

The Black Student Union Presents: The Black Solidarity Vanguard

BLACK JOY IS RESISTANCE



Artist: Paris DeFreitas

# Letter From The Editor:

Black Solidarity Day is on the first Monday before Election Day to recognize the political, economic, and social influence of the Black community. As the Black Student Union, we celebrate this day of absence by remembering the space we take up as Black individuals in a predominantly white institution, and to celebrate this space with each other as a unified front.

This year's theme, "Black Joy Is Resistance" purposefully focused on Black joy to remind Black people that their contentment contributes to the fight for equality. During the process of this publication Vanguard students were asked to discuss what brought them joy. To dive deeper, they reflected on what discouraged them from expressing their joy.

With the prevalence of Black trauma in the media it's important for Black people to remember that their happiness matters, and how its the crucial in our ongoing movement.

With Joy,

Salonae N. Dimagiba

## Existence = Resistance

Fists clenched  
This is my protection  
Fists raised  
They don't understand our celebrations  
Or our dedication  
to live freely  
As freedom is an act of disobedience to their false justice  
That's why they try to box my existence  
Restrict my hair, lower my tone, or judge my appearance  
They call my music ignorant  
And work hard to tone down my pigment  
On movie screens  
And Hollywood streets

But we still move  
With our fists clenched and raised  
Existing on the big stage  
Multiplying for the next age

-MiKelangelo



**remind me who i am**

black joy  
black pride  
do you mind explaining that to me?  
i'll wait i don't mind

i see it as the celebration of our scars  
not exactly the trauma  
and not exactly the feeling i get when i see us getting shoved up against cop cars

it's more so the liberation  
for our ancestors  
who got whipped through their trials and tribulations

or maybe it's the love of accepting who we are

round noses  
big brown eyes  
kinky curly hair  
and for some of us thick thighs

black joy is me  
for i will not hide  
black joy is us  
so who cares when the "karens" fus

black joy is we  
all we need is a little more unity!

-racquel whittingham





## Essence of Joy

Black joy is bliss  
and laughter and cheer  
Smiling from ear to ear  
The comfort to be one's true self

Black joy is  
the essence of our soul  
It is the drive  
to achieve our goals  
It is part of who we are

Black joy is joy  
For all the girls and boys  
The inner child remains  
Nurture them  
And be true to you

Joy is our resistance,  
Our way to redefine who we are.  
It cannot be taken from us.

-Paris Mylania



## Light

My light shines bright when I stand for nothing less than what I deserve  
I shine when I don't let the darkness overcome me  
The darkness that kept me in the shadows of others  
The darkness that did not let me reach my full potential  
But when I finally found my light in the midst of the darkness  
I would not allow no one to take that away from me  
Even if it meant fighting for a flickering light  
I would stand up and fight  
Because I would not allow the darkness to swallow me whole once again

