

# UC Berkeley

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### Title

Student Body Left

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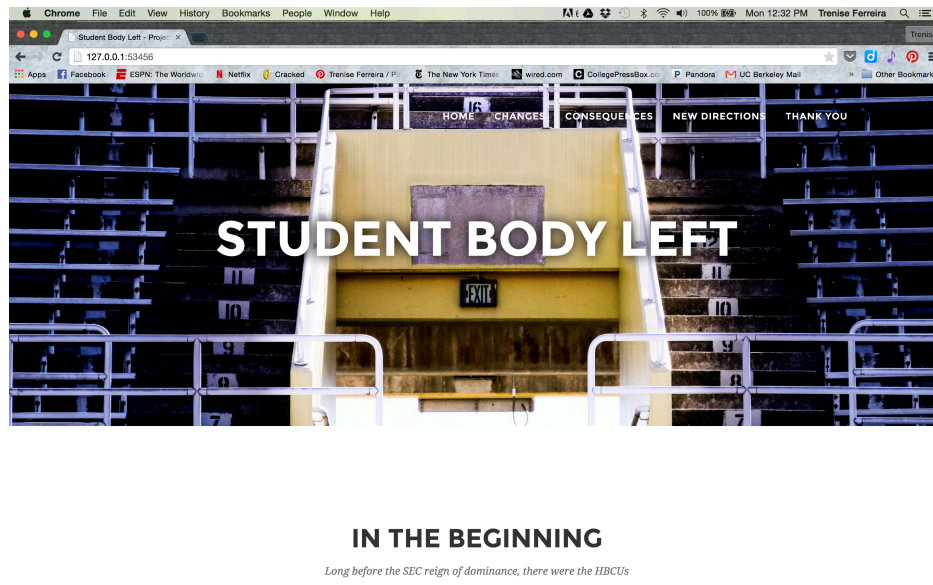
### Supplemental Material

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## Abstract

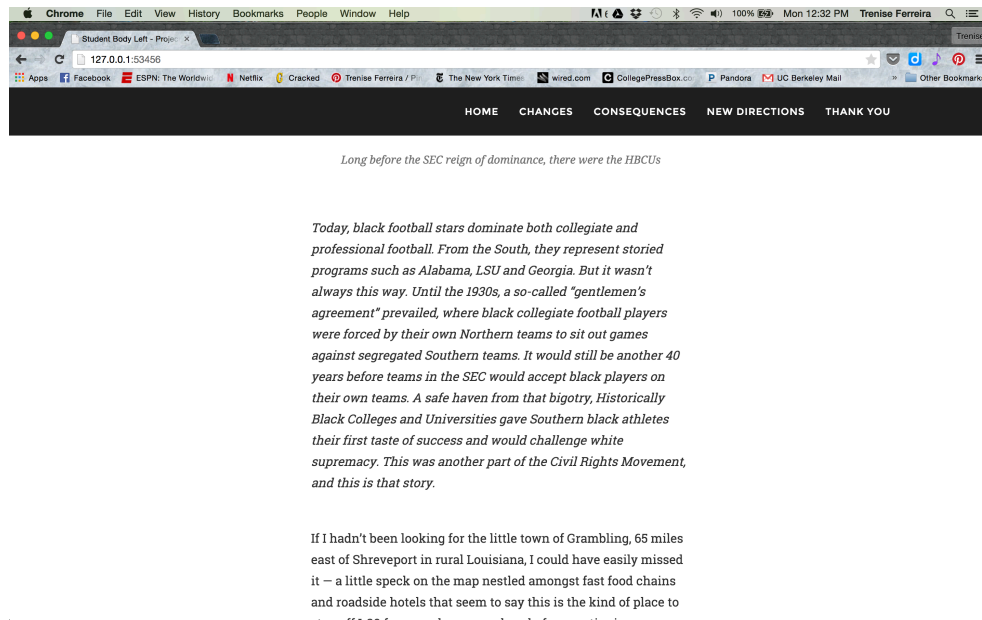
Just a few decades ago, the acronym “HBCU” was synonymous with black coaching and athletic achievement. Today, however, it’s much more difficult to find sports fans who know that “HBCU” stands for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and more difficult still to find those who remember the role these schools played in shaping the college football landscape as we know it today.

“Student Body Left” is a multimedia journalism project that explores the unique relationship between the desegregation of the South Eastern Conference (SEC) in NCAA athletics and the overall decline of sports at the Historical Black College & Universities (HBCU). Up until the 1980s, the HBCUs had some of the most illustrious programs in the South, and routinely sent players to the NFL. They defied Jim Crow by fielding incredible football teams of all-black athletes that challenged white supremacy, and in doing so, promoted civil rights through sports.

