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HILTON

One Student's Challenge to College Students of African Descent (A Guest Editorial) PART ONE



KEITH O. HILTON

With regards to articles or themes touched on in this column, it is a standing policy of HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION to encourage feedback and input from readers. Periodically we run guest editorials that are designed to stimulate discussion and further feedback.

The following is part one of a guest editorial by Henry Taylor, a junior at Claremont McKenna College in Southern California. He is also the past Co-President of the Pan African Student Association of the Claremont Colleges.

Mr. Taylor would greatly like to hear your thoughts on what he has to say. Please call HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION at (909) 899-0650 or write: c/o HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION, 3139 N. Garey Avenue, #101, Pomona, CA 91767. Let's Talk.

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In looking at the events that

have transpired since last year, again I am saddened and so I am writing to the college African students of America to share some of my experiences and issue a challenge to all of us.

First, some might be wondering who I am referring to when I use the term, African, rather than black or African American. I use the term African to denote one of the strongest bonds that binds any people together and the bond is culture and land.

Africa is our place of original origin. Whether you were born or live in the U.S., Jamaica, Brazil, or Zaire, you are an African or person of African descent.

As part of realizing that relationship to the motherland, we must think of ourselves in a much larger, global context, thus as Africans. We must always be concerned about the situation in Africa because it will affect us, where ever we are.

We must continue to seek knowledge about ourselves, our past, our people, and our homeland. It is through this quest for knowledge that we gain insight into who we really are and what our purpose is.

Once you begin that quest, you will find that your sense of responsibility or commitment to work for the betterment of our people will naturally grow and increase.

In working for the betterment of our people, as I have discovered, it is necessary to be careful and thoughtful, to be critical and analytical. These skills are necessary in order to be a long distance runner, in order to make sure that you don't get burned out and that you finish the race.

You will find, as I have, that working for our people is one of the hardest things you can do. The main reason, is because our people seem to fight us every step of the way. Many Africans will actively work against you, including some African professors and administrators. I am sure I don't have to mention what the non-African professors and administrators will do. (END OF PART ONE.)

EDUCATION

Free Public Speaking Class Offered for Youth

Junior high and high school age students who are interested in public speaking will want to attend a special free Youth Leadership class being provided by the Early Risers Toastmaster's Club at the North Las Vegas Boys & Girls Club.

The Early Risers Toastmasters are putting on the eight-week class for free in order to help young people learn the fundamentals of public speaking, how to conduct meetings, effective listening and critical thinking. The program was developed by Toastmasters International, a world-wide public speaking organization which has benefitted more than two million people since it was first introduced

in 1924.

Youths are invited to join the free class which is offered at the North Las Vegas Boys & Girls Clubs (2530 East Carey Ave.), every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Leading the group will be Rosemary Lato. Youth officers elected by the class were: Sheree Harvey, President; Andrea Pintor, Vice President; Nikkie Jordan, Secretary; and Lee Washington, Sergeant at Arm.

For more information, call Mark Jacoby at the North Las Vegas Boy & Girls Club at 646-2656 after 2:30 in the afternoon.

SCHOOLS PLAN BLACK HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES

Schools throughout Clark County are planning a variety of activities to celebrate Black History Month this February. Following is a list of some of the activities planned this month:

• An African-American clown, "Rasti D. Clown Mon!" will visit students at Myrtle Tate Elementary School, 2450 N. Lincoln, on Friday, February 19, as part of a program titled "Developmental Stages of African-American History."

Rasti, who wears red, black and green face paint, the African liberation colors, encourages youngsters to love themselves and to be proud of their heritage, both of which he tells students are keys to success. Students that day also will participate in poetry readings and songs that celebrate Black heritage.

More information is available by calling Cassandra Summers at 799-7360.

• Students at Johnson Jun-

ior High School, 7701 Ducharme Avenue, will celebrate Black History Week, February 8-12, with several speakers and morning announcements focusing on achievements of Black Americans.

Motivational speaker Patricia Jarman addressed students from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Wednesday, February 10. Today, also from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., KLAS anchorwoman Juana Hart will speak to students.

More information is available by calling Ronnie Smith, 799-4480.

• A musical tribute to Black history will be presented from 8:20 a.m. to 11 a.m. Friday, February 26, at Orr Middle School, 1562 E. Katie. The event will take place in the school theater.

Throughout the month, Orr students will participate in a "Who Am I" quiz featuring clues about the identity and accomplishments of various historical and contemporary figures, and will write essays for a contest on the topic, "My Black American Hero." Daily announcements and cultural displays relating to Black history are ongoing during February.

For more information, call Barbara Rosenberg, 799-5573.

• Students at Cimarron-Memorial High School, 2301 N. Tenaya Way, will celebrate African-American Week, February 8-12, with an evening program featuring talent, poetry, fashion and other topics related to Black history.

Also that week, students will nominate and coronate an African-American court and will participate in an African-American dress-up day.

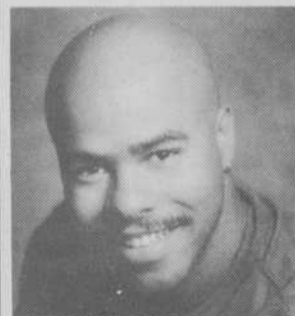
For more information, call Jo Schlekewy, 799-4400.

• Soul food and related entertainment will be featured dur- (See Schools Plan, Page 9)

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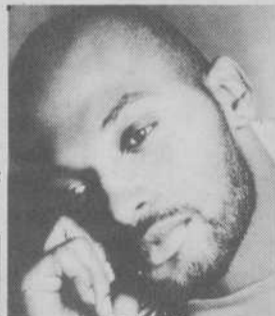
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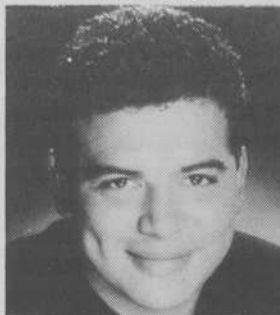
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NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

"Beware of the wolf in sheep clothing!" We're all familiar with these words for the wise, right? But do we understand the true meaning and deep undertones that this phrase implies? In order for the wolf to survive he must exploit and destroy the sheep. The wolf can be cunning in his attempt to win the sheep's confidence. Once he's gained the confidence of the unsuspecting sheep, the wolf can do what he wishes to and with his prey. Hmmm! Does this sound familiar?

The wolf is symbolic of the white man and Africans must be weary of any white man who professes to understand the plight of the Black man. Like the brother who claims to understand what his queen goes through during her pregnancy and child birth, the white man can not and is incapable of comprehending what it means to be an Afrikan in America. The white man is cunning and that is how he's gotten to the position he's in but Afrikans must pull the sheep's clothing off the wolf and expose him for what he really is. Like the wolf, in order for the white man to survive he must exploit and destroy the unsuspecting sheep A.K.A. the Afrikan! Until next week this has been the Minister of Information.

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