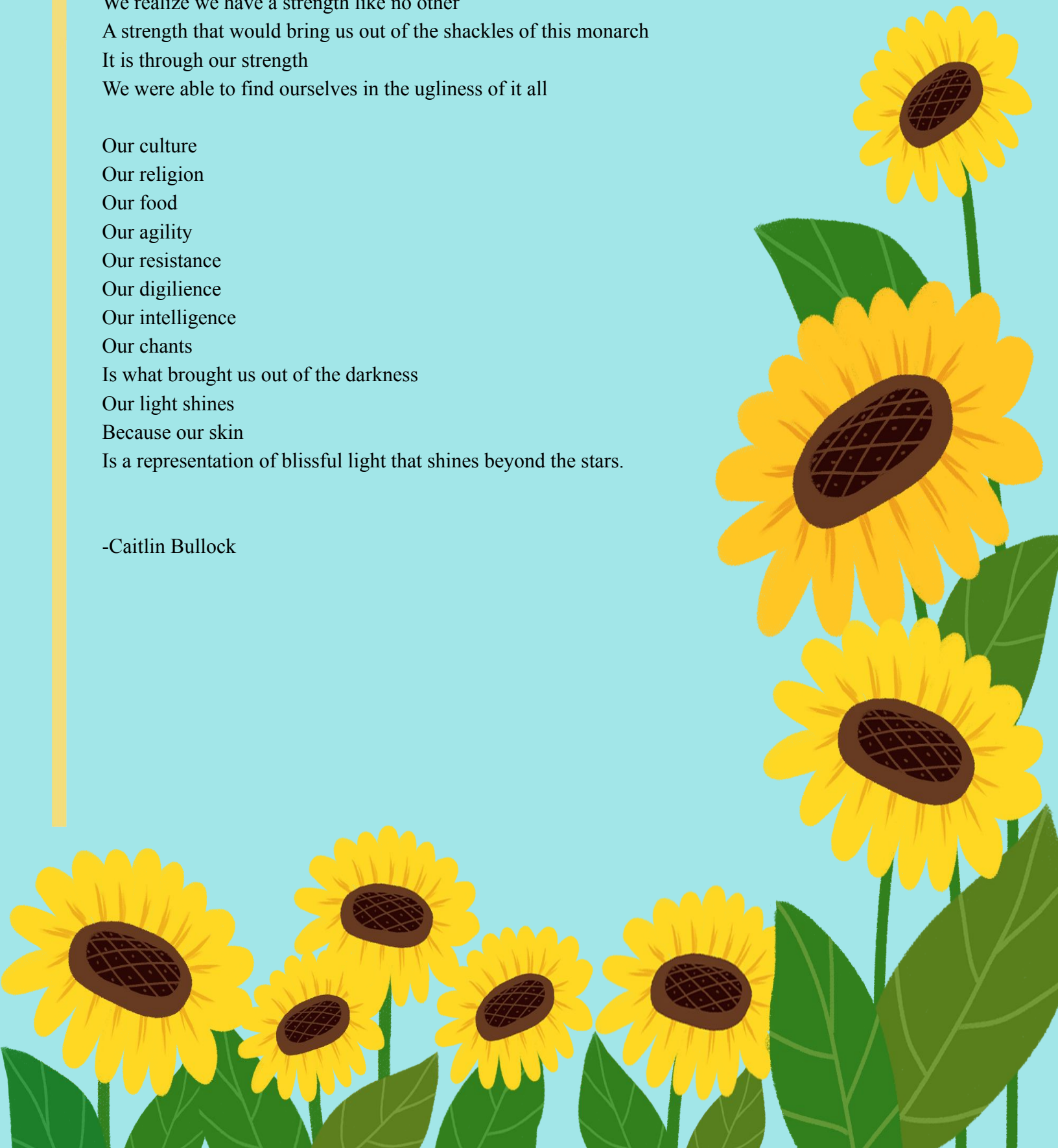
Time and time again I find that when I go against the darkness that surround me  
It was beyond what I expected  
My passions and joy turning into something I never thought it could  
Singing becoming therapeutic  
My religion becoming a strength that I could never fathom  
A community coming together to bring each other  
Out of the shadows that we were drowning in  
In light of it all, when we came together and fought for a flickering light  
We realize we have a strength like no other  
A strength that would bring us out of the shackles of this monarch  
It is through our strength  
We were able to find ourselves in the ugliness of it all



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We were able to find ourselves in the ugliness of it all

Our culture  
Our religion  
Our food  
Our agility  
Our resistance  
Our diligence  
Our intelligence  
Our chants  
Is what brought us out of the darkness  
Our light shines  
Because our skin  
Is a representation of blissful light that shines beyond the stars.

