

Alliance dedicated to black unity

Simmius laughed and said, "Indeed Socrates, you make me laugh, though I am scarcely in a laughing humor now. If the multitude heard that, I fancy they would think that what you say . . . is true."

— Plato's Phaedo

I am writing in reply to your series on black students at the University, *The Cavalier Daily*, Sept. 27-29. I have elected not to quote you on what you have said, nor to cite distortions in your articles — due, in part, to ill-conceptions of your own — and the lack of well-rounded data.

I am not astonished when I recall that the insensitivity of your articles, the poor journalism, the construing of meager information and the displacement of several quotes were consistent with the kind of irresponsible rhetoric which you have propagated in prior articles on black students at the University.

Today, what is more worthy of printing is that the black students at the University form an alliance that is noteworthy. We have always and will again withstand the undue criticisms and racial slurs that have been hurled at us repeatedly through sundry Euro-dominated mechanisms within this institution. Alliance implies Afro-American students. And the Afro-American students at the University are allied.

The black student alliance, as it were, in authenticity and theoretically, and as it prevails across America in diverse universities and colleges, persists in glorious vitality even though its opponents may be eager to disavow it as an endangered species. If there be any consolation in alliance, any comfort of love, any fellowship of brothers and sisters, then it exists in the black student alliance.

We, the black student alliance, rejoice in shared love. We're of one accord and of one mind. We do nothing through strife or vain glory but in lowliness of mind; each esteems the other as better.

We, the black student alliance, devote our attention to the things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report, for we have discovered virtue and praise in these things.

We do not offer apologies and

clarifications in behalf of poor journalism, nor do we solicit feeble apologies and clarification from insensitive journalists, and a comparable college dean who meant what he said the first time. No, of course not; for we do not speak in respect of want. For we have learned in whatsoever state we are in, therewith to be content. Not passive, mind you, but happy with the strides we have made thus far, although there is further ground to cover.

We, the black student alliance, know both how to be abased and how to abound. Everywhere, and in all things we are instructed both to abound, and to suffer need. We are not confounded because we have had to struggle in order for our brothers and sisters to be admitted to this University.

We are not distraught because we have to struggle for more black faculty and administrators. We are not discouraged because a radio station simply does not want to air programs that reflect an appreciation for Afro-American artists. We're not going back home crying to Mom and Dad merely because a news staff dares to kick us in our "butts." All that they would say is: "Listen, they tried to lay that trick on us, and they're gonna try you too."

The history of Western civilizations reveals that "Europeans," as Dean Kellogg refers to them in *The Cavalier Daily*, Oct. 1, have wasted words, blood and tears among themselves because they refuse to treat each other as equals. Granted, if there is no charity in the home, then we should not demand that you spread charity abroad. The news staff of *The Cavalier Daily* is not at fault. Write on. We would never blame the victims. We are simply declining your invitation to join an in-home struggle.

Finally, the black student alliance is alive and well. Others may seek to trouble us, but we're not distressed. Perplex us if you sense the need, for we're not in despair. Persecute us if you wish, we're not forsaken. Try to cast us down, who will or may, we are not destroyed! Black students are alive and well!

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Black Student Alliance