

- Educator
- Journalist
- Consultant
- Counselor



KEITH O. HILTON

## I Say, African Studies at a British University?

### PART I

I spent portions of this past June and July in England and Scotland and came away with enough material for HILTON HIGHER EDUCATION to last several years. While there and since returning, I have thought about some of life's bitter sweet ironies.

Isn't it ironic that one of the greatest Pan African voices to date, the Honorable Marcus Garvey, never set foot in Africa?

Isn't it ironic that consistently, the greatest Pan African movement has not been in Africa, but rather in the United States.

Isn't it ironic that the majority of the cutting edge research and studies on Africa and the Caribbean takes place at predominantly white (European American) colleges instead of our historically African American colleges and universities?

And isn't it ironic that to date more courses pertaining to the Continent of Africa are available in Britain than in any English country in Africa?

But this type of phenomenon is not exclusively an "African thing."

For example, the concept of "European" is secondary in the lives of people who, let's say, live in Spain, Germany, Denmark or France.

Therefore, one can receive a solid education and degree in European Studies outside of Europe - i.e. the United States, Nigeria, Australia or even Canada.

According to the British source, Which Degree in Britain 1993, only two British universities run honors degree courses in African Studies: the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London and the University of Birmingham.

Also according to The Times Good Universities Guide, these two fine institutions rank fifth and sixteenth with respect to national reputation and prestige. Cambridge and Oxford, as expected, were tied for the distinction of being the most prestigious universities in the UK. However, many British institutions offer African and Caribbean courses within different degree programs.

Language studies make up a large portion of many African courses with Amharic, Hausa, Swahili, Berber, Bantu and Semitic languages appearing most frequently.

Syllabuses, information about a particular subject, normally include topics like archaeology, anthropology, law, languages,

linguistics, politics and history.

SOAS (#5) boasts the widest scope for study and specializes in language studies. Birmingham (#6) houses a Center for West African Studies and programs leading to a BA degree in social science.

The emphasis at Birmingham is on historical viewpoints and contemporary aspects of African society particularly on the historical elements of African and Caribbean life.

Resource centers have also been set up in institutions like Cambridge, Leeds (#26) and Edinburgh (#5 along with London and the London School of Economics) to collect and research information on topics which touch on Africa.

Although Leeds have also been set up course as such, students and staff from other disciplines like economics, geography, politics and history make good use of the facilities.

These efforts in the UK are presented here so that students interested in African issues will know of as many options as possible.

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. (909) 899-0650.

# EDUCATION

## HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Professional school nurses are employed by the school district to help promote student health and welfare.

To best meet students' health needs, the Health Services Department encourages parents to maintain contact with the nurse at their child's school. The nurse is at a given school once or twice a week, but the school office manager is aware of the nurse's schedule. A school nurse may also be reached by leaving a message at 799-7443.

### Health Screenings

School nurses observe and examine children for scoliosis, visual or auditory problems, or any major physical defect. Students new to the district and students enrolled in Kindergarten, second, fifth, seventh and 10th grades are screened for vision and hearing. All seventh graders are screened for scoliosis.

An examination for possible visual problems is provided for any child who is enrolled in a special program, is repeating a grade or has failed a visual or auditory examination the previous school year. Students may also be screened upon teacher or parent request.

### Medication at school, pre-kindergarten through fifth grade

Students requiring medication during school hours must

provide to the school office a signed medication release form and a copy of the prescription or order from an appropriate health care provider. No over-the-counter medication may be given without a prescription, including aspirin or Tylenol. Designated school personnel will assist students with the administration of medication.

### Medication at school, grades six through 12

Students in grades six through 12 may manage their own medication with permission from their parent or guardian. The medication must be kept at all times in a labeled container; a standard prescription label is required for prescription medicines.

Students must be able to produce, upon request, written evidence that their parent or guardian has authorized self-

medication. Under no circumstances may a student provide medication to another student. Students in grades 12 who do not have parental or guardian permission or who require school assistance with their medication must adhere to the provisions for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

### Health problems

Health problems, including but not limited to the following, need to be brought to the attention of the nurse: asthma, allergies to medications and environmental agents, orthopedic problems, blood disorders, cancer, arthritis, new glasses, heart conditions and seizures. Parents also are asked to inform the nurse of any changes in their child's health status. Teachers are made aware of significant health problems in a confidential manner.

