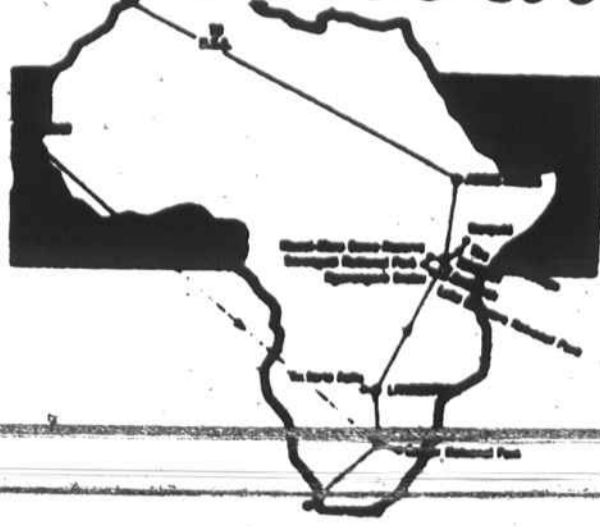


African Spotlight by Robena Egemonye

Oshun Festival



The Oshun Festival in the town of Oshogbo, Nigeria, comes only once a year but this traditional festival is known for its uniqueness. In Oshogbo, Oshun is a symbol of unity, tradition, and custom so Molems and Christians celebrate it together.

The people of Oshogbo believe that their town cannot survive if they fail to offer sacrifice to the Oshun goddess. They believe that if townfolk are successful it is because of the Oshun goddess. So during the festival, Oshogbo folk at home and even those away join to make merry, offer gifts and make pledges before the Oshun shrine. They pray for blessing, prospective good, unity in government and development. Farmers pray seriously for high food production while women, especially the barren ones, plead with the Oshun goddess to give them children.

Fish is the symbol for the Oshun goddess and the Oshun is the most

ceremonious and the biggest for the Ataoja celebrant. The Ataoja wears his crown once in a year and this is during the festival. It is the time for him to consult the spirits of all sixteen gods and goddesses in whose hands the destiny of Oshogbo lies. It is also when the Ataoja meets again and pays homage to all his forefathers and all the previous Ataojas. The Oshun festival is also a chance for people to pay homage to the A-

taoja and a chance for people to see custom in an almost pure form. It is interesting to note how much the people dote on this August festival. It is believed that since the Oshun goddess came the town has had peace and prosperity and so the festival lasts for several days. The traditional "Iwo Popo" day, is meant to clear roads for visitors and to declare the festival open. On this first day, the Oba leads the tradi-

tional chiefs and members of the royal family round the major streets in the town to declare the festival has begun. Next, on "Oloju merindinlagam lamp" day the Oba dances round the shrine 21 times and consults with all the spirits and shrines in the town.

Finally on the Oshun day, which is the climax, the Oba consults with all the departed former Ataojas in their shrines, pays homage to them, asks for their protection and offers sacrifice to the Oshun goddess. The animals usually are such animals as lambs or cows. The Oba or as he is known during this special festival, the Ataoja, believes that the Oshun goddess is so powerful that he offers sacrifices to it every five days and that the goddess is consulted at that time. Obviously, one can tell that Nigeria is a country of strong cultural beliefs and even at this modern juncture remains lost in time.

Accuracy In Business

By Naomi C. McLean
Business Writer



Have you ever stopped to think about the qualities that mark off the person who is superior in business or any professions?

First, such a person always works thoughtfully. He keeps his mind on what he is doing. He does not allow extraneous matters to intrude. Never content with working in a listless way, he is always doing the work in which he is engaged and about its relation to the business or engaged profession.

Why is it that so many people seem to be content to go on day after day with the least possible expenditure of real thought? The reason is that thinking is hard work, and the shirkers are so constituted that they try to avoid hard work. We are born with some characteristics, but the will to work is not one of them. It is a trait we have to cultivate. Every person who ever amounts to anything wants to do his share of the work required in the situation in which he finds himself.

It is not enough, however, merely to keep busy; it is also vitally important that we work with all our mind and thought concentrated on what we are doing.

In addition to developing the trait of working thoughtfully, we need also to learn to work accurately. In this workaday world there is no substitute for accuracy. If it could be realized how much trouble results when work isn't done accurately, the basic value of accuracy would be understood better.

Let it be understood, no one is born with the quality of accuracy. It is a habit that has to be developed by each person.

One way to acquire any habit is simple enough: If our mind is fixed on the skill we are seeking to cultivate, and we don't allow any exceptions to occur, accuracy is the answer. Of course, if exceptions or errors do occur

in spite of everything, we need to make every effort to eradicate those errors by doing the work in the right way until that right way becomes fixed in our mind and imbedded in our thought.

Too, we need to learn to work conscientiously. Too many people work by fits and starts; they begin something and then they allow themselves to be distracted. The results are, they get nowhere because they fritter away their time.

No work of any kind gets done by itself; somebody must stay at the work as long as necessary to bring it to the right conclusion. There are plenty of people who start well enough, but thereafter

relatively few who realize that it is keeping on which gets work done.

If we want to accomplish our plans, we must learn to work thoughtfully accurately, and continuously. When we have mastered these basic qualities, our minds can reach out and bring in new ideas. We can develop along with accuracy, initiative which simply means the ability to see

what should be done and finding ways of doing it. Accuracy in business is a must, and there is no substitute.



A module of the shuttle orbiter was explained by Curtis Graves [third from left] NASA's Director of Community Affairs Division and Larry Bilbrough [fourth from left] a Space Education Specialist to Dorothy Height, National President of the National Council of Negro Women as Harrison Allen, [left] of NASA Lewis research Center, Grace Phillips of the National Council of Negro Women and Dr. Harriett Jenkins, NASA's Assistant Administrator for Equal Opportunity Programs look on.

NASA Host NCNW Symposium

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration hosted a symposium for the National Council of Negro Women at its Goddard Space Flight Center at Greenbelt, Maryland on November 7-9, 1977.

The symposium called "A Place in Space" attracted some 600 students from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area as well as from across the country. The sessions which also included a briefing for guidance counselors, teachers and administrators was held in conjunction with the National Council of Negro Women's national convention in Washington, D.C.

The general purpose of the symposium was to acquaint the participants with NASA missions and increase their awareness of career opportunities in science, engineering, and space-related occupations.

Dr. Robert Frosch, Administrator of NASA in his welcoming remarks stressed the capabilities of this space agency in the communication field. He said, "those persons seeking careers in science

and technology will be in demand and command high salaries in the years to come."

Ms. Dorothy Height, National President of the National Council of Negro Women said that, "the National Council has continued to follow the legacy of its founder, Mary McLeod Bethune by making young people its main concern."

The three day sessions involved 200 students per day in a full day of orientation, small group briefings and demonstration-exhibits.

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To Meet Monday, Nov. 21, 1977 At 7:00 p.m.
At Bethlehem Holiness Apostolic Church
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Then Refreshments Will Be Served.
Virginia K. Newell