

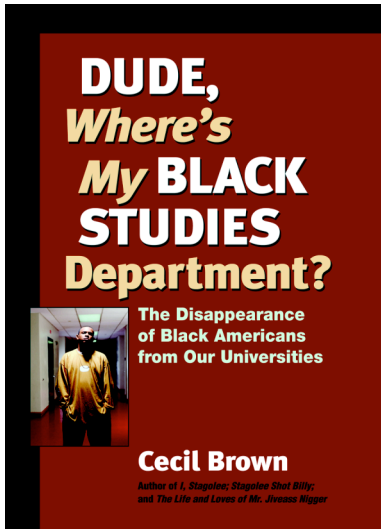


North Atlantic Books

1435 Fourth St., Berkeley, California 94710
Phone: (510) 559-8277
Order information:
orders@northatlanticbooks.com

For Immediate Release

Contact: Allegra Harris, Publicity
aharris@northatlanticbooks.com
510.559.8277, ext.35



Dude, Where's My Black Studies Department?

The Disappearance of Black Americans from Our Universities
By Cecil Brown

Affirmative action, a policy designed to raise minority presence in U.S. universities, has become the foremost controversy surrounding college admissions. In *Dude, Where's My Black Studies Department?*, author Cecil Brown argues that contrary to what most Americans believe, the representation of Blacks at universities across the country is rapidly declining.

Pulling from his educational and professional experiences at the University of California, Berkeley, and the San Francisco Bay Area in general, Brown presents an enthralling account of how the collegiate and academic trends of Black marginalization found at U.C. Berkeley are representative of trends nationwide. Examining the history behind African American college admissions from the Civil Rights Movement to today, Brown examines how and why the door has gradually closed on this group from a searing, sociological perspective.

With unapologetically pointed section titles like “Black Students Are Not Wanted at Cal [U.C. Berkeley]” and “White Students Are Not Taught to Argue,” the author takes a no-holds-barred look into the source of Black minority repression, saying everything the rest of America is too afraid to admit. Moreover, he examines the cultural aftermath of this academic exclusion, arguing that the disappearance of Black Studies and Black student enrollment at the university level has displaced this segment of the population into low-paying jobs, prisons, or the stereotypical realm where being Black is king—rap.

Not the typical dry, scholarly material associated with academia, *Dude* offers that rare mix of a stern wakeup call and a hopeful plan of action to turn around this egregious, national epidemic—a book that's perfect for both ethnic studies scholars and curious readers alike.

Among issues confronted in *Dude, Where's My Black Studies Department?*:

- Why the number of Black students is steadily decreasing on college campuses
- Why university chancellors and admissions committees aren't doing anything about it
- How Black Studies Departments have recently disappeared from universities
- What the future holds for Black Studies Departments

Fall 2007, 978-1-55643-573-7, \$15.95, Trade Paper, 139 pp., 6 x 9, African American Studies



About the Author:

Cecil Brown is the author of *I, Stagolee*, *Stagolee Shot Billy*, and *The Life and Loves of Mr. Jiveass Nigger*. He has a PhD in African American Literature, Folklore, and Theory of Narrative from the University of California, Berkeley, and has taught at U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Santa Barbara, and other universities. He lives in Kensington, California.

Advance Praise for *Dude, Where's My Black Studies Department?*:

“One of the most significant contributions of *Dude, Where's My Black Studies Department?* is what Brown teaches us about the African American oral tradition, namely, about how its ‘difference’ from white American culture poses a constant challenge, and threat, to the ideal of integration in the classroom and on campus.”

-**Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, Alphonse Fletcher University Professor at Harvard University, editor-in-chief at the Oxford African American Studies Center

“Cecil Brown is one of the most gifted writers and brilliant intellectuals of his generation. His provocative analyses of contemporary black and American culture brim with insight. Unafraid to be controversial or to go against the grain, Brown never fails to make us think.”

-**Michael Eric Dyson**, Avalon Foundation Professor in the Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania, and author of *Debating Race*

“Writer Cecil Brown is one of the few African American public intellectuals with the nerve to tackle this subject and he does so with his usual wit, savvy, and brilliance.”

-**Ishmael Reed**, author of *Mumbo Jumbo* and *Airing Dirty Laundry*

Praise for Brown's Work:

“Cecil Brown has captured the underside of political intrigue and corruption that unfurled within complex racial patterns at a time when prostitution was legal and black men could still wield influence during elections.”

-**Kathleen Cleaver**, Senior Lecturer, Yale University and Emory Law School

“*I, Stagolee* puts the ‘e’ in enjoyable and the ‘e’ in exquisite. A great novel.”

-**Melvin Van Peebles**, film director

“Commendable scholarship and thoroughness.”

-**Leopold Froehlich**, *Playboy*

“The historical revelations here are consistently—and insisently—fascinating.”

-**Ian Penman**, *Wire*

“*Stagolee Shot Billy* provides a fascinating biography of the song [‘Stagolee’], from its shadowy birth in the ragtime era to its afterlife in the age of hip-hop.”

-**Gerald Morgan**, *Times Literary Supplement*