

Black on a **White** Campus

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Being a black student at any predominantly white university isn't easy. We face many difficulties that other students may not have had at all or had to such an extreme. Right when we get our acceptance letter, people start questioning whether we "deserve" it. I remember my acceptance to Carolina. I applied early decision and received my letter before anyone else in my school. But how could I possibly get in? It was obvious that I was stupid, so

that affirmative action thing must have really helped me out. I guess it's easier to believe that the school had lowered their standards on behalf of all black people than to believe that we could be smart enough to go to an accredited white university. Of course no one ever acknowledges the fact that only 11% of this school's population is of African-American descent. If standards are so low, why aren't there more "undeserving minorities" here?

Then it seems when we get here we are "put out" by the larger population. Is everything here separated? Though separation does not have to be a bad thing, it's noticeable. The Black Ink, BSM, minority recruitment and advis-

ing kind of prove the theories of some. Do we need extra help just to survive at this school? Or are we trying to implement a piece of our culture at a school that has none? I guess it's easier to accept the negative version of that story than the positive.

Many black students feel as though they have to prove themselves, to try harder and do better in their classes. This can be good if they are motivated by the want to excel, but if brought on by the negativity of others, it can cause unnecessary stress. We try to overcome the stereotypes, but we need to just give in. They say black females at Carolina are stuck up (I've heard that from guys at HBC's). Could it be that some of us are ready to step out on that higher level and they just can't keep up? In that case, I'll be stuck up. They say most of us here are only here because we can score points. Well let's see, I don't see them out there on the court, field or track doing as well, but they sure are cheering loud. Who's the stronger in that situation? They say we've sold out for not going to a predominantly black college. If selling out is going to get a degree that will be viewed as acclaimed in the business world, then selling out isn't such a bad thing either.

Jealousy is such a terrible disease, and when you're doing well you should expect a little of it. And if you're here reading this, then trust me, you are doing well. Black students might have their difficulties, but we need to learn to take everything in strides. Just remember that there are other people out there who are proud of you and your progress here, however little or much that might be. Keep your heads up. Remember you are one of the few and that you deserve it.

