

Black Man! Where Are You Going?

I have often asked myself, "is college going to make me a better man?" After all, I will still be black. Not only have I asked this question myself, but I have asked others if they thought that college was going to make them better individuals. After carefully thinking about it, they all replied, "No!" College will help me to better understand the problems at hand and be better prepared to meet them as they come. College might also help one to become a better American citizen, but why would one strive to be an outstanding member of a place where he is known as "those people", "colored people", or "nigger"? Let's face it, the only time that a black man is thought of as being someone is when his parents receive a letter from the government telling how their son was killed while on active duty in Vietnam, or when he is about to pay double price for something that he cannot use.

We often sit down and talk about it, but what are we doing about it? The only way that we are going to win a place in America is through unity, and the older generation is almost too far gone. We are the future, and it will be what we make out of it; therefore, we must work together. We are college students, who are most likely to reach the top. When we reach the top, after working very hard, don't let it be said, as it has previously been said about black people, "once they reach the top, they are not black anymore." If at any time after reaching the top you find yourself forgetting your past, take time and ask yourself, "Black man, where are you going?", and the black man, as a part of America, might live a little longer.

George H. Purcell

SPENDING COLLEGE TIME WISELY

Spending one term in college has taught me an important lesson of great value. That is to keep abreast of my class assignments.

Feeling unaccustomed liberty from parental and faculty supervision during my first few weeks, I formed some bad habits. At the first invitation, I was willing to drop my books. I preferred joining a dance session or seeing a movie in the Seabrook Auditorium to reading a textbook. In class, I recorded doodles in my notebook, believing that I could remember the lectures.

Midterm grades were a shock to me! Catching up with my class assignments was a lot of hard work during the second half, because some of my instructors had gotten a long lead. I passed, but with a small margin.

I have resolved to take careful notes, to read every assignment diligently, and to relax at the movies only when my work is finished. Having learned about college responsibilities in sufficient time, I want to profit by the lesson and to avoid other trouble. I don't want to take time explaining my failure or spending next summer in make-up courses.

There should be a contrasting difference in study time and the time spent on social activities; in the future, a good job and education will be much more beneficial in helping me obtain my desired goal.

Mattie Sturges

INCREASE YOUR VOCABULARY

The increasement of your vocabulary can be achieved in numerous ways. A wide range of reading materials can be one of the ways; the association with other social classes is another. Traveling is a means by which you learn how different words are used in certain localities. The use of the dictionary can improve your vocabulary, also.

Improving your vocabulary through reading can help you. Reading newspapers and magazines can introduce you to new words that are used in daily life. You can learn to recognize these words and become familiar with them. The newspaper gives words that are used in the government and other places. It helps you to better understand the world and your surroundings. Books can improve your vocabulary by teaching the styles of different authors. These books can show how an improved vocabulary can bring excitement into the world of language. Authors use words that bring the reader's senses into what is being said.

Communicating with people will introduce you to new words almost every hour of the day. People with different occupations use words according to their particular fields of work. In talking with these people, you can become familiar with these words. You learn to recognize, to pronounce, and to use them, whenever you converse.

If you are not completely clear on a word, the dictionary should always be your source of reference. Here, you will find all the information that you will necessarily need to know. Learning how to pronounce words and to use them can enable you to communicate effectively.

Anita Hill

Being Black Is More Than Skin Color

Being black is more than skin color; it is a state of mind and an attitude. Since 1966, the emphasis on black power has focused attention on the word "black". Some people are quick to point out that this concern is not new; that we've been this way before.

It is clear that "being black", to many is more than skin color; it is an attitude, a state of mind, a way of looking at life. This is what I will deal with here. In the United States, racism has been manifestly "white", and it has led to a history of oppression of black Americans.

Emphasis today on "blackness" is healthy and good because it calls into question those traditional values held by the larger society. Even people who have called themselves "integrationists", upon closer examination, have continued to view black people as "culturally deprived", or as having to prove themselves "worthy of acceptance" as a precondition to integration. To a large number of people, integration has been a "favor" bestowed on black people.

In some instances one is not "black enough" unless one wears a dash-ika, gives the Black Power Handshake or gets an "Afro" haircut. These are symbols of the new awareness, and they do not necessarily relate to the substance of what the struggle is about. Black should be unifying not disunity. We are all black brothers.

"Being black" can be identified by several positive unifying attitudes: (1) believing that human character is not determined by race; (2) believing that all black businessmen and others should be deliberately supported and encouraged to offer competitive goods and services; (3) believing that all black or predominantly black neighborhoods can be just as viable as any other kind; (4) believing that black people should have the same power as other groups to control political economic, social, and educational institutions in their communities; and (5) BELIEVING THAT IF A BLACK PERSON FREELY CHOOSES TO live in a black community, he is not necessarily insecure or a "racist" or an integration.

It will be the reality of group cohesion, not the rhetoric of mind blowing, that will contribute to survival. It will be the actual talent of acquired knowledge and skills that will lead to our economic and political development.

Malissa Ruth Holmes

Wanted -- Black Scientists

By JAMES M. WATERS

The need for more black scientists is being intensified every day. It is evident that our white fellow men have declared war on the black race. Although the war has not been declared by legal documents, one can feel the impact of its bold implications. One does not have to be shot at with a gun to realize that war has been declared upon him. He does not have to bleed physically to realize that war is upon him. All he has to do is open his eyes and give critical thought to his life, and he will visualize that he is being fought against with weapons more dangerous than guns. The weapons of ignorance, hunger, and un-togetherness can render severe pain.

There has been many burdens placed upon us in our attempts to achieve manhood and self-pride. While we must find techniques and mechanisms to alleviate and/or eliminate the pains that have been afflicted upon us, we must give every idea and every possible solution due consideration.

Athletic avenues have been opened widely, and the racist idea that, "blacks cannot defeat a white man doing any thing", has been proven to be the greatest verbal error of all times. The whites have given us a chance in the athletic world, and we have taken advantage of that chance by showing him exactly what "us niggers" could do. I do not think that you will ever hear a white man or any man say that blacks are athletically incapable of competing with anyone in sports, again.

While many avenues are opening, the one that is a little more obstructed than most others is that of science. There is quite a few reasons for the shortage or lack of black scientists. The main reason is because the "establishment" has made it that way. You will often hear one say, "I simply do not have the background," or "I do not have the time and money to complete my schooling." Sometimes one might even hear, "What good can science do for blacks; he needs help socially and politically. Most black schools do not have the adequate equipment needed to produce interested students of science. The majority of them have always had a poor program in science, and I doubt that this fad is just coincidental. In the war that we are fighting, science can be and is one of our most effective weapons.

Blacks are the victims hit hardest from the absence of scientific knowledge; therefore, we need science to combat the attacking forces. We need the same materials that the enemy has. We need weapons; we need better medicines at a price that blacks can afford; we need black scientists who will produce more and readier black scientists. All of these factors will help in strengthening and preserving our race. Since we are being fought against with science, we must also retaliate with it.

The aged old practice of purchasing young blacks toy trains, cowboy pistols, and dolls should be thought about a little more seriously. Instead of supplying your children with the usual naive gifts, why not try substituting them with a science book or a lab set.

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