

# 360

Volume 3, #10

Knowledge, Wisdom, Understanding

## **Where is Your Head At? by the Minister of Information Eldridge Cleaver aka the Unknown Scholar**

Let me ask you this: did you attend the Tribute to the Revolution? Better yet did you check out the discussion "What Color is God"? If your answer is yes then I commend you for your effort to attend something mind elevating. If your answer is no then I must ask you this next question: where is your head at? Maybe you were planning for the next gig or maybe you feel you know enough about African American History. With my four years of being on this campus, what I've observed is students who are uninterested in the advancement and upgrading of black people. But instead they're interested in shaking their asses while listening to degrading music. Don't get me wrong we all have been to parties and danced, but when you put these types of events first before something conscious I have a problem with that. If you can gig for four hours then you can sacrifice two hours to be educated and informed with knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. These are three principles that we try to instill in the minds of the readers of 360 as well as attentive listeners at our discussions. This is something that you may not be interested in and you're entitled to your decision whether or not you want to hear or read 360 material. You can go through life and not give a damn about African American history or culture. Some do make this decision, this is why we have these Uncle Toms today. They didn't care then and don't today and maybe never will. With that statement, I must ask the question again: **is this where your head's at?** If the answer is yes, then I must either call you a **Tom, capitalist pig, or a racist**. On the other hand if you're saying to yourself "I don't fit the description of the three", I'll just say that you're **naive or unconcerned**. Meaning if you think that you don't need to hear about your culture and don't care and would rather kick it at the Nouveau Room then I must sum it all up and say you're a fool. We have too long of a way to go as black people to think in this mind state. There is too much work that needs to be done that can't get accomplished poppin' and jitting on the dance floor, or drinking liquor or smoking weed or talkin' on the phone gossiping about who's on line with this fraternity and that sorority or how you wish you were back in the "D". Right here in Kalamazoo there is work to be done in the black community. Let's not get so comfortable in our state of minds, thinking that you've done enough. No one knows your future except God and you never know when you might be in a time of need. I know that these words I'm writing might not sink into your head right now but I hope it does eventually. Western Michigan is in need and we all can play a role helping black people on this campus get where we need to go in life. Let's all get our heads together and walk in a narrow path of righteousness. That's the truth in itself. 360 (knowledge wisdom and understanding). **Peace!**

excerpt from "*The Correct Handling of a Revolution*" written by Huey Newton. It appeared in the Black Panther newspaper in July 1967

There are three ways one can learn: through study, observation, and experience. Since the Black community is composed basically of activists, observation of or participation in activity are the principle ways the community learns. To learn by studying is good, but to learn by experience is better. Because the Black community is not a reading community it is very important that the vanguard group be essentially activists. Without this knowledge of the Black community a Black revolution in racist America is impossible.

The main function of the party is to awaken the people and teach them the strategic method of resisting a power structure which is prepared not only to combat with massive brutality the people's resistance but to annihilate totally the Black population. If it is learned by the power structure that Black people have "X" number of guns in their possession, that information will not stimulate the power structure to prepare itself with guns: it is already prepared. The end result of this revolutionary education will be positive for Black people in their resistance, and negative for the power structure in its oppression because the party always exemplifies revolutionary defiance. If the party does not make the people aware of the tools and the methods of liberation, there will be no means by which the people can be mobilized.

The relationship between the vanguard party and the masses is a secondary relationship. The relationship among the members of the vanguard party is a primary relationship. If the party machinery is to be effective it is important that the members of the party group maintain a face-to-face relationship with each other. It is impossible to put together functional party machinery or programs without this direct relationship. To minimize the danger of Uncle Tom informers and opportunists the members of the vanguard group should be tested revolutionaries. The main purpose of the vanguard group should be to raise the consciousness of the masses through educational programs and other activities. The sleeping masses must be bombarded with the correct approach to struggle and the party must use all means available to get this information across to the masses.

Many would-be revolutionaries work under the fallacious notion that the vanguard party would be a secret organization which the power structure knows nothing about, and that the masses know nothing about except for occasional letters that come to their homes at night. Underground parties cannot distribute leaflets announcing an underground meeting. Such contradictions and *see revolution*

- The Young Black Males Support Network is having a picnic at Spring Valley Park on April 17th (Saturday) at 2pm. Be there!
- The NAACP will be having a car wash on April 17th (Saturday) from 10 am to 2 pm in the parking lot of Munchie Mart on West Michigan and Stadium. Make sure you can floss your ride for the picnic!



### Step 3: Understanding and Perspective by the Minister of Defense Huey Newton aka the Righteous One

*We continue with the concept of Positive Eurocentrism, a concept we believe can help white people free themselves from the bondage of White Supremacy. A special dedication goes out to those who say I do not work along with and for my people. read the back issues son.*

After we accept the truths of our history as European Americans we begin to understand and see the effects of the past on present day society. Consequently, we redefine our culture based upon what we want our society to become, not what it is (Step 1). With this redefinition comes humility. We need this to accept the mistakes we have made as a people and realize that we are not infallible or superior to other races and cultures. Through this humbleness we can then gain a sense of spirituality, meaning that we realize our place in God's plan as subservient beings (Step 2).

