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OAAU - Letter to the Editor
Hotel Theresa
125th Street and 7th Avenue
New York City, New York

P.S. Hi Peter Bailey + James Shabazz!
A loud hello and a rousing cheer
from all the Kids.

October 1, 1964

Letter to the editor:

(First, we are not Afro-Americans, and thus, may be trespassing. Forgive us if we are).

We have just finished reading your Sept. 28th issue of the AAU's Blacklash. Congratulations! The tone and inflection of your news-sheet is ardently impregnated with the ideals and principles of total freedom. Moreso, yours is an organ completely free from outside control, and on that propensity alone, you are championing the rights and privileges that would otherwise be prescribed.

As mutual admirers of Malcolm X, we would like to re-copy the lines that Countee Cullen once attributed to DuBois, for the words are pertinent to Malcolm X, too; and to you, who choose to be his voice:

Men raised a mountain in your path
Steep, perilous with slime,
Then smouldered in their own hot wrath
To see you climb and climb.

And may you do just that--"climb and climb."

Like DuBois, Malcolm is a scholar with a keen mind and penetrating mental perception; like Garvey, he is bringing awareness and pride in the Afro-Americans' heritage; like Frederick Douglas, he embodies the magnitism and audacious spirit of a liberator-extraordinary. He may not speak for all the Negroes, but like Douglas whose heart was with the field Negroes, rather than the house-Negro, Malcolm takes his stand with the Afro-Americans in the ghetto. Although castigated and villified by the white press, how proud you must be of him, for he is THE Afro-American who unmitigatingly asserts his Afro-ness, his manhood, and his compassionate compassion for freedom, self-protection, dignity, and decency.

As the channel of communication, may your zeal never extinguish in promulgating the cause of Afro-Americans; in denouncing hypocrisy and duplicity; disclosing injustices; and countering false and malicious reports; that inveterate prejudices, artificial distinctions in society, superficial values, and dual standards may be eradicated. Also, in 'thinking internationally', may your organ be soon recognized universally.

Our salute to all the members of your staff; You are emancipators--emancipating the minds of men; including ours. Thank you.

*Bill + Mary Kochiyama
and children*

P.S. We could not qualify for membership, but we wish to express our moral support by donations from time to time. Also, should there be anything we can do, we will be happy to do so.