

# Education

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PAN AFRICAN  
STUDENT UNIONS  
ARE EVOLVING



KEITH O. HILTON

Pan African college students across the country are rediscovering ethnic centers studies and student run organizations.

However, in the process, they are also rediscovering other aspects, "disunity and back biting" as some have called it.

Student dialogues around the significance of these programs and organizations are healthy and necessary.

We also go on record as saying that "disunity and back biting" are highly exaggerated. African students do not have the corner on the market when it comes to having dissenting voices.

I recently attended a college student run forum in which several students expressed concern and even anger at peers whom they felt were not very "together".

"It really bothers me when I pass other (African-American) students and they don't speak," stated one student.

"Our Pan African Student Union officers are nothing but a small cliché, concerned only with themselves," stated another.

"I see you wearing Malcolm T-shirts and talking the talk, but your actions say another thing," introduced another voice.

I stated to the students that there are usually reasons why Pan African student members and organizations seem to "spin their wheels" on such secondary issues, rather than on bigger ones.

First of all, although it is rarely stated explicitly, many times these voices are saying that "we really need each other and even if you are not doing your part, I will do my part."

Consequently, these and similar statements really are efforts to focus on bigger ones.

Secondly, unless student organizations are endorsed by the college or institutionalized, they will remain on the margins of

importance to that institution.

This is, not to say that people of color are "marginal." Nor does this mean that our existence is determined by another group's value system.

However, without an africanic advisor or forward institution to "focus" the organization, each new student administration typically repeats the same patterns and student comments are also repeated.

Thirdly, when the majority of these organizations were founded, there was a genuine civil/human rights movement taking place beyond the Ivory Towers. Another way of stating this is to say that there was a collective and evolving ideology that millions of people believed in and moved with.

## CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO EXPAND

Dr. Paul E. Meacham, president of Community College of Southern Nevada, said the college has finalized an agreement with Las Vegas developer Claude I. Howard to lease/purchase his Camelot Spa as one of the college's educational centers.

The three year pact will culminate with the purchase of the facility for \$500,000. The difference between the purchase price and the fair market value of the spa will be donated to the college by Mr. Howard.

"The acquisition of the property by Community College of Southern Nevada is just one more example of the generosity to our institution by Mr. Howard," Dr. Meacham said. "It will provide the college with the opportunity to offer the Las Vegas community some needed and diverse services, and a way to help alleviate some of the space problems we need to solve to offer a range of credit and non-credit programs to the public."

Howard's contributions to Community College made possible the Claude I Howard Health Sciences Center at the college's West Charleston Campus. Most recently he was the benefactor

for the new Physical Therapy wing to the building, dedicated late last year.

Michael Metty, executive director of the Community Education Division, said the college will rename the spa as "The Health Works," and will devote part of the 8,000 square foot facility to a "Wellness Program" under the direction of Dr. John LeMarr. The program will be focused on physical conditioning for healthier living.

"The Health Works' will be

open to both men and women of the community for fitness improvement. It won't be operated as a place for cosmetic body building or athletic training," Metty said. "The Wellness Program will be geared toward assessment of current physical condition, and then planning effective ways to bring a person to levels of health at which they feel good and function effectively. We will tackle problems such as nutrition, proper exercise and general, all around

Students did not start it, but were instrumental in maintaining the momentum for a while. Unfortunately, without institutions embracing these "Black Student Unions" or the nation accepting the legitimate issues around the civil/human rights movement, both evolving movements were derailed momentarily.

Today, the verdict is still out regarding just how serious students and even some rap artists are about "Black" issues.

As they move into Pan-African, global and human rights issues, it seems more likely that this new youth awareness phase will have truly evolved.

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positive and healthy behavior. We will emphasize programs to prevent health problems.

"For instance, our swimming program will teach how to use your own backyard swimming pool as an exercise area. We'll show you how to workout and how to take a healthy approach to general conditioning," Metty said. "The Health Works" will be open to adults only. The facility, located on West Sahara near Valley View, will be open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Therefore, the UNCF scholarship program is not likely to be affected by the law.

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RETREATS ON POLICY BARRING MINORITY SCHOLARSHIPS

The White House recently ordered the Education Department to reverse an earlier controversial ruling that would have prohibited colleges and universities receiving federal assistance from awarding minority based scholarships.

Michael L. Williams, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Department of Education had previously ruled that race-exclusive scholarships discriminate against other students and violate Title VI of the Civil Rights

Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin.

The decision caused a uproar in the education community, which caused the Bush Administration to reverse the ruling. Instead of retracting the Department's contention that race specific scholarships are discriminatory, the Department imposed a four-year transition period while the ruling is reviewed. Williams' interpretation of Title VI is still questionable.

The law does not apply to programs created by courts or administrative orders rendered to eliminate the vestiges of past discrimination, nor does the law apply to private organizations that do not receive federal funds.

However, the UNCF is concerned about the 41 private historically Black colleges and universities that are members of the UNCF and other majority colleges and universities which award minority scholarships and receive some level of federal assistance.

This matter is of great urgency and requires continued consideration by all those who are concerned with the future of education in this country. The Education and Labor Committee recently held a hearing on this issue. Testifying on behalf of the UNCF was Dr. Adib Shakir, President of Tougaloo College.

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