

The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Vol. 128 No. 2 October 2009

"So We Stand Here On The Edge Of Hell In Harlem And Look Out On The World And Wonder What We're Gonna Do In The Face Of What We Remember"
-Langston Hughes

CCNY's Growing Enrollment... No Reason to Raise SAT Admission Cutoffs

By Professor William Crain

CCNY's undergraduate enrollment has increased dramatically in recent years. In the Fall 2002, we had less than 9,000 students. Now we have nearly 13,000.

The College's provost, deans, and many faculty members say something must be done. We cannot give this many undergraduates a quality education, they say. But their primary solution would be to raise admission standards, and this step shouldn't be taken lightly. It threatens our college's historic mission—to give opportunities to low-income students, students of color, and others who have too often been denied access to a college education.

Moreover, one of the provost's proposals is to raise SAT cutoff scores, even though

the test has consistently blocked opportunities for students of color and students from poor families. Some people argue, "Well, if students don't score well on the SAT, they won't succeed in college." But does the SAT actually predict college success? Consider the following.

- In a 2000 study, the Rand Corporation was surprised by the low correlation between the SAT and freshman grades in CUNY's bachelor's degree programs. In fact, the correlation coefficient (0.25) was so low that most testing experts would advise CUNY to de-emphasize the SAT in admissions.
- When CUNY researchers developed the Admission Index for CCNY applicants (implemented in 2000), the researchers had to weigh high school grade point averages

(GPAs) seven times higher than SAT scores to predict freshman grades in liberal arts courses.

- When, in 2005, Ms. Helena Chang and Professors Jay Jorgenson and Kevin Foster examined CCNY SEEK students' college grades, they found that the SAT was a poor predictor, whereas high school GPA predicted their college grades fairly well.
- In 2008, Professor Bob Melara examined recent CCNY retention rates—the extent to which students stayed in college (without dropping out)—for the first two years. He concluded that the SAT didn't predict retention, but high school GPA did.
- In the Spring, 2003 issue of the Harvard Educational Review,

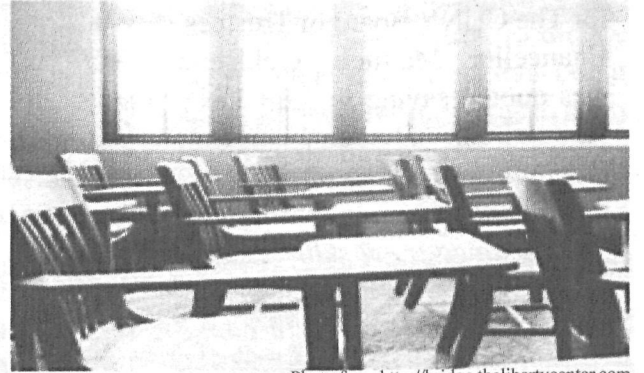


Photo from <http://bridge.thelibrarycenter.com>

Roy O. Freedle compellingly argued that the SAT and other standardized tests are biased. African Americans do relatively better on the tests' most difficult items, Freedle suggested, because these items use more neutral language than the language that is part of white, middle class culture.

- In a 2007 research report, Saul Geiser and Maria Vernoica Santelices at the University of California, Berkeley, observed that high school GPA routinely

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VOTE Every Time

By Taqiyya Haden

Most people voted for the major election of President of the United States in 2008, but when I went to vote for city comptroller this past September the polls were pretty much empty. I am hoping that on November 3, 2009, I will have to wait on line to vote again for the mayoral candidate of my choice. It seems like it is being kept quiet, no one on the streets handing out flyers reminding us to vote or posting signs on campus.

Every time the polls open for any election I have the tradi-

tion of going to vote with my aunt. She is an almost 70 year old woman that participated in the March on Washington.

