

EDITORIAL

Stark reality faces the Students Government Association President, Sean Mack. Decisive leadership is important in bringing change to the S.G.A. and addressing student concerns that have been neglected by previous administrations.

Mr. Mack acknowledged this importance in his speech at the installation ceremony of S.G.A. officers.

"I bring you new leadership with an agenda of change. There's a new sheriff in town and those in our way should step aside," said Mack.

Yet to merely talk about the need for new leadership and change is not enough, because, as we all know, action speaks louder than words. As one student put it, "Sean talked a lot but said little." Already students are weary of inflated rhetoric and expect a lot from Mack.

Also, our sheriff enters office shadowed by several festering internal problems, which include the composition of his executive cabinet, and an unconstitutionally appointed chief justice. It is vital that he addresses these questions before he introduces his reform

package. Such action would be a positive step toward restoring his credibility with the student body.

Although Mack did not mention any specifics on his agenda, it is a comforting thought that he recognizes the need for change. Granted, it will take some time before Mack restores law and order, especially in light of the problems he faces.

It would be a mistake to set an unrealistic agenda. Mack must remember that the S.G.A. is an organization of the students, by the students, and for the students. Therefore, he must focus on student concerns, such as academic matters, dormitory conditions, and complaints about the cafeteria.

Mack must avoid using the "Tap option" - turning the water on and off to suit the S.G.A. disposition.

Despite his speech, our student president knows the fundamental issue is not rhetoric but how he performs this year. What confronts Mack is whether he will act decisively or whether he will add meaning to the saying that talk is cheap.

Good luck, Mr. Mack!

Until recently, when I stumbled on some narrowly circulated literature concerning Black history called "His - storical Lies and Myths that Mis - educate Black People" by Zak A. Kondo, it had been my belief that previous accounts of history were totally accurate. For instance, we were all taught that the first Africans came to the continental Americas as slaves. However, according to Kondo, long before Columbus and other Europeans visited America as traders and explorers, the Spaniards reported of an African kingdom in the Americas called Darien. In addition, even those Africans brought to America by the English and the Dutch came as indentured servants and not as slaves (see Leo Wiener's *Africa and the Discovery of America*). This is not to say that what we were taught is totally wrong, but imagine how much more knowledgeable we would be, if all available sources are used in our quest for truth. Until all aspects of history and other issues are explored, one's knowledge in that particular area is not only limited, but also biased. To support a race discounting or discrediting another race because of what was done to them is not only wrong, but shows that the offender is no better than the one he offends. This is not a cry to "let's just get along", instead it is one that stresses the need for respect - respect for who you are as an individual; respect for the great ones that fought in the past, allowing us all to hold our heads up high as we walk; yes, respect even for those who were led to believe that one race is better than another.

One of the most effective ways this can be achieved is through becoming more educated about who we are, where we come from, and,

most importantly, where we are going. A small glance at the many accomplishments of the past, for example those of Booker T. Washington, W. E. DeBois or Benjamin Banneker, leads one to ask how far mankind would have reached if only this impediment were not present. Can you imagine how many geniuses, inventors and other pioneers, and how much more information would be at our disposal today?

Is there a practical side to segregation? Is it really the force that has propelled humanity to the heights it has reached at present? Without the segregating of the races, those civil rights leaders and reformers would not have a cause for which to fight. The many intellectual thoughts and inventions by Blacks to prove they are equal would not be of the same significance.

While the former may be a thought to ponder on, consider this: is it not the ultimate goal of all human beings to survive and to strive for the total betterment of mankind? It is my belief that segregation in any form takes away from this goal. Can we fulfill this task with such a narrow-minded view about the unknown facts around us? I think not. With the existence of segregation, we are dealt a crippling blow that hinders us from moving forward. Our society should let go of its many set-backs, like segregation, and allow itself to move freely toward total advancement.

In other words, it is only when this issue, and countless others that are often swept under the carpet, are at least investigated that we can as human beings fearlessly search for and indeed find that higher knowledge and power that we all seek.

POINT OF VIEW

It was one said that ignorance deprives a person of freedom, since one does not know what alternatives are open to one. Given this fact, it would be impossible to choose from what one does not know. Because of the existence of segregation within our 'educated' society, human beings as a whole have been denied entry to the vast temples of knowledge available to them. Segregation closes the mind's eye toward alternative points of view, limiting one to seeing, believing, and accepting one sect - that being the most favored sect. Is there no redeeming virtue in a rejected sect?

I believe there is. In every rejected sect there are qualities that can greatly enhance the value and efficiency of any accepted sect. It is only through a mind open to all things that an individual could become as productive, both intellectually and physically, as human capabilities allow.

While there are many cases where segregation is practiced, let us examine the most active case: the case of races. Although it has been argued that this practice has been greatly discouraged, its total discontinuation is the goal we should strive for.

Quote of the month.

Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some hire public relations officers.

Daniel Boorstine, *The Image*, 1962

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