Ferris State museum's racist exhibits promote racial understanding

(Big Rapids-AP, April 10, 2004, 4:13 p.m.) A black sociology professor at Ferris State University has collected four-thousand Jim Crow items over the years in the name of education.

All are now housed at the school's Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia. Jim Crow is a post-Civil War term of discrimination against or segregation of blacks.

Curator David Pilgrim says the museum's mission is to help people understand historical and contemporary racist expressions. He also says it serves as a resource for civil rights and human rights organizations.

The collection of racist figurines, souvenirs and other related items fill the display cases with startling, anti-black words and images. Pilgrim says he has no problem finding new items at swap meets or online.


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