She lived in the segregated South and faced violence when first practicing her right to vote. She often questions me about this generation, "What were we fighting for?" Well, in order to honor her legacy and not so much because I have faith in the political process, I vote

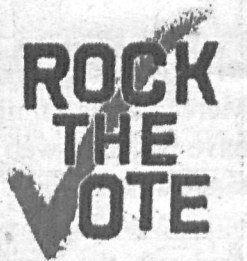


Photo from www.votessmart.org

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Nobel Peace Prize to President Obama

By Herb Boyd
Special to the AmNews

President Barack Obama may not have brought home the Summer Olympic Games from Copenhagen, but he did considerably better in Oslo, winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

Already his detractors—and even some of his loyal supporters—are wondering what has he done to merit the prestigious award since he hasn't completed a year in office and with only a string of impressive speeches to

his credit.

Maybe those speeches resonated much heavier than most imagined.

Maybe as a few right wing pundits have suggested his "Hope Doctrine" gained some traction abroad. Clearly, the president has incredible international popularity and his speech at the United Nations last month may have been the one to seal the deal, though it contained more promise than substance.

"I have carried this message from London to Ankara; from Port

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Photo from www.cnsnews.com
President Barack Obama

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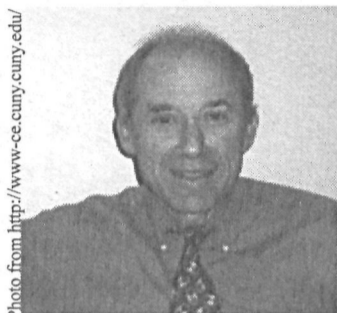
Distinguished Professor Appointed as Interim President of City College

By Lindsie Augustin

As one exits another one enters. On Tuesday, September 29th Dr. Robert E. Paaswell was chosen as the Interim President of City College. As a distinguished Civil Engineering Professor and Director of the University Transportation Research Center, Dr. Paaswell was an ideal choice for The CUNY Board of Trustees. Chancellor Matthew Goldstein was quoted saying in the CUNY Newswire "Paaswell is a distinguished educator who has demonstrated keen leadership and adroit management skills over an extraordinary career of service in higher education and in the public sector... He is an outstanding

choice to lead City College into a new era and to build upon the many achievements of Gregory Williams."

Dr. Paaswell began working at City College in 1990



Dr. Robert E. Paaswell

and since then has made a name for himself as an active member of many organizations, including CUNY's Institute for Urban Systems, which was founded by him in 2000, the Newman Real Estate Institute at Baruch College

and many others.

Matriculating out of Columbia University in 1956 and 1957 with a Bachelors of Arts and a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering; Paaswell later earned a Masters of Science in Applied Mechanics in 1961 from Columbia and his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Rutgers University in 1965.

Dr. Paaswell has been acknowledged and awarded for his many contributions to both the world of academics and the general public. With his background and noteworthy skills he should be a good match as the 12th President of City College and we at *The Paper* wish him the best of luck as he embarks on this new journey.

Remembering Edgard Mercado



Photo from <http://www.freewebs.com>

May 13, 1970-Sept 18, 2009

By Adele Scott

With the varied forms of violence that many of us come across in our neighborhoods, there are times when it hits home. On September 18th, Edgard Mercado, a 39-year old Foreign Language Professor here at The City College of New York was murdered in his apartment on Avenue C.

While speaking with one of his former students, it became very clear that Mercado was a man who truly cared about his students and put every effort into helping them do well in his class, which was a higher level Spanish language course. Although many students knew him, not very many knew of his untimely death, as it has been kept very quiet for reasons that escape me. Don't students have a right to be informed about a murder that happened to a very beloved

teacher from their college? It is very important when something tragic like this happens, especially to a professor who students knew and loved, for students to talk about it, share memories, light candles, or just get together. A death like this can build community and relationships. There doesn't just have to be a negative side to it and keeping it quiet does not make the pain dissolve.

