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HILTON

**Stop Undercounting Us Africans:
(Part Two)**

**The African (Afro Latino)
Community Also Continues To Grow**



KEITH O. HILTON

I often give the example of the time I attended a law school program in Long Island, New York, that consisted of a panel of law school representatives and attorneys.

One of the panelists was an African American law professor from one of our predominantly African American colleges. Another panelist was a New York based Afro-Puerto Rican attorney.

I mention the professor's place of employment only to point out the severity of the situation within this story.

Throughout the professor's presentation, she continued to speak about "minorities." The fact that she worked at an African university didn't seem to matter.

Near the end of her talk, she turned to the Afro-Puerto Rican attorney and said matter of factly that "You look Black, but you are clearly Hispanic according to your name."

The attorney then replied that he was indeed both Black and Latino and that his African roots ran as deep as that of any African American or Afro Caribbean.

"My first language happened to be Spanish," he said, "while yours is English."

We, Africans, need to stop being undercounted - and more importantly, stop undercounting ourselves.

Indeed, many Latinos are African, not all, but enough. Some will say yes if asked, some will say no. The cultural richness of the numerous Latin American nations reflect African, European and Asian roots.

(Please be sure to read the third part of this series, which concludes with a guest essay from my friend and colleague, Dr. Angela Jorge of the State University of New York/College at Old Westbury.)

Within many Latino communities in this country, darker Latinos are proudly connecting with African Americans in ways that go beyond many superficial coalitions.

As one who strongly believes in political and economic coalitions, I am equally opposed to those that are really just opportunities for a select few to cut deals that only they and a few others primarily benefit from.



Bill Nave saved these kids from drowning, but he's not a lifeguard.



Verleeta Wooten found several new stars, but she's not an astronomer.



And Ivan Neal put out a lot of fires, but he's not a firefighter.

These are teachers. But to the kids they reach, they're heroes.

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EDUCATION

It will take more than "prominent personalities" parading as leaders, continuing to speak of "Blacks, Hispanics and other minorities..."

It is as if they are assigned "the Blacks," "the Hispanics," "the Asians," "the Native Americans," "the poor and despised."

Yes, coalition building between ethnic groups remains vital to our communities' futures. At the same time, it is also important to open one's eyes to deeper cultural roots that run between some of these communities.

Sometimes I cringe and sometimes I laugh when I hear that "by the year 2000, Hispanics will be the nation's largest minority."

Let's get serious. Let's get busy. Let's set the record straight. "By the year 2000, the African (including the Afro Latino) community will continue to grow and be stronger" - provided we stop undercounting ourselves. Spread the word.

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.

CCSN FIRST TO OFFER GRADES BY PHONE

The Community College of Southern Nevada is the first institution of higher education in the state of Nevada to offer its students access to their final grades by telephone, according to Arlie Stops, Director of Admissions and Records at the CCSN. The program is inter-linked to the phone registration system implemented by the college last year.

At the end of Fall semester,

students who call the college's telephone registration number and punch in a four-digit personal identification number (PIN) and their social security number will have access to their final semester grades. By using the new system, students will be able to get their grades two to three weeks before they arrive in the mail.

"For added security students may change their four-digit per-

sonal identification number to a number known only to them," Stops said. "To change their PIN number, students must stop by the Admissions and Records Office at any of the three CCSN campuses."

The college will continue to mail printouts of grades to its students this semester, but after the Spring Semester, printouts will only be sent if requested by

the student—who can do so by pressing a computer code after accessing their grades.

Other universities and colleges have successfully implemented grades by phone, including Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Students who would like more information on grades by phone, should contact Admissions and Records at 643-0830.

CALL 799-5229 TO COMMENT ON PRIME 6 PLAN

The Clark County School District has opened a telephone comment line to accept public input about the Superintendent's Prime 6 Plan for educational improvement.

The Prime 6 Plan is a proposal to provide additional educational opportunities for students who live in West Las Vegas and throughout the district.

The plan calls for converting sixth grade centers into Prime 6 schools and restructuring Mabel Hoggard Sixth Grade Center as a

school of special emphasis, specializing in four foreign languages and math and science.

A public hearing on the proposal was held October 20 and several citizens provided input about the plan.

A phone line is now being established so others may have an opportunity to comment. If you would like to offer comments or suggestions about the plan, please call 799-5229, and follow a pre-recorded message for instructions.

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

Next week Tuesday is election day, Africans. Not only is it our right to elect a president, but we also have the right to vote on pertinent state and local issues. Although some of us may not believe in the political process, I think it would be well worth the time to exercise our right this year. On the ballot this election year is a question calling for an amendment to the Nevada Constitution to be repealed. Question 3 reads: "Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to repeal the provision which prohibits withholding the rights of suffrage and officeholder from any male citizen of the United States because of his color or previous condition of servitude?" If we don't vote and allow this amendment to be repealed, who knows what other amendments pertaining to Africans they'll ask to be repealed. I encourage you Africans to vote next Tuesday. Until next week this has been the Minister of Information.

Kids Smart

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"A MIND IS A MARVELOUS THING TO DEVELOP"

COLLEGE FAIR TO HELP STUDENTS EXPLORE POST-HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

High school juniors and seniors looking for information about options for the future will find some answers at this year's College Fair Plus, scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, November 4 and 5, at Cashman Field.

College Fair Plus offers something for all students, whether they plan to attend college or pursue other career options.

More than 125 organizations will be represented, including Ivy League universities, regional colleges, community colleges, vocational schools, technical schools and the military.

Colleges and vocational schools specializing in particular fields - such as medicine and nursing, business, space technology, art, music, automotive,

travel, computers and fashion design - are among institutions that will be represented.

Booths also will be available with information on student loans and financial aid institutions, sororities and fraternities, and international exchange programs.

In addition, seminars will be available both evenings: employability skills at 5:30 p.m., academic and athletic scholarships at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., and financial aid at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

College Fair Plus will be open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. both days for high school juniors and seniors and their parents. Admission and parking are free. The fair is sponsored by the Clark County School District and the Southern Nevada School Counselors' Association.

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