

opinions

BLACKS ON BLACK

WHY WE MUST STAY UNITED AND HOW

First, I would like to welcome back and hope the Black students at NSCAD, TUNS, MSVU, SMU, and Dal had a joyous Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, or just plain holiday (for my atheist brothers and sisters). I personally enjoyed the time off from my studies, yet, didn't enjoy the reflection period that dominated most of my time. Talking to a few sisters and brothers about this reflection, many have said, "You're crazy man! I love to sit down at the end of the year and reflect on what I did!" But that is exactly the point. I don't think I did what so desperately need to be accomplished, the uniting of Black students on a common front. Though I realized at first that this would be a difficult task, I always remained optimistic that this goal could be gotten in a relatively short time period, how naive.

This whole idea of unity is why I decided to air a few solutions that I've come across while doing some research over the break. Over the last few weeks I've seen disinterest in Black students over the issues that should be uniting us. This disinterest isn't because they no longer care, but because there is a certain air of frus-

tration, one that lends itself to such comments as, "I'm from _____, you can't and never will understand me." This "air" of frustration causes us to overlook the most tying factor of all Black students, the universal oppression and denial of human rights by dominant White society.

Malcolm X once said,

We have to get together and forget our differences. We're not going to agree on everything but we will agree that all of us are oppressed, all of us are exploited, and the only way we're going to get to our objective is to have some kind of cooperation with each other.

Brother Malcolm's words rang a bell in my head after reading them, it told me that we MUST put aside our differences; religious, political, geographical, class, and yes skin colour, if we are to ever achieve "true" freedom, justice and equality.

KRS-ONE, said in one of his songs,

I'm not a Muslim, but I do support them
My father in heaven taught me and taught them
I'm not a Christian, but I won't diss them
I'm not a Jew, I don't practice Judaism

KRS-ONE, a rap artist reinforces

the fact that if we are to remain divided, suffering will continue both mentally and physically (as in Somalia).

One solution to forming a front of black united students is for those of us who are experienced to be tolerant of our brothers/sisters whose consciousness may not be the same level as our own.

My political stance is that which is known as Black Nationalism, and because at one point I was one who was very unconscious to unity, I used to lash out at Blacks whose thoughts differed from my own. But, because there were people who I knew would develop into something greater than an "armchair revolutionist", they

tolerated the rhetoric and verbal attacks that often followed our conversation and allowed me to grow.

So, to my brothers and sisters who are struggling for unity and now find it a lost cause, or a frustrated one, try a different route or method of approach. The method used with a Ghanaian sister will be different from that used with a brother from North Preston, diversify and be tolerant because we are a diverse and multi-cultured people who still suffer from our lack of unity.

Today, in 1993 our Black world is in conflict, between itself, U.S., and Europe, to name but a few. Therefore, the need for us to unite is critical, so let us come together and put

meaning to the oft repeated "brothers and sisters", and start acting like a brother or sister would.

If you try and swim the Atlantic Ocean and after several attempts you find you don't make it, well, if your objective is the other side, what are you going to do? It's not a case of having utter despair. You have to go back to shore and try another method of getting across if that's where you want to go."

El-hajj Malik el Shabazz (Malcolm X)

Jason Gannon

Co-Chair
Black United Students

Do you have a word processor?



a pen?
a pencil?

a crayon?

I think...
therefore I am.
BUT
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writing it down,
what's the
point?

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