

Inspired by Muhammad's Teachings:

New York Black Co-Eds Quit Mini-Skirts; Discover New Dignity in Modest Attire

By James L. 4X
(Muhammad Speaks New York Bureau)
NEW YORK — In the midst of campus disorder, demonstrations, fighting, building takeovers and building burnings on New York University's Bronx campus, a number of Black female students have taken a stand in behalf of modesty.

A GROUP OF young co-eds have taken upon themselves a "challenge," which they accepted from a Muslim brother. Brother Jerry 10X of Muhammad's Mosque 7-D, formerly a NYU student and a star on its basketball team, while visiting his old alma mater some time ago was confronted by a group of Black co-eds, most of whom belonged to a Black student organization named "Katara" (which is a swahili word meaning revolution).

The co-eds questioned Brother Jerry about the program of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Eighteen-year-old Darlene Booth recalled that Brother Jerry explained a lot of Mr. Muhammad's program and it struck a responsive cord with most of them.

"He said, 'the Black man has gone just about as far as he could go by himself,' and that 'it is definitely time for the Black woman to get behind him and boost him,'" Miss Booth stated. "When we asked him how could we boost our men, he replied that 'one good way was to let the Black man know that you demand respect from all people.'"

"HE EXPLAINED that the best way to do this was to lower our garments. He challenged us to 'try the long dress just once—and so we did,'" said Miss Booth, a freshman who was born in Kingston, Jamaica in the West Indies.

WHEN BROTHER Jerry challenged the Black-female colleagues to wear their garments long, they did not have any long clothes. They were determined to use what they had and all they had were long-lengths of material. "So we wrapped the material around us and went outside," said Miss Booth. "The other students looked amazed at the attire we were experimenting in."

The change was not accepted immediately by other students. There was an undercurrent of "what are they trying to do?" Then Mrs. Booth and others talked to more Afro-American co-eds, and they tried it, too. "Later we visited the mosque," said Miss Booth. "That's when we realized that this is it, that this just has to be, so we decided that we'll just have to do it."

When asked whether she believed that wearing long gar-

ments can eventually become the thing to do among other Black students, Miss Booth replied, "Yes! As time goes by many more Black co-eds will adopt the long garment. This I am sure of," she said.

"DO YOU THINK other Black girls like to see you and your friends in your long garments?" Miss Booth quickly replied, "I know they like it! A number of the girls who want to wear their clothes ankle-length do not have the money for material at the present time, but will soon be making their own clothes."

"I, myself, did not know how to sew too well. But, since I put on my first long garment, I hurried to learn. Now we make our own clothes the way we want to make them and at the same time we save money on every garment."

Another NYU freshman, Iris Joseph, 19, was born and still lives in Harlem. She said "when I wear my garments long, it makes me realize what my true state is to be, and that it is to be a woman—and more than just a woman—but a Black woman. I also feel more reserved, more calm and I respect myself more because I know other people respect me."

"EVEN THE BOYS respect me more," she continued. "They give me a seat now. They ask me is there anything they can help me with. They used to play a lot. They used to try to sound on us and talk condescendingly about our hair, clothes and so on. They used to greet us with 'Hello Ugly,' now they greet us with 'As-Salaam-Alaikum.'"

Going on, she said, "even people I have never seen before tell me, in a respectful manner, that I look very nice. They just can't seem to compliment me enough. And, when a sister asks me why I wear my dresses long, I explain to her that this is one of the ways that we, as Black women, can help our men lift us up higher."

"Whenever whites ask me the

same question, I tell them 'because I like to wear them like this.'"

She also revealed that Miss Booth and she often spend considerable time discussing their new dressing manner with other interested Black female colleagues at NYU.

"WE TALK WITH them," Miss Joseph declared, "because so many Black women are wearing mini-skirts and need to actually be taught, just as we had to be instructed by Brother Jerry and the ministers at the Mosque."

Since Misses Booth and Joseph and about a dozen other Black co-eds at NYU began to wear their clothes ankle-length all of the time, they sparked a new clothes trend on the campus. "It is catching on bit by bit," said Miss Joseph. "With all of the problems we are faced with in this university, it is a blessing that we have been introduced to something that says 'we are really Black and proud.'"

Many young Black men at NYU are also waking up. A host of male collegians have visited the mosque and are processing to become Muslims. One who has already succeeded is Brother James C. 82X.

ACCOMPANYING THIS reporter to the NYU campus was his wife, Muslim Sister Ivylyn X. As they strolled in the wide-open field of fresh-smelling green grass on the campus, along came Brother James C. 82X, with a welcome 'As-Salaam-Alaikum.' All present replied, 'Wa-Alaikum-Salaam.'

Though the NYU co-eds have been wearing their clothes ankle-length for some six weeks, they easily blended in with Sister Ivylyn X, who has been wearing her garments ankle-length for over six years.

"Modesty is easy to attain in no limit of time." As the group strolled and talked, Darlene Booth excitedly broke in with—"I believe everything Mr. Muhammad says. I can't wait to become a Muslim."



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY co-eds wear modest, ankle-length garments in front of Gould Memorial Library as they converse with Sister Ivylyn X, (right) of Muhammad's New York Mosque No. 7. Black co-eds Iris Joseph (left) and Darlene Booth (center) feel the influence of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's teachings of righteousness is making ever-greater impact on the campuses of America. (Photo by Brother James X)

U.S. Pullout of Viet: Castro

Premier Fidel Castro and the leading representative of the Viet Cong at the Paris negotiations, called upon the United States today to pull out of South Viet Nam immediately and accept the other Viet Cong conditions for peace.

The negotiator, Tran Bui Kiem, was Dr. Castro's honored guest in a three hour ceremony held in Havana's Revolutionary Square recently. Both gentlemen termed Nelson Rockefeller's South America tour a "disaster" for the United States.

Adults Reject Study on Violence In U.S.

People in the United States are having great difficulty accepting that America is a violent society. A recently concluded poll indicated that 66.1 per cent of those polled disagree with the finding of a presidential commission that Americans are "a rather bloody-minded people" who "think violence is an ultimate solution to social problems."

The grievances and satisfactions of violence have so reinforced one another that we have become a rather bloody-minded people in both action and reaction."

THE REPORT under discussion was the National Commission on the Causes and Preven-

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