I have included one of Sosa's songs in this article after a student told me he was allowed to play Sosa's music in Mr. Mercado's class. This song speaks about becoming indifferent to suffering. Here at City, we cannot afford to become indifferent. I hope that a tragedy like this will touch all of our hearts and remind us that we need to make the most of each day and each person we have in our lives.

*I only ask of God
He won't let me be indifferent to the suffering
That the very dried up death doesn't find me
Empty and without having given my everything
I only ask of God
He won't let me be indifferent to the wars
It is a big monster which treads hard*

*On the poor innocence of people
I only ask of God
He won't let me be indifferent to the injustice
That they do not slap my other cheek
After a claw has scratched my whole body
I only ask of God
He won't let me be indifferent to the wars
It is a big monster which treads hard
On the poor innocence of people
It is a big monster which treads hard
On the poor innocence of people*

If students would like to write a message in memory of Mr. Mercado, his family and friends have put up a web page that has made this possible. Visit the link: <http://www.jacobsenfuneral.com> And use the link to obituaries to find the page his family and friends have there for Professor Mercado. He will be missed and never forgotten.

Kind Words From Former Students

...

*My Condolences go out to his family.
May he Rest In Peace.*

...

He was truly a great professor, he would surely be missed!!

...

He was very helpful and patient. Really cares and wants students to learn.

The Paper

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OUR MISSION

For over thirty years *The Paper* has served as a medium through which students, faculty and members of the local community can communicate. As a publication for people of African descent, *The Paper* focuses on pertinent issues facing the Black and Latino community as well as issues that are of relevance to people of all races and ethnicities. In addition, this publication is a valuable resource for CCNY students and faculty for information on everything from scholarships to job opportunities. With increased membership and support from the student body, *The Paper* will continue to serve CCNY and the surrounding community.

The Black Panther Party

By Mujahid Ibn Abdellah

The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense who later shortened its name to the Black Panther Party (BPP) was established by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland, California. During the climate following and preceding the assassination of El Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X), masses of poor Black people in this country were in a state of disheartenment because of the rampant human rights abuses being committed by the U.S. government.

The BPP was a strong

progressive political organization that advocated social change and freedom for all. They were the vanguard of the Black Power Movement and they vigorously fought for freedom, justice and equality until they were targeted by the criminal F.B.I.'s COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program). The racist administration at the time used disempowering tactics to agitate and ultimately destroy the members of the BPP. The U.S. government used RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) law indictments, government provocateurs, informants and murder to create disunity within

the group.

The Black Panther Party opposed the modern day slavery conditions that were created by poverty, unemployment and oppression. The BPP fought for the liberation of the working class and taking up arms, proving that it is a constitutional right for all. This was a groundbreaking time for Blacks in this country and the start of what is called the Black Power Movement.

The Black Panther's members were all human rights activist and concerned civil rights advocates who believed in the message that El Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X) preached.

Photo from <http://www.wtv-zone.com>



Members of The Black Panther Party
This message was plainly, for the right to live in peace without the fear of the constant police brutality, for basic equality, dignity, and the right to be a self-determined people who were in a position to dictate their own destiny rather than being subjugated. It is time for us to learn the history of The Black Panther Party and its heroes.

Is There a Solution to Youth Violence?

By Marc W. Polite

"We watch strange moods fill our children, and our hearts swell with pain. The streets, with their noise and flaring lights, the taverns, the automobiles, and the poolrooms claim them, and no voice of ours can call them back." —Richard Wright

The above quote is from a book written over 60 years ago, yet it outlines a predicament that is very much still with us. When thinking about urban life and its effect on some youth, one of the most glaring issues that face our community today is the overwhelming spirit of hopelessness. A side effect of this bleak attitude is when the youth turn on each other without rhyme or reason.

The latest incident of youth violence was the beating of 16 year old Derrion Albert. An honor student walking the street in broad daylight was attacked by gang members on his way home from school. There is footage circulating on the Internet showing the mob attack, and it is a difficult thing to witness without becoming saddened and angry all at once.

