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HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to school classrooms. Let's talk. (714) 899-0650.

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and child in the world. It is more than some singular parent pointing with selfish pride that their child went to a private school. Even if they had to steal funds from the public in order to get the job done.

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It always happened like clockwork and it still does. No sooner than the crops would be in, the rains would come. Of course, I'm talking about down home in the southeast in places like Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas, Florida and Mississippi to name a few. If you've never been in a heavily wooded area during a Fall of the year rain, then there is at least one symphonic sound you've not heard. The ears of country people can almost discern the sounds of each individual raindrop. Because it is impossible to gaze skyward without blinking so profusely as to appear to have one's eyes permanently closed, it is all but out of the question to watch the voyage of raindrops as they start at the uppermost branches and trickle, from leaf to leaf, each with its own sound even on the same leaves, as they make their way to the ground.

Before anyone gets excited, I know it rains elsewhere and that there are all the other ingredients that I mentioned for my part of the country, but, you want to remember that I'm writing about my part of the country. If you want something on Ohio, well, I guess you'll have to write it yourself.

Let me see, where was I? Oh, I remember. The aroma of the entire area is altered as the rainy season sets in. The effects of rain on tree bark, decaying leaves, soil clay, grass and downed, rotting trees creates a muskiness which is totally at odds with the aromatic fragrances of spring and summer.

Hunting season, the World Series and football all collided but it was not until after 1948 that my family took any interest whatever in major league baseball, and then only because of the arrival of Jackie Robinson to the Brooklyn Dodgers. Football was much the same. We didn't know anyone who attended college and played football and the NFL could have easily meant the "Never Found Location" as far as we were concerned. We did, however, know of the existence of that game. Once a year, traveling alternately north and south, the teams and fans of the University of Mississippi and LSU would travel through our town on Highway 61 on their way to their Saturday afternoon encounter on the gridiron.

Back in those days we were not allowed to attend those schools or play on their teams. The same was true of all those schools in that region of our great country: Alabama, Georgia Tech, Texas, Tulane, Florida State, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Auburn, Duke, Virginia and all the rest. Nowadays, on a Saturday afternoon or evening or in some post season bowl game, when I watch teams from those schools with all of those black athletes bringing whatever glory to those institutions which once chased us, shot at us and still wave rebel flags - not with the same intent of rebel flags we often see individuals waving at our own Rebel athletic events, but rebel flags



Professor Fitzgerald is director of ethnic studies at University of Nevada-Las Vegas

by Professor Roosevelt Fitzgerald

waved in honor of the Confederate States of America and what it stood for - on top of administration buildings and stadiums and arenas, I realize what at least one of the things others have that we do not; hatred. I don't know if it is out of hatred that true commitment to a cause comes or not, but I don't think we have it.

But, before I forget, many times those going back and forth would make a wrong turn as they drove through town and need help in finding their way. The highway came right through a heavily black populated section of town: St. Catherine Street. My family lived in a house in an alleyway off that street and I spent a lot of time on that street - playing, going back and forth to my aunt's, to school, to the all black Ace theater, up the hill to Brumfield school's playground or on out to the end. sometimes a car would pull over and a well dressed man with his wife and children all set for their hopefully glorious football weekend, would call me over: "Hey boy, nigger. C'mere. Where's the road to Baton Rouge?" "Right where it always been suh." "I know that but just where is that?" "You mean a grown man don't know where that road is?" "Don't get smart with me boy." "Nosuh, I ain't smart but I knows where that road is. You go straight up to the next street light, turn right and keep on going." "Here's a nickle for you." "Preciate it."

No matter where I was, whenever anybody asked me directions and did it in the wrong way, they always got those directions. I still do it today. There are probably a lot of rude people lost and wandering through the Homochitto swamps or the Devil's Punch-bowl or some other scary place because they approached me in the wrong way, with the wrong words and in the wrong tone.

We did know something about hunting. From the time we were very young we would construct bows and arrows out of young saplings. We made our string by stripping the bark of certain trees,

separating it with our fingernails the palms of our hands. People years or more. The points of our tops and, using small apple size around the ends of the straight

With those we would hunt birds. I am only speaking of young birds thirteen or fourteen. We would have to move through the woods quiet still as racial progress so as not

To get a bird or two or a squirrel might seem to some today or in a of time. There are probably other animals. They probably had another cruelty to animals is neutralized meat department of their favorite waste of time nor cruelty to animals it also provided the opportunity patience, the strengthening of the and independence, the sharpening and the sensitizing of smell. I must attributes.

To be out there in the woods could be switched so quickly and and the next the stalked, served all of the complexities of life the says: no matter what, you'll either

I don't know where I'm going. Next week, however, I'll interrupt get back to this the following week or something.

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