

2 December 2013 Letter from The U-Can! Man Eldest Brother Mr Kenneth Washington

John,

Since I won't be in attendance, I did send you a card that you should receive prior to Saturday. Attaining my college degree will always rank as a great personal achievement. I spent many hours after work going to college (7:30 - 10:30) at nearby community colleges and at military installations. I attained my degree the old fashion way - I earned it. But my college degree was the means to an end-state - improve my standard of living while opening doors to promotions and economic opportunities that advance the well-being of my family. No one puts forth the long hours and many sacrifices to attain a college degree to sit on the counter and collect dusk. We do it with the hope of getting great paying jobs, to better understand the society we must compete in and to obtain a greater perspective of how we fit into the economic engine of America.

My education help me understand the job market; provide insight on how to prepare loan requests for a business plan; ascertain whether or not there was a market for my services and or product; and determine what share of the market I could take advantage of in the forms of an entrepreneur. It also improved my ability to communicate while developing a great sense of self-confidence. Some people want to write but I am an individual blessed with the talent to write but has not figured out how to make a profit with that skill. I have as many as a 12 compositions I have started but why waste my time and money with manuscripts if I can't move the books out of storage to make a living. Education is about opportunities to excel and maximize our abilities in a capitalist society. I am so hopeful that your college education will posture you to walk through economic doors of opportunity that improves the standard of living for your family.

It is a man's primary goal to provide for his family. Economic opportunities (jobs that compensate for skill sets) are how we reach that goal. College education is designed to move barriers to economic opportunities...if it doesn't achieve that feat then the importance of education soon erodes. John, celebrate your personal achievement on Saturday but I am hopeful that you have opportunities to cash in on your achievement so degree doesn't simply collect dusk with the question sometime in the future...was those long hours and many sacrifice worth it. Today, I can say that my education has proved invaluable in posturing me to provide for my family while feeling great about myself as a man. It is my prayer at the end of the day that in the very near future you will be able to look at your family and echo those same sentiments. Congratulations on your personal achievement as a college graduate.

SUPPORT AND DEFEND

Ken Washington