



## **OPINION: POOR TURNOUT MEANS WOSC IS ALREADY ENLIGHTENED**

January 7, 1992 ~ Monmouth, OR

Dear Editor - - On January 27, WOSC hosted Phillip E Walker, actor and lecturer with the African American Drama Company, in the Smith Hall Auditorium. The topic was "Multicultural Sensitivity." The two-hour lecture was on the reasons why multicultural sensitivity is important and who we need to be sensitive to (i.e. anyone who is different from us), and it gave six simple strategies on how to live more harmoniously with others. Out of a student body of nearly 4,000, there were ten people in attendance.

You would think that such a ridiculously low turnout would be frustrating, even cause for despair. But no! On the contrary, it was quite wonderful. I mean, what an amazing statement the students (and staff, for that matter) are making about the world. We are saying that in nearly two decades since the start of the Civil Rights Movement, the need for cultural sensitivity has become nearly obsolete.

We are saying that somehow, though the racial tensions throughout the Country are festering to the point of explosion, though this Nation in many ways is more divided than before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the reign of Martin Luther King, though hate-politicians like David Duke actually have a substantial following, this great cultural melting pot of complete enlightenment LEFT the U. S.!

You can imagine those of us at the lecture rejoicing over this fact! Not only that, but the people of WOSC also made us feel honored!

After all, this low attendance also conveyed to us that even if there are teenie-weenie problems with race somewhere else in the world, you're more than happy to let us chosen "ten" handle them all by ourselves. I can tell you, it made us feel quite important!

Enough of that. Let's switch gears and move on to a little reality now. OK you're busy, you didn't know about it, you had to work...fine. I'll allow a little leeway. You are a racist and you don't like things the way they are. Fine, go about your business. But to the masses of people who simply don't care or don't see how this affects you here in Mommouth, let me just say this. Perhaps rather rashly presuming that a great deal of this student body will eventually graduate and move on to other things, let us just speculate.

Racial tensions may not be particularly high in Mommouth, Oregon, nor are exposures to alternate cultures. And if you have grown up in this area or one similar to it, there probably haven't been substantial difficulties (unless of course you are not one of the privileged majority). But we are the most diverse nation in the world, growing more so every day.

Pretty soon this luxury of apathy will cost you a job, a friend, or something more.

For myself and for those who attended Phillip Walker's lecture, I extend my warmest thanks to him and those who helped get him here. For those of you who weren't interested, I extend my condolences. Someday it will HAVE to mean something to you, you won't have much of a choice."

- Sara Kissinger, Monmouth Resident

[www.MulticulturalWorkshop.com](http://www.MulticulturalWorkshop.com)

African American Drama Company

Thirty East Julian Suite #218, San Jose, CA 95112-4076

☎ (415) 378-0064 cell

✉ [DRAMART@comcast.net](mailto:DRAMART@comcast.net)

