

Dr. Durante:

Our Model Of Excellence Should Be Promoted In Homes

By Teresa Simmons
Post Staff Writer

"Schools are meant to bring us together as one people...as Americans. As blacks, we are Americans plus something else. That something else is what we must do for ourselves. It is the duty of the church and home to promote our models of excellence in science, religion and other fields. It is important that we instill in our youngsters the importance of knowledge and of being the best."

-Spencer Durante,
'84 Post Achiever

From this statement alone, one receives a vivid image of a man closely related to ancient philosophers; one who gives deep thought to the ailments of either a great race or society in general.

In Spencer Durante's case, his depiction of the black race comes from over a half century experience in the profession of education.

From being principal of Second Ward High School, to teaching future instructors in Nigeria, Durante has been dealing with students on both ends of the spectrum: ones who want to learn and those who don't.

"The most disheartening situation for me is to see a youngster not take the advantage of his talents and opportunities," Durante explained.

Even though Durante sees that there are youngsters who are stimulated and inspired to achieve high goals for themselves,

CPCCTo Offer

Short Winter

Sessions

For the first time, CPCCT will offer concentrated winter courses, beginning February 16, in the middle of the current winter term. Full credit hours are involved, but for compressed times.

The courses are arranged for those who missed regular January registration, or who may want to take courses in the early morning before work. Others may like early evening classes, or weekend classes.

Over 165 courses will be listed in a full-page announcement in this weekend's newspapers. Registration is at the first class meeting, whether on-campus or in neighborhood locations, such as high schools.



Spencer Durante
...JCSU professor

he does not try to paint a false scenario. "There are inspired blacks who have high levels of academic excellence but this is not in large numbers."

In light of this, Durante's philosophy of education was revealed: "Education is the source of advancement of our civilization. Jefferson once said 'If a nation expects to be free without education, it expects the impossible.'"

As a professor at one of the most well-known black universities, Durante expressed his feelings about education and the importance of black universities.

"Johnson C. Smith and others are vital parts of our cultural society. These institutions represent resources we can't do without. They are both viable and greatly needed."

A graduate of Shaw University with a Bachelor

of Science in Chemistry, Science and Mathematics, Durante is far from being pessimistic about the education field of today:

"My first goal was medicine. But during those times one may have started out with a certain goal and because of financial resources, one may have had to change these goals. There were no grants. Institutions did have work programs and five year programs for those who had to work their way through college. The opportunities are much greater today."

The profession of education is growing in regards to respect and salary according to Durante. "Research has revealed that during the late 80's, there will be a demand for teachers, greater salaries, better benefits and status. Even today certain fields are in desperate need of teachers: mathematics, science and bi-lingual subjects. In the future, teach-

ing will become a more attractive profession despite present, negative publicity.

Durante, a professor at Johnson C. Smith since 1976 is married to Rosalie Jolly Durante, a retired teacher and also a graduate of Shaw University. They have three sons: Dr. Spencer Durante, Jr., Rev. Reginald Durante and Dwight Durante, also an educator.

Durante's life has been committed to confirming

that higher education is a step toward freedom. As Black History Month slips through our memories, it is important that its message does not.

Dr. Durante received his Master's degree in Education and Public School Administration from the University of Pennsylvania, and his Doctorate in Administration and Curriculum from the same university.

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