



STATEMENT OF FINDINGS RE: KOBINA OGUAH

TO: Dr. Lloyd V. Hackley, via Administrative Chain
 FROM: Tenured Faculty, Department of Humanities
 RE: Meeting on Dr. Kobina Oguah, September 3, 1991

Pursuant to Chancellor Lloyd V. Hackley's letter to Dr. Kobina Oguah dated August 16, 1991, the tenured faculty of the Department of Humanities, after careful review, and based on all the evidence available to it as of the above date, has found that the specific reasons listed for the termination of Dr. Oguah in Chancellor Hackley's letter to him dated July 9, 1991 are insufficient grounds for the termination of a tenured associate professor.

The specific reasons for termination as listed in the July 9 letter are refuted or require further amplification as follows:

1. A compelling need for the use of Dr. Oguah's office in Rosenthal M-19 has not been established. In Dr. Jon Young's note to Dr. Oguah of August 24, 1989, he states that Dr. Oguah could remain in that office if he notified Dr. Young in writing that day. Dr. Oguah complied with that request on the same day, and notified Dr. Young that he preferred to remain in that office.
2. When was the determination made that Dr. Oguah was not keeping regular office hours, and specifically, was it made before or after the locks on Dr. Oguah's office were changed, without his knowledge or agreement, thus denying him access to all of his student records as well as his academic files?
3. How many advisees were assigned to Dr. Oguah, and also, what evidence is available to indicate that he was unable to advise those of his advisees who sought to preregister? He is known to have preregistered at least one student at a computer in the History suite.
4. It has been noted by several faculty members that Dr. Oguah's presence at department and college meetings was no less frequent than that of a number of his colleagues. This indicates a process of selective punishment.
5. Dr. Oguah's syllabi were previously praised by Dr. Young. It is an intrusion on academic freedom when instructors' handling of their course syllabi is dictated by administrators, especially those in a different academic field.
6. The tenured faculty of this department have seen no evidence to substantiate the allegation that Dr. Oguah has

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failed to respond to written and oral requests of the Dean and Department Chair.

The faculty of the Department of Humanities is also especially concerned that Dr. Oguah's complete files have so far not been made available even to him. Without the entire array of material involved in his case, and specifically, without the letters from Dr. Young, Dr. Edwards, and others recommending his termination, it is impossible for him to receive fair and non-preferential treatment of his case from those involved.

Signed: Tenured faculty, Department of Humanities

Claude Haynes *Calvin R. Foxglove*
Charles Bowman
A.D. Simmons *Travis M. Quinn*

- cc: Dr. C. D. Spangler
 Dr. Raymond Dawson
 Mr. Richard Robinson, Esq.
 Dr. Lloyd V. Hackley
 Dr. Leo Edwards
 Dr. Jon Young
 Dr. David Diaz (original)
 Mr. Jonathan Knight
 Dr. Kobina Oguah

ENTERTAINMENT

Tales from the Darkside of Movies

by Albert Johnson.

On January 17, Juice, a story set on the Harlem streets, opened with extra security precautions in an attempt to prevent the violence that has overshadowed the openings of other urban dramas. The security was provided by Paramount Pictures, the movie production studio that shot Juice. Originally, an advertisement poster for the movie showed a cast member with a gun. Paramount Pictures nixed the gun from the ad as another 'precautionary measure.' The removal of the gun from the original ad is just one example of how double standards are set against blacks in movies and other forms of entertainment. Despite all the security on the film's opening night, violence still erupted in eight states. At least four people were wounded and one teenager was killed.

A common double standard against blacks is how they are stereotyped with guns. To many people the image of a black male with a weapon is criminal and violent and rarely heroic. As Boyz N the Hood director, John Singleton, explained, "People see Bruce Willis with a gun and they're like 'Get 'em, Bruce!' People see Ice Cube with a gun, and everybody freaks out." This double standard leads people to believe that movies like Boyz N the Hood and New Jack City caused the violence that occurred on both of the films' opening nights. No one involved in the violence actually saw the movies before they were released. Yet, people believe the violence occurred because of the image of black males that was advertised in those movies.

The outbreaks that were expected to happen and eventually did at the openings of Juice and other urban dramas were not caused by the movies but by black-on-black violence, the same sociological problem that causes disturbances at other events. Black-on-black crime is also responsible for the stereotyping of blacks with guns, whether on film or in actuality. Juice and Boyz N the Hood portray violence as wrong, but blacks are seen in a different light, and people think what goes on in the movies encourages the same actions in reality.

Ernest R. Dickerson, director of Juice, was angry about the gun's removal from the ad and said, "Bruce Willis gets the gun, and Damon Wayans gets the football (in The Last Boy Scout ad)...I don't think seeing an image of a black with a gun is going to make someone run out and shoot somebody else."

It seems more favorable for blacks to sing, dance or run with a ball rather than be seen as a sex symbol or a hero with a gun. A few years back, Bobby Brown was arrested in Georgia during one of his concerts for allegedly being too nasty with his body. Yet, when white rapper Marky Mark pulls down his pants at a concert and gives people a good look at his underwear it is deemed fun, wholesome entertainment.

This kind of double standard is a reason why blacks are not considered 'marketable' for sex symbol roles in Hollywood.

Black heroes are perceived as 'not marketable enough' for action movies. Predator 2, starring Danny Glover, was far better than its predecessor, yet it did not gross nearly the amount of money that the first one - starring Arnold Schwarzenegger - did. The NAACP charged racism, claiming that Glover was not advertised as the hero he portrayed in Predator 2. The previews to that film gave a misrepresentation that an all-star cast of characters would be the heroes. The film also was not promoted as much as Predator. Referring to the advertisement posters of two other films starring Danny Glover (Lethal Weapon I and II), it is noticeable that Mel Gibson is holding a gun but not Glover. Is this because Gibson is the star of the film and Glover is his soon-to-be-retired partner in crime-fighting, or is it because a black man with a gun is perceived as a threat and not a crime-fighter?

All this commotion does not apply to films like The Terminator. Don't forget that Arnold Schwarzenegger did play the villain in this film, yet the reaction of many was "Get 'em, Arnold!" Of course people knew that the film was fiction and the image of Schwarzenegger was not dangerous. However, the same cannot be said about blacks in criminal roles. Godfather III is a gangster-oriented film that portrays mobsters as protagonists, yet no big commotion was made over this film either. (There were violent outbreaks at the Christmas day opening of this film. However, they were not widely publicized and the violence was not 'racialized'). A film like New Jack City tries to show the wrongdoing of gangsters but gets mocked. As Doug McHenry, co-producer of the 1991 hit, said, "We tried to take a step forward and make a film that was Lost Weekend meets Public Enemy (the classic gangster film), not just Public Enemy. Unlike white filmmakers, who just show the gangster hero, and not the by-product of their criminality - that's the difference between us and the Italian gangster films or blaxploitation films."

Blacks are viewed as thugs, dope pushers, pimps, and gangsters before being viewed as heroes. This is the "Hollywood Shuffle" that prevents blacks from getting their fair amount of respect in the movie business. Violence is real among blacks, but it isn't the a characteristic that can describe every black person. All people should be viewed as humans and not as animals or playthings. The entertainment business does have a darkside to it, and that is where it's keeping blacks when it's time to shoot (a camera or a gun).