



Accessibility



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Today's contemplation centers on the question of whether the struggles for integration have truly been worth it. As an advocate dedicated to ensuring the success of black and brown Deaf youth beyond high school, the lack of resources and attention allocated to these students is deeply disheartening. The reality of inadequate parental support and severe underfunding for BIPOC children with disabilities weighs heavily on the mind.



Recipe of the Week: Southern Style Peach Cobbler

Examining BIPOC students in schools where they constitute the majority, yet face limited resources, dysfunctional materials, and insufficient extracurricular and academic support, prompts an important inquiry: Were schools better under a "FUBU" (for us by us) approach? Did BIPOC teachers demonstrate a stronger commitment when educating students who shared their backgrounds? Did this cultural alignment enhance their dedication to our children's success?

In personal experience, the benefits of connecting with students and their parents are evident. There are intangible aspects of cultural understanding, like knowing that "education is the key that opens any door," that enrich a student's educational journey. Today, despite HBCUs producing 85% of black doctors with woefully inadequate funding, there's a surge in BIPOC college graduates. Yet, many face discouragement and microaggressions hinting at their perceived limitations based on skin color.

As an educator and advocate, maintaining high standards for all students, regardless of perceived abilities, is crucial. While the true benefits of integration remain uncertain, the presence of educators, mentors, and advocates who resemble and understand BIPOC individuals has proven impactful. Their influence offers hope and demonstrates that BIPOC individuals can achieve greatness.

Our world remains segregated, with significant disparities in education and resources favoring our white counterparts. However, the value of community support, empowerment, and cultural pride far outweighs any gains from forced integration. Integration may have aimed for unity, but true progress lies in uplifting and empowering our communities from within.

As we strive for equality and justice, let us remember that our cultural heritage and shared experiences are invaluable treasures.

Ingredients:

- 1 box Pillsbury pie crusts (contains 2 crusts)
- 2 sticks salted butter, divided
- 3 large cans (29 oz each) sliced peaches in syrup
- 3 cups granulated sugar (adjust to taste)
- 3 tbsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tbsp ground nutmeg
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 1 heaping tbsp all-purpose flour
- Blue Bell vanilla ice cream, for serving

Instructions:

1. Prepare Peach Filling:

- Combine peaches with syrup, 2 cups sugar, 3 tbsp cinnamon, 1 tbsp nutmeg, and 1 tbsp vanilla in a saucepan.
- Add 1 stick (1/2 cup) butter. Bring to a boil, then simmer.
- Mix 1 heaping tbsp flour with a cup of hot peach juice until smooth. Stir into peaches and simmer until thickened.

2. Prepare Crust:

- Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Brown one pie crust as per package instructions.

3. Assemble Cobbler:

- Line a deep aluminum foil pan with peach mixture.
- Place browned crust on top. Add more peach mixture.
- Create lattice crust with second pie crust. Drizzle with remaining butter.
- Sprinkle cinnamon sugar on top.

4. Bake:

- Bake 35-40 minutes until golden brown and bubbly.

5. Serve:

- Serve warm with Blue Bell vanilla ice cream.

So, while the debate on integration continues, let's savor the sweetness of community, uplift each other, and cherish the flavors that make our journey uniquely Southern.

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