



# WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Danbury, Connecticut 06810

Memorandum

SOC SCI  
FACULTY → FYI  
JB

To : WestConn International Center Executive Committee  
From: H. Richard Dozier, <sup>-78</sup>Spokesperson for the Underrepresented at WestConn  
Date: April 26, 1989  
Subj: Course Title: NWC

As a descendant of the race of people that built the great pyramids of Egypt, produced mighty kings, queens, chiefs, warriors, royal priest and to be complete I must not omit the 99 seconds of western blood pulsating through my veins, I am perplexed and offended by the actions or lack thereof, of the Non African Americans of western ancestry in the Social Science and History Department.

The western university community is considered the mecca of intellectual stimulation and growth; likewise the university professoriate, held in the highest esteem, is the epitome of intellectual intelligencer. However, I asked myself, if the owner of a one-ring circus, P. Barnum, could find a word to describe larger than large (Jumbo-stolen from the swahili language it means "hello"), than why can't these learned men, non-females of knowledge think of a non-offensive label to describe other cultures of the world for a course title. Could they lack the knowledge? Heaven forbid! Not this august body teaching in the pinnacle of intellect where students epoch matriculate believing the professor's knowledge of the topic is from A to izzard.

I found my answer embodied in the sentence, "As for the term being pejorative, this was summarily dismissed." Several persons of color and of western descent informed members of the Social Science and History departments that they found the term NWC offensive. This prompted the department to discuss the issue a second time. How could the departments dismiss the term as not pejorative? The answer lies in the fractal enclave cast of characters composing this esoterical group. It is easy for a group of Non African, Non Japanese, Non Middle Easterners, American esoterics to lack the sensitivity toward other world cultures, therefore dismissing them as insignificant.

It is no secret that insensitivity toward, intolerance of, and the feeling of superiority over other international cultures is deeply imbedded in the American way of life. To feel superior it is the institutionalized racist policy of Americans to use negative terms like: nigger, chink, nip, jap, gook and non western cultures to debase, dehumanized and devalue people of different cultural backgrounds and cultures. This situation is a very classical example of those having the power to change things preferring to remain insensitive and dismiss the concerns of others as irrelevant. I tremble at the thought of their teaching and handling cultures, other than their own, as quean (after all Egypt is an African nation and Africa existed centuries before colonialism).

It is indicative of the American culture when lacking a word to create a new one, for example: zebroid (a cross between the zebra and ass, or the zebra and the horse), and syzygy (the conjunction or opposition of two heavenly bodies) or zzero (a hypothetical elementary particle, about 100 times the mass of a proton) World Book Dictionary 1986 edition. I challenge my learned colleagues to move beyond the barrier of institutionalized racism and insensitivity that has imprisoned their minds to create a positive term reflective of the many beautifully diversified cultures coexisting on planet earth.

If all else fails there is always the good "ole" standard dictionary.

cc: Deans Bernstein, Hawkes, Stewart  
Dr. Steinkrauss  
Dr. Leopold  
Mr. Bannister