

• Educator  
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HILTON

### My Very Own Shani Doll for Kwanzaa and Christmas



KEITH O. HILTON

Season's Greetings, Kwanzaa and Happy Holidays. I sincerely hope that during this holiday season, each of you will take a few minutes to rededicate your lives to significant persons, things and projects that give you strength and enjoyment.

For me, I am blessed to have my very own Shani doll. And I am not referring to the Mattel version.

For the second consecutive year, Mattel, the Toy Industry giant has been busy marketing a doll with African features.

The name of the doll is SHANI, which means "Marvelous One." It is Mattel's intention to make a profit. In this case it is on a burgeoning African Awareness Movement.

As an educator, I am constantly on the watch for affirmative examples of individuals, organizations and products that impact our young people. This search is twelve months out of the year, and not driven by seasonal hype.

However, the Mattel campaign hits close to home because my seven year old daughter's name is Shani Olisa.

Olisa means "Child of God." She continues to be one of my biggest "fans." She actually even tells her friends that her dad is famous because he is always in the newspaper.

At the same time, she has come to learn that what I write in those newspapers, are things that I regularly find time to discuss with her - not in a preachy way, but in fatherly and sharing way. I believe that in time she will more fully understand that my efforts are not isolated.

In the past, for example, I

have written about individuals such as Ms. Heather Williams of Brooklyn, New York and her efforts to develop self esteem and cultural pride in young people via Positive Images Children's Book.

I have quoted the research of Professional Reginald Clark, who wrote the book, "Family Life and School Achievement: Why Poor Black Children Succeed or Fail."

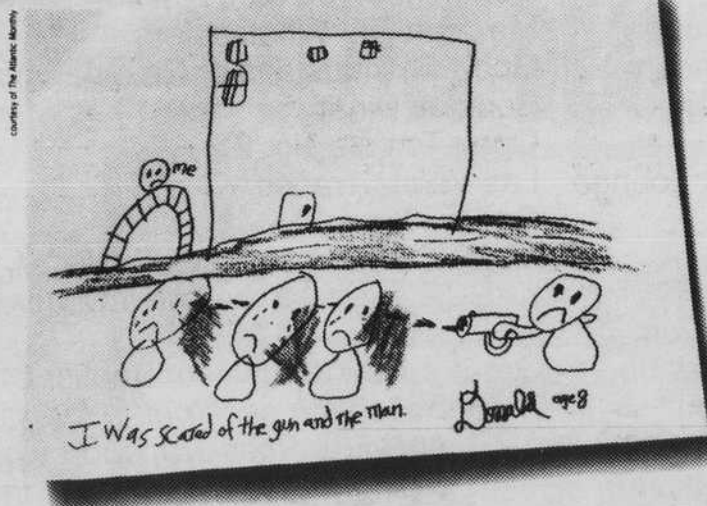
(But I have to admit that I had some problems with that title — with certain negative connotations attached.)

I have also saluted the push for achievement by Ms. Lolanda Bunch and Mr. Wendell Williams of Las Vegas, who founded Kids "R" Smart Learning Center. The classic slogan for the center is

## NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

Recently I sat at my my parents home and listened to my younger brother and his friends exchange statistics on football teams and players. Impressive? Perhaps, but not to me. I am not impressed by any African who can spit out statistics about sports like a computer, but can not tell me anything about himself, i.e., history, ancestry or culture. I was appalled at their extensive knowledge of said sport and equally appalling was their knowledge and interest in self. The potential our children's minds possess is unlimited, but sports knowledge for Africans is irrelevant and unacceptable when we know little or nothing of ourselves. It is incumbent upon parents and adults to force our children to exercise their academic, ancestral, and historical minds as they do their sports minds. Until next week this has been the Minister of Information.

Children draw  
what they see,  
and what they see  
is a crime.



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# EDUCATION

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EDUCATION. But fewer with the impact of my very own Shani Doll. Happy Kwanzaa, readers. HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue

with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to classroom study.

