Black Students Organize Obi Society

Editor's Note: Frederick Lowe is a member of The Collegiate Challenge. He is also Minister of Information for the newly formed Obi Society (Obi means “soul” in Swahili) which was formed this summer by black students at Tacoma Community College. The opinions expressed in it are not necessarily those of the newspaper.

By Frederick Lowe

The opening sentence of the Obi philosophy states, “We, as black students of Tacoma Community College, form the Obi Society for the purpose of developing the Black Man culturally with the aim of establishing Black awareness on campus and in the community.”

Organized during the summer quarter, the Obi philosophy of Black awareness is to tell America of the injustices done to the Black Man in America, and to remedy these injustices by any means necessary.

The purpose of the Obi Society, is to work for the inalienable rights of the Black Man, the same rights given to all men as human beings, but denied the Black Man in America for 400 years. Obi is established to challenge and reform the American system, which is freedom and equality for the White Man, and systematic exclusion and deprivation of the Black Man.

On the TCC campus, Obi will work to see that the Black Man, his ideas, his heritage and his culture be established in every facet of studies and campus life to show the Black Man as intricate builder in America, in order to bring about pride in being Black and create better race relations and understanding between Blacks and Whites.

The Obi Society is established to undo what white America has done for 400 years — whitenash and demoralize the Black Man.

In the land of liberty, freedom and equality, the White way is taught to be best, and is the only way of freedom, liberty and equality in America. White America has stolen or completely overlooked what the Black Man has contributed to the world and to the American society. The Black Man has been brainwashed of his heritage, culture and ideas, forced to live in slums, take low-paying menial jobs, have his children taught by second-rate teachers in second-rate schools and be told continually he is not a man, because he is not White.

The objectives and goals of the Obi Society are to give the Black mind a chance to develop with pride in color, heritage and culture, and to go back into the Black community and help other... (Continued on Page 3)

Black Students Form Society

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Brothers and Sisters develop the same way. During the course of the academic year, Black artists and lectures will be brought to the campus by Obi to perform and show the Black and beautiful aspects of various arts, and to speak on the long hidden Black heritage, and the meaning of the Black Revolution.

To enhance and keep Black awareness real and established at TCC, Obi has proposed seven demands to the administration and a $5,525 budget for the 1968-69 school year. The demands of Obi are as follows:

1. Begin an immediate establishment of Black culture subjects to the curriculum that are accredited.
2. Begin recruitment of Black advisers and instructors.
3. Provide financial aid to underprivileged Black students.
4. Provide finance for recruitment of Black students.
5. Eliminate the reflection of systematic exclusion in hiring of service personnel. We request the hiring of at least six maintenance personnel.
6. Present all Black persons that are considered for hiring at TCC for approval to the Obi Society.
7. Provide Obi with necessary office space for Obi to carry out the task.