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HILTON

The College With The Shiny Mercedes
(Revisited)



KEITH O. HILTON

A few miles back, I wrote a column titled "The College With The Shiny Mercedes."

At that time I said that there were sacred and borderline sacred cows in the African

American community, i.e. the church, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the NAACP, our historically African American colleges, EBONY, Greek letter organizations, etc.

I went on to say that it was the policy of HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION that constructive criticism is healthy for the African world, in which these and other important institutions and people are most appreciated.

Criticisms and disagreements are normal and can be unifying. For example, three of the brightest voices that the world had during the early twentieth century were Booker T. Wash-

ington, W.E.B. DuBois and Marcus Garvey.

Their differing philosophies and approaches are well documented - and perhaps exaggerated in some instances.

Also during the 50's and 60's, contrary to contemporary belief, Dr. King was often viewed as too non-traditional by the traditional African American leadership. His positions often placed him against the grain of some (bor-

derline) sacred cows.

But these institutions and in some cases, even prominent personalities deserve our respect and support when they produce and our feedback when they fall short.

This leads me back to my point about "the college with the shiny Mercedes."

A few years ago, I noticed this predominantly African American college located in the heart of one of this nation's poorest neighborhoods and was struck with one incredible contradiction — key educators were gleefully driving Mercedes while local students were walking and taking the public transit.

Don't get me wrong, it is not that I have anything against a Mercedes Benz — Engineered Like No Other Car In The World!

It really is a fine automobile and many of the owners are not so bad either.

It is just that I have more faith in those students — with the potential to be enlightened like no other people in the world!"

My criticism then and now is with the subliminal signals being sent to this predominantly African American student body and

community; that of "haves and have nots" and of distancing vs. bonding.

Well recently, I came across a press release from that college's public relations office that showed the president going one on one in basketball with a group of elementary school students. Great PR shot, right?

The president issued a challenge to the group of boys that if he won the game, they would have to promise to go to college.

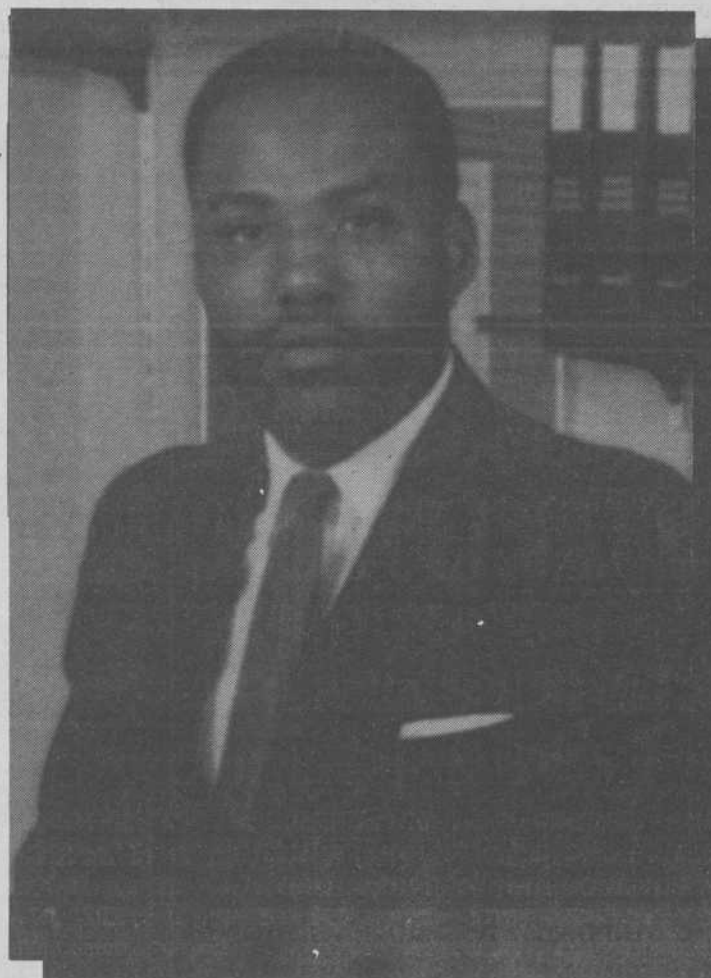
If he lost, they would get basketballs autographed by a very famous professional basketballer. Well, who do you think won the game — and walked away with autographed basketballs — and with more incentive to play b-ball than go to college?

Fortunately, most African American colleges don't project this imagine or outlook. In the interim, HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION will keep you posted on developments from the "Mercedes College."

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.

Thank You!!!

Special thanks to all that gave their support and confidence during my campaign.



Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams
District 6
Chairman of Education Committee

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

WARNING: The consciously aware have determined that apathy is dangerous to your health. A recent study found that more and more Africans are becoming less and less aware of what's happening around them. You know how a crack addict, when high on crack, has no clue as to what's reality? Well this study found that Africans are high on the American dream (the African nightmare) and have no clue as to what's real and what's fantasy. Gee! What a shame!

If only Africans would take the time to read and learn about themselves and the issues. Oh Well! I don't care!

Until next week, this has been the Minister of Information.

CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK UNDERWAY IN CLARK COUNTY

Citizens are being encouraged to take a closer look at their public schools during American Education Week, which is being celebrated in the Clark County School District and in districts across the country from November 15-21.

The theme of the week, which marks the 71st observance of the annual event, is "America's Schools: Take a New Look." The goal of the week is to increase public understanding and appreciation of the nation's schools, to encourage parents and other citizens to visit schools, and to build community pride in and support for education.

This year's theme focuses on the schools' role of teaching young people how to succeed in a complex and ever-changing world. "The world is so different, and so are our schools," said Martin Kravitz, member of the Board of School Trustees and American Education Week coalition. Among other things, he cited the impact that computers and technology have on teaching and learning.

But, Kravitz added, "While schools and the world around them are changing, community support and parental involvement remain key to the success

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