

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, April 15, 2016

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Article Title: **BLACK ON CAMPUS**

Section: Main, A1

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of **coalesce**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

“Suwaneh says black students are starting to **coalesce** in ways that weren’t as apparent during her first year in college, in large part because of the Black Lives Matter movement.”

Comprehension Questions

1. For the small number of black students on state college campuses, a subtle undercurrent of racism leaves them feeling what?
2. And on Wednesday, many of those same UW students rallied to tell administrators that the university needs to move much faster to make the campus what?
3. Many black students at Washington colleges say it’s not just the headline-grabbing incidents that wear them down and drive some students away. What else bothers them?
4. With the passage of Initiative 200 in 1998, Washington voters ended affirmative action. What is it?
5. The culture at college campuses has changed in recent years in ways that are good and bad, says Ed Taylor, UW vice provost and dean for undergraduate academic affairs, who is black. At times, it is more volatile and less welcoming, he says. Taylor cites three things that he believes has led to this problem. What are they?
6. At the same time, he says, a new generation of students is _____, more _____ and more likely to confront college leaders over important social issues.
7. That empowerment has led students to seek what?
8. At Western, a new group, the Student Assembly for Power and Liberation, has issued a far-reaching set of demands. What do they include? What was Western’s President’s response?
9. At UW, student demands issued last week included what?
10. “Everywhere else, you were probably going to get, not necessarily a comment, but a microaggression.” What is this?
11. What is a “stereotype threat?”
12. What has Tipton’s experience been between upper and lower campus at UW?
13. National surveys underscore that there are changes taking place on college campuses. In an annual survey of incoming college freshmen by the University of California, Los Angeles, researchers found out what?
14. At the UW, Taylor said he’s seeing “a new wave of activists, informed by a generation before them.” And they’re not single-issue students — what else are they concerned about?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

“Racism is not over,” said UW student Jordan Elijah DeSanto, a student ambassador for the UW’s Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity, who is biracial. “It’s in our face every single day.”

More than a dozen students at four college campuses were interviewed for this story, and some themes emerged. For all of them, dealing with racism is exhausting; they find themselves constantly on guard for the next expression of bias, whether it’s a subtle comment or a flat-out racist statement or act.

Many don’t want to talk about racism at all — they don’t want to relive the pain. What’s more, they’re tired of being put into the role of having to explain to a largely white population what racism is like for them.

- What does racism mean to you?
- Have you ever experienced it? Share your story.
- How do different races get along at your school? Is there “self-made” segregation of races or does everyone typically get along?
- Do you hear bias, subtle comments or flat out racist remarks during a typical school day?
- Do you believe white students know what racism is like, if they’ve never experienced it? Why or why not?
- Do you know a minority student attending UW? Does this article convey their feelings about student life on campus? Why or why not?

Since that time, the UW’s black student enrollment has stayed about the same, even while overall ethnic diversity has increased, with Asian-American and Latino student enrollment growing, and white student enrollment shrinking. (About 65 percent of undergraduates are white or Asian.)

- The black student enrollment has stayed the same since 1998. Why do you think that number hasn’t grown?
- Do you think Affirmative Action should be brought back?
- How do schools create a true balance of cultures and ethnicities? Is it possible? How?

Essay

Tipton has taken a seminar on microaggressions, and has had conversations in class and outside of it about how to deal with people when their words suggest racial bias.

He thinks back to the “What are you doing here?” question from his high-school classmate, and says he would respond differently now.

Today, he would ask: “What do you mean by that?”

- What is a microaggression?
- Why is it still ok for some use subtle or blatant racial comments about other races and cultures?
- How will our society ever heal if we can’t respect one another and celebrate our differences?
- For a country that was based on being a cultural “melting pot,” why are we still here? Stagnant in growth when it comes to celebrating cultural diversity?
- Will America ever be free from racial bias, stereotypes and racism? Why or why not?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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