While there are no easy answers for the problems that give rise to incidents like these, it is necessary to find solutions to wipe away the idleness, despair, and the feeling that there is no point in believing in *anything* that plagues urban youth. There has to be a better way, a more humane approach to resolving these issues, issues that require more than just a beefed up police presence in impoverished neighborhoods.



6 year old Nadashia Thomas, cousin of Derrion Albert holding sign in front of Fenger High School in Chicago

Rest In Peace- Derrion Albert

continued from front page

CCNY's Growing Enrollment

outperforms the SAT as a predictor of college grades, both at the University of California and nationwide. What's more, they found that a greater emphasis on high school GPA, relative to the SAT, permits more disadvantaged minorities and low-income students to enter their university.

Our provost proposes to raise the SAT cutoff only a modest amount, so the immediate effect might not be too apparent, but the effect will accumulate over the years. And why raise the SAT cutoff at all? Why increase the power of a test that lacks predictive validity and has blocked opportunities for oppressed groups? (Some civil rights leaders say the SAT has replaced the fire hoses and dogs that Southern government officials once used to deny opportunities to African Americans.) The SAT is held in high esteem in the U.S., but the time has come to question its reputation.

What Can We Do About Enrollment?

If we don't raise SAT cutoff scores, how can we address the problem of large enrollments? I believe we can limit enrollment by raising our high school GPA admission standards a bit, rewarding students who worked hard in high school. We also might raise our GPA standards somewhat for students who wish to transfer from other colleges. I wouldn't raise any admission standards greatly, for we should make room for late-blooming students, giving them a chance to develop.

We also should think about where additional part-time faculty can be effective and help keep class sizes reasonable. And The College should press harder for more full-time faculty to match our growing enrollments. In addition, CUNY has an overabundance of administrators; many of them can return to the classrooms.

We're facing a tough enrollment problem. We need creative solutions, but not solutions that restrict admissions in ways that betray our historic mission to serve the disenfranchised.

William Crain is Professor of Psychology at The College.
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TheLee Cez: Let's Talk Race

By Jeff Delices

www.theleecez.com

In 21st Century America, according to some, racism is dead and Americans are no longer discussing the topic of race. Non-Whites—specifically African Americans—are no longer viewed as criminals, dropouts, or ignorant men and women. So now we are decent people like fellow white Americans, right? Well, if it were that easy to move past race, we would have had a Black President 40 years ago. Imagine where the country would have been, had we been post-racial before Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. There would be fewer Cop on Black violence, more Black owned businesses, less Black men in prison for crimes they did not commit and more Blacks in college and on Wall Street. Who knew? All it took was a Black man as Commander in Chief to end years of discrimination, senseless killings, and of course, racism. Is it then, fair to say: America preferred ignorance to equality? And only a Black man had the power to enlighten the “Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.”

Recently, former President James Earl “Jimmy” Carter Jr. caused controversy when he stated, “*I think an overwhelming portion of the intensely demonstrated animosity toward President Barack Obama is based on the fact that he is a Black man, that he's African American.*” A number of post-racial junkies attacked the 39th President in disagreement. However, a few months before Carter's statement, Fox Talk Show Host Glenn Beck accused President Obama of being racist. Beck stated, “*He has a deep seated hatred for white people or the white culture*” and, “*This guy is, I believe, a racist.*” The post-racial enthusiasts did not come forth and defend the end of racism. Beck apologized for his harsh comments towards the President after viewer complaints. If racism were over, it would have made sense for viewers of Fox News to remind Glenn Beck of his mistake.

Post racial enthusiast refuted Carter's claim, however, how can

Carter be wrong, when elected officials are screaming “*You Lie*” to the Commander in Chief and portraits of the President as Adolf Hitler are displayed during rallies against health care reform? What drives this behavior? Is it the fear of the Black man? Is it the belief that a non-white person cannot efficiently lead the most racially diverse country in the world? If racism doesn't play a factor in these taunts and protest, then what is it? I don't accept the argument that it is only about health care.

