

We're not interested in our own history. We really do believe what was taught to us, that we're nobody. It's easier for the masses to identify with the motherland, Africa, than with our own history.

I was invited to speak at a conference about the African American experience in the West, and I've never been so shocked and disappointed. I don't identify with African garb.

We must realize that Africa is a continent made up of many countries, not just one country. People are so quick to negate what happened right here in America. I had a major confrontation with the social studies coordinator who is black, because she didn't want the Buffalo soldiers taught [in classes] because she thought [the Buffalo soldiers] slaughtered Indians. That's the very reason why we need to tell the story and get it straight. That was done in a major African American school system with a 98 per cent black student population.

If they understood the history of Egypt, they wouldn't even discuss it. Kids don't even understand the geographical location of Detroit, much less Egypt on a damn globe.

I'm closer to my African American pioneer relatives than I am to those who came over on the boat. I'm closer to my grandparents. Once you negate this experience and hop on that boat, you do exactly what they've brainwashed you to do. It's a diversion.

To have someone say to me, "We have to go back to Africa,"