

Knowledge

Wisdom

Understanding

Floydology

BY IFE ABDULAL MUHAMMAD

There have always been rumors about the dismantling of the Division of Minority Affairs (D.M.A.) under the previous president. Dean Haenicke had many minority students wondering and begging for his support for those things they held truest to their heart. (i.e. MLK day). These rumors ceased when Dr. Floyd was named president of WMU. Minorities everywhere celebrated as if O.J. was found innocent again. As a matter of fact, in small circles there was champaign flowing because they thought the "Black Messiah" had arrived. Now, that the jubilation has stopped and those small circles are back to drinking red kool-aid, because it seems to be politics, as usual under Floyd's tenure. Now rumors are circulating once again, but this time they might have some truth to them.

When I first found out Mr. Bell was leaving WMU, I thought of the misfortune WMU would bear by losing such an influential and respected individual. His commitment to minority students to assure that they graduated and not get lost in between the "cracks" of the "academic pavement" so to speak, can only be matched by a few. Then I heard that Dr. Warfield was considering taking a new position within the university but outside the D.M.A.. With her having been the back bone and playing the most pivotal role within the D.M.A., it will be a long time before DMA will find an adequate replacement for her. With their resignations, many question have been raised about the future of the DMA.

The future of the DMA now lies in the Office of Student Services, not in the Office of Academic Services (O.A.S.), where it belongs and can better serve students. WMU needs to do a better job of promoting academic excellence and scholastic achievement among its minority students. This can only be done through the O.A.S. The DMA's main focus has always been to provide students with academic support and general advising, not to help them put on programs. The DMA has also helped many colleges within the university maintain their accreditation because of the academic services it provides. Why would the President try to cancel out a department that minority students find useful and beneficial without speaking to ALL minority students first? The Writers of 360 would like to hold a forum discussing the future of the DMA with President Floyd because we feel as though he has shortchanged the minority students of WMU.

We the students have the right to know what "Floydology" is. We have the right to know what his plans are for Minority tenure ship, minority retention, minority recruitment, and MLK program. Our academic survival depends on it. *more info on the forum- contact us at our address ou rPres.Floyd: Elson.S.Floyd@wmich.edu*
Moor or African American- (Another Choice you Probably Don't Want to Make)
by Musa Tawwab Abdullah aka Penstroke I.B.P.

In a world where definition can determine the outcome of a persons entire existence, the labels that we have had thrust upon us (Moors) are the mere breakdown of our (Moors) true existence and glory as a people. I would like to eliminate the necessity of clarifying who "us" and "we" are. I will plainly state that I am referring to the so-called Negroes, African-Americans, Afro-Americans, Black Americans, Diasporing Africans, Niggaz, Brothas and Coloureds. I would like to change the campus population of Western Michigan University to explore the possibility that they have been deceived in their "racial classification." The deception of vague labeling is a mechanism that deviates the mind from the true meaning of things. Let us first, briefly, look at the term African-American. What part of Africa do you think that you are from? What places make up the African Continent? Why should we believe that we are getting back to our roots when the name "Africa" is a French name? Though we helped to build America and though we have struggled more than the other inhabitants of this nation, are we truly American? These are some much-needed questions that requires much needed answers. Finally, where does the term African-American gain its validation? These questions must be considered!!!

I will, by the end of this article, give you reason to question whether you are truly a Moor or an African-American. The greatness of our people has been kept a secret and hidden by ambiguous meaningless names that require no study. The title African-American seems so self-explanatory. It is pacification!!! We have limited knowledge of the accomplishments of Africa but, I believe that an account of what we as Moors have done for the world will help us to determine our destiny and self-definition.

What is a Moor? A Moor, simply put, is a people who are North African ancestors of the dark-brown and brown-black people of the present day Sahara and the Sahel, mainly those called Fulani, Tuareg, Zenagha of South Morocco, Kunta and Tebu of the Sahel countries, as well as, "Moorish" and other "Black" Arabs who live in the Mauritania and throughout Sahel. The word Moor is from the Greek "maures" and Roman "maurus" meaning Dark! The history of the Moor is your history. Because I don't have the room or space to speak of all of the accomplishments of the Moors. I will speak of some of the most important. *cont. on back*

Volume 3, # 7

360 is:

Abayouni Dukes
The Conscious One
Grant Brooks
The Unknown Scholar
Isaac Castelaz
The Righteous One
Musa Tawwab Abdullah
Penstroke I.B.P.
Tim Hampton
The Militant -Wise One
Eric Waters
The Black Sheep

