

Born To Excellence?

By James Finch

The excellence of blacks in athletics is said to be the sequel of inherent traits of superior rhythm, agility, balance and coordination in the Negroid race. To what degree this is true, I can not say, but I must repute any statement which supports the ideal that excellence is biological. The belief that the higher IQ scores of whites is the sequel of the inherent trait to think abstractly in the caucasian race must be doubly reputed. Excellence in any field, by either race, is something that is scientific. We excell in that which we do most. Black babies are not born playing basketball. They are bred to play the sport. In the words of the Reverend Jessie Jackson, "All black people can't dance, rhythm ain't all we got and we play basketball well because we do it most." Basketball, being a sport that does not require expensive equipment, is played extensively by blacks. After school, children have been known to play the sport through the dinner hour and late into the night. Their white counterpart, however, is involved in more academic pursuits.

Blacks complain that it is their social background, racial practices and unfair ratings by the WASP establishment that impedes their academic achievement. The fact of the matter is that excellence comes out of burning midnight oil, going over and beyond mediocrity. Today, opportunities for blacks is greater than readiness. There is too much mediocrity. We go to sleep when we should stay up another hour. Excellence is produced through diligence.

Excellence can overcome racial barriers. No system can suppress excellence, nor can excellence be manacled. The Rev. Jackson has said that "Slaves and ignorance are co-partners" and "Knowledge is the master key."

No race is born to excellence. Excellence is the result of diligent, systematic and progressive study. And it is something that no barrier can cage and no race can for long monopolize.

It is time that we find ourselves and plant our feet in a progressive direction. Excellence doesn't mean losing one's ethnicity, rather it means securing it.

FORUM:

For Academic Hawkers

By Humphrey Osita Igwilo
Contd. From Page 3
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At this stage of the child's life, he will be able to acquire some knowledge of where his boat of interest is carrying him. Nevertheless, it is also at this period that the child requires guidance. The guidance should be external. It should be sensitive to the type of companionship and environment the child is being exposed to. At this stage of his life, the child is expected to attend kindergarten in order to obtain a childhood education. Since he has had good guidance at home, he will not find it difficult to join a school which has children from different families and places. In this school, he is exposed to the pictures of creative and destructive ambition, and will be instructed on which choice to make in life. For the school to achieve its goals it must have a good environment and teachers trained in childhood education. This is necessary because initially all the things in the new environment, including the teacher, will seem strange to the child. It is therefore the responsibility of the teacher to help the child adapt to the new environment. The child will be homesick, since the only mother and father the child sees is the teacher, who is very new to him. For example, some children who are not used to drinking water from someone else's hand will always say "take me home to my daddy and mummy whenever they are thirsty or hungry. At this time it will be observed that the child has developed some sense of discriminatory attitude. This type of attitude is not desired in the modern world. Since the child is confined to the teacher and the environment, he has no other alternative than to subject himself to the teacher and the environmental conditions. This will destroy the discriminatory attitude that the child had already started developing. Also, it is at the school, that the child will be given instructions on Christian morals, which I think is one of the basic principles of life. This school will also provide the child with self-reliance and decency. Furthermore, with constant communication or association between the parents and the teacher, the

Time To Perform

By James Finch

James Earl Carter has become our 38th President. There has been some controversy as to whether the black vote won the presidential election for the President-elect. A study conducted by the Joint Center for Political Studies showed that 6.6 million blacks had voted for Carter. This was 70 per cent of the registered blacks. Of this 70 per cent, 90 per cent voted for Carter. Whether the black vote was more valuable than that of any of the other hyphenated Americans of labor groups is irrelevant.

What is relevant is whether, Georgian, peanut farmer, engineer, Deep Southerner, Baptist, and Democrat will live up to the promises that he has made to the black people and America. The pollsters had predicted a defeat for Carter. According to them the antipathy of the American people would cause a low turn out which would be

detrimental to his election. Defying all polls, the American people turned out on election day in unanticipated numbers. The nationwide turn out of 55 per cent was unexpected. Although there have been many reasons given for this phenomenon it can not be overlooked that the prime reason was a dislike for the Ford Administration.

The American people are ready for a change. Carter is seen as energetic, full of new ideas and intelligent. Ford, on the other hand is depicted as slow, clumsy, dull-witted and status quo. The American people cast their votes for a change, not necessarily for Carter, but against Ford.

The question before us now is who is Carter? "Trust me" he told the American people and "I need your help", to black America. We have kept our part of the bargain. Black America has performed, it is now Carter's turn. Will he live up to his half of the bargain?

Letter To The Editor

By Terry McCarty

The death of Professor Edward Earl Manley, gave me a chance to see that Elizabeth City State University wasn't a close family. Students shouldn't have had to go to the University to ask for a bus to provide transportation for those students who didn't have transportation to the funeral. The administration didn't take time off to go to a fellow educator's funeral. It was sad to see that most of the departments at the

university didn't show up nor send a representative.

How can they call themselves educators or a university family? Like the old saying goes "Your true friends and family will follow you to your grave". The administrators who went didn't even bother to check as to where Mr. Manley was put to rest. They didn't know until they were told the following day that he was laid to rest in a place where I wouldn't even put the people who killed him.

A Christmas Prayer

Let us pray that strength and courage abundant be given to all who work for a world of reason and understanding; that the good that lies in every man's heart may day by day be magnified; that men will come to see more clearly not that which divides them, but that which unites them; that each hour may bring us closer to a final victory, not of nation over nation, but of man over his own evils and weakness; that the true spirit of this Christmas Season—its joy, its beauty, its hope, and above all its abiding faith—may live among us; that the blessing of peace be ours—the peace to build and grow, to live in harmony and sympathy with others, and to plan for the future with confidence.

child will be well advised on his future goals, when it is time to enter high school. Therefore, the school acts as an industry for the production of minor materials required for the production of the major commodity which will be sold in the world market or forum; hence the high productivity of professionals depend on the efficiency of childhood educators.

To Be Contd. . .



Both tennis and golf—those two popular American sports—were hardly heard of a hundred years ago. Tennis was brought to the United States in 1874, and the first golf course in America was laid out in 1888.



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