

# From the editor's desk



## editorials

### A Beautiful Black Man

By Carlton Taylor, Jr.

This month, February is Black History month in America. What is being emphasized this month, concerning blacks, is a dedication to the Historical Black America. Due to the circumstances, I chose to reflect on the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah.

Why should this man, Elijah Muhammad, be written about? He should be written about, today, because he has done some things that were not conceivable before his time.

The organization, the Nation of Islam, was and still is the only organization with the concept of nationhood in America. His beliefs as he has stated in his monumental book, *The message To The Black Man and Woman In America*, "that we must do something for ourselves or suffer the consequences."

What did he mean by this? He meant instead of depending on others to do for us, we should take the initiative ourselves.

Did he practice what he preached? Yes. The Nation of Islam was the only Black organization to build educational institutions for our people that are governed and instructed by black people. He, Elijah Muhammad, also wrote books.

For example, *Message To The Black Man and Woman In America*, *The Fall of America*, *Our Savior Has Arrived* and *How To Eat To Live*, volumes one and two.

In addition to that, the Nation of Islam structured food exchanges, factories, a printing press, land, planes and tracks to run his nation. What did this prove? This proved that we can do the same thing, my brothers and sisters.

Should we practice what he, Elijah Muhammad, preached and practiced? Yes. I believe that we should practice what was taught because this would be beneficial to us in the long run.

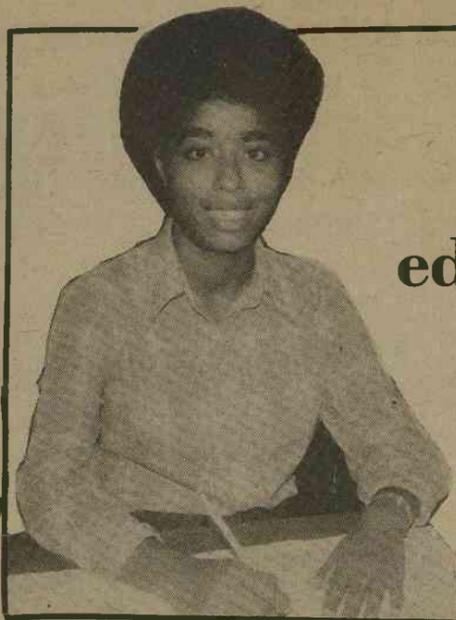
We will obtain respect from our international brothers and sisters, plus the white men. He would see that we are trying to do something for ourselves, instead of approaching him to do it for us.

And this, I believe, would lessen the racial tension instilled in the American System of Democracy. In addition, by practicing what Elijah preached, we would set a positive example for the generation of tomorrow to follow.

Finally, Elijah Muhammad stated "that unity is a must." Because without unity, politically, socially or economically, there would be no progress from us in America or the world.

This is why he stated, "that we must have a bold leadership." Because with bold leadership, we will be able to build a strong political, social, and economical foundation which is essential for our survival in America and the world.

In conclusion, let's make what our great forefathers said a reality and stop dreaming. Let's unite, instead of destroying one another. In addition, let's study the words of our Black leaders, such as Elijah Muhammad, because in their ~~teachings~~ something we can use to our advantage. This is the final call!!!



## editor's note

productive pursuits which prevent one from getting the best from our college experience, we, as young Black Americans, need to be able to maintain the highest degree of excellence ever.

With the government under the present leadership, we will suffer even greater setbacks in the years to come.

In order for us to overcome this circumstance, it is very important that we put forth our best efforts to excel in the best of our potentials. We must instill within our brothers and sisters that the high school diploma alone has very little significance in this day and time. We also need to become fully aware of the necessary requirements for EXCELLENCE. In order to maintain this kind of EXCELLENCE we must be willing and able to pay the price.

We must be convinced ourselves of the significance of EXCELLENCE. We have to demand that faculty, staff and administrators which are authorized to operate our institutions are capable and committed to our further growth and development. If not, we are letting ourselves be deprived of one of the most important resources for our further progress.

