



MONITOR Mail

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the MONITOR. It is inspiring as well as informative and helpful in numerous ways.

I am particularly happy about your Year 2000 Campaign and am taking the liberty

to offer a suggestion which I feel is beneficial.

First, though, you deserve highest commendation for your coordinated endeavors "under the banner of the Assault On Illiteracy Program" to build our communities and restore family unity.

In your building program, I humbly suggest building more unity in the identification of ourselves as a people. Right now, we are B L A N C people. Black, Afro-American, Negro and, believe it or not, "cullud".

True, we all belong to a Black race but...there is more to it. Some of us like the label "Black"; some feel just the word "Black" induces/provokes negative feelings, even outright antagonism.

Some like "Afro-American". Sounds good, but when you're down to the "nitty gritty", how many of us are really "African" first? How many would really give up America, American citizenship, American "comforts" such as they may be, protection, health care, etc. to go to Africa...a strange place (to most of us), with strange languages, customs, mores, dress, etc., to live forever?

Some despise the appellation "Negro" as a derogative "they" gave us. Then, some of us are still "colored"; thus making us the "blanc" people of America. Who among us does not know and/or feel the denigration in this term? We need unity here.

The Japanese, Chinese, Koreans don't answer to "yellow"; neither the Filipinos, nor the Hawaiians answer to "brown"; nor do the Germans, etc. answer to "pink"—so why do we answer by color? These people were Hawaiian, Japanese, Korean, etc. first, just as we native born were American first. Therefore, why should we settle for "Black" as an identification label?

I boldly submit that our men/women's blood, sweat and tears, indelibly embedded in American soil, gives us the inherent right to be known as "Ameraficans" forever.

Think about it. Think hard! "Blacks" does not adequately define us, I feel. We are so much more. Please let me know if this appeals to you. What do you suppose your readers would think?

Yours for unity for our people all the way,

K. Lenore Roberson-Harding

Dear Readers:

What is your reaction to "Ameraficans"? We would like to hear from you and so would K. Lenore Roberson-Harding.

Thank you for your letters. We certainly appreciate them.

Dare to be More.



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