The Bloomington Brother
By: Jordan Brown

Because he is internationally unknown and locally disrespected, the Bloomington brother’s struggles are often times neglected. They think because he’s in the suburbs now and out of the hood that his situation is somehow better and everything is good. But what others fail to realize, detect, and understand is this brother goes through the same trials as any other Black man. Like all around the country, he is disproportionately represented in the jails and always getting kicked out of school. In addition, the Bloomington brother has other problems he has to go through.

Not all the whites are racist. The number of open minded ones is much bigger, but the Bloomington brother is no stranger to the word nigger. And though most are not prejudiced and have no problem with the Black race, it doesn’t mean they treat him quite the same as one with a white face. Some expect him to be a gangster like that Blacks in rap videos on BET. They’ll greet him by saying, “What’s up my nigga” or “Hey homie.” They don’t understand him, but it’s not his job to educate all. And he gets tired of them expecting him to be able to dance or play basketball. Those are two stereotypes that have always been there. They want to see him do the “Harlem shake” or let them touch his hair. He knows it’s not all-intentional harm they’re doing, so he developed immunity.

Plus, behind him stands the Bloomington Black community. With all the “great” things IU has for Blacks to do, they let him have MLK Day off, and minority Read-Ins too. So why aren’t all the Negroes happy? Well, what if the Bloomington brother doesn’t have a professor as a daddy? Usually it means, he doesn’t feel as welcome on campus sadly.

And don’t think for an instant that the young Blacks in Bloomington actually support one another. They’re more concerned with proclaiming who’s Blacker than the other. They’ll say “I’m not from her, so I’m Blacker in fact,” or “your momma is white, so you’re only half as Black.” All this is senseless even a fool could see because what we need is Umoja, which is Swahili for unity. We should do for ourselves. The responsibility belongs to no other. Solidarity would do nothing but good for the Bloomington sisters and brothers.