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We should raise our standards, tastes in Black films

This year, two Black actors were nominated for Academy Awards. Newcomer Michael Clarke Duncan was nominated for best actor in a supporting role for *The Green Mile*. Denzel Washington was up for best actor in *The Hurricane*.

Come Oscar night (March 26), I was sure they would win; however, Duncan lost to Michael Caine, and Washington lost to Kevin Spacey, whose role was in this year's Best Picture, *American Beauty*.

Monya Tomlinson
Editor

Caine and Spacey are excellent actors, but I was disappointed: Black actors were passed over again.

Should we boycott all films that don't feature Black actors? Perhaps. But more importantly, we should raise our standards and tastes of films we want made. Films like *The Hurricane*, *The Green Mile*, and *The Best Man* are what we need more of as opposed to *Boozy Call*, *I Got the Hook-Up*, and *The Player's Club*. I've seen the latter films and while I was entertained, it didn't take much thought to watch those films. Too often, we get the films with the one Black character who makes the jokes (Will Smith in *Men in Black* and Chris Tucker in *Rush Hour*) and not the films where the Black character truly affects the outcome (*The Negotiator*'s Samuel L. Jackson and *The Matrix*'s Laurence Fishburne.)

But we also should take responsibility because we support the *Scream 3*'s and not the *Love and Basketball*'s. Black filmmaking is beginning to improve, but we still have a long way to go. Until then, Duncan and Denzel will just have to settle for just sitting in the audience at the Oscars.

The opinion expressed in this column is that of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the entire Bennett Banner staff.

THE BENNETT BANNER

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STUDENT OPINION POLL:

Bellespeak

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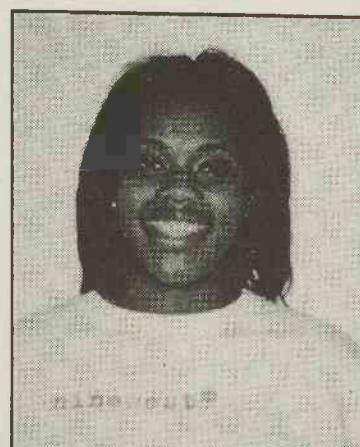
*The best film should be "The Green Mile."
Best Actor: Michael Duncan
Best Actress: Nia Long*

Denzel Washington should win for best actor. Best actress should be Nia Long. Lastly, "The Best Man" should win an Oscar for best film.

Best actor should be Denzel Washington. For best actress, I think Angela Bassett and the best film should be "The Best Man."



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Denzel did very good this year, and you can't get any better than Julia Roberts. My two top films this year are "Pitch Black" and "Final Destination."

For best actor, I think the award should go to Al Pacino. For best actress it should be Julia Roberts and the best film should be "The Best Man."

Best actor should be Omar Epps. Best actress is definitely Nia Long and the best film is "End of Days."