

Multicultural Issues in a Thematic Context



Talking about David Blackwell's school experience we learned that he suffered few hardships because of his race. He is an African-American male that was lucky enough to go to a mixed school during his early years, which allowed him a promising future. His parents who expected him to work hard supported Blackwell. Not until Blackwell entered the work world did he ever face any racism.

Blackwell was appointed a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in 1941 for a year. This meant that he was automatically made a visiting fellow of Princeton University. "The president of Princeton wrote the director of the Institute that the Institute was abusing the University's hospitality by admitting a black." Blackwell lasted a year but left after the president of the university made a big protest against his stay.

After his stay at the Institute for Advanced Study Blackwell knew he would not be hired at a white college so he applied to 105 black colleges.

Blackwell taught at Southern University and Clark College, and then went to Howard University in 1944 as an instructor. At the time, Howard University "was the ambition of every black scholar." After three years Blackwell had become a Full Professor and Chairman. At Howard University Blackwell had heavy teaching duties, heavy administrative duties and was at a mathematically unstimulating institution. Blackwell stayed at Howard until 1954. It is unfortunate that because of his race that Blackwell was stuck at a university that could not use Blackwell to his full potential.

After Howard University he became a statistics professor at the University of California at Berkeley. Here he finished off his career with many accomplishments.

Blackwell was fortunate that he went to a mixed school during his early years but he did have a hard time out in the real world. Because of his race Blackwell could not go to a research institute or even a challenging teaching institute. He did not even try to apply to white colleges or universities because he knew he would not be hired because of his race.

References

Williams, Scott W. "David Harold Blackwell". 3/29/99. 4/30/01.
http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/PEEPS/blackwell_david.html

David Blackwell's homepage 4/30/01.

<http://oz.berkeley.edu/pub/users/davidbl/>