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T H E M A I L

Missing Blacks

Those of us who attend black colleges are apprehensive and skeptical about the cavalier treatment of blacks in higher education by the national press. However, your cover story "Missing Persons" was commendable in treating the issue realistically and in recognizing that some of us choose black colleges because the reactions of many at predominantly white colleges to black students are still based upon stereotypes.

JOHN E. ROBINSON
Howard University
Washington, D.C.

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As a white student, I believe that a prime reason for declining black enrollment in colleges is the absence of a public figure like Martin Luther King Jr. assuring young blacks that they are equal to whites and that the color of their skin does not inhibit their capacity for learning. In the absence of such a figure, blacks unconsciously allow themselves to be intimidated by oppressive white figures, especially in the South.

PATRICK R. KUJAWA
St. Joseph Seminary College
St. Benedict, La.

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Believing that if I chose a black university, I would not get as good an education, and eager to experience the "real world"—a predominantly white environment—I chose a white university. But after four years of being the only black in class, of dealing with whites in *their* real world and of sacrificing a campus social life, I wish I'd chosen a black college instead.

TANYA S. HART
University of Dayton
Dayton, Ohio

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As a black undergraduate, I want to thank you for a very informative and insightful article. But I wish you had also included some testimony from black students who manage to assimilate well. Not every black student is a militant with an "us against them" mentality. And I, for one, honestly believe that if blacks would try to make friends with whites, things would be better. I do not discount racism because it certainly does exist. But minorities tend to clique together, thus making barriers and promoting racism. True, blacks and whites are culturally different, but so are Chinese and whites, and yet they manage to join the same fraternities and sororities.

K. REED
University of California
San Diego, Calif.

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As a white female, I found your poll question ("It has been said that one cause of racial problems on campus is that minorities voluntarily segregate themselves and don't make enough effort to join the mainstream") racist! After all, is it not the "mainstream" that segregates itself from virtually all minorities? And who says that anyone should belong or make "enough" of an effort to join the mainstream?

KATHY LEMKIN
SUNY at Buffalo
Buffalo, N.Y.

Letters to the Editor, with the writer's name and address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: **Letters Editor, Newsweek On Campus, 444 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.** Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.