



Cheryl Mass

MONROE JOINS FSU FACULTY

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Gibson High School, Titusville, Fla.; Director of Community Recreation Center, Melbourne, Fla.; and Physical Education teacher, Belle Glade, Florida.

Monroe was cited as "Teacher of the Year" at Monroe High School, Monroe, Florida; cited as "The Outstanding Alumni of the Year" by Bethune-Cookman College and he was given an "Appreciation Day" by the citizens of South Brevard in recognition of outstanding community leadership and service.

An Interview

"BLACK GOES ON WHITE CAMPUS"

By Cheryl Mass
VOICE Writer

Editor's note: Miss Mass interviewed Dr. James Lyons, Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs at FSU, recently regarding his views on the above named subject. Dr. Lyons has written numerous articles on the subject and they have been published in many highly recognized professional and popular magazines.



Dr. James E. Lyons Answers Queries



FSU Career Day Fair Held. FSU Students (L-R) Ronnie Nichols, Evelyn McPhaul, Pricilla Whitfield, converse with Ellen Hargrove, Charles Willis, and Hector McEachern (FSU Photo John B. Henderson)

- Q. Would you say the main problem of a black coed on a predominantly white campus is socializing? Why?
- A. Perhaps the main problem for most black-coeds on white campuses is social. There are seldom enough black males on campus to make the social life comparable to what the student was used to.
- Q. Didn't these black coeds have some ideas of what it would be like to stay on a white campus?
- A. Many of the coeds attending white campuses did not think that the social life was as it actually is. This has caused some students to change their minds.
- Q. What was the reaction of the coeds when they saw the white females dating black men?
- A. When you eliminate black males who are going steady, those who go home each week-end, and those who date only white girls, from the total number of black males on campus, it makes for a highly competitive situation. This did cause considerable conflict between black and white females.
- Q. What was the attitude of the white females toward the black females?
- A. Many black females have decided to date white males. However, white males, for the most part, are afraid to date black females openly. They seem to feel that the black males might harm them.
- Q. How did the white males react to the whole situation?
- A. On most white campuses throughout the country, black coeds have held meetings to determine their strategies. Their alternatives are to date white males, go home on the week-end, or struggle to win a male on a competitive basis.
- Q. When the black males saw what was happening to these black coeds did they change?
- A. Many coeds caught up in the situation suffered severe emotional strain. I know of cases where some have resorted to drugs. Others subjective themselves to unfair treatment on the part of those available makes.
- Q. What happened or what did the coeds experience as a result of not being able to cope with the idea of having to start all over again and identify with this new environment?
- A. The counselor tried to offer the alternatives, and help the coed decide what she could handle. In many cases the coed really needed to be heard.
- Q. In what ways did the counselors help the coed?
- A. The solution to the problem is for the white institution to admit more black males. This would lessen the competition. If you continue to have a black enrollment of 100 students, and 75 are females, the problem will continue. I might add that the Women's Liberation Movement complicated the problem because many white females who had not previously dated black males stated that they were doing so now because they wanted to show society that they are Liberated. This of course, eliminated a large number of available black males.
- Q. Do you see any solution to the problem the black girl faces when she stays on a white campus?
- A. This problem may resolve itself because fewer black students are going to white institutions. For one reason, financial aid is no longer as available as it was a few years ago. Also, many students have heard of the negative experiences that others have had and want no part of that situation. Another reason in the decline is that Community Colleges are attracting an increasing number of black students. A final reason is that traditionally black colleges have begun to recruit outside of their areas quite a bit more. This has rejuvenated the interest in black colleges that existed several years ago.

