

HBCU.

Less students in a classroom attributes to their decision as well. This concept coincides with the nurturing theory. The students are not just another identification number, but a name and a face in smaller classrooms. That amount of academic and social support may not be matched by predominately white institutions according to Susan Tifft of "Time" magazine. If the class size is smaller, it is believed that the student would be more responsive in class and also they will be more prone to attend class as well. Sometimes at larger universities, such as The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, it is easier to get caught up in larger classes.

Lastly, cost is another factor for the choice. On average, private black schools' tuition is only half of that of white schools. With student aid decreasing it makes a difference to Blacks, because the majority of them receive some form of federal assistance. Today, people are finding avenues to cut the cost of college expenses. Even though historically black institutions only constitute three percent of the United States' form of higher education, they are responsible for almost 33 percent of African Americans with Bachelor of Arts degrees and 43 percent of those who go on further to earn Ph.D.s. Even though the majority of Black colleges have limited resources, in comparison to predominately white institutions, they continue to keep in focus with their mission to educate Blacks in their own heritage, and making them capable to compete in the workforce. It is no surprise that

colleges such as Xavier, Spelman, Morehouse and Hampton comprise the list of the top ten institutions that send the majority of African Americans to medical school and to the graduate level to obtain their doctorate.

Perhaps the nurturing environment

along with smaller classrooms and the legacy of education keeps more than 280,000 African Americans enrolled in Black colleges and universities across the country each year.

Ebony Readers Onyx Theatre

By Elandria Jackson

Ebony Readers Onyx Theatre (E.R.O.T) is a 32-member subgroup of the Black Student Movement that delivers realistic, intriguing and thought-provoking performances.

The multi-talented organization specializes in two types of performances. Although most of E.R.O.T focuses on reading and poetry, there will be more improv and skits, this year. There are a number of things that distinguish E.R.O.T from other performance arts groups.

Kristie Booker, E.R.O.T. secretary said: "E.R.O.T is a taste of African-American culture rarely seen on campus. It is an outlet for Black performance and fine arts.

"During Project Uplift, E.R.O.T performed. They were so articulate, so powerful — they personified phenomenal women. E.R.O.T was the first thing I looked for when I got here."

E.R.O.T is known for addressing issues that affect not only the Black community, but also the community in general. Because of this, the organization's goal is to become better known around campus. "E.R.O.T used to be really big and our goal is to move towards that this year," Baker said. "We want to make sure to perform at everything we are invited to and the increased membership allows us to do this," she said.

Annual performances such as "Cat Mommas and Cat Daddies" and "Love Potions" give audience members a chance to get involved. While it may suit one to participate in an open mic, someone might like to use E.R.O.T. to send a poem to a special someone.

Regardless, every individual is bound to appreciate the talent, insight, and artistry of Ebony Readers Onyx Theater.

"I have to remind people that I was acting and performing, but that's not me," says Dustyn Baker president of E.R.O.T.

The 1999-2000 group will make its debut on Nov. 11, 1999, in the Cabaret.