

- Educator
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**HILTON
COSBY COLLEGE?
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PART I



KEITH O. HILTON

One of the very first columns that I wrote four years ago (1988) was about Dr. Bill Cosby. It was titled "Dr. Bill Cosby: The Educator's Educator." Let me note that this was before he and his wife made their \$20 million gift to Spelman College.

The purpose of this two part column is to again display some of my 1988 comments (verbatim for the most part) and to put on the table the suggestion that this man, his family, and the greater higher education community may be destined to wed (i.e., Cosby College):

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A new generation of young people has "discovered" Dr. Cosby (doctorate from the university of Massachusetts) because of the success of his TV series.

EDUCATION

There seems to be little question that the Huxtable family is okay with them. It is also safe to say that the Huxtable family for the time being is welcome in the homes and neighborhoods throughout America. Students plan their study sessions around it. College Pan African Student Unions adjourn their Thursday night meetings at fifteen minutes before the hour.

Neither one of these examples particularly pleases educators, but are mentioned to show in a small way what Cosby means to students, and students of African descent in particular.

I enjoy Bill Cosby's humor, theatrics and wisdom. He is a teacher and gentleman of the first order. I am not, however, of the opinion that his show will break down significant cultural barriers. But then, Cosby never said he would.

Nor do I believe that the success of his show will open a significant number of doors for other (multi-cultural) entertainers.

Historically, European (white) America has had a tendency to isolate "chosen and safe" multi-cultural ("minority") prime movers from their cultural bases.

In the process of elevating a Bill Cosby, the remaining members

maintain the impersonal status of "them". Cosby and other perceived safe personalities are considered different and not as troublesome as those others.

Sometimes those who are initially labeled "chosen and safe" by European standards fall from good graces and return to the "them" column. One example was Paul Robeson, the late actor and athlete.

I am not saying that Cosby is safe or that he is no longer connected to this cultural base.

He is a veteran, a winner and positive role model. In fact, the consensus is that Bill Cosby is a super African father. However, what I am saying is that cultural biases dictate our pleasures and displeasures.

African Americans, collectively, watch the show and feel a bond. Many European Americans watch the show and see the Huxtables as being safe, harmless and different from those other African Americans. Yes, this is 1988.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPHASIZES USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Clark County School District encourages parents with school-age children to make their back-to-school plans now. Useful numbers for school information include:

Attendance Zone	799-7573
Transportation	799-8115
General Public Information	799-5304

If parents already know their child's schools, they should call the individual school directly to determine the best time to register for this school year.

Classes begin for all Clark County School District schools on Monday, August 24.

FINAL CCSN FALL PHONE REGISTRATION BEGINS AUGUST 19

If you'd prefer not to wait in long lines to register for fall classes at The Community College of Southern Nevada, Arlie Stops, director of admissions and record, urges you to take advantage of the final eight days of telephone registration beginning August 19.

"Students will have from August 19 until August 28 to sign up for classes or drop classes by using our telephone registration procedures," Stops said.

It's the easy way to register, but unlike earlier registration periods, payment for classes and fees must be made the day you

register or your enrollment will be purged."

Stops said that more than 11,000 students have already registered using early telephone, mail-in or walk-in registration procedures. He said that the college expects final enrollment figures to exceed all previous numbers.

"To get the classes you want, register as early as possible," Stops advised. "Some classes are already filled, and due to limited classroom space, we may not be able to accommodate everyone who would like to attend this fall."

Instructions on telephone registration procedures are found in the Fall class schedule on page 15. Copies are available at the Cheyenne, West Charleston and Henderson campuses.

Regular registration for the Fall semester will be held from August 31 to September 4 at all campuses.

Registration hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

Instruction begins at The Community College of Southern Nevada on September 8.

EIGHT NEW SCHOOLS WILL OPEN IN AUGUST

Eight new schools will open this August in the Clark County School District, bringing the district's total of schools to 170.

Opening are Lee Antonello, Selma Bartlett, Patricia Bendorf, Jack Dailey, Jim Thorpe and Searchlight elementary schools, along with Theron Swainston

and Thurman White middle schools. With the new buildings, the district will have 120 elementary schools, 24 middle schools, 21 high schools and five special schools.

Both Dailey and Searchlight replace existing schools. Dailey operated during the 1991-92

school year in portable and regular classrooms at Paradise Elementary School. Searchlight Elementary School replaces an older building at a new location.

Construction on all eight new schools will be completed in time for classes to begin August 24. Construction schedules are tightest at Bendorf and Bartlett elementary schools, where equipment and furniture will be moved in the week before school starts, said Vern Burk assistant superintendent of facilities and transportation.

The eight new schools opening this August were built with money from the district's \$600 million bond issue approved by voters in 1988. So far, the bond issue paid for 15 schools that opened in 1990, plus 18 schools that opened in August 1991. Still more schools are planned for the next several years with bond issue money.

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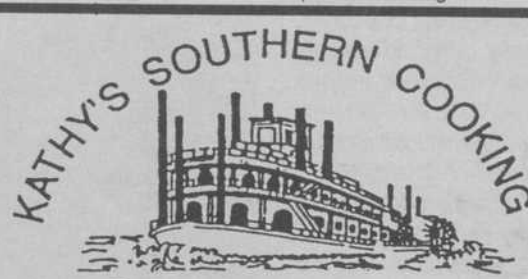
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