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Volume 1, Issue 2
September 20, 2006

The Black Grapevine

The "Browning of America"

by Patrice Gordon

Most issues regarding race relations are often thought about based on the Black/White dichotomy. Even though they are not exclusive to Blacks and Whites, this article will focus on interracial relationships amongst these two groups.

Interracial relationships have been a disputed issue in America since the establishment of colonies in the seventeenth century. The first attempt at expressing intolerance of such relationships dates to the passage of the first Anti-Amalgamation Law in 1664 in Maryland. This law was aimed at prohibiting marriage between Black men and English women due to uncertainty as to whether the

offspring of a black slave and a white person would be considered a free person or property. This prohibition of intermarriage between Blacks and whites was later perceived by some to be necessary in order to prevent corruption of the white gene pool. However, these laws did not prevent white slave masters from crossing the color line to take advantage of Black women while emasculating Black men. Given that the first encounters of sexual integration occurred during slavery, they are usually understood as being filled with dominance, violence, and rape. Because of this, Du Bois was very critical of the hypocrisy of implementing anti-amalgamation laws as he believed

that "it is the white race, roaming the world, that has left its trail of bastards and outraged women and then raised holy hands and deplored 'race mixture'" (Du Bois: 1921).

Frederick Douglass, a product of Black and white ancestry, believed that intermarriage was necessary for the assimilation and acceptance of newly freed slaves into American society. He stated that "the future of the Negro therefore is...that he will be absorbed, assimilated, and it will only appear finally...in the features of a blended race." Even though he was also of a

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Sickle Cell Awareness

Dear Supporter,

September is National Sickle Cell Awareness month. For the past six years, The Enlightened Women of Alpha Beta Sigma Sorority, Inc. have dedicated this month to raising money for Sickle Cell Anemia and educating the public about the disease.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects red blood cells. People with sickle cell disease have red blood cells that contain mostly hemoglobin S, an abnormal type of hemoglobin. Sometimes these red blood cells become sickle-shaped (crescent shaped) and have difficulty passing through small blood vessels.

When sickle-shaped cells block small blood vessel, less blood reaches that part of the body. Tissue that does not receive a normal blood flow eventually becomes damaged. This is what causes the complications of sickle cell disease. There is currently no universal cure for sickle cell disease.

We hold two very successful annual events, The Walk, whose continuing theme is "BREAK THE SICKLE CYCLE!" as well as The Sickle Cell Charity Auction in conjunction with the University at Buffalo's Black Student Union. These combined events on average raise approximately \$10,000 a year for Sickle Cell Anemia. We would like to thank everyone who has participated and/or contributed to the success of these events.

Please visit us at our New Clinic! The Comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease Organization. For more information please e-mail us at alphachap@hotmail.com

Sincerely,
Alpha Beta Sigma Sorority, Inc.

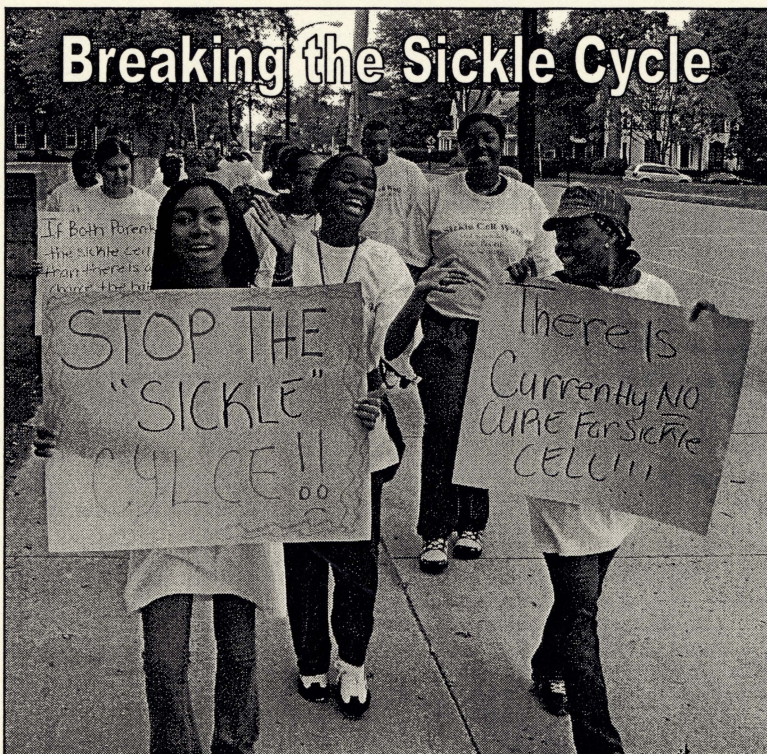
Mixed Emotions About Bridging the Racial Divide

mixed ancestry, W.E.B. Du Bois contested Douglass' assertion. In opposition, Du Bois stated that Blacks have resisted assimilation but "it has been forced on us by brute strength, ignorance, poverty, degradation and fraud" (Du Bois: 1921).

Although there have been significant increases in mixed-race relationships, such relationships continue to be rejected based on the necessity of cultural preservation. Opponents usually presume that marrying outside one's race amounts to cultural betrayal. Some African Americans, for example, believe interracial relationships with a white spouse impedes on the solidarity of the African American community. As author Lawrence Otis Graham pointed out, African Americans disapprove of Black/white relationships due to fear that children of these relationships will forsake their Black heritage upon realizing that it is easier to live as a white

person. White America's rejection on the other hand revolves around the fact that interracial relationships will eventually lead to an extinction of the white genotype.

