

# -From our readers'

## Blacks & music

Dear Editor:

In the April 20 issue of the Daily Defender there is a picture of a young girl playing the violin. The caption under this picture states that "Many black students are capable of learning to play such instruments."

As a black woman I feel great sorrow that another black person found it necessary to make such a statement. Imagine, if you will, the same statement being made about white students.

If we assume, as we should, that the proportion of black students is as great as the proportion of white students "capable of learning to play such instruments," this statement is unnecessary. If the caption had been written by a white person, it would show him or her up as a prejudiced person trying to be liberal.

As an editor and a black woman, I have been trying to raise my own consciousness so that I do not make such statements. This, of course, means overcoming a great many stereotype views of blacks and women that we have been brainwashed into believing about ourselves.

I firmly believe that all blacks and all women, particularly those who are in a position of creating images, should make it a part of their jobs to weed out racist and sexist writing and speaking on the part of themselves and others with whom they work.

**IDA M. FISHER**

**Editor's Note: Musical history records that Afro-Americans have become experts in brass, woodwinds and percussion instruments. In the last decade more blacks have become interested in string instruments. This is a broadening of their musical interests. E.C.**