

April 18, 2011

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

This week, an article written by Riverside Junior College student Anita Johnson. Johnson was an African-American woman who graduated from RJC In 1933. The article below gives some insight as to how the races viewed each other at the time.

It is 4 years and 47 weeks until RCC's 100th Anniversary on March 13, 2016.

Anita Johnson Answers Questions On Negroes for Inquisitive Students

Students who do not wish to make themselves known have evinced an interest in the attitude taken by negro students of Riverside Junior College. In an anonymous letter to Anita Johnson, sophomore girl of negro parentage and winner of second place in last year's oratorical contest, they have asked certain questions which Anita answers below.

By Anita Johnson

Question: What is the attitude of the negro students attending a mixed school?

Answer: Satisfaction. An indifferent attitude is experienced only when social life is evidenced. Lack of negro associates tends to give one a decided feeling of loneliness.

Question: Are the negroes in favor of separate schools?

Answer: No. Where negro schools are in practice in three out of five cases the negro schools are not equipped as properly as the white schools. Mixed school assure the negro the same advantages that his white classmates have.

Question: Does the negro desire social equality?

Answer: No. We desire only equality of justice, assuring us of the rights handed down by the Federal Government.

Question: What is your opinion of Amos and Andy?

Answer: They should be placed so far away from the microphone that hearing would be impossible.

Question: What is your opinion of the past "all negro" films?

Answer: Rotten! Not true to the race at all. Enough to raise the blood pressure of any race conscious Black American.

Question: Should the Federal Government take a hand in the lynching of the negro?

Answer: Yes. If a state fails to give a citizen protection, I firmly believe that the Federal Government should take a hand and see to the protection of the individual.

Question: Whom do you think the most outstanding male student in the college?

Answer: For broad-mindedness, congeniality, scholarship, and stamina enough to stand up for what he knows is right, regardless of others, I cast my vote for Julian Hayden.

Question: Whom do you think the most outstanding woman student?

Answer: Pauline Hirst. Isn't she charming?

Question: Do you believe in intermarriage?

Answer: No. The negro race is mixed up enough now. Although I believe that in time a new race will be formed. No extremes of black and white,—bronze.

Question: Is the negro problem a problem within a problem?

Answer: Yes. But the problem within within a problem isn't as great as the problem.



"Tequesquite"
1933 Photo

ANITA JOHNSON
Social service course; forensics, 1, 2; Black Masque, 1; Y. W. C. A., 1.

This article appeared in the January 16, 1933 "Arroyo" newspaper. Questions for the "Negro" students of Riverside Jr. College, were answered by African-American student Anita Johnson. She was a RJC sophomore who placed second in a 1932 school oratorical contest. She went on to graduate in 1933 with a goal of going into social service work.

The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five year countdown to RCC's 100th Anniversary. Our intention is to give everyone a weekly glance at the many people and events that have been a part of the college.

Our thanks go to the RCC Digital Library Archives and the District's Office of Strategic Communications and Relations for allowing us to use their photo and newspaper collections.

Thanks as well to all of the RCC students and Faculty Advisors that were a part of the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Thanks also to Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez who wrote “the book” about RCC’s history. “Riverside City College 1916-1981- A 65 Year History” is available in the RCC Digital Library.

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