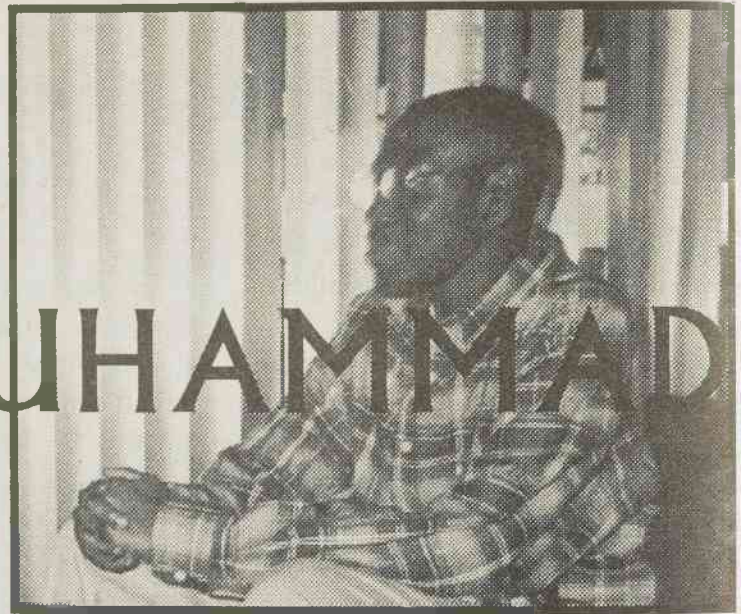


OUR BROTHER DWAYNE MUHAMMAD

BY RICHARD HARRIS
STAFF WRITER



If Dwayne X were a regular college student, his 21st birthday on March 16th would have declared him a legal adult and signified his passage into manhood. But Dwayne is not a regular student and his birthday was not as nearly important for him as Savior's Day, on Feb. 25, he received a holy name after being a member of the Nation of Islam for the past five years. Now, his name is Dwayne Muhammad, but he is still our brother.

Bi What does it mean to get a Muhammad?

D "To get a Muhammad, in the Nation of Islam, means you are worthy of praise or praised much. To get your Muhammad, you must first be registered in the Nation of Islam then do a certain amount of work. Last Savior's Day, all the brothers who had sold a thousand or more Final Calls for three consecutive issues were given the name Muhammad because they were worthy of praise for giving the word to people. But this Savior's Day, Minister Farrakhan told us that all in a specific meeting were worthy of Muhammad because of our works over all in the last year and in the Nation of Islam."

Bi Describe for me the transformation from Dwayne Eatmon to Dwayne X and then from Dwayne X to Dwayne Muhammad.

D "Okay first, when I was Dwayne Eatmon, I was blind, deaf and dumb. I was a so-called Negro, neither this or that, I was negative growth. I didn't have the knowledge of myself. In the process of becoming Dwayne X, I was in high school. So I enjoyed or had a lot of interest in

the Nation of Islam and the militancy of the Nation; that's what seems to attract a lot of young males. Dwayne X was a young man, a young adult who had more discipline, had more respect for himself and others. Now, the transformation from Dwayne X to Dwayne Muhammad was that I had come to realize that I have works to do in the Nation of Islam. Everyone in the Nation has a specific mission and we know that our mission is to help black people. So as Dwayne Muhammad, I now know that our mission is to help black people. So as Dwayne Muhammad, I now know, having the name, that I have to do the work to live up to my name."

Bi So you have a more serious approach to life and Islam now that you have a Muhammad?

D "I'm not going to necessarily say a more serious approach to life and Islam. I just know that given a name of Allah, one of the 99 attributes of Allah, being given that name, that I have to live up to that name. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad said that a good name is better than gold. So if you think about having gold, then I have to live up to that responsibility. Just like if you have a lot of money, you