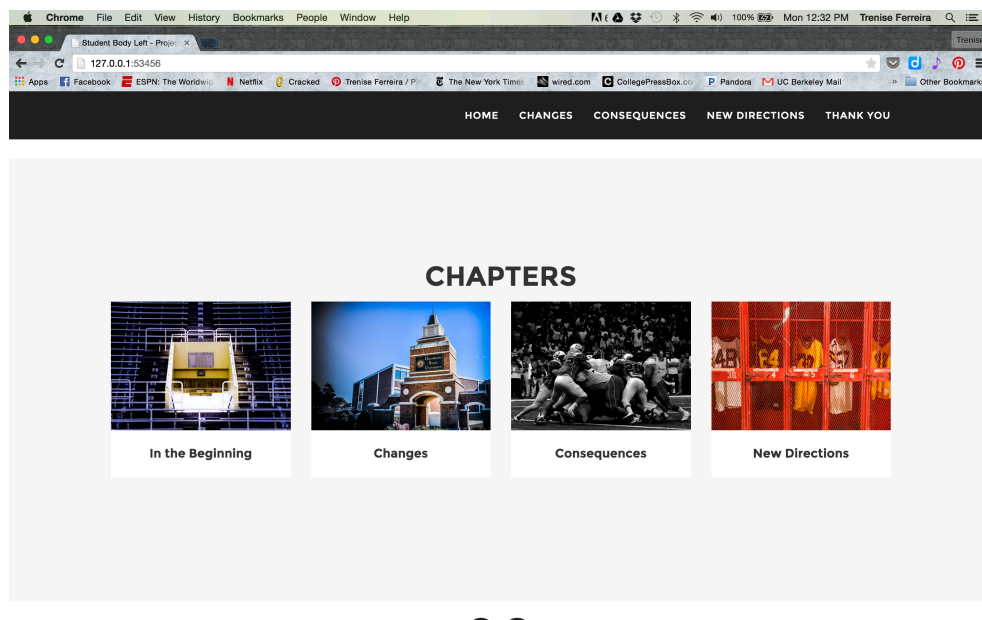


But then desegregation happened in the SEC schools (Mississippi, LSU, Alabama, etc.), and not only did the complexion of college football change, so too, did the landscape of football in the South. By and large society heralds the integration of the SEC as a major accomplishment in our society, and while that’s not arguable, the space that HBCU football now occupies in the conversation of NCAA athletics is one of novelty and afterthought. Much of their remarkable history has been forgotten, falling into the shadows of the bigger, formerly all-white SEC schools.

This project focuses on Grambling State and Southern Universities, fierce rivals and schools that once were the pinnacle of HBCU football in Louisiana. Through interviews with former coaches and players from those schools, including James Harris, the first black quarterback to start successfully in the NFL, “Student Body Left” aims to tell the other side of the story of desegregation in the SEC.



“Student Body Left” is broken up into four chapters, each focusing on a specific part of this complex story.



“In the Beginning” focuses on the glory days of HBCU football that occurred under the oppressive order in the Jim Crow South. “Changes” chronicles the efforts taken to integrate collegiate sports not only in the South but also at schools like Ohio State in the North, a task that was met with much resistance.




“Consequences” details desegregation in the SEC and the crippling fallout of that action. “New Directions” takes a look at where the HBCUs stand today, and what can be done to better preserve this illustrious history going forward. Through video and audio interviews, interactive graphics and photos, this hidden history of HBCU excellence takes shape.

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Write papers took an interest in what was going on at this humble, country school, and so Robinson's achievements went largely unnoticed.



Eddie Robinson Museum: Robinson and the NFL

In spite of a lack of widespread recognition, the dynasty that Robinson built – and the NFL pipeline that ultimately came with it – meant that Grambling State, for years, would stand out as the dream school for black athletes in the South.

The Southern black community knew very well what was going on at Grambling, though. In the 1950s and '60s, High school athletes sent handwritten letters to Robinson, begging for a chance to suit up for the Tigers and be a part of his glorious interpretation of "separate but equal." [3]

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man who would become synonymous with coaching excellence, even to this day.



Doug Porter on Eddie Robinson

Since college choices for black students and athletes were so limited, when Robinson went recruiting for this small, out-of-the-way college in rural Louisiana, he easily found outstanding players.

When Robinson first arrived at Grambling, the facilities were poor and the budget nonexistent, so he did everything himself: tended to his players' ailments, mowed and lined the field for games, made sandwiches for road trips through towns where the restaurants would not serve black patrons and initially coached both offense and defense.

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### Grambling Fun Facts

- 0**  
Number of points scored on Grambling in 1942 season. Eddie Robinson and the Tigers went 8-0
- 16**  
Number of Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) titles won by Robinson
- 51**  
Number of winning seasons Grambling experienced in Robinson's 52-year coaching career.

