



NCBS, Africana studies and the black press

Part Two

Last semester I presented some of my research at the 20th Annual Conference of the National Council for Black Studies. The theme of the conference was "Celebrating 30 Years of Black/Africana Studies: A Legacy of Leadership, Learning and Change." My paper dealt with black studies and the black press.

It stands to reason that if Africana studies is to move to that higher plateau as a discipline and re-empowerment agent, it must now also re-establish a direct connection to the greater African community via the African-American press.

Some of the highlights of my paper are noted in this two part column.

With regards to scholars, according to Bowen and Schuster (1986), there are four basic roles performed by faculty which partly determines employment, promotions and tenure. They are instruction, research, governance and public service.

Research means all activities of faculties that advance knowledge and the arts.

Public service suggests that society also looks to the academic community for information and advice. This could include contributing editorials, research findings and general articles to African-American newspapers.

As this conference is demonstrating, there is a wide spectrum of topics that reflect the 30-year legacy of black studies/Africana studies; from Africana literature to health strategies for the African world to public policy and international relations. Each of these and others need to also be presented to those in the Diaspora, who are not directly a part of the higher education enterprise.

The black press has consistently shown that it can provide an important dimension to the learning process. Without question, one of the major strengths of this press has been its ability to provide a crucial interactive media-reader connection.

Yet another unique strength of this press has been its ability to personalize and bring closer to home Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America in a way that other newspapers have yet to match.

And this tradition can be traced back to Freedom's Journal in 1827, which talked about the importance of African coverage when it stated that "Useful knowledge of every kind and everything that relates to Africa shall find a ready admission into our columns." (Bodie, 1992).

The notion of black studies and the black press working together offers exciting possibilities for future research for all parties.

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EDUCATION

Black women outnumber black men on campus

Special to Sentinel-Voice
In a report on the status of blacks in post-secondary education, coordinated by the College Fund (formerly the United Negro College Fund), some striking results have been revealed. Most notably is the fact that black women continue to surpass the number of black men who attend college.

While in 1976, black women were 10 percent more likely than black men to attend college, today they are nearly 25 percent more likely to do so. Additionally, they are earning college degrees at twice the rate of black men.

The report documents, that since the 1970s the number of black women earning undergraduate degrees has increased by 55 percent while the number of black men increased by 20 percent. And, as the number of black women earning master's degrees, for the same time period, has

increased by five percent, black men have dropped by 10 percent.

The report, which relied on data available at the Department of Education and other studies, concluded that while today's black students fair better than students of a generation ago, their numbers

do not mirror the African-American share of the population or reflect parity with white students.

While 21 percent of whites between the ages of 25 and 60 have a bachelor's degree only 14 percent of blacks have earned the same. Researchers also found that black students

still drop out of college more frequently than whites. They also discovered that black students relied more heavily on financial aid, and this may in part be explained by the fact that nearly one-third of black college students come from families with a household income below \$20,000.

Graffiti clean-up campaign seeks name, logo

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Clark County Parks and Recreation is inviting young people ages 12 to 17 to name a community-wide graffiti clean-up program and to design a logo for the clean-up effort. Winners will be awarded cash prizes.

The contest is being held in conjunction with multi-jurisdictional clean-up efforts designed to get rid of unsightly graffiti in Clark County neighborhoods.

At this point there is no name or catchy art work to identify the program. So awards of \$100 will be presented to the person who designs the best logo and \$100 to the person who comes up with the best acronym, a word that stands for other words like S.A.D.D.

which is an acronym for Students Against Drunk Drivers.

The design and acronym have to relate to the graffiti removal program. The winning logo and slogan will be the official design and will be used on t-shirts and advertisements and maybe billboards.

Entry forms are available at all Clark County Parks & Recreation community centers, local middle schools and high schools, the Lowden Resource Center and Metro's Southeast Substation. All entries must be submitted between March 15 and March 31 at the Lowden Resource Center, 3333 Cambridge, second floor, or the Metro Police South Sub-Station at Atlantic and St. Louis.

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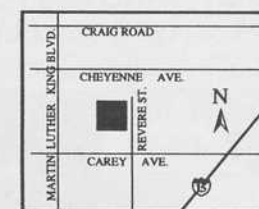
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