

# EDUCATION

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**HILTON**  
**A Drum Roll Please!**  
**The Top 25 African Women Leaders (1900-1993)**

KEITH O. HILTON

After four months of embarking upon two of our greatest challenges to date, we are pleased to present the final results of our Contemporary African Women Leaders survey. We are confident that readers will be impressed with this group and effort.

Unlike many outstanding individuals lists, the HILTON HIGHER EDUCATION survey is one of the few that is administered solely through the African American press and allows readers to directly nominate individuals and then vote on the finalists.

In addition, to get amore balanced view, we also solicited input from scholars, practitioners, entrepreneurs, professional association heads and journalists from across the na-

tion. In March, we started with an initial introductory list of thirteen women. We then received nearly 100 nominations from around the country.

In May/June, we then presented this list of ninety women to readers and asked them to update their nomination. At he same time, we forwarded the column with the ninety names to the five additional groups mentioned above.

We allowed respondents/readers to write or call in up to three names that were not on the original list of ninety. This provided us with an additional leadership cross reference check. The weight and clout of opinion, however, remained with readers of newspapers such as

this one.

We tallied the numbers and stand by our position that this was truly an attempt to acknowledge the international role that women of African descent have played in various fields of endeavor.

These women represent various philosophies and ideologies. Even some of our own Pan African think tanks and publications often hesitate to either acknowledge the contributions of some individuals and organizations that are not to acceptable "mainstream" society.

We are not suggesting that

all or even the majority of the women on this list are Africanists, however, we are suggesting that the "African Personality" and African creativity is central in their successes.

However, even with this effort to highlight these individuals, it is our contention that the African world community will make even greater collective strides based on the successes of African organizations rather than individual successes.

Why were these people chosen? What does this say about our communities? What does influential really mean? Is

this list permanent or will it's composition change? For some the answers to these questions, we will seek the opinions of a panel of experts in the very near future. Also in the future we will conduct a similar survey for professional organizations and associations. Based on readers of HILTON:HIGHER EDUCATION and the African American press, the following women have been identified as the Top Twenty Five African Women Leaders (1900-1993):

Maya Angelou, Mary McLeod Bethune, Carol Mosely Braun, Gwendolyn Brooks, Shirley

Chisolm, Johmmetta Cole, Angela Davis, Suzanne De Passe, Marian Wright Edelman, Lenora Fulani, Lorraine Hansberry, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dorothy Height, Mae Jemison, Barbara Jordan,

Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Winnie Mandela, Toni Morrison, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Susan Taylor, Maxine Waters, Ida Wells-Barnett, Frances Cress Welsing and Oprah Winfrey. Five honorable mentions included Louise Bennett, Shirley Graham DuBois, Amy J. Garvey, Anita Hill and Albertina Sisulu.

## STUDENTS TO ATTEND ANTI-DRUG CAMP

Students from throughout Nevada will spend a week in the mountains learning strategies to discourage substance use and abuse among their peers.

Campers are students in grades seven through 12 who are members of STATUS, Students Taking Action to Terminate Unlawful Substances. They will attend Nevada State Leadership Camp, which will be held August 9 - 14 at Lee Canyon Camp, about 45 miles outside Las Vegas.

While the teens will participate in a variety of typical camp activities such as hikes, campfires and talent shows throughout the week, they will focus on tailoring anti-drug use action plans for their schools. Activities include a drug-free variety show, drug-free dance and numerous workshops on related topics.

The leadership camp is sponsored by the Clark County School District, Las Vegas YMCA, City of Las Vegas, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Clark County Parks and Recreation.

## DESPITE PRESENCE OF WEAPONS MAJORITY OF TEENS SAY THEY FEEL SAFE AT SCHOOL

Parents and Teenagers Differ on Distribution of Condoms  
New York — Sixty-five percent of the teenagers who participated in an informal survey said they feel safe at school, although more than half (57%) said they know fellow students who carry weapons.

The survey, which was conducted via two telephone polls published in PARADE magazine in May, also found that 88 percent of parents do not feel schools are safe for students.

Teens and their parents also differ on another issue, that of

distributing condoms in schools. Sixty percent of the teens said schools should make condoms available to students, and 74 percent of the parents said they should not. In interviews conducted in connection with the surveys, most of the teens said

they felt safe as long as they minded their own business and did not get involved with drugs.

A total of 2,035 teenagers and 17,638 adults participated in the telephone surveys, which are not representative of the nation as a whole.

## SCHOOLS RECEIVE NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

More than \$400,000 worth of shiny, new playground equipment will be ready for students when they arrive at Prime 6 schools on the first day of classes August 23.

New playgrounds are being installed at the eight Prime 6 Schools to expand existing facilities and accommodate new grade levels. The playgrounds

are under construction and will be used by the school's new pre-kindergarten students and first through third graders.

Under a new plan this year, the district's sixth grade centers are being converted to Prime 6 schools. The new equipment is necessary because primary students will be attending these schools for the first time.

New playground equipment and/or renovations are planned at 24 other elementary schools at a cost of about \$600,000. Competition is planned for late summer or early fall.

Renovations and additions include installing new safety surfaces under playground equipment, expanding and installing new sandboxes, and building modular exercise areas. Spiral slides, climbers, monkey bars and decks are connected at different levels to allow students a variety of play and activity choices. Observation windows and tic tac panels are also included in the brightly colored vinyl equipment.


All of the new playgrounds will be handicapped accessible in compliance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

Playground upgrades are being paid for with money from the district's \$600 million bond issue, of which approximately 15% is being used for improvements to existing schools.

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