



Judy Scales-Trent signs her new book, *Notes of a Black White Woman*, while discussing it with a fan.

Author Addresses Struggle of Being An African American with White Skin

By MAURICE CROCKER
Chronicle Staff Writer

With racial tensions at a peak in America, it's hard to understand and agree with other races on certain issues. The struggle becomes harder when you don't know who you really are, or where you fit in.

Judy Scales-Trent addressed this issue in her new book *Notes of a Black White Woman*.

In the book Trent describes what it was like living as an African American with white skin.

"It was always a hard issue in my life. I was continuously struggling with the issue for a long time, there were obstacles in her life that caused her to ignore it."

"There were so many ways to avoid it, like getting married, raising a child, and getting set professionally," she said.

She began writing the book in 1989 once she received a tenure position at the University of Buffalo, where she is a law professor.

"If I could have went to the library and found some information on the things that were bothering me, I probably would not have written this book," she said.

According to Trent, she began the book by writing in her diary everytime something bothered her. Once she obtained a collection of her writings, she looked over her notes and started writing the first essay of the book.

"I didn't write on the book everyday-just when something was very heavy on my mind," Trent said.

Trent also said there has been many books written to teach people how to deal with the struggles of having dark skin, but never on how to deal with light or white skin.

Writing the book gave Trent an avenue for coping with various problems she has faced in the past.

"Sometimes people with dark skin don't like you, and quite often it's hard because you want to find a common ground," she said. Trent also said she has to deal with the problem of racism from whites, who do not suspect she is black.

"Some white people don't have a clue that black people come in different shades of color," she said.

"Whenever someone offends me with a racial remark, sometimes I tell them off, and sometimes I cry."

According to Trent, the issue of race isn't anything new. People in America are starting to pay more attention to it, she said.

"Another one of the reasons for writing this book was to start a conversation about race in the black community," she said.

Trent hopes this book will help African Americans deal with problems they face.

"I would hope white people

also read the book because I think it will help them as well," she said.

According to Trent, one of the biggest problems in America is coming up with a definition of race. "People say race doesn't mean color," she said. "If race doesn't mean color, then we have

to find out what it really means."

The prominent professor and lawyer says she thinks race means power.

"The question is why was it created," she said. "Society created it, and they created it for a reason." Trent plans to write more books she says.

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