Now we have all the things we need to eliminate white supremacy, eurocentrism, and racism from our Selves and culture. These attributes enable us to take the last step of Positive Eurocentrism, gaining understanding of other cultures and learning to take on perspectives other than our own. We cannot do this without first redefining our culture (as noted). Eurocentrism teaches us that we are superior because of our skin color. As long as we believe this we can never respect, admire, appreciate, or understand other cultures. Without understanding we can never look at things from any perspective but our own because we will not understand any perspective but our own.

Understanding of other cultures is important to us because there are other cultures in the United States and in the world besides our own. Instead of embracing these cultures we ignore them and teach those within them that to succeed they must assimilate into European culture, in essence replacing their culture with a European one. We must learn to accept other cultures and acknowledge their contributions and tradition. By doing this we defeat the premise that others must conform to European cultures. We can achieve this understanding by reading books written by people of other cultures, interacting with people of other cultures, and participating in events and functions promoting other cultures. The bottom line is that we take the initiative to learn about others by ourselves, and that the media, bureaucracies, and even our elders (in many cases) are not the ones informing us about them. They maintain the collective eurocentric mind state that exists globally.

After we gain an appreciation of cultures outside our own, we must learn to understand things from the perspectives of others. Too often, black and white people hold different and opposing opinions. For example, most white people do not see racism as a big problem, yet most black people do. Obviously we do not see racism as a big problem because most of the time we are the ones hating, not getting hated. If we look at poverty through the eyes of the impoverished we will have more sympathy towards those of us with less money and gain a sense of urgency in dealing with the problem of poverty. If we learn to look at issues like racism through the eyes of the "hated" and not just the "hater," we will acknowledge the seriousness of the race problem. With more perspectives to look from we will see that because it is not happening to us does not mean it is not happening.

I will begin as I started in issue #4. Our society is reaching a critical stage in its evolution, one which may lead to self destruction. Though the races have never been in unity, we are growing farther apart by the day, by the minute even. I am telling this to everyone because I love you all. But I write these words in direction to white people in particular. There is a war going on. Consider 360 a war report. We consider ourselves to be in the midst of the combat. Thus we tell you (if you don't already know) what is happening here in America. We let the NBC news tell you about Kosovo. The theory of Positive Eurocentrism is one way I believe you, white man and white women, can survive the war here. Because I must tell you; you may think you are safe from this war's (the one here in America) repercussions, but this is not so. You can become a casualty as easily as me or my fellow 360 officials. As a matter of fact, you may get caught before us because you have nothing to fight with. We have the ammunition. If you don't want it we encourage you to find your own, as long as you can defend yourself. Just remember there is a war.

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**Revolution cont.** inconsistencies are not recognized by these so-called revolutionaries. They are, in fact, afraid of the very danger that they are asking the people to confront. These so-called revolutionaries want the people to say that they themselves are afraid to say, to do what they themselves are afraid to do. That kind of a revolutionary is a coward and a hypocrite. A true revolutionary realizes that if he is sincere death is imminent. Without this realization it is pointless to proceed as a revolutionary.

Millions and millions of oppressed people may not know members of the vanguard party personally but they will learn of its activities and its proper strategy for liberation through indirect acquaintance provided by the mass media. But it is not enough to rely on the media of the power structure: it is of prime importance that the vanguard party develop its own communications organ, such as a newspaper, and at the same time provide strategic revolutionary art, and destruction of the oppressor's machinery.

It is believed by some hypocrites that when people are taught by the vanguard group to prepare for resistance, this only brings "the man" down on them with increasing violence and brutality; but the fact is that when the man becomes more oppressive he only heightens the revolutionary fervor. So if things get worse for oppressed people they will feel the need for revolution and resistance. The vanguard party only teaches the correct methods of resistance. The vanguard party must exemplify the characteristics that make them worthy of leadership.

#### **Last Words from the Battlefield**

We would like to wish you the best in your endeavors while away from school. But in your ventures remember that the war is with everything outside your door. Thus those who plot our downfalls could be anywhere or anyone. Look at and think about everything and everyone you encounter and do not make hasty decisions. Remember.....the rev is watchin'. We hope to see you next fall smarter than when you left.- *Chairman Bobby Seale aka the Conscious One and Minister of Defense Huey Newton aka the Righteous One.*

Now that was sweet and all, but I must end with these words: "Until my people have received what is rightfully theirs, then the revolution will never end". Remember these words and take it to your friends and family, encourage them to find ways to keep this revolution alive. Without your help and support then we wouldn't be of any use, we would only be helping ourselves. I hope that you have a will and desire next year to become active on this campus, so you too can be a revolutionist and not a lazy Tom who doesn't give a damn like you've been acting all year long (directed to those of you who didn't care this year). Peace be unto you - *the Minister of Information Eldridge Cleaver aka the Unknown Scholar*

*e-mail us at [kwu360@hotmail.com](mailto:kwu360@hotmail.com) for revolutionary assistance, reinforcements, warfare tactics, questions, comments*