## ALLERGIC TO SCHOOL?

HOUSTON — If your child says he's allergic to school, it may be the truth.

"Many asthma attacks occur indoors where children spend most of their time," said Dr. Benjamin Interiano, an assistant professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "At school, they are often exposed to allergens than can trigger asthma."

Asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism, amounting to 10 million lost days per year, according to Interiano. It is especially prevalent among African-American children, who

suffer more serious attacks.

Asthma attacks are frequently caused by allergies to dust and mold. Chalkboards, plants, dusty carpet, and chemicals used for art and science projects can all be possible culprits.

Exercise can also cause an asthma attack if preventive measures are not taken. However, asthma should not impede a child from participating in physical education and team sports, said Interiano, who is also medical director of the Baylor/Methodist Hospital Asthma Institute of Houston.

"The teacher or coach needs to know the child's physical limitations," he said.

Some asthmatic children are sensitive to certain food preservatives in school cafeteria food. Interiano recommends parents discuss the problem with cafeteria personnel and provide the child with sack lunches from home if necessary.

The first step toward helping a child manage asthma is knowing what symptoms to look for.

"Teachers should be aware of the signs of an asthma attack, such as wheezing, coughing, choking and shortness of breath," Interiano said. "Parents should make sure the child is referred to the school nurse so he can take medication to suppress an attack."

Anti-inflammatory drugs can ease asthma's severity. However, some children are reluctant to take their medication.

"Teenagers in particular tend to hide the need for medication (See Allergic, Page 25)

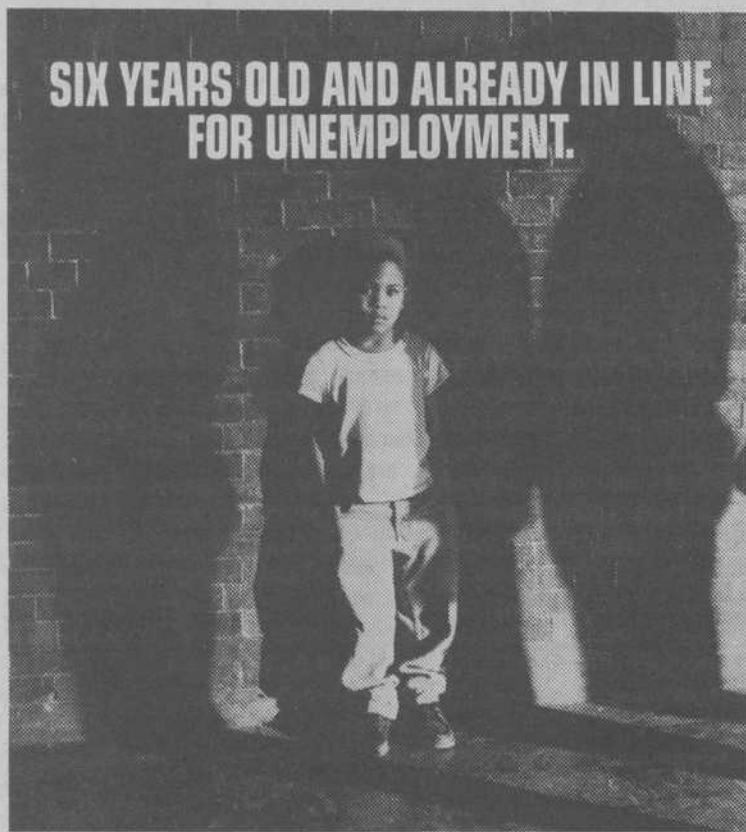


## VEGAS INSTANT PAGE

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## SIX YEARS OLD AND ALREADY IN LINE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT.



By the time a child is six years old, experts can tell if he's at risk to drop out of high school. They can predict who will have a hard time keeping a job. And even who is more likely to end up on welfare. Thirteen million American children live below the poverty line. And they need help before the age of six to improve their chances in life.

Early intervention programs are crucial. And they do work. Programs like Success

by Six have proven that a poor child who receives help early on can hope for a much brighter future.

But these programs need help from people like you. People to answer the phone, do odd jobs, raise money or play with a child. Whether you give an hour of your time or a box of used toys, it can make a world of difference. Call 1-800-733-5400 to see what you can do to help in your area.



The Academy for State and Local Government

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