

# 360

NO. 11

KNOWLEDGE · WISDOM · UNDERSTANDING

## ***The Sun is Out*** by the Righteous One

Our first and foremost goal as an organization is to expose the truth. Many people may see this as an idealistic, philosophical daydream, but we know and understand the truth to be something that is both real and attainable. Are you still with me? I do not want to get so deep that you'll drown. In our struggle for truth, many people who were thought to be our companions on this journey have turned out to be victims of the same deception we condemn.

As we enter a new school year, I feel obligated to state that our pursuit is the same as it ever was. The only difference is that anyone who stands in our way of exposing truth will themselves be exposed. Make no mistake; we are not all-powerful, nor are we superior in any way to any person or organization. Thus, we are not seeking to make enemies. At the same time, we are not eager to make friends, and we are not begging for ears. The truth shall be found either as a nation of millions or a band of a dozen. But again; make no mistake; we are on the side of truth, and the truth is all-powerful, and it is superior to any man or organization.

There are many of us who hide the truth either by lying or denying what is real. Metaphorically then, these people are in the dark. In the dark, nothing can be seen, one's vision is of no use. When this is the case, one becomes vulnerable to those things that might do one harm. Ironically, some of us enjoy the dark because it allows them to hide, or remain in a position where no one can see them. Many of us prefer this condition, even though they themselves cannot see! Is this a logical tradeoff? Our intent is to spread light into every corner of darkness that exists, so that everything and one is exposed for what they are. Our reason for doing this is to enhance the condition of our society. The liars, backstabbers, and bloodsuckers who have greedily manipulated this so-called "democracy" will be seen in their true form. The most powerful source of light is of course our sun. Thus we have dubbed ourselves as "Suns" to indicate our intention on turning darkness into light, so that we can achieve truth. After all, everybody loves the Sunshine.

## ***Center of the Cipher : the Essence of Hard(core) Hip-Hop***

by Capital D of the crew All Natural, straight from the 'go

Many African (& other non western) thought & traditions tend to be intimately involved in circles. Instead of seeing & experiencing time & space in a linear fashion, (this happened, then that happened...), we see these & other concepts as being circular (futureispast-is-presentis...). All things (time, thought, life...) have a circular nature and are cyclical.

The center of a circle is its most stable point/part. The center, aka core, is that which gives life to the circle, to the cipher. Without the center/core the circle is disconnected and things fall apart. Therefore, to know the center is to know what must exist for the circle to exist. This is true for all things on our sphere called earth, including Hip-Hop.

"Hardcore" has nothing to do with "hard". To be hardcore you have to be dope, fresh, and original; to be hardcore you have to be at one with the core or center of Hip-Hop because the energy emanated from the center is what maintains and informs the whole.

Since the early 1990's, suckers across the nation have become fascinated with the word "hard". This has contributed to the phenomenon in which wannabe G's are perpetually looking at one another and evaluating each-other's so-called hardness. Hip Hop heads have allowed extraneous so-called gangstas to co-opt the word hardcore as it relates to Hip-Hop.

Hardcore Hip-Hop has come to be associated with gats, nursery school rhymes, and frowning; gangsta fairy tales now occupy our center. This has naturally lead to a falling apart of the entire Hip Hop circle because the energy emanated from the center is what maintains and informs the whole.

Many so-called gangstas have 1) artificially placed themselves at the center of Hip Hop; 2) convinced the general public that what they're doing and selling is hardcore Hip Hop; 3) claimed reality for their own and made their way of "life" the criteria for what is real and unreal; 4) played off of White misconceptions of Black people and sold twisted images of Blackness to them and to us. Having succeeded in doing these things, these modern-day minstrels, much like Sambo a century ago, are getting paid. Both however are sellouts, and are therefore neither hardcore, nor Hip hop.

We live in a so-called free country in which weakness and selling out are protected under the bill of rights. However, disrespecting Hip Hop's core will inevitably lead to the disintegration of our entire circle/culture. Theoretically speaking, there is nothing wrong with so-called real niggas who like to spend their time staring and frowning at one another. (It's actually quite amusing.) However, these infantile trends should not be confused with or allowed to represent hardcore.

In order to counter this current trend, Hip Hop Heads must return to concepts of dope, fresh, originality, and skills as being true hardcore... these traits must be returned to the center. Hardcore must be reclaimed. This is not to say that every rhyme, flare, transform, and bubble letter has to be super-intelligent, super-difficult, super-skillful, super-different, however these qualities (intelligence, difficulty, skill, and difference) must be recognized and respected as the true center of Hip Hop.

