

# 360

Volume 2, NO. 4

Knowledge, Wisdom, Understanding

## **The Lynch Papers Strike Again !!!!**

by Musa Tawwab- Abdullah a.k.a. Penstroke I.B.P.

For all those unaware, the destruction of the African in America was systematically devised. A white southern slave owner wrote the essay. He was named Willie Lynch. This essay was delivered to prominent slave holders of the south. This essay was also a documentation of the systematic plan to divide the slave populations loyalty amongst one another. He (Willie Lynch) expressed the importance of slave division through the emphasis of a superficial hierarchy. The slave master based this hierarchy upon complexion, work position on the plantation, and slavemaster's preference. This system was so successful that we (Black Americans, Diasporing Africans, African Americans, or whatever you want to call yourself this year!) have carried this hierarchy into the 20th century. How many times have you judged someone based on his/her city, economic status or complexion! Even with the cultural advancements that have been made in today's society, you can still hear the faint whisper of self hating terms like "good hair" and "bad" hair. There are brothers and sisters who would choose to dislike an individual for his/her positive attributes rather than applaud them for their accomplishments. Let us not forget the individuals who battle and war over cities, streets, and neighborhoods. People! Can we finally learn to applaud each other in our endeavors instead of assuming that the individual who is making the accomplishments or possesses particular characteristics thinks that he/she is better than everyone else is? It's time that we learn to ignore the petty differences that were implemented and instilled into our cultural structure by the Lynch papers. As a group of "supposedly" intellectual adults, let's do away with this aspect of our culture and work for a better tomorrow.

Hotep!

## **Complacency**

by E. Waters a.k.a. the Black Sheep

One of the most visible ills of society that plagues our community is complacency. From the ghettos of the inner-city to the affluent subdivisions of suburbia to the campus of WMU, Black people have grown accustomed to our current way of life, though it is still in fact "second class". My people, it seems that we have fallen victim to the notion that the struggle is over. Joe Blow is satisfied with living "ghetto fabulous" even though he still can't enjoy the same pleasures as his Caucasian counterparts.

The spirit of activism that was so prevalent in the '60's and 70's is nowhere to be found in the 90's. Our forefathers from those times were well read and well versed on the laws and showed their dedication to the cause through protest and political activity. These days if someone goes down, we'll probably talk about it, but 9 times out of 10 we won't **DO** anything about it. In regards to voting, turnout for African-Americans continues to spiral downward due to a lack of interest, voter apathy, and an overall sense of complacency. I know people who have no idea who their congressmen are, let alone the difference between a Democrat and a Republican. The worst part is, they don't even care.

If you are one of these individuals who feel that Martin and Malcolm finished the job and the Civil Rights Movement ended in 1968, take a look around. Employers have become very creative in finding ways **NOT** to hire you despite affirmative action laws. Observe how carefully you're watched the next time you're in the store you could potentially steal from. Notice how outspoken bigots like Newt Gingrich and Jesse Helms stay in office. Peep how African Americans are still depicted negatively in the media. Even at WMU, this covert form of institutional racism rears its ugly head. Minority student organizations are still being unfairly slighted by SBAC. The government is still trying to cut financial aid which many minority students depend on to fund their education. The Western Herald is notorious for publishing material that rarely caters to its minority readership, which is the main reason for the existence of underground newsletters such as *The Alpha Truth* and *360*. It's our responsibility to be aware of these things and be ready to react when necessary. If we don't then who will?

Brothers and sisters, the New World Order is upon us. As the game of divide and conquer is being played with our people, it has become important for us as Black collegians to be politically aware, politically active, and for goodness sake, **stop being complacent!!**

## **Notes**

The NAACP meets every Wednesday at 7:00 upstairs in the Bernhard Center

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is showing a movie at Knauss Hall at approx. 7:30 this Wednesday

## **History360** by Abayouni Imari Dukes a.k.a The Conscious One

There has been a world wide movement to handcuff and incarcerate African and African-Americans consciousness by the misrepresentation of history. The late Amos N. Wilson (may peace be upon) stated in his book *The Falsification of Afrikan Consciousness*, *that to manipulate history is to manipulate consciousness; to manipulate consciousness is to manipulate possibilities; and to manipulate possibilities is to manipulate power.* What we read as history has been written by those that would like to manipulate our consciousness causing historical amnesia. Misrepresentation fosters the illness of racism and white supremacy because it negates the accomplishments of Africans, African Americans, and others. This makes it appear as if the only beneficial accomplishments came from Europe. For example, the Greco-Romans get credit for everything from philosophy to science & medicine, while the accomplishments of the kemites whether it be the Pythagorean Theorem, the invention of the 365.25 day calender, astronomy, astrology, the creation of the zodiac, the Hippocratic oath, the clock and many others, get over looked or discredited.

