

Ebony Soul

By Dr. Bonnie J. Gillespie

Often as humans we fail to recognize individuals until they are no longer with us. Such is the case with the Honorable Elijah Muhammed. Born as Elijah Poole, this brother established the Black Muslim Faith. Being fashioned after the mideastern Muslim religion, (its believers sometimes called Moslems and often their faith goes by the name of Islam), the Black Muslim Religion sought to reinforce the black man's pride, blackness, and his self-helpability.

Many of the believers of this modern day black religion were former drug addicts, prisoners, and street vagrants. The Nation of Islam (another name for The Black Muslims), sought very hard and successfully to provide their followers with a sense of Black History-their history. Once potential disciples realized that the "Blue Eyed Devils" had kept them ignorant and blind about their history, they renewed their Black Muslim Faith.

Economic self sufficiency was and is a "main ingredient" in this Muslim Faith. In the "center fold" of just about every issue of **Muhammad Speaks**, The Black Muslim daily Newspaper which is published nationally, there is a series of self help admonitions, quotations, photographs, and diagrams. Such ideas like "do for self," "Stop Depending on the White Man," "Build your own community," "Respect your Women", and many other self determinant slogans, are encouraged.

The Black Muslims are considered by many to have the largest black owned and operated businesses in this country. Owning a series of restaurants, cleaners, farms, grocery stores, and other business establishments, including an Airport, the Black Muslims are estute businessmen and women. They are devout in their beliefs and unlike many of us "they practice what they preach."

Elijah Poole, a poor black man who grew up in the Detroit area, founded this religion in the late 30's and early 40's. He established a series of Mosques across the United States. Malcolm X. was perhaps his most famous minister of information. To Elijah Muhammad, we owe great thanks to his followers - who saw the need and who "Seized the opportunity". He understood white racism well. He and his followers knew that blacks were "Brothers and Sisters." They know that there is "strength in numbers" and that "sticking together" is what's needed.

Dr. Bonnie J. Gillespie is Associate Professor and Chairman, Division of Administrative and Urban Sciences at Shaw University, Raleigh, N.C. Professor Gillespie has done extensive studies on urban and community problems and needs. Readers reaction is welcomed on his biweekly column.

Rat Infested Neighborhoods Helped By Community Group

by Jean Zook

Many areas of Winston-Salem have been visited recently by what may have appeared to be the Pied Piper, the main character of the famous fairytale, **THE PIED PIPER OF HAMLIN**.

Actually, the mysterious disappearance of some of the

might live and breed; to point out ways that food supplies to the rats can be cut off; and to bait the areas completely to get rid of all rats that exist there now.

Some residents may already be familiar with the program as a result of the city wide survey currently being conducted. The survey will

of the sewer system and appropriate baiting is also

So far, cooperation from the community in the survey areas has been excellent. Many residents have complied promptly with requests for property clean-up and proper disposal of old furniture and old appliances by placing them at the curbside for free pick up by city sanitation (727-2345). Also, efforts are

being made to improve adherence to proper garbage disposal regulations and to eliminate abandoned vehicles. Their effort in combination with our baiting service has reduced rat infestation notably in many city areas.

The Community Improvement Staff is sure that with continued community support the rat infestation level can be lowered adequately to permit easier control. They encourage everyone to be a good neighbor and help clean-up the environment. Starve a rat today. Support the Community Improvement Program - Help us to help you.

For information or assistance phone Environmental Health 727-2272.



Trash and debris like this is the major cause of rat infested neighborhoods.

city's abundant rat population was not the work of the "Piper" but rather the diligent efforts of the Community Improvement Program.

The Community Improvement Program, an outgrowth of the Model Cities Variation Plan, is a joint venture of the Winston-Salem Department of Public Works and the Forsyth County Health Department. Funded by the city, the program is a comprehensive effort to accomplish rodent control and to improve environmental health.

The program's aim is to

work with residents to eliminate places where rats provide statistical information critical to identifying existing problem areas, and the maintainance level of areas presently being baited. Survey taking place.



Trash should be stacked neatly at Curb for pick-up. Help starve a rat today.

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