*- The Young Black Males Support Network invites all black organizations to the Brown and Gold Room in the Bernhard Center at 7 o'clock on September 22nd to Squash the Beef*

*The NAACP meets every Wednesday in the MLK room of the Bernhard Center at 7 o'clock. Everyone welcome.*



## ***High Hopes by the Conscious One***

We at 360 welcome all new and transfer students to ~~White Man's~~ Western Michigan University. We hope your time spent here is rewarding, and that all your experiences are enlightening. We also hope that you find your purpose in life. We pray you learn, whether in or out of class, the lessons that the creator teaches. While doing all this, we hope you become aware of the inequalities at WMU and our world at large. In recognizing these inequalities, we hope you do whatever you can in exposing the culprit of them. There are numerous organizations on this campus that focus on eradicating social ills and in fighting against such ills, we hope you join one of them. We also hope that you look critically at the organization before you join it. Many organizations are in cahoots with the oppressive machine (which therein lies the origin of most social ills).

So, as you have read, we have a lot of hopes for you, the newest students here at WMU. This is simply because without younger students and generations committing themselves to the struggle, the Revolution will die as a result of their (your) complacency. Keep in mind that we do not expect anything of you- we only have hopes. Live up to your own expectations. Don't listen to anything but what your heart tells you. Don't listen to us, your friends, nobody; without first listening to your heart.

We find it imperative that we thank those spirits on whose shoulders we stand on. Even though it has become a cliché, we are here because of those that came before us. Your application to this fine universe is filled out in their blood. These wonderful souls are the foundation of our existence. These people understood the importance of education and consciousness. These same people put their lives in harms way for the benefits of the people.

So we hope that Western will be solace, a place where there is mental tranquility and prosperity. But we also hope that Western will be the foundation for some of your political activities. Our time spent in college is one which there is little backlash. We don't have to worry about jobs or a family. So it seems appropriate that we spend most of our time doing things that we might be ostracized for, most specifically, speaking out against injustice. That is, unless you are one that spends your time praying on the alter of material things, in which case we wish you the best as you chase Polo and Guess. If you choose to go that route, we won't be mad at you. You'll only be fulfilling society's expectations. So you must ask yourself: what means more- our hopes or their expectations?

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## ***To Whom it May Concern :***

The situation at hand here in America is on the subject of Eurocentrism. It's time for our daughters to be able to look in the mirror and see that they are beautiful. It's time for our sons to stop waiting to live the fast glamour life that is supposed to satisfy and make them content. Eurocentrism is to blame for these types of behavior. For too long, America has exclusively valued a certain type of woman. Unfortunately, this criterion of woman doesn't include any type of African features. In magazines and televisions, pictures are painted of "perfect" women, which leads to our African Princesses feeling left out. To have small hips, long hair and thin lips is supposedly every man's "dream woman". This leads sisters to think they have to alter themselves in order to fit in. When they see our African Kings with women of European descent our sisters become doubtful. Hair weaves and bleaching cream are hot items in America for black women, "For what?", you might ask. It certainly isn't to enhance their beauty in my opinion, but instead to become clowns for white people, trying to be something they're not and never will be.

Now brothers, what's the deal with this glamour life everyone's trying to live? There's nothing wrong with having the finer things in life, but there's a way to go about getting them. Again, television has lead us to think that money is everything and that it brings you women and happiness. Many rap videos today display an image of greed, drugs, and sex. We have fallen into the trap of thinking that living life frivolously is the only way to live. Eurocentrism again has played a part in the thinking of young black minds. To have the expensive things in life is some people's destiny. Poor inner city African Americans look at this painted picture that white America has laid in front of them, and feel they have to live this dream life. What they don't understand is there are stipulations that come with this lifestyle. To get to this point the right way, you find blacks jumping over far more obstacles than white America. This leads to some choosing to take the easy way to this glamour life, which leads to the media printing and televising news negatively displaying African Americans going to jail and killing or getting killed because of this dream life.

The solution to this problem is to combat this Eurocentric notion of this so-called dream life. African Americans need to start realizing their own means, not someone else's. It's true that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but I must tell you America, our black women are beautiful, so start recognizing that! At the same time we as African Americans have to show America the opposite of their stereotypes. Eurocentrism is a problem in the black community and has caused far too much confusion and destruction. Sitting back and watching is not the solution to the problem; dying your hair blonde is not a solution, getting blue contacts is not a solution, wearing ice and not African medallions is not a solution, getting hair weaves is not a solution, selling drugs is not a solution. All these negatives result from Eurocentrism and need to be turned to positives or else we'll self-destruct.

With Concern,  
the Unknown Scholar

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## ***Speak Ya' Clout aka For the People***

*Here is your chance to speak out and voice your opinions. We pose you a question. Reply to us with the answer. We will print the results in the next issue of 360. If your comments are dynamic enough, we'll print them too.*

***Who lies and cheats more; men or women?***

***Reply at [kwu360@hotmail.com](mailto:kwu360@hotmail.com)***

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*-The Revolutionary Suns/ 360 newsletter will be having a discussion entitled "The Politics of White Supremacy " on October. 7th in Knauss Hall at 7o'clock. For more info, e-mail us.*