"A Mind Is A Terrible Thing To Waste!"

Sammie W. Brown  
Editor-in-Chief

As a concerned student of this institution, I feel that it is imperative that we as a student body begin to be serious about our goals and priorities and set realistic means for accomplishing them.

With our ever-changing culture and pressing economic status, an unlimited education during our undergraduate years is mandatory. In order for us to overcome the barriers which are before us, Black Americans must put more emphasis on the moral and ethical values which have brought us this far and disregard the disillusionments of White America.

One role of the Black College is to provide a quality education experience for those denied a quality pre-college experience. But, in order to sustain and increase the production of scientists, medical doctors, lawyers, etc., the mind and body must be sufficiently stable to absorb an unlimited amount of facts, theories and skills.

Instead of indulging in alcohol beverages, jive, and other counter-

## Black Economic Development

By Jerry Pennick

In this election year, as has been the case in the past, the politicians and "Black leaders" are limiting their perception of Black economic development to acquiring more jobs, that is, working for the government or the other man. That perception and related actions ultimately results in a total dependence on a salary, thus virtually eliminating any chance for real economic independence.

This is not to say that jobs are not important, however, while emphasis is being placed almost exclusively on that goal, Blacks continue to lose land at an alarming rate. Land, of course, is the best hope for any measure of economic independence for Blacks in this country, yet very little assistance by the government or "Black leadership" is being provided to protect and develop this valuable resource.

One of the most glaring examples of this neglect is the Harris Neck community on the Georgia Coast. Here was a Black community that owned over 2,000 acres of land. From the ocean and through proper utilization of that land they had become totally self-sufficient.

Yet, of all the available land in the area, the government chose to take theirs to construct an airbase during World War II. Naturally, the "promise" was made to return the land once it was no longer needed for military purposes. Of course it was never returned, and since that time, has been used to raise cattle, as a wildlife refuge and will be open to hunters in September of this year.

No consideration has been given to the owners and their children, no attempt was made to return their land, so that they could once again be economically independent and escape the grasp of poverty, joblessness and underemployment.

When the children and grandchildren of the original owners of those 2,000 acres decided that they wanted to regain what was taken from them, the issue at first was a very popular one. All of the major newspapers, television and radio stations did extensive coverage of the various marches, sit-ins, etc...

During this period of constant media coverage and publicity, there was no shortage of politicians and "Black leaders." Once the media left and it was time to work and raise money, only the faithful were left, and they were very few.

The point is, that the politicians and leaders do not see Harris Neck as a problem that goes beyond that small community and touches the entire Black population of this country. They do not understand or do not care that the retention and proper utilization of land creates political as well as economic independence.

Harris Neck to one degree or another is happening throughout the southeastern United States. If a concentrated effort to stop the rectify these occurrences on the part of the government and Black leadership is not launched soon, there will be no Black owned land and not even a dream of economic independence.

Could the lack of emphasis on real

Black economic development be intentional? Could the politicians and leaders be so naive as not to recognize the importance of land-ownership in any economic development? These are just two of the questions that all Blacks, especially those who own or aspire to own land, must answer.

Extensive lip service has been given to the land related problems of Blacks over the past few years, however, those problems have never been allowed to take the form of a viable and meaningful issue that would demand a commitment from those in a position to deal with it.

No matter what organizations like the Emergency Land Fund, the National Association of Landowners, Southern Cooperative Development Fund, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, etc...do in this area, unless that commitment on the part of the government, politicians and "Black leaders" is forthcoming, Black land loss and hopes for the future will continue to fade until neither is left.

The choice is ours, salary dependence or economic independence. Both are important, however, it must be decided which takes priority, and that decision cannot be made by the politicians or "leaders." It must be made by the people most affected.

Once the decision is made, then the politicians and leaders must be given a mandate to honor that decision and work toward that goal.

Jerry Pennick is executive director of the Emergency Land Fund.

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