

***Liner Notes* presents: “The Top 10 Benefits of Melanin”**

By Conrad Miller

“Yeah, yeah, I wanna be black.”

-Lou Reed

With college application deadlines and early admission notification dates passing for seniors, the last two months have seen a noticeable increase in overt racial envy on our campus. Whether jocular or sincere, the statement “I wish I [were] black” and the analogous general sentiment have become increasingly popular. And really, in this, the land of systematic preferential treatment, who has it better than African-Americans?

Liner Notes examines the unfair advantages black people are granted in the college admissions realm and beyond, ranking them in order of societal effect:

10. Kwanzaa and Black History Month – An exclusive holiday and full month (well, 28 days) of nationalistic events and programs. Imagine the outrage a White History Month (or a White Entertainment Television, for that matter) would cause!

9. Unique, expressive hairstyles – Intricate braids, poofy afros, natty dreadlocks. Chemical-free. Feel free to touch. Questions encouraged.

8. Privilege to recite full rap songs (and say ‘nigga!’) – No awkward omissions or muffled utterances of racial epithets necessary. Blacks can say the n-word freely while others can only say it comfortably in their absence. Who said life was fair?

7. Representative status in AP classes – If a black student decides to take an Advanced Placement course, he or she will probably be a scarce resource – the only or one of two African-Americans in the classroom. Due to this scarcity, the student is often designated the unofficial black representative, summoned whenever the “black perspective” is desired in class discussion. When one’s opinion is assigned to a whole race, *that’s* power.

6. Special police attention – Last year *the Wolfpacket* reported on a racial profiling study released by the City of Claremont. According to the Claremont study, blacks and Latinos are three times more likely to be pulled over than their white counterparts and, once stopped, seven times more likely to be physically searched. It feels good to know that a race of once “Invisible Men” now receives so much state-sanctioned attention.

5. Immediate store service – African-Americans get immediate service at any store, excluding restaurants, from hovering clerks eager to learn of their intentions. “Excuse me, can I help you with anything?” Even fellow patrons express interest. “Do you work here?” Et cetera.

4. Grievances for slavery and other past (read: outdated) injustices – Also known as The Race Card. It is a well-known fact that racism, supplanted by a new “reverse-racism,” no longer exists as a significant phenomenon in this country and the lingering effects of its past presence have completely subsided. Nonetheless, African-Americans

still complain about “The Man” when convenient—just like the good ol’ days.
Reparations, please?

3. **Rhythm** – Anyone who’s seen *House Party 2* knows that blacks are inherently good dancers. It has something to do with their primal adoration for the drum, which can be traced back to Africa. But, neglecting dancing ability for a moment – what other racial group can pull off a game of basketball on rollerblades?

2. **Innate athletic ability** – Black people never have trouble getting chosen for pick-up games. Thanks to American slave breeding programs, African-Americans exhibit superior physical and athletic ability (thank you Mr. Yoshida, El Roble history teacher, for this interesting tidbit). Now, if only they learned the fundamentals!

1. **Affirmative Action** – The grand puba of pro-black, reverse-racist policies. No explanation necessary.

With all these edges and accommodations evident, it’s depressing that blacks aren’t yet ruling this country. Blame rap music.