

Colleges In 8 States Report Getting Hate Mail

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Abstract: More than dozen historically black colleges and several organizations in eight states have received racist hate mail since Christmas; anonymous letters all contain Fayetteville, NC, postmarks, and state 'total destruction of your race is our mission in life'; Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate crimes, has received calls from colleges and organizations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia; one version of letter, sent to American Jewish Community Center in Georgia, has swastika at bottom of page (M) More than a dozen historically black colleges in eight states have received racist hate mail since Christmas.

The letters, all containing Fayetteville, N.C., postmarks, began showing up in college offices just after Christmas, said Joe Roy of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., which tracks hate crimes throughout the country.

"The total destruction of your race is our mission in life," the letters state.

As of Friday, the law center had received calls from colleges and organizations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

"It's the kind of thing you don't want to get overly upset about, given that it's coming from an anonymous source," said State Alexander III, executive assistant to the president at North Carolina's Livingstone College. "But you don't want to ignore it either."

Lincoln University in Oxford, Pa., tightened security on campus after receiving letters containing threats directed at colleges and prominent black figures like Michael Jordan and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

The letters warned that "the war" against blacks would escalate this year. Each letter ended with the words, "The white race will be preserved forever."

The letter to the historically black colleges was among three versions apparently sent about the same time, Mr. Roy said.

The other two versions were sent to the American Jewish Community Center in Georgia and to chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

All three versions were typewritten in capital letters and laced with expletives and derogatory names. Confederate flags were printed at the bottom of two versions, and a swastika was placed at the bottom of the third.

The letter to the colleges used the word "rahowa," a term that means "racial holy war" among a group known as the World Church of the Creator, a successor to the defunct Church of the Creator.

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Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia

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