As a Black man, it is difficult

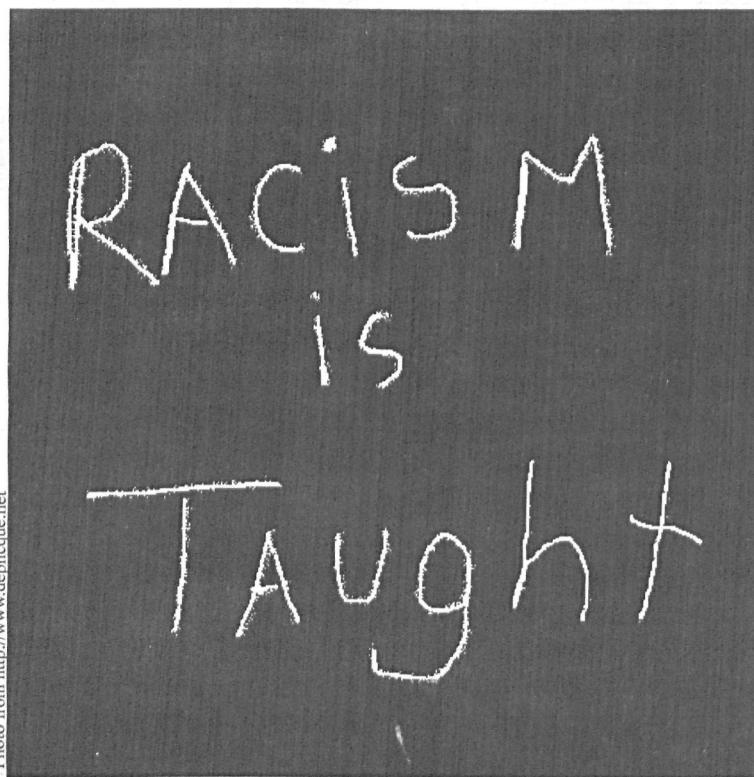


Photo from <http://www.deplicque.net>

to accept a non-Black person's claims that he or she is not racist, when their treatment or reaction to a Black person reflects that of a racist. For example, conservative parents protested the President's speech to children and accused his administration of trying to “*indoctrinate their children with socialist ideas.*” It is obvious Obama is not a socialist as he was voted to lead Democratic America. The issue was not Obama talking to children of America; rather it was a Black man talking to children. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush made a nationally broadcasted speech encouraging students to study hard, avoid drugs and to ignore peers “*who think it's not cool to be smart.*” The only people to oppose were Democrats in Congress, who accused Bush of spending taxpayer money on the broadcast, ‘concerned parents’ were silent.

Racism in 21st century

America does not only involve people saying, “*I hate Black people.*” Present day racists, use laws and other systems to carry out their hatred against Africans, Asians, and Latinos in America. When I walk around my neighborhood and notice the lack of Black-owned businesses that is racism. When I enter a store and I am stared at or followed, that is racism. When African American movies, music and other medias are owned and



Photo provided by Jeff Delices

great leaders—like Julius Caesar and Alexander the Great instead of heroes and revolutionaries like Marcus Garvey and César Chávez who fought for people. The Native American is ignored except for the ‘holy day’ of Thanksgiving. It's ironic that American schools will teach young children about white men who killed people and stole property, while telling them stealing is wrong. The American education, justice and every other system is controlled by and benefits one race—that is racism and a Black President can not change that in the span of nine months.