Statistics provided by: Hurd, Michael. Black College Football, 1892-1992: One Hundred Years of History, Education, and Pride. Virginia Beach, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1992.

Did You Know? Coach Arnett "Ace" Mumford Fun Facts

- 11 SWAC titles won at Southern University
- 4 Consecutive undefeated seasons (1947-1950)
- 6 Black National Championships won at Southern University
- 35 All-Americans produced

The head coach had in mind the perfect candidate to blaze the trail for black quarterbacks. A kid from Monroe, Louisiana with all the skills – and better yet, the intangibles – necessary to go above and beyond expectation. James Harris was that candidate.

Doag Porter on James Harris

The 6-foot-4, 210-pound Harris was a highly sought after prospect, with everyone from black colleges like Alcorn A&M, to integrated schools from the North and West like Arizona State, Indiana and Michigan State, and even formerly segregated schools like Houston, wanting him on their teams.[5]

While he had many options for playing college ball, he only had one if he wanted to stay a quarterback. If he went to a white college, he would have to give up his aspirations of being a quarterback, but would have more exposure to NFL scouts as a

Mike Williams.[23]

### LSU Demographics

1890s-1970 1972 1970s 2000s

White/Other Players

Averages considered by using only scholarship athletes in calculations

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LSU Demographics | Create infographics

Things went more smoothly at Georgia, which was very quickly rewarded for ending its ban on black players in Athens.

In the late 1960s, the Bulldogs started recruiting black players,

are staples in Tiger country, as only the best of the best is acceptable in these parts.

LSU and Southern are separated only by a few minutes' drive, yet they seem worlds apart.

But then, they always have been.

### SEC Recruiting Budgets

	Recruiting	% Change 2009-2013
Alabama	\$983,721	31.2%
Auburn	\$1,384,188	122.6%
Florida	\$687,227	67.6%
Georgia	\$581,531	-11.5%
LSU	\$577,442	35%

Data provided by USAToday.com


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SEC Recruiting Budgets | Create infographics

Back during the "separate but equal" days, LSU and Southern were certainly separated, but by no means were they ever equal. Where LSU could always depend on funding from both the state

### FADED MEMORIES

The glory days are long gone, but the legacy of HBCU football lives on



Though integration of college sports teams was a landmark step in the direction of progress it came at a steep price, and it wasn't those who benefited the most who paid for it.

At the end of the '70s, a major racial shift had occurred in the

Source list: [1] Freedman, Samuel G. "Draw Water Where You Can." In *Breaking the Line: The Season in Black College Football That Transformed the Sport and Changed the Course of Civil Rights*, 18. Reprint Edition (August 12, 2014) ed. New York, New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014.

[2] Freedman, Samuel G. "Spared For Something." In *Breaking the Line: The Season in Black College Football That Transformed the Sport and Changed the Course of Civil Rights*, 60-61. Reprint Edition (August 12, 2014) ed. New York, New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014.

[3] Freedman, *Breaking the Line*, 14

[4] Freedman, *Breaking the Line*, 14

[5] Freedman, *Breaking the Line*, 67

[6] Freedman, *Breaking the Line*, 67

[7] Martin, Charles H. "Introduction: The Strange Athletic Career of Jim Crow." In *Benching Jim Crow: The Rise and Fall of the Color Line in Southern College Sports, 1890-1980*, Intro XVI. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2010.

[8] Martin, Charles H. "White Supremacy and American College Sports: The Rise of the Gentleman's Agreement." In *Benching Jim Crow: The Rise and Fall of the Color Line in Southern College Sports, 1890-1980*, 18. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2010.

[9] Martin, Charles H. "Introduction: The Strange Athletic Career of Jim Crow." In *Benching Jim Crow: The Rise and Fall of the Color Line in Southern College Sports, 1890-1980*, 29. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2010.

[10] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 29

[11] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 29

[12] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 32

[13] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 32

[14] Martin, Charles H. "Conclusion: The Accomplishments and Limitations of Athletic Integration." In *Benching Jim Crow: The Rise and Fall of the Color Line in Southern College Sports, 1890-1980*, 298. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2010.

[15] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 298

[16] Martin, Charles H. "The Final Citadel of Segregation." In *Benching Jim Crow: The Rise and Fall of the Color Line in Southern College Sports, 1890-1980*, 255. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2010.

[17] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 255

[18] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 256

[19] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 258

[20] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 258

[21] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 279

[22] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 280

[23] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 280-281

[24] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 290

[25] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 282

[26] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 282

[27] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 287

[28] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 257

[29] "The Grambling Football Boycott." *New York Times*. October 25, 2013. Accessed March 1, 2015. [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/26/opinion/the-grambling-football-boycott.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/26/opinion/the-grambling-football-boycott.html?_r=0).

[30] Martin, *Benching Jim Crow*, 301