

Taylor Harris

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### ***The Quad* : The true representation of historically black colleges?**



Photos: HBCU BUZZ.com

“The Quad will lead many to believe that HBCUs exist because of their marching bands; that our presidents are unethical; that our boards are dysfunctional and have misplaced priorities; that our faculty, students and administrators are driven by sex, alcohol, marijuana, low self-esteem, parties and preoccupation with music; that it is acceptable to disrespect women; that university policy can be set by a band director; and that there are no standards of conduct or penalties for bad behavior.” These are the words of Hampton University’s President, Dr. William R. Harvey. Dr. Harvey wrote a letter to BET CEO Debra Lee addressing his perspective of the BET’s hit show *The Quad*. This letter caused a lot of controversy in the HBCU community. I believe that the show *The Quad* is a misrepresentation of historically black colleges and universities because it displays that black, young adults do not take education seriously, we are not prestigious as a PWI, and that all HBCUs are dysfunctional and disorganized.

The Quad has a series of interesting twists and turns, but one of the big twists is when the main character is arrested for the murder of his girlfriend. The band director is depicted to be more powerful than the university’s president. *The Quad* displays all the women that work or attend historically black colleges and

universities are promiscuous. I do not agree with the way we are misrepresented. I am a young, black educated woman who carries herself with pride and respect. I do not dress promiscuous and take part in illegal drinking. There are a lot of young, black men that are on the right track and do not engage in criminal activity. For example, DJ Envy is a proud alumni of Hampton University and he is a successful DJ and host of the Breakfast Club radio show. Just because we are black, does not mean that we are destined to fail or participate in illegal activities. HBCUs are not dysfunctional. Yes, we have problems but what school doesn't have them?

Attending Hampton University, I see that the President is the most powerful person in charge and no one has more authority than the University's President. So the show is inaccurate when it depicts that the band director has more power than the President.

I believe that the show *The Quad* is a misrepresentation of historically black colleges and universities because it displays that black, young adults do not take education seriously, we are not prestigious as a PWI, and that all HBCUs are dysfunctional and disorganized. *The Quad* should be taken off the air because it does not show the world the accurate and right image of historically black colleges across the country. Also, this is not good because HBCUs are starting to shut down due to financial reasons and no one would want to donate to our schools if they think this is what is really going. We should protest or have a petition to ban the television show or have a panel discussion aired on BET to talk about the truth in HBCU life.