But how does this misrepresentation of history affect consciousness? The European view of history not only purposely lies and misinforms readers, but also inflates their ego and deflates the ego of the African. This misrepresentation of history leave the African and the African-American to wonder what did and what can they contribute to the world that the "great people" have not already done? Misrepresentation of history cripples the expectation of oneself and of a people. For example unconsciously (and for some consciously) African Americans and Africans do not support black merchants because of the belief that they offer inferior products and/or service, and to overlook them in favor of white business. From Target to Hudson almost every African-American fits a profile of a suspected thief, and is watch like one.

The misrepresentation of history also confuses priorities. If Hudsons refused service to all its black customers in Kalamazoo, you would find world wide protest and outrage. If Western Michigan University ceased funding for the Division of Minority Affairs or the Black Studies Department, most would probably be in class on Monday as if nothing happened.

History is much more than accumulation of dates and events; it is the catalyst of survival. Its about power and control. Not to sound too cliché, but if African American don't control their past they will not have the power to control their future. So black history should be a time of gaining understanding but also planning and constructing. If we do not use our history in this way, we too will have inflated egos but no vision of how to escape white supremacy.

### **HotMail Us**

We would love to hear from you. If you have any comments, questions, or inquiries into the newsletter or upcoming events, write us at:

**kwu360@hotmail.com**

### **Wake Up** by Isaac Castelaz a.k.a The Righteous One

We told you on September 15th to wake up. If you have not waken up thus far, this is the wake up call. Our society is reaching a critical stage in its evolution, one which may lead to self destruction. Though the powers that be would have us all believe that we as a society cannot progress any further, this is nothing but a fallacy. Racism does exist! Oppression does exist! Exploitation does exist! Lies are still being told! Your local newscaster lied to you when he/she said good evening, or good night! There is nothing good about the nation we live in when there are this many flaws with it. If young children are being killed everyday, if our youth are battling one another for street corners and pseudo-power there is nothing good about this evening. As long as our women are on the avenue selling their priceless love and exploiting their own selves, there is nothing good about this evening. As long as somebody somewhere in America has been the victim of racism in any way, shape, or form, there is nothing good about- you know. But there is a solution.

Any logical, coherent solution aims at the root of the problem. If there is a weed in ones lawn, the only way to rid ones self of the weed is by pulling it up. If the weed gets pulled by the root it won't grow back. But if one pulls the weed from the ground and not its stem underground, the stem will remain and the weed will grow back, meaning that if a social problem is not attacked at its beginning, it will occur over and over again, no matter how many times we "pull up the weed" so to speak. The root of all our social problems lies within the society itself- meaning the people who make it up. Ultimately this is white people. We (white people) have catered to the sickness of Eurocentrism for centuries in America and centuries more abroad. Now in the 90's this sickness has grown into a virus, and it has affected every American in some way or another. We (white folks) are all guilty of allowing Eurocentrism to exist for so long. It has only existed this long because we have adapted to it as a way of life. Logically then, Eurocentrism (the belief that European culture is superior to others, and that those who adhere the closest to European culture are the best or the strongest; ie. Social Darwinism) is the cause of almost every social problem there is in America. Thus, racism is the effect of the cause, this being Eurocentrism. So in applying this concept to that of the weed, it becomes evident that to properly destroy the weed; in this case racism, it must be pulled up by the root; in this case Eurocentrism.

To uproot Eurocentrism, a new concept must be plugged in its place. To do this, we (white people) must destroy everything that we have grown to know- every habit, belief, privilege, material, object, and attitude. We must examine each one truthfully and righteously. We must accept the truths of our past and the crisis of the future. Things must get worse before they can improve. The truth is never easy to swallow. It is time we take our first bite. Once digestion occurs, Eurocentrism will be replaced with the concept of Positive Eurocentrism. Wake Up.

*360#5 will contain the continuation of this article, called Step 1:Redefinition*