

# Letters

## COLLEGE PREP

**For the second time in a row, I see that most of the historically black colleges and universities, such as Morehouse, Hampton, and Tennessee State, have the lowest graduation rates in your biennial college study ("Top 50 Colleges for African Americans," September 2006 and 2008). They also have some of the lowest high school GPA rates. What this tells me is that some of the lowest performing high school students go to these colleges and then drop out. Something needs to change because this is a cycle of failure. Improvements need to happen at the high school level first.**



Ron Lockridge  
Aliso Viejo, CA  
r.lockridge@cox.net

## LESS LOCAL RADIO, LESS COMMUNITY VOICE

**I'M GLAD YOU STARTED THE STORY ("THE FUTURE OF Black Radio," August 2008) referring to the first anniversary of the Free Jena Six march. Jena was a grassroots movement that was fueled by black radio. With there being less and less local news, there will be no more Jenas, because Jena—that small town in Louisiana—was extremely local before it became national.**

The Tom Joyners, the Steve Harveys, the Michael Baisdens, and even the Wendy Williamses will be looking more at what will be good for national advertisers, and then what will be of interest to a national audience. This would be the case even more so with Cathy Hughes, chairperson and founder of Radio One.

Grassroots efforts start from the bottom and grow outward while national syndication utilizes a top-down model. The only true hope we have left is the Internet. But first we have to ensure that more black folks have access to it.

Willie Williams  
Detroit

## SWIMMING IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS

**THANK YOU FOR THE ARTICLE "RIPPLE EFFECTS" (Newspoints, July 2008), which talks about the need to increase the swimming skills of blacks, starting with our youth. The National Association of Black Scuba Divers promotes the advancement of scuba diving skills, and the Underwater Adventure Seekers, an African American scuba diving club based in Washington, D.C., will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2009.**

My desire to scuba dive is what inspired me to learn to swim. Not long after receiving my open water scuba diving certification, a layoff grounded my plans to scuba dive. Making the best of that sink or swim situation, I dove into entrepreneurship and started Katz International Management Solutions L.L.C., a project management and systems integration support service focused on NASA and the civil space industry. In doing that, I learned that swimming can be highly beneficial for small business owners dealing with the tremendous stresses associated with starting and operating a company. In addition to providing total body fitness and being a cardiovascular and resistance workout, it's also relatively inexpensive relaxation.

Kim Terrell  
Washington, D.C.  
Katz\_Orbit@verizon.net

BE welcomes comments from our readers. Address all correspondence to: Letters, BLACK ENTERPRISE, 130 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011; Fax: 212-886-9610; e-mail: beletters@blackenterprise.com. Letters should include the writer's full name, address, and daytime telephone, and may be edited for clarity or space.