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## UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND REPORTS SECOND-LARGEST GIFT IN AMERICAN HISTORY MADE TO NATIONAL BLACK HIGHER EDUCATION Historic \$15 Million Challenge Grant from The Kresge Foundation Helps Boost Most Ambitious UNCF Fund-Raising Drive Ever Toward Its Goal

NEW YORK — The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) has announced that The Kresge Foundation has pledged a historic challenge grant of \$15 million to help bolster the most ambitious fund-raising drive in UNCF history, CAMPAIGN 2000: An Investment In America's Future. The grant is the second largest pledge in American history to a national organization of Black higher education and is the largest single grant ever made by The Kresge Foundation, which is known for its philanthropic contributions to organizations in higher education, human services, the arts and humanities, health care, science and the environment.

"This extraordinary, history gift will have tremendous impact on the colleges that now turn out the lion's share of educated Black America," said UNCF President and CEO William H. Gray, III. "The magnitude and conditions of this grant will allow us not only to significantly strengthen these colleges at a critical juncture in our history, but to issue a challenge to all Americans with a stake in the future of this country to join us in helping to educate the minority citizens who will soon make up one-third of our future workforce."

Support from the challenge grant is contingent upon raising

the remaining \$49 million of the \$100 million CAMPAIGN 2000 has earmarked for building and renovating facilities at its 41 private, historically black colleges by January 1, 1994.

"In making this, the largest grant in our history, we have responded to an opportunity to make an enormous difference in the lives of Black Americans," said Alfred H. Taylor, Jr., chairman of The Kresge Foundation. "There is no more important task at this time than educating young people and ensuring that they have the tools — and the opportunity — to succeed and become productive citizens. By helping the United Negro College Fund and its CAMPAIGN 2000, we truly believe we can have an important impact."

CAMPAIGN 2000 is the most ambitious fund-raising drive ever undertaken in UNCF's 48-year history. This \$250 million effort is designed to significantly strengthen UNCF's 41 member colleges and help produce the intellectual capital America will need in order to succeed in the 21st century. UNCF's 41 historically black colleges already

produce a quarter of all black B.A.'s in physics and chemistry, a fifth of all those in mathematics, and over 17 percent of those in biology. With new funding from CAMPAIGN 2000, these colleges will be able to create innovative new academic programs, build and renovate facilities, strengthen endowments, develop faculty, and improve overall administration. As of November 30, this nationwide effort had secured more than \$153 million in cash and pledges from leading corporations, foundations, and individual philanthropists.

The Kresge Foundation is an independent, private foundation created by the personal gifts of Sebastian S. Kresge. The United Negro College Fund, the largest Black fundraising organization in the U.S., is a consortium of 41 private, historically Black colleges and universities and has raised over \$700 million for Black higher education.

Founded in 1944, the organization has been ranked among the leading U.S. charities by Money, Forbes, and The Non-Profit Times.

## Learning Disabilities Teleconference

The Southern Nevada Literacy Coalition and the Community College of Southern Nevada will co-sponsor a teleconference

on assessment of learning disabilities, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, at CCSN's West Charleston campus, 6375 W. Charleston Blvd., Bld. B-169.

"Assessment Instruments for Use With the Disabled Population" will be presented by Dale R. Jordan, Ph.D., author of Overcoming Dyslexia in Children, Adolescents and Adults. Dr. Jordan is the director of the Jones Learning Center, University of the Ozarks and of the Wal-Mart and Proctor & Gamble Summer Institute. A teacher, administrator, lecturer and diagnostic specialist, Dr. Jordan leads the field in identifying learning disabilities in adults.

The teleconference is free and open to the public. To register, call 388-8951.

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LEARNING CENTER

1001 N. TONOPAH

PH: 647-5712

"A MIND IS A MARVELOUS  
THING TO DEVELOP"