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HILTON

**Multi-Cultural, Yes;
Minority, No!
(1992 Restatement)**



KEITH O. HILTON

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION continues to be an African centered and multi-cultural column designed to dialogue with college and world readers.

Unlike some, we have at-

tempted to periodically state and restate our positions on issues in order to openly show growth, change and/or in some cases, an incorrect analysis.

One such topic that we have

annually revisited since 1989 is the notion of multi-culturalism. We also continue to seek input and feedback from those with similar or differing opinions.

We were probably not the first, but we are still proud to be listed among the leading education sources to question the concept of "minority" as a label for "Black, Red, Brown, and Yellow" people.

Over ten years ago, while

working at a university in New York Town, I recommended — and it was approved — that its Office of Minority Student Services be changed to Multi-Cultural Student Affairs.

Two years ago, the Association of College Unions-International (ACU-I), a very important student activities body in higher education, changed the name of one of its largest sub-committees because of our annual column on "Multi-Culturalism."

ACU-I changed the name and focus of its Committee on Minority Programs (COMP) to emphasize multi-culturalism rather than "minority."

Today, "multi-culturalism" has come to be synonymous with an emerging academic curriculum and nation. This is a good and just movement. At the same time, unfortunately, it has become a very "politically" charged one.

The concept and definition

varies, depending on whom is leading the charge. Any way that one looks at it, it still should be viewed positively. Except for those who continue to believe that there is only one mainstream and many minorities.

The term as we originally used it meant to identify those people who have come to be referred to as minorities. We also saw it as being a transitional term.

It was and is not intended to replace the growing "Africentric or Afrocentric" movement. Nor was it meant to drive the Euro-American way into the sea.

Although there are some who view multi-culturalism and Afrocentricity as being competitors, we don't think that is necessarily the case.

For example, Keith O. Hilton is an African who lives in America (African American). America is comprised of people of various ethnicities.

One key is to remember that this is a transitional term and a forward transitional term, we might add. There are, however, some who have now come to embrace the term because it is fashionable to do.

Also, there is even a group of progressive (?) people who have grown tired of discussions of multi-culturalism and even "diversity" and are looking for another "buzz word of the week or academic year."

Multi-culturalism, as we see it, is not a buzz word or a fad. Its definition and thrust are still emerging as it should be.

In addition to multi-culturalism continuing to emerge, there is another crucial issue that is going to need to be addressed soon, and that is the notion of coalitions. And in particular, multi-cultural coalitions. Yes there are pros and cons to this issue. LET'S TALK (714) 899-0650.

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EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM MAY PROVIDE MODEL FOR OTHER TROUBLED SCHOOLS

New York - An experimental program that has succeeded in turning one troubled high school around could provide a model of change for troubled high schools across the country.

This Sunday's PARADE magazine reports that the program, called "Security Dads," begun last year to maintain order in Arlington High School in Indianapolis, a school plagued for years by gangs, guns, knives and fear, has accomplished considerably more than its original goal.

"Security Dads" was started by Linda Wallace, a nurse whose daughter attends Arlington, when she asked her husband Anthony to accompany her to a school event to see if his presence would bring some semblance of order.

"We had a football jambo-ree," Mrs. Wallace recalled, "and the students were yelling, throwing things from the stands, walk-

ing out on the field, and the parents were taking their kids and leaving. Then came a talent show and, again, the kids were so rowdy, it was unbelievable. They hollered and screamed. We couldn't handle it. We had to stop the show. The police had to come and get kids out of there."

In the spring of 1991 when a second talent show was scheduled, Wallace told her husband, those are big kids, and no mother can yell at them and make them behave. But maybe a father

HORIZON SITE IS OPEN TO NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS

A satellite of the Horizon Project at WestCare, 401 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., has added a computer lab and is open to high school dropouts in the neighborhood who would like to obtain their high school diploma.

An open house for the satellite site and new computer lab,

could do something. She brought a T-shirt sporting the school colors with "Security Dad" printed on the back.

Her idea succeeded and since then, the number of Security Dads on call to appear at school events has grown to two dozen. Arlington is a school with 1,650 students, a third of whom are being raised by single parents, mostly mothers.

Anthony Wallace talked to the kids "with respect, and they (See Experimental, Page 9)

featuring a lab demonstration, will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, October 1. The public is invited to attend. The lab features computer assisted learning programs to provide remediation in basic subjects and to supplement teacher instructions.

A satellite site has been operating at WestCare since the 1991-92 school year. A part-time teacher is available there from 7 a.m. to noon weekdays. The computer lab, new this year, was made possible with the help of a dropout demonstration grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

More information about the Horizon Project and the West-Care site is available by calling 799-8643 or 799-0144.

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