From the desk of
the Editors:

The Affirmative Action Debate

Greetings

By AnFra Penn

We at 360 would like to thank those that have supported 360 over the past year. For those that don't know this newsletter is one for information and upliftment. While we have certainly networked with many people, made allies and friends, there are those who feel that some articles have been scathing in nature and nonfactual. 360 is a work in progress; we strive for perfection in all our work, but since we are not perfect mistakes will inevitably be made. 360 offers no apologies for our collective thoughts, feelings, and ideologies. However, you may take up any discrepancies with the respective author. We do not write to be validated by our peers and we are not looking for acceptance or accolades. We do write with and for the people that are not heard or represented. So we hope that in celebrating 360's 1st anniversary you the reader will join us in the celebration because we owe our successes to you. Without you we could not do this.

If you have any thoughts, feelings, questions, or comments for us e-mail us at 360@hormail.com

Dismantling affirmative action without creating another means of ensuring justice in hiring is illustrative of the destructiveness, materialism, and imperialism which has characterized European culture throughout history. Affirmative action was born on the heel of the Civil Rights Movement and the urban rebellions of the late '60's. In an attempt to subdue the mounting racial tension and social unrest, Affirmative action was and is necessary because institutionalized racism is a reality in America. Consequently, the playing field in the workplace is not level. The combined percentage of jobs held by minorities do not even equal the percentage of jobs held by white women, yet whites complain that people of color are threatening their job security. As minority students, it is imperative that we have a clear understanding of what the elimination of affirmative action means. It would bring an end to numerous scholarships and fellowships for students of color. For instance, no longer will the Education Department make grants to colleges to assist with the education of black students in law, medicine, dentistry, and other graduate fields.

There are many issues involved in the affirmative action debate. A popular argument against affirmative action is that the "best-qualified" person is not hired because people of color have an "unfair advantage." There is no mention of the institutional advantage whites have created and maintained for centuries. In its offset, affirmative action was supposed to level the playing field and eliminate discriminatory hiring practices—not to hire unqualified people. Another issue of debate is whether or not whites owe anything to people of color for centuries of exploitation, degradation, and discrimination. Many whites say "We did discriminate. We did suppress people...Slavery was wrong. But should future generations have to pay for the legacy of slavery or for discrimination which occurred generations before they were born?" In response to this loaded question, some would respond no, while some would contend yes. Nonetheless, it is evident that the present (and perhaps future) generations of whites who "did not discriminate" and "didn't suppress people" are still reaping the benefits of such actions. Some would even argue that this exploitation has never stopped, but has just been reconstructed. Another argument is that affirmative action has not only failed to end Black poverty or promote racial harmony, but it has also failed to aid those who need it most. Of course affirmative action has failed to end Black poverty for there has been no major shift in power or the means in which resources are distributed. To be sure, abolishing affirmative action will not aid matters, particularly considering the fact that it will make receiving an education even more difficult financially for many students of color who depended on minority scholarships. The elimination of affirmative action is clearly about self-interests and greed, for those with power who want to retain more of it. Perhaps it is time that people of color stop begging others to share and learn to create their own jobs. As people of color, we need to understand that as long as we rely on white America to hire, feed, house, and educate us, we are dependent on a country which has continuously worked to exploit, undermine, miseducate, and destroy our communities. The most affirmative action people of color can take is to stop depending on others and concentrate more efforts on developing our communities and establishing a stronger economic base.

Moors cont.

Did You Know:

Moors invented the raised sidewalk hundreds of years before there was a paved street in Paris, France.

The women, in the Moorish society, where doctors, lawyers and professors while 99% of Europe was illiterate.

Moors invented the fork and spoon and were responsible for over 900 public baths while the Europe believed that bathing was sinful and should be avoided as much as possible.

Moors had enslaved 30% of Europe and where the true creators of the indentured servitude system (a system much more than the 17th century American slave trade).

The Moors invented the oil-burning street lamp years before the European had conceived the idea of outdoor lighting.

The accomplishments of our society, the Moorish society was and is filled with glorious legacy. We are all a part of that legacy and need to truly consider the change from an ambiguous title of African-American to the glorious and fitting term of Moor.

The Conscious Ones' Anti-Nigga Machine 2

(the book list for 99)

Cornel West: Race Matters

Michael Dyson: Race Rules

Iyanla Vanzant: The Spirit
Of A Man

Carter G. Woodson: The
MisEducation Of The Negro

WEB DU Bois: The Souls of
Black Folk

John Jackson: Into To
African Civilization

Kwame Ture: Black Power