international sporting events. Montreal's 1976 olympic boycott was an expression of frustration of some nations by snubbing New-Zealand which readily agreed to a sports contract with South Africa, one of the predominant offenders of human rights. It seems illogical to pretend that sports comes before personal dignity. The unfairness of such a radical view does not fit the olympic purpose. It was the first olympic failure.

Four years after the Montreal Olympics, Moscow attracted international attention. Looked on as a "defender of the weak" by some third world countries, Moscow invaded Afghanistan by force, violating the independence of the country and launching an ideological conquest. That invasion generated anger and frustration from the people and countries who believe in freedom as one of the basic human rights. The dignity and respect lacking in the Moscow Olympics made by the boycott evident. Looking ahead, the sole remedy to prevent and protect the integrity of the olympics is the preservation of the basic rights of people of all nations, no matter what color, origin, and creed, because they constitute the present and future life of the Olympic Games.



### Project Outreach

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the problems that people are having in their communities in an effort to make life a little better for them.

Howard Clement, Minority Affairs Advisory Committee member, stated that his group was not only instrumental in influencing local programs, but was also involved in helping to see that minorities were better represented on the screen as well as behind the scene where the policies are made. Beverly Burke, 6 O'clock news anchor person, Ervin Hester, Producer/Host "Reel Perspectives", and Ms. Swain, were given support by the committee.

Mr. Hester stated that the most significant thing for him is that young blacks are able to see an image on television that they might want to follow. He mentioned that his son, Jeff, is currently working behind the scenes at

WTVD directing the 6 O'clock news. Jeff also directs his show.

Ms. Burke told of a classroom situation in which the teacher placed a little black girl and a little white boy in the position of newscaster during their mock news show recently. She felt that without her role as a newscaster on the 6 O'clock news the teacher would have failed to even consider that possibility.

Ms. Swain informed the group of other public affairs services that the station provides. One service is provided to any non-profit organization. They may have their logo broadcasted along with the station's ID during a day. Information concerning the broadcast may be addressed to Mr. Walter Norfleet, WTVD, P.O. Box 2009, Durham, NC 27702. Also, the station provides a trouble shooter segment which allows a reporter to investigate for the consumer any complaints that may arise.

### Teachers Test Dates

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On each full day of testing, registrants may take the Common Examinations, which measure their professional preparation and general educational background, and/or an Area Examination that measures their mastery of the subject they expect to teach.

Prospective registrants should contact the school districts in which they seek employment, state agencies in which they seek certification or licensing, their colleges, or

the appropriate educational association for advice about which examination to take and when to take them.

The NTE **Bulletin of Information** contains a list of test centers and general information about the examinations, as well as a registration form. Copies may be obtained from college placement officers, school personnel departments, or directly from National Teacher Examinations, Box 911, Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey 08541.

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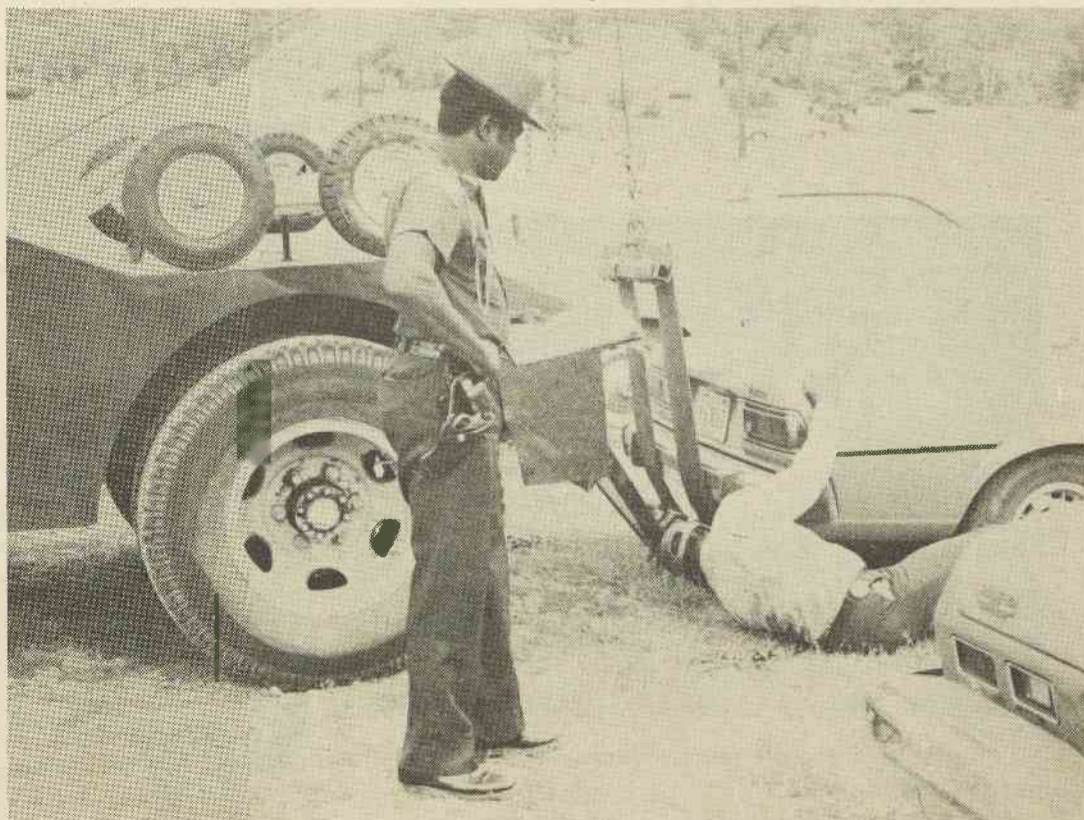
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