

opinions

BLACKS ON BLACK

ON MALCOLM, MUSLIMS AND THE MOVIE

I chose to write on this subject because of the progressive interest (sometimes genuine and sometimes not) in Malcolm X. This Black icon has recently dominated popular culture in the form of hats, T-shirts, and various other clothing which sport some of his famous and not-so-famous quotations. Unfortunately, it appears that the majority of the people who have become fascinated with this brother has based his/her perception of Malcolm solely on that of the popular culture. To these people, quite simply, it represents a fashion statement. It is sad to see so many young, and sometimes older, Black people who are not educated about Malcolm or who have been misled about Malcolm.

Malcolm represented change. As a man who was involved in practically every type of crime in his early years, it would appear that he would have no hope to straighten up. However, through the teachings and guidance of the most Honourable Elijah Muhammad, he did just that. He quickly became a minister and spoke to Black people about the evils and vices that the White man had purposely instilled in our community to keep Black people politically, economically, socially and spiritually repressed. He told us that the reason we could never progress was because we were too dependent, too loving, too trustful, too forgiving, and too naive on, of, and about the White man, who was our slavemaster, he taught us. (By the way, the X represents our true name that we have no knowledge of because the White man gave us HIS name during slavery. Therefore, it is extremely contradictory, to the point of insulting, when I see White people wearing X hats.) Eventually, through various events and happenings — most of which we really cannot profess to know, and therefore, understand — Malcolm broke away from the Nation of Islam to adopt a more "orthodox" form of Islam. He made his pilgrimage to Mecca and later returned to America.

Yes, he did not believe any more that the White man was the Devil. He saw, at Mecca, Muslims whose skin would be classified as white. Therefore, he could no longer believe the "Devil" theory and consequently dismissed that teaching of the most Honourable Elijah Muhammad as "racist". Malcolm X was for the oneness of humanity. He always was. But even after his pilgrimage, he still subscribed to many of the teachings of the Nation of Islam. (I suggest you watch video tapes, listen to audio tapes, and read.) This man was taught and guided by the most Honourable Elijah Muhammad, who only had a grade three education. His teaching gave Malcolm, who only had a grade eight education, a knowledge that would lead him to debate white scholars... and win! This knowledge led him to be a minister, a teacher, a leader. Even after Mecca, his primary concern was Black people. He created the organization of Afro-American Unity. He said that White people could only be righteous if they would submit to God and consequently come out of their, as Malcolm put it, "white-mindedness". There is a very obvious correlation with that and that which the present leader of the N.O.I. says. The Honourable Minister Louis Farrakhan teaches that yes, the White man is the Devil. He also says, however, that it is not impossible for Whites to do good and to submit to God, but it would not be in their nature to do so. Today, the Nation of Islam is one of the most powerful Black organizations in the world. Its "membership" is about 10 000, but its followers reach far beyond that. Though the Nation of Islam is controversial, it has been able to do what government, churches and other organizations have failed to do. To the media, to White people, and to some Black people, the Honourable Minister Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam are racists, haters, bigots and anti-Semites. To his followers, including myself, they are the exact opposite. They are politically, economically and religiously mature and

established. Their work in the Black community is incomparable. These aren't violent, hateful, uneducated Black men and women. These people hate violence, bigotry, racism and anti-Semitism. They're not convicts — they're chemists. They're not dregs — they're doctors. They don't drink — they don't eat harmful foods. They don't chase after women. They don't chase after men. They are kind, courteous, upright and clean.

I believe this article had to be written because the movie about Malcolm X will be at a theater near you very soon. And though I love and respect Spike Lee, unfortunately the White-dominated movie industry has more control than he. This will result in some misrepresentations (as usual). Divide and conquer is always at work, and they will try to cause a division between the lovers of Malcolm and the Nation of Islam (as if you can't love both) by insinuating that they killed Malcolm X. That is a lie. Even though Malcolm, himself, once accused the N.O.I. of plotting on his life, he later expressed doubt about that because he knew that there were powers much higher. Quite frankly, the White power structure killed this brother. Yes, Black men pulled the trigger, but it would not be the first time that servants carried out the wishes of their masters. The Nation of Islam would have nothing to gain and everything to lose by killing Malcolm. It becomes convincingly clear that the Nation of Islam is innocent.

First of all, do not fall for the divide and conquer tactics of those who have historically done it to us. Secondly, education will show you that Malcolm X exists today in the evolved form of the Honourable Minister Louis Farrakhan. And lastly, we don't have a lot of leaders left, but I consider Farrakhan one of them. So to his political "enemies", whether it is a crime of commission or a crime of omission, in the words of a Black reporter: "Please don't harm this brother, 'cause we love him."

Malik Adams

Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group at Dalhousie

NSPIRG at Dal

has opened nominations for an

interim position for its

Board of Directors

Note: PIRG is committed to seeking board members from traditionally unrepresented groups

Nomination forms are available from our office, Room 310 of the SUB, to be returned by Thursday, November 12th at 5 p.m.

Elections will be held during a general interest meeting Tuesday, November 17th, 6 p.m.

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