Like Frederick Douglass, present-day advocates of interracial relationships believe it as an inevitable step in bridging the racial divide. According to one supporter, Yvette Walker, "racism...will have to be bred out. We can't make policies to change it. And certainly in an interracial relationship the children are raised in a climate of tolerance." Such supporters readily refer to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of progressing to a point where people are not judged "by the color of their skin but by the content of their character" (King: 1963). Is Dr. King's dream finally coming to fruition or is it that efforts to create a colorblind society has resulted in a generation that ignores disparities that still exist?



On Saturday, September 16, 2006, The Enlightened Women of Alpha Beta Sigma Sorority, Incorporated held their sixth Annual Sickle Cell Charity Walk. The walk, which is entitled "BREAK THE SICKLE CYCLE" took place in McCarthy Park and was approximately 2.5 miles long. Although there was not a great turnout, the supporters, including members of the Black Student Union's Executive Board, chanted facts about Sickle Cell Anemia, which got the attention of several passersby on Main Street. On behalf of Alpha Beta Sigma Sorority, Incorporated, The Black Student Union would like to thank the walkers and other supporters.

Upcoming Events

9/23/06 Minority Management Society's 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Where: Goodyear Lawn (Clark Hall if it Rains)

Price: \$15 Per Team

Food: Chicken & Fish Dinners Will Be Sold

Contact: Jessica Pinder (jlpinder@buffalo.edu)

CASH PRIZE FOR THE WINNING TEAM!

9/30/06 Sickle Cell Charity Auction

Where: Student Union Theatre

Price: \$5 (+Bidding During the Auction)

Contact: bsu1967@gmail.com

PROCEEDS GO TO SICKLE CELL ANEMIA!

10/13/06 B.S.U.'s Annual Skating Jam

More Info Coming Soon!

Books

Our Nig

by Harriet Wilson

Incidents In The Life Of A Slave Girl

by Harriet Jacobs



A Fallen Star

by Simone Hicks

September 13, 2006 marked the 10th anniversary of Tupac Shakur's death. A victim of a drive-by-shooting, he will always be a legendary lyricist. Some may know him as a charming actor, a vicious criminal, a radiant songwriter, a wild celebrity, a misogynist and black prophet. After 10 years, Tupac's memory is still very vivid in hip-hop music today. Shakur is highly praised for being the greatest rapper of all time. He has been the subject of books, movies, college courses and musical forums.

Tupac was born to a former Black Panther member, Afeni Shakur. His mother's radical features incited many of Tupac's songs. Many of his lyrics reflected an unstable childhood in the ghetto, economical problems and drug addictions. His with aggravation with the internal and external failures with the black community was expressed vividly through his songs. His music is still a constant reminder of the black frustration with America.

Blast to the Past

September 17, 1983

Vanessa Williams became the 56th Miss America, and the First African-American woman to be crowned. Unfortunately, she was forced to relinquish her crown and its accompanying benefits in 1984 after Penthouse magazine published nude photos that were taken of her 10 years prior to winning the pageant.



However, her determination to prove to the world that she made "a terrible error in judgment" when she posed for the pictures has led to a successful career in the entertainment industry.

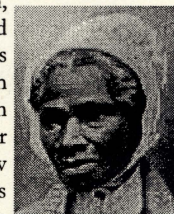
September 18, 1895

The Atlanta Compromise, which was a public address from Booker T. Washington regarding race relations occurred on this day. In the address, Washington asserted that vocational education, which gave Blacks an opportunity for economic security, was more valuable than social advantages or political office.

According to Washington, "In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress." This philosophy ignited fear in Black intellectuals who thought that it would cause them to be subjected to indefinite subservience to whites. This apprehension led to the Niagara Movement as well as the birth of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

September 19, 1797

Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and women's rights pioneer was born into slavery in Hurley, Ulster County, New York. She was freed in 1828 when New York emancipated slaves. Truth was a mystic who heard voices she believed to be God's. In 1843, obeying her voices, she took the name Sojourner Truth and went preaching along the eastern seaboard. Upon coming into contact with the abolitionist movement, she embraced it and tour the country touring on it's behalf.



September 20, 1664

Maryland passed the first Anti-Amalgamation law that was intended to prevent marriages between Black men and English women. This was based on uncertainties regarding whether the offspring of such marriages should be considered a free person or property.

September 21, 2002

Brenda Knight, the first African-American female chairperson of the Association of Community Colleges Trustees was elected. This organization represents more than 1,200 colleges, 6,500 trustees, and 11 million students in America. Knight is currently the community and government relations coordinator for the Oakland Unified School District.



September 22, 1950

Raplh Bunche was the first person of color internationally to be awarded a Noble Peace Prize. He received it for successfully mediating a series of armistice agreements between present-day Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.



The Black Student Union
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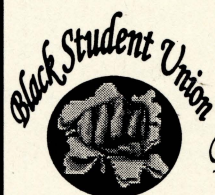
Alpha Beta Sigma Sorority, Inc

Present Their

6th Annual

Sickle Cell Charity Auction

September 30th, 2006



TO PARTICIPATE, SEND AN E-MAIL TO: bsu1967@gmail.com

Proceeds Go To Sickle Cell Anemia Research

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