It is naive to say racism does not exist, when minor incidents like Kanye West interrupting Taylor Swift at MTV's VMA resulted in the N-Word being a “trending topic” on Twitter or when Americans in the South continue to hang nooses from trees, outside of High Schools or homes of African Americans. If we were in a post-racial America I would not be writing this column. I would not be the victim of racial profiling, there would not be a Jena 6, the Ku Klux Klan would be out of business, Black people would not be agreeing to disagree on the n-word, and I would not have to watch white women clutch their purse or cross the street at the sight of me. Of course, racism is not one-sided as this column may appear. However, the racism I am discussing is more prominent than other forms of injustice in the United States.

MARCH ON CITY HALL

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 15th *4pm

**YOUTH FIGHT FOR
JOBS AND EDUCATION**

for more information contact
cunycampaign@gmail.com

American schools do not teach Black History, but will not stop teaching about Christopher Columbus, not because schools lack money but because the system is racist. The educational system teaches Latinos, Asians, and African American about certain Europeans, so we can grow up to admire killers—and view them as

Baby Goats Escape Slaughter and Find Home at Family Farm

By Professor William Crain

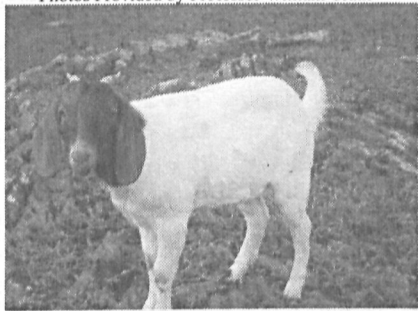
On July 28, two young goats were spotted walking beside the Hutchinson River Parkway in the Bronx. After a two-day effort, New York City animal control authorities captured them and they were certain the goats had escaped slaughter. The goats were sent for temporary residence at the Farm Sanctuary in upstate New York while they received medical treatment. Their story appeared in New York City's major newspapers.

If you heard about the goats, you might have wondered what eventually happened to them. They have been adopted by the Safe Haven Farm Sanctuary in Beekman, NY, an animal rescue farm that my wife and I founded. This will be their permanent home, where we will try to make their lives as

happy as possible.

Earlier this summer, we adopted 18 young chickens that had been thrown into a vacant lot in East Harlem. They were in very poor health, but they are making a nice recovery. Other animals at

Photos Provided by Professor William Crain



Rescued Goats

our sanctuary include sheep and goats taken from live meat markets and turkeys and chickens who somehow escaped from factory farms that imprison them in cages so small they could not move.

If you would like further information

about our farm sanctuary, you can contact me at The College's Psychology Department, extension 5650 or wcrain@ccny.cuny.edu. Please also visit our farm's website, www.safehavenfarmsanctuary.org

continued from front page

VOTE Every Time

every chance I get and I encourage all of you who can to take the time to do the same. Not voting hurts, but how can voting for anyone be harmful? Do you think by avoiding voting you are somehow damaging the system?

We are down to two choices; Bloomberg or Thompson. Do some research on both of them and make your own decision. Talk to the people of New York City and ask them how they feel about a democracy that leads us to having the same mayor for a third term? I wonder how that would work should Obama start legislating unlimited terms for presidency? After all, we did have 43 White male Presidents before him and he may be our last Black President, shouldn't we max him out and maybe just let

The Paper
Wants to Hear from YOU!!

Articles and letters to the Editor are welcomed and can be submitted to *The Paper* for consideration. All submissions should be between 300-500 words. We look forward to reading what you have to say!

him and First Lady Michelle run the White House until they get tired?

There isn't much advertisement going on for Bill Thompson, but I have heard radio commercials with distinctively Black voices supporting, ahem, the non Black candidate. Is that supposed to help convince me? Hey, that other Black person is supporting him, so maybe I should go vote for him. All is fair in love and money for advertisement. Or is it?

The winning candidate will be in office from January 1, 2010 until December 31, 2013, the same year we will be voting for the president again. Don't wait to exercise your right to vote then. If you live in New York and are a registered voter, you have a right and a responsibility to vote now.



Photo from www.gothamist.com

Mayoral Candidates

Michael Bloomberg and Bