



HERS OPINION HIS



Should Blacks Attend a "Black" College or a "White" College?

by Vickie Hughes

Howard University, Spelman College, Jackson State University, Morehouse College, Florida A&M University...Stanford University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Texas A&M University...

Spelman College, founded in 1881 has for over a century produced several of the world's leading professional African American women. I am proud to say that I am a product of that college; a Spelman College graduate

we attend a Black college if we are to communicate with all races in the world today. As we grow older, we find that we must know and understand all people if we are to survive in today's society. If we grew up around mainly whites, we must broaden our scope of associates. We are African Americans and we must be able to identify with our own people. The working world not only consists of Caucasians, but also African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, etc. Society consists of a melting pot of individuals.

For those of us who were raised

It disturbs me to hear many African Americans put down Black colleges. Many of these people have never been to one. How can you speak poorly of something you know little about? Many perceptions that people have stem from lack of experience. A select few put down Black colleges who have actually attended one. How can you put down a school that you chose yourself? Take pride in the school you chose.

The quality of education at Black schools is just as good as the quality of education at white schools. Sometimes the quality of education is even better than the one that you would get at a white college. An African American graduate from Howard University has the same chance to get a good job as the African American graduate from Harvard University. There are statistics that prove this fact. Several Black Colleges are known and respected among whites as well as Blacks. Fortune 500 companies recruit at Black colleges. If you are highly educated and present yourself well in an interview, it does not matter which college is listed on your resume.

Many individuals have formed negative stereotypes about Black colleges and those who attend them. It is believed that Blacks at Black colleges socialize all the time and do not study and that these Blacks attend Black colleges because they were rejected when they applied at white colleges. Many Blacks who attended Black colleges were in the top fourth of their classes from suburban, private, and urban high schools. I graduated in the top fourth of my high school graduating class. I could have chosen any white college to attend for my undergraduate studies; however, Spelman college was my first choice. My choice became reality and I have never regretted my choice.

Instead of insulting Black colleges, let's promote them. Keep Black colleges in existence. Black colleges are our very own institutions.

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

As a high school student in Washington, D.C., I did not have a very healthy respect for Black colleges. College (in my mind) is supposed to enhance one's perspective, promote intellectual growth, and build character. I watched graduating classes before me (including my class, 1975) matriculate at schools like Jackson State, Florida A&M, Morgan State, North Carolina Central, North Carolina A&T, Delaware State, Mississippi Valley, Clark College, and Virginia State come back home the same culturally isolated students they were in high school. I heard more about parties, women, and fraternities/sororities than I did about grades or math/sciences. This really disturbed me.

On the other hand, living nine blocks from Howard University did not help my attitude much either. I can remember vividly, during the 1968 riots, locals beating up Howard students because they were perceived as the "haves" in a city of "have nots". Howard was the school of the Black elite or middle class, who did not actively start recruiting inner city Blacks until its athletic programs started to decline. Washington, D.C. had long been established as an excellent recruiting ground for talented high school prospects. I did all the things on Howard's campus that regular students did as a high schooler in terms of dating women and partying. No one knew the difference. I was also asked to try out for the basketball team because I held my own against much older players. Even on recruiting trips to other Black colleges, I noticed the same trend and it was after a few visits that I wanted no part of the lifestyle.

Algernon Tucker, Jr. (no relation), a neighbor and god-father type at home, reinforced what I had learned about Black colleges by telling me to go where there was no competition, that's with other Black students for scholarships. Tucker attended Hampton Institute in the early sixties and in many ways, wished he had done things a little differently. He helped me to make some choices that I do not regret

today and it is my wish that all students carefully analyzed their individual needs before selecting a college. The one piece of advice that stands out the most from this encounter is how to get money or scholarships.

For example, let's say that the Ford Foundation decides to donate \$50,000 to the U. of Maine and to Fisk University for scholarships. The scholarships will be designated for minorities in the health and education majors only. Chances are, I would not get much money at Fisk since the majority

of students are minorities. At the U. of Maine, my chances of receiving a scholarship are much greater than at Fisk because there are less minorities competing for the dollars. When I look at my classmates today, who graduated from Black colleges, many believed that they did not get the education they deserved and spent too much time "playing". Some did well at Black colleges, too. Those attending white schools and were able to cope with the cultural isolation associated with those environments, are doing very well for major corporations and do not regret the experience because it taught them a perspective outside of what was natural to them.

By no means am I implying that a person cannot get a solid education at a Black college. An individual can learn at any institution, but there are more social distractions at Black colleges.

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(Class of 1985). A few months ago I traveled to Atlanta for my five-year class reunion. What a good feeling it was to be a part of so many proud, progressive African American women. We have all ventured to parts all over the country and the world. We have branched out to work in many different fields. I am surrounded by Spelman College graduates who have become accountants, managers, government officials, doctors, teachers, bankers, and lawyers. These individuals are my Spelman Sisters. We are one which is evident as we all hold hands, smile, and sing our Spelman hymn which starts out with "Spelman, thy name we praise..."

Although I have found that we as African Americans can learn at any college we attend, black or white, many of us support Black colleges financially and socially. Why not be a part of the Black colleges we support? Where else can we learn to identify with our people? Where else can we obtain a quality of education among our own people?

For those of us who were educated at white schools as adolescents, it is essential and almost mandatory that

and educated in Black communities, it may be a good idea to attend a "white" college to experience the best of both worlds. And they are indeed two totally different worlds. It is for this reason that I strongly promote Black Colleges.

Black colleges are generally smaller in number than predominantly white colleges. This fact provides us with an advantage and a great opportunity. At Black colleges we are shown individual attention. We are known by name rather than Social Security number as is true at several large white institutions. We are encouraged to succeed, taught to have a sense of pride, and shown that we not the underdogs of society as many whites believe. At Black colleges we are taught our history.

In Spike Lee's movie, "School Daze", which depicts the Black college experience, he tells us to Wake Up! I can identify with several issues raised up in that movie. I agree with the message that Spike Lee was trying to get across to us. Wake up! Open your eyes and see what is going on around you.

man's" system. What he implied was that most corporations would prefer not to hire Black college graduates because their experiences are basically Black, especially if they attended a Black high school in urban American. He went on to elaborate how "white people" run the country, so in effect, Black people need to learn what the "white man" knows in order to comprehend "his system". I was shocked--not at what he told me, because I knew it already--but with his frankness and honesty. The same cultural isolation that exists in corporate America exists on white campuses all over the United States. Some Blacks cannot cope with this and attend Black colleges as a result. Those that can cope are usually very successful. Also, there are some very successful Black college graduates.

In short, attending college is not a Black or white issue, it's a green one. Green meaning the color of money and scholarships. It's about going where you need to go in order to secure a decent job, not where you want to go and the same principle applies to college. I never paid a dime to attend undergraduate or graduate school. It was free via athletic scholarships, grants, and fellowships, but there were not many of us (Blacks) around. Go where the money is...

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED CO-CHAIRS APPOINTED

Representatives from all walks of life, from all over Oregon will be appointed to an advisory committee announced today by gubernatorial candidate Dave Frohnmayer.

Named by Frohnmayer to be co-chairs of the advisory committee are grassroots timber activist Valerie Johnson, Umatilla County Commissioner Bill Hansell, Jackson County Sheriff C.W. Smith, and Woodburn Children's Center Director Tony Fernandez.

Frohnmayer said, "The purpose of the advisory committee is to provide a forum for concerned citizens, grassroots activists and community leaders who support my candidacy for governor to come together to discuss important issues facing the State of Oregon." He continued, "As I have traveled the state campaigning during the past eight months, I have been encouraged by the wealth of fresh ideas presented to me. This committee will bring many of those ideas together at one forum for broad-based, wide-ranging discussion and refinement."

Frohnmayer says, "Members of the Frohnmayer Advisory Committee will be active, involved people who have a strong interest in the future of their neighborhoods, their cities and their state." Members of the advisory committee will meet several times between now and the general election. Frohnmayer says, "These meetings will provide an opportunity for an open exchange of ideas on the many challenges facing the state. We'll be ready to hit the ground running when my administration takes office in January."

Frohnmayer has campaigned across Oregon on a theme of building bridges between diverse groups and phis.

African American Publication Awarded



FOR BEST NEWS STORY! Sam Hall, right, Manager Community Programs, Pepsi-Cola Company and Rita Griffin, Senior Managing Editor, "The Michigan Chronicle," admire award presented by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) for a story written by Chronicle staff reporter, Michael Wimberly. The award was presented during the recent 50th Annual Convention of the NNPA at the Chicago Hilton Hotel. Wimberly's story about questionable practices involved in selling large, white-owned properties to blacks was in competition with scores of original pieces from reporters on many of the 200 African American newspapers represented by the NNPA. The awards for the first, second and third place winners of the best News Story category were underwritten by Pepsi-Cola as was the full-service press room for the three-day Convention. The second place winner in this category was Michael Patterson of the "Frost Illustrated" of Ft. Wayne, Ind. and Micaele O'Neal of "Big Red News," Brooklyn, N. Y., took third place honors. The competitions are aimed at the continued overall improvement and professionalism of African American publications.

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