

# Americans?

TO THE EDITOR:

I read with great interest the Nov. 6 letter of William Cain. Coming from a small rural Iowa community, I had not had the experience or benefits of co-racial living till my arrival at Iowa State.

I admit to no more nor no less prejudice than anyone else from a similar background. However, I do feel that the Negro (or black) students I do know do not subscribe to Mr. Cain's prophetic words, which indicates that the gospel of Carlos and Smith has found a new disciple.

Several points have always bothered me about this busi-

ness of civil rights . . . or should I say human rights because that is what is really the issue.

- What is the correct phrase to describe the so-called "Negro"? Black, black student, colored, Afro-American? I would like to suggest the simple, old-fashioned word . . . American —after all, it ends in "I can", which seems to be the very thing these people are trying to prove.
- Black power movements and the like, appear on the surface at least, to demand special rather than equal opportunity for the black race. Violence is inherent-

ly unequal.

- Being a former athlete and aiming toward a teaching - coaching career, I am sickened by the fact that any athlete regardless of color uses his moments in the public spotlight as a sounding board for a moral - political problem. The gridiron, the hardwood, or in any athletic environment people are accepted for what they are. In essence, the play of the athlete is indicative of the caliber of individual he is.
- Insulting the American flag, such as Smith and Carlos and what William Cain hints is on hand, is kicking in the face the the very country which they have been a very important part of since 1679 and if our roots go back far enough—the 25th dynasty of Egypt. Failing to recognize and respect the flag is rapping the very system which allows them this expression. Thank God, Mr. Cain, you live in the United States and can compete in athletics and make vicious threats such as your latest. If you lived in a different political arena and made the same idle threat, you might find swimming the Volga River in December a little difficult.

Bill, you are a fine athlete—perhaps potentially I.S.U.'s greatest. However, after the old adage of the parent's advice to their children — "If you want to be treated as an adult, act like one" I'd like to paraphrase: "If you want to be treated as an American, act like one." And, I think you may have difficulty denying you are an American! Be proud of it, baby, Bill! Russell is making \$200,000 a year plus in the very country you want to knock!

JOHN LEGG  
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## Dissatisfied? Leave!

TO THE EDITOR:

Roy Snell in the Nov. 8th *Daily* wrote a letter calling America "sick." What makes America "sick"? Whose opinion is it that America is "sick"? Is this just Snell's idea or is it the opinion of the majority of American people?

Snell gave a reason for the demonstration in the Union at the time of Dr. Martin Luther King's death. He said, "The blacks on this campus were totally dissatisfied with Iowa State and white America." What is it they are totally dissatisfied with? Do they expect to be treated equal to the whites at ISU, as they appear to be treated now, or better than whites at Iowa State University?

Some blacks in America think that whites are totally to blame for racial problems. They are forgetting that it was their own black brothers in Africa who first sold them into slavery. They are also forgetting that whites played a major role in freeing them from slavery. Why then should Negroes prefer to be called "Afro-Americans," a name which reflects back on the original cause of their trouble?

Most whites have much respect for the Negro race. Men like George Foreman have earned this respect for their race. It is men like Tommy Smith and John Carlos, the Olympians who disgraced the United States flag, that don't deserve any respect from either the whites or the blacks in America. They certainly did not help the racial situation, nor did they gain any respect for the United States from foreign countries. If these men along with Bill Cain and Roy Snell are so dissatisfied with the United States, why don't they leave the country?

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