

BLACK + WHITE = BLACK

by Pierre Salomon

In middle school I remember mixing in art class. I mixed paint to see the different colors I could come up with. If I do remember, when blue is mixed with yellow, green is the result; when red is mix with white, pink will be the result; and when black is mix with white, grey is the result. That's junior high stuff. Here's what mixing paint has to do with this story.

I will be going back to the ancient days of early America. I will not get technical about this and hope I do not bore you. But I will give a brief anecdote about what I've learned that constitute the race of a person when that person have a mixture of black and white genes.

During the time of slavery, Thomas Jefferson and others were making rules, diagrams, drawing charts and coming up with all kind of theories of what would constitute a cross-breed person to be white-free, or black-slave. Jefferson stated that mulattos (an offspring of a black and white person) were legally black. And the law at that time also defined a mulatto as anyone with at least a Negro grandparent. Obviously anyone with black in them had a Negro grandparent somewhere. Jefferson also stated that anyone with less than one fourth of Negro blood was legally white. But how did he measure the blood?

In those days government officials had lots of time in their hands to argue and view cases after cases to determine who will be white and who will not when the genes are split. Our current officials do not have time to solve Negro theories. If you have any black in you, your A-S-S is black, final. But is it fair? Should a person born of a white female and black male or vice versa be labeled black? I see a lot wrong with this picture.

The president's mother was white, his dad black, yet we say the guy is African American. I have a child by a white woman, I am American Haitian; is she American Haitian, African American, white, or just black? Obviously if she is filling out a job application she would not check none of the above, she would probably check other. But what does other really means? She is a product of a black male and white female, so why must she check other, but the president which is same mixture as she is, is the first black president? Is he really the first BLACK president? What happened to his white side? Couldn't he be the first 'other' president; the first 'mulatto' president; even the first half black and half white president? In the privacy of his inner thoughts does he really see his self as a black person? If he is one of us, isn't he part of the white race also?

It's amazing how we black people swear that the president is one of us but fail to see that he belongs to the white race also. It is of no surprise to me that white people say he is black but fail to acknowledge that his mother was one of them.

The president is not at the end of the stick; he is balancing right in the center and has nowhere to go. If he chooses black, what about his white side, and vice versa? He cannot choose, he can only be, because if he chooses one side he will be neglecting his other half which would be self-neglect and self-denial.

So why is it when we mix different color paints we get a new shade of color but when we mix a black person with a white one we get black in return? Here is my point. The law is unjust. I think calling someone a mulatto is a lot better than saying the person is black when the gene is half black and half white. At least that will let the world know hey this is a mix person. And on applications we should add mulatto as an option.