

# 360

VOLUME 2 NO. 6

KNOWLEDGE · WISDOM · UNDERSTANDING

## Where the Hell Were YOU?!? by Musa R. Tawwab Abdullah a.k.a. Penstroke I.B.P.

This letter is written to those individuals who are supposed to be the leaders of the Black campus community. I am going out on a limb to address the most recent events of this college community. For all those unaware, a march was held to protest the racist and intimidating acts against a fellow brother and student at Kalamazoo College. Due to the lax efforts of the Minority Student Leadership Council, the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Incorporated organized a march and rally. Though the brothers of A. Phi A. organized the march, it was not an Alpha march. This act of solidarity was for all people who spoke out against the injustices on college campuses, in local communities, or any other areas that are inhabited by members of the human race. This protest happened to be the result of the racist acts perpetrated upon a young Black male student of a neighboring university. This march started at the WMU Bernhard Center and ended on the college campus of K-College in front of the K-College union center. The administration's stance on the issue was questioned. They were also questioned as to what they planned on doing to insure that another incident of this type would not occur. The local newspapers and television stations were on the scene to help attest to our (students) unwillingness to tolerate such acts. Now let us understand the problem with the march. **THERE WERE ABOUT AS MANY BLACK PEOPLE AS THERE WOULD BE IN AN EIGHT A.M. PHILOSOPHY COURSE!** Where the hell were all the strong Black student organizations? I could bet a rats ass to a dollar bill that if there were grills blazing, brew flowing and women shakin' their rears the turnout would have been legendary. We would have seen more than 2 NAACP members, **DEFINITELY** more than 3 YOUNG BLACK MALES, MOST DEFINITELY more than 1 DELTA SIGMA THETA, 0 members of RHEMA ZOE MINISTRIES, 0 members of ALLEN CHAPEL A.M.E., 2 members of KALAMZOO ISLAMIC CENTER, 0 members of the NATION OF GODS AND EARTHS, or 1 or 2 members of MINORITY STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL. The list could go on but the eternal question remains, "WHERE THE HELL WERE YOU!" If you say that you were in class, more power to you but I want you to remember that reason the next time you skip a class. Review these TOP reasons for missing a class and remember the protest you missed because of "class". Are you guilty of using these reasons?

- 1) You were a little tired or a little drunk.
- 2) You were arguing on the phone with your significant other.
- 3) You had to go to Kinkos to get that last-minute flyer for your next function.
- 4) You were laid up with someone and he or she **and** the bed felt so warm.
- 5) You just couldn't tear yourself away from that interesting conversation in the Bronco Mall.
- 6) I haven't washed my clothes, hair, shoes, etc.
- 7) I haven't done my hair.
- 8) I only have one class on Friday and I wanted to go to the "D", Flint, Saginaw, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Southfield, etc.
- 9) When you are saying to yourself, "He/She don't take attendance anyway." "We just took a test, I ain't goin' to miss nuthin'". "He/She is boring, I might as well stay here and go to sleep." "It's a lecture, they won't know whether I'm there or not." "I got an A or B already!" "I already went to the lab. I don't need to go to the class (or vice versa)".

**YOU ALL GET THE PICTURE!** It is about time these so called "Black organizations" got up off their asses and did something that is monumental and could possibly make a serious change. Quit riding the wave your charter members and founders started. **TRY MAKING YOUR OWN D- -N WAVES!**

P.S. I am a writer and the truth is what I write, if it doesn't apply it's like water on a ducks back (it should roll right off). Don't hate the messenger hate the message. Understand that truth and criticism brings positive change. **SO START CHANGIN'!**

-Please Keep in mind that 360 will be holding a panel discussion entitled "An Assessment of Race Relations in America" on Thursday November 5 at 7PM at 2452 Knauss Hall. We hope to see you all there!

-Hit us up at our hotmail address, [kwu360@hotmail.com](mailto:kwu360@hotmail.com) to make comments, ask questions, or find out more about 360.

As we attempt to unify Black College students at K-College and WMU in the aftermath of the Unity Rally of 1998, we must not overlook the problems we face daily with unifying our own minority student body. This piece is dedicated to those individuals who have sought and/or attained membership in a kemet secret society, but were not necessarily welcomed back to their original organizations or social circles with open arms. These petty, close minded attitudes will continue to drive us apart, but only as long as we let them. No one in particular is specifically targeted here, but I'm sure the guilty parties will make themselves known and totally miss the point, as usual.

### **Growing Old by E. Waters a.k.a. The Black Sheep**

When we first got together, nobody knew you.  
You were weak, misdirected,  
A forgotten face, a forgotten name.  
I built you back up to prominence,  
Together, we ran the yard with dominance.  
The more we did, the more accolades poured in,  
We represented the epitome of unified Black men.  
I thought your maturity matched mine,  
So I took some time,  
To do what I had to do.  
I could have just ran with another crew,  
But I came back.  
The love I had for you and what we do,  
Brought me back.  
But you couldn't appreciate that.  
You couldn't deal with the fact  
That when I came back I wore Gold and Black.  
I didn't think it would change what we had,  
But I guess it just made you mad.  
What happened to unified Black men?  
I now see our bond was paper thin,  
Talking about me behind my back to my best friend.  
I took it upon myself to bow out gracefully,  
And exit stage left with my dignity,  
Because I refuse to stay where I'm not wanted.  
To this day I'm not angry,  
I'm too mature to hold a grudge.  
I'm just confused when I remember how it was,  
Compared to how it is.  
It is the natural order of things I guess,  
Growing old, growing apart.  
Some call it evolution.  
These days when I see you, I speak.  
And even though you can't speak back it's cool,  
I just shake my head at the things you do.  
I thought you knew,  
I've outgrown you.

"We don't judge a man because of the color of his skin.

We don't judge you because you're white. We don't judge because you're Black. We don't judge you because you're brown. We judge you because of what you do, what you practice. And as long as you practice evil, we're against you. And to us, the worst form of evil is the evil that's based upon judging a man because of the color of his skin. And I don't think anybody here can deny that we're living in a society that just doesn't judge a man according to his talent, according to his know-how, according to his academic background. This society judges a man solely upon the color of his skin. If you're white, you can go forward, and if you're Black, you have to fight your way every step of the way, and you still don't get forward."

*excerpt from a speech delivered on February 16, 1965 by El Hajj Malik El Shabbaz; Malcolm X*

### **Step 2: Humility and Spirituality by the Righteous One**

*In the last two issues of 360 I have introduced the theory of Positive Eurocentrism as one that can heal the sickness of Eurocentrism, the root of all racism. Step 2: Humility and Spirituality is the third essay of six concerning Positive Eurocentrism.*

We understand that for us, European Americans, to rid ourselves of Eurocentrism we must redefine the way we think and the way look at things. We must do this in order to look at our mistakes, both in the past and present in an honest and truthful way. After we realize our mistakes we can then begin to fix them.,

But just because we recognize the mistakes we as a people have made doesn't mean that we will fix them. To want to do this we must humble ourselves. This means that we must each realize our shortcomings, faults, and our problems. I cannot fix yours, nor you mine. This is something we must each work at ourselves. But the problems we have made collectively as European Americans are ones that we must hold ourselves accountable for. With humility we can find the strength to do this. By realizing that we are not infallable, perfect, and most of all superior (Eurocentrism) we can begin to change our ways. Through humility we will see that we are not entitled to special privileges because of our race and that we did not and could not build this country alone. People of other races, particularly Native and African Americans are entitled to as much if not more of a share of this country as you or I. Thus the structure we have set up for our success and their failure must be torn asunder. By gaining humility we will see these things; we will see that our success only comes at the price of another's failure, and maybe we won't let it (pseudo-success) go to our heads (Brand Nu). Humility will also show us that we are not independent of the problems of other communities, that we are all intertwined. Everything we have is dependent on someone else in some way, so before you are I fall into the trap of calling ourselves something we are not (self-made men) we should realize that we could not have gotten there without someone else's assistance. For example, you would have no car if someone didn't build it. Could you have built it yourself? You would have no house if someone didn't build that. Could you have built that? You would have nowhere to put your garbage if someone didn't collect it once a week. The point I'm making is that no matter how important you or I think we might be, we are in reality no more important than one who collects garbage, builds houses or works in a plant (if you yourself don't), despite how much more money you may make or where you may live. You, I or anyone could not have the things we have without the help of others. To reiterate, humility helps us realize this.

After we humble ourselves and recognize our interdependence with others, we will see that we are not superior to anyone, but in fact inferior to only one being, God -Allah. Humility shows us this. Recognizing God's presence will bring Spirituality. This does not mean religion- spirituality only means humbling one's self to God, which is why Spirituality and Humility are so closely associated; one must first have humility to then be spiritual.

We should only claim a religion after becoming spiritual people. As you know, religion divides today more than it unifies, because man lacks the proper humility and spirituality to correctly practice religion. We as European Americans have been guilty of misusing religion to passify people- here in America and abroad as well. Unfortunately evidence of this crime can still be seen in all parts of the world. We made this mistake because we lacked humility and of course spirituality. With these virtues we can cleanse ourselves of these and other errors.

Gaining humility and spirituality is necessary for us to destroy the attitude of superiority and detachment from others most of us still have to one degree or another. Once we have these attributes, we can begin changing our attitudes.

*The next step of Positive Eurocentrism will be taken in the next 360.*