-Caitlin Bullock





## Her Laugh Unsilenced

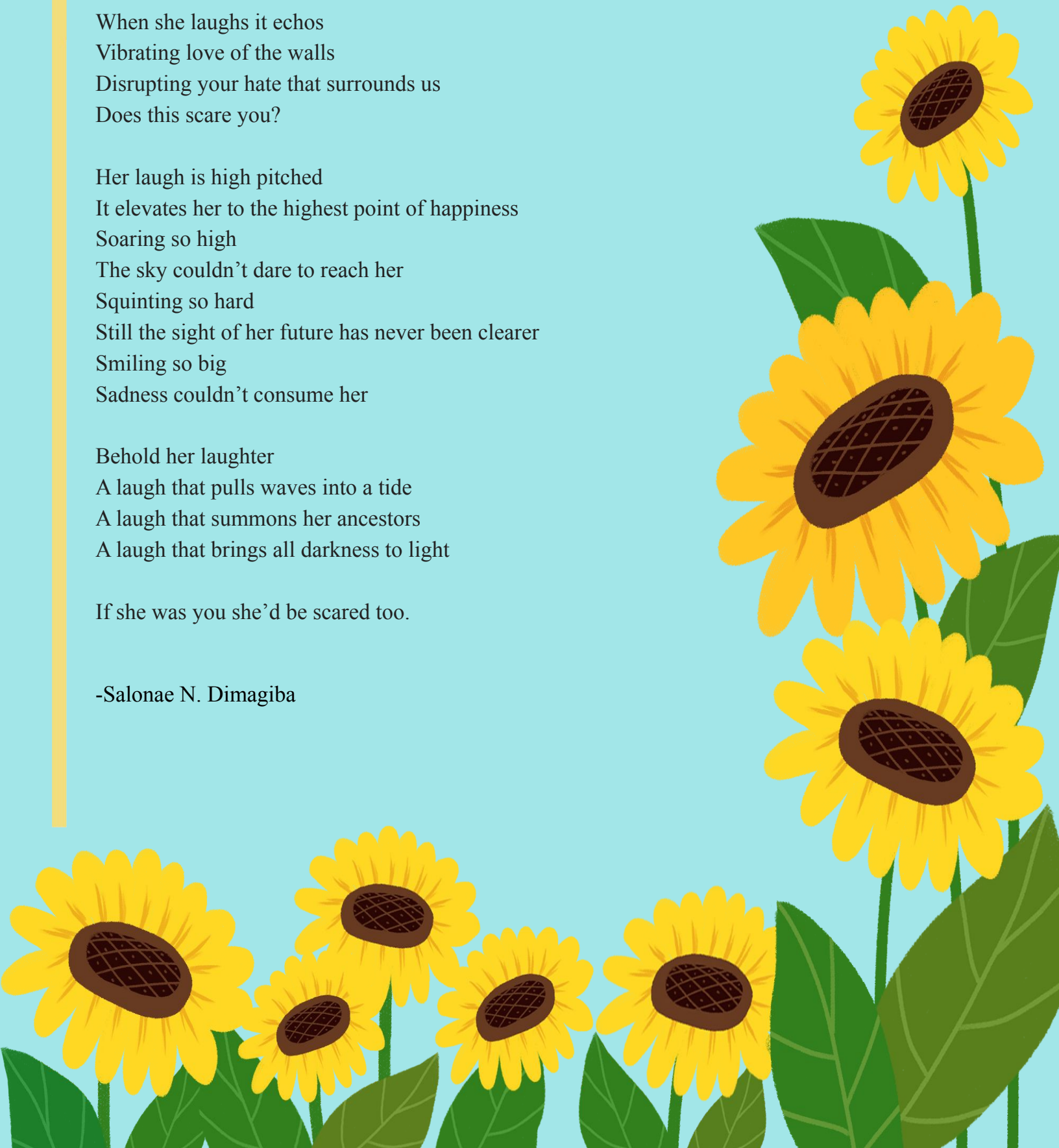
When she laughs it echos  
Vibrating love of the walls  
Disrupting your hate that surrounds us  
Does this scare you?

Her laugh is high pitched  
It elevates her to the highest point of happiness  
Soaring so high  
The sky couldn't dare to reach her  
Squinting so hard  
Still the sight of her future has never been clearer  
Smiling so big  
Sadness couldn't consume her

Behold her laughter  
A laugh that pulls waves into a tide  
A laugh that summons her ancestors  
A laugh that brings all darkness to light

If she was you she'd be scared too.

-Salonae N. Dimagiba





## This About Joy

When I think of black joy  
I think of my friends loud with just straight laughter  
But if a cop pulls up on them and God forbid shoots them  
What the fuck am I suppose to do after?

That's just some shit I don't wanna speak on  
Don't wanna speak nothing into existence  
But my friends ain't any type of criminal  
Just niggas judging based of skin, that's why I keep my distance

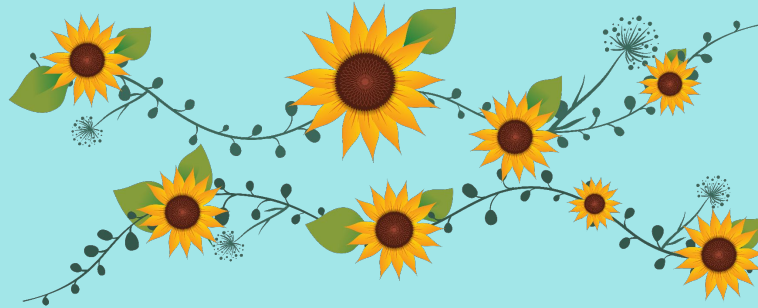
None of my friends gangbang  
We ain't with that trappin  
They ain't like them annoying niggas  
Who ask what bank you got and say tap in

But this about joy  
Let me not speak about reality  
But the past is the past  
And it's just the way shit had to be

Either way imma be smiling  
Cracking jokes being loud as fuck  
And if you wish I wasn't jacking that  
Then I hate to break it to you, but you outta luck

-Robel Kebede





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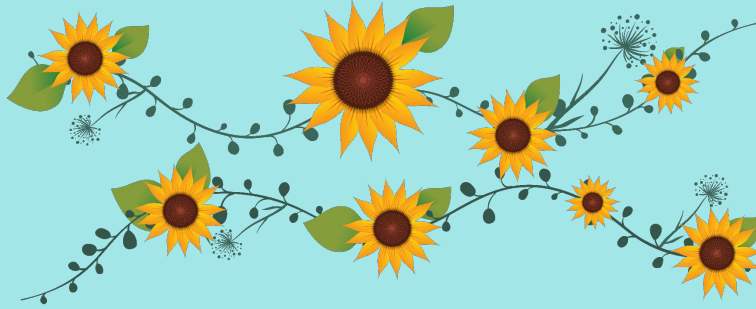
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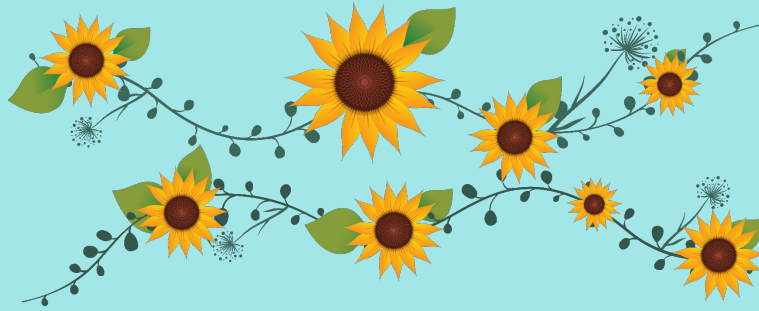
Racquel Whittingham

Paris Mylania

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Thank you all for attending the Black Student Unions  
annual Black Solidarity Day Event!

To become more involved with the Black Student Union,  
follow our Instagram:

@BSU1968

Attend our general body meetings on Thursdays at 6pm  
in our BSU lounge (Boo6)!

Interested in joining Vanguard? Please email  
[theunionpub@gmail.com](mailto:theunionpub@gmail.com).



