

THE **Journal** OF  
RACE & POLICY

Spring/Summer 2017  
Volume 13, Number 1

## CONTENTS

<b>Acknowledgements</b>	1
<b>Founding Editor's Introduction</b>	2
<i>Michael L. Clemons</i>	
<b>ARTICLES</b>	
<b>More Than Cultural Racism: The Complexity of White Beliefs about Racial Inequality in the Twenty-first Century</b>	5
<i>Frank R. Wood, Jr. and Roderick Graham</i>	
<b>Implications of Race and Concentrated Poverty for Asset Development Policy: Evidence from an Exploratory Study in Harlem and the Bronx, New York</b>	20
<i>Elizabeth Sperber, Ozge Sensoy Bahar, and Fred Ssewamala</i>	
<b>Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation in Response to Police Shootings of African Americans in the United States</b>	41
<i>Jennifer Reddock</i>	
<b>RESEARCH NOTE</b>	
<b>Passing the Healthcare Bill from Obama to Trump: More Confusion, More Health Disparities</b>	60
<i>Edward V. Wallace</i>	
<b>REVIEWS</b>	
<b>Ethnicity and Gender in Washington, DC</b>	68
<i>by Bangura Abdul Karim Maria I. Gabryszewska</i>	
<b>The Economics of Race in the United States</b>	71
<i>by Brendan O'Flaherty Uchenna Onuzulike</i>	
<b>White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide</b>	73
<i>by Walt Sussman Amando Rodriguez</i>	
<b>Blackballed: The Black and White Politics of Race on America's Campuses</b>	75
<i>by Lawrence C. Ross Harold A. Young</i>	
<b>Call for Papers</b>	83
<b>Advertisements</b>	

ISSN 1540845-0



ISSN: 1540-8450  
*Printed in the United States of America*

UNIVERSITY OF  
**UC**  
Cincinnati.

 **OLD DOMINION**  
UNIVERSITY  
IDEA FUSION

 **ITHACA COLLEGE**

REVIEW OF  
*Blackballed*

Lawrence C. Ross (2015). *Blackballed: The Black and White Politics of Race on America's Campuses*. New York: St. Martin's Press. ISBN: 9781250079114 (Hardcover) \$25.99 Pages 288.

Harold A. Young  
Austin Peay State University

Lawrence Ross's *Blackballed: The Black and White Politics of Race on America's Campuses* focuses on the structural and institutional racism that long defined sororities and fraternities. Ross also calls for a new set of policy initiatives so as to change the workings of college campuses in terms of making sororities and fraternities more racially inclusive and welcoming.

Ross claims that when the demographics in majority white colleges and universities began to racially change many decades ago, fraternities and sororities continued to reflect the policies of the Jim Crow era. For instance, it was not until 1953 that Phi Delta Theta reluctantly amended its membership requirement from "full Aryan blood" to "socially acceptable." Ross traces the complexion of hostile college environments through the personal struggles of those who sought to integrate all-white fraternities and sororities. We learn, for example, about Patricia Hamilton Gyi's experiences with Delta Gamma sorority in Wisconsin in the 1960s, Melody Twilly Zeiden's failed rush at the University of Alabama in 2001, and the success of Halle Lindsey in 2014 to pledge with Alpha Gamma Delta. While no longer reflected in written policy, the championing of Confederate history and symbols, black face costumes, documented incidents of physical and/or verbal assault, and the 2015 Sigma Alpha Epsilon event, involving a rendition of a fraternity song starting with the line, "there will never be a n----- SAE!", are constant reminders that the struggle for full inclusion is far from over. The coalition of 28 white sororities and fraternities at the University of Alabama known as "The Machine" also reminds us that this struggle will continue to demand a lot from us.

Ross also examines the connections between persistent institutional racism that underpins white sororities and fraternities and the response of black students and the wider community. He notes that these connections put black and white students in constant conflict. The overt and tacit support of state institutions, political leadership, and mainstream media perpetuates hostile environments on campuses, thereby constantly undermining the efforts and initiatives of black and minority students, faculty, and administrators to make our colleges truly welcoming to all persons of all persuasions.

Ross's book ends with a set of important suggestions and recommendations. First, students, faculty, and staff campus must prioritize racism. Second, funding for all programs to end racism should be adequate and consistent. Third, colleges and universities should demand change from sororities and fraternities at all levels and in all programs. Fourth, colleges and universities should review buildings named in honor of those with a racist past. Fifth, colleges and universities should recommit to supporting all affirmative action programs. And, finally, college and university administrators should invite and reward bold and creative approaches to making our campuses more inclusive and welcoming to black and minority students. Ross also believes that alumni should pressure schools to change and reward those who make real

progress in improving a university's racial environment. Student athletes should also be encouraged to be more discerning about the universities and colleges they choose to attend. But most importantly, black students and faculty should remain vigilant and continue to press our colleges and universities to do better.

*Blackballed: The Black and White Politics of Race on America's Campuses* offers a compelling look into the racism in sororities and fraternities that underpins and perpetuates racism in our society. Ross exposes the unwillingness of colleges and universities in too many cases to face the plague of racism with concrete and sustained steps to create the exemplary tertiary experience enshrined in their mission statements and objectives. Ross challenges black students and the wider community to relentlessly demand that our colleges and universities do better.

Ultimately, Ross employs sororities and fraternities as societal microcosms to lay bare the connections between racist events, racist policies, and the complicity of tertiary institutions in perpetuating racism and white supremacy. *Blackballed* is necessary reading for anyone seeking a deeper and richer understanding of the continuing struggle for inclusion on our college campuses.