

Speaker is 5/21/68

Not Black Muslims-, Says Fain

By MILT HAITEMA
Staff Writer

The Admiral High School teacher, whose religious society is sponsoring the appearance of Black Muslim leader Theodore X, said today his group is not affiliated with that sect.

"Our society welcomes members of all faiths," Benjamin D. Fain said. "We have invited the Muslim leader so he can tell us about his faith but we are not affiliated with the Muslims."

THEODORE X of Cleveland will appear at King high tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. Fain of 2123 Ashland Ave., an English teacher at King high, today revealed his reasons for forming the Eclectic Religious Society about 10 years ago.

Two major influences, he said, were his opinion that Christians fail to live as they preach and the life of Mahatma Ghandi.

"I was brought up a Baptist," Fain said. "My parents were very devout Christians so I had a deep feeling for religion."

"But I guess I looked at it negatively. I saw so many things that should have been practised but were not. Christians just didn't live what they preached," he said.

Fain said he saw people carrying crosses to identify themselves as Christians but by their actions they couldn't be separated from the others.

"WHAT REALLY got me thinking about religion was a book I read on the life of Mahatma Ghandi," Fain said. "He lived like Christ yet he was stripped of divinity. I always had been taught that only a divine person could live that type of life. Yet, here was a man in our own time who did it."

Then he said he read about Buddhism. Here he found a man who lived and taught much like Christ but 500 years before him.

As a result of his study of various religions, Fain said, he formed the Eclectic Religious Society.

"We took the best of each religion and put them together," he said.

Fain claims the society has some 11,000 members in the country and about 1,500 in the Lorain area.

He is the Proclaimer, a position he described as similar to that of the Pope for the Catholics. The society has no central meeting places but meets at the homes of various members.

Fain received his bachelor of science degree from Bluefield State College, at Bluefield, W. Va., and his master's from Marshall University, Huntington, W. Va.

He taught at Mary Holmes Junior College at West Point, Miss., in 1951; at Mount Bayou (Miss.) High School in 1952; and Sumpter College, S.C., in 1953. He came to Lorain in 1954 and taught at Hawthorne Junior High until 1961 when he was transferred to Admiral King.

He was in the Navy for 34 months.

ACCORDING TO literature describing the society, Eclecticism is a philosophical religious movement initiated by the Proclaimer of Eternal Oneness and the Seal of Destiny whose mission is to generate the spirit of the meek, inspire the shiftless and stir the passive uniting them under a common banner.

Mono is the name given to its highest being which to the Christian would be God and to Muslims would be Allah. The Proclaimer is described as the Right Hand of Mono.



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