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The Black Athlete on the Traditionally White College Campus—Issues of Access and Diversity, Harry Edwards' work in sports and society spans three decades. He has been a driving force in examining the worlds of intercollegiate and professional athletics and their often adverse effect on black student-athletes.

As he wrote in an early article, "To understand why, we must understand sports' impact upon black society: how popular beliefs that blacks are innately superior athletes, and that sports are 'inherently' beneficial, combine with the life circumstances of young blacks, and with the aspirations of black student athletes, to make those students especially vulnerable to victimization."