

Furthermore, those who issued the Japanese American reparations did not argue. Many whites argue today that "I was not there when your ancestors were put into camps" or "It's not my fault. unlike."

So why does the American government owe modern blacks for the institution of slavery? It is evident that there are no slaves alive today. However, today's African Americans are still suffering from the lack of opportunity blacks had during and after slavery. Nepotism is meaningless when your great-great grandpa was a sharecropper. Blacks then had few friends in high places, and thus the same is generally true today. This makes it hard when black applicants are in search for a good letter of recommendation. As for the white student who is still wondering why great-grandpa was so rich, maybe he or she should consider how many slaves great-grandpa owned.

But even after all of this is made clear, many whites will argue that America has done enough to make up for what was done to blacks. "Look at the Civil Rights Movement!" or "Hell, we gave you people the right to vote until the 21st century." But 1998 UNC alumnus K. Nicole Stringer asks, "How did urban renewal turn in to ghettolization?" Under the blanket of helping the poor, this country has strategically fooled blacks and Latinos into moving to the financial paradise of government housing while preparing prisons for the young who searched for a better life on the streets. So apparently, what the U.S. government has done so far has been detrimental to blacks.

So what is it that blacks want from this country? "Everything!" Stringer shouts. "Why do we have to pay to go to a school that our great grandparents built," she said. Who could disagree? Surely, if Chancellor Michael Hooker's granddaughter wanted to attend the university, she could receive an all-expense paid education.

But how likely is it that white America can afford to give blacks reparations? Most of the money available for reparation is locked up in Defense spending. Even if the cash were found, it would shortly be returned to the hands of whites, as they tend to own most of everything. So what do blacks do in an effort to get what they deserve? Brandon Lofton, a sopho-

more political science major, commanded in a recent paper for his African American Political Thought class that "African Americans should denounce government indifference and demand reparations for the atrocities suffered as well as the economic gains of the institution of slavery." Overlooking the formalities of denouncement, Black Americans should get educated on what they are owed, and insist on receiving governmental restitution. Furthermore, blacks should search for more institutionalized means of requesting reparation. Why does affirmative action come to mind? affirmative action fights the systematic oppression of blacks in the job field and in education.

Lastly, it is imperative for Blacks to understand that the war is no longer being fought with guns. This revolution is of a different form. George Clinton said it best when he remarked, "Who needs a bullet when you got the ballot?" Keep in mind that prisoners and former prisoners are no longer eligible to vote. Blacks cannot ask for reparations anymore. Reparations must be taken! If blacks continue to sleep on this issue, reparations will never be had. In the words of Brandon Lofton, "It is a justice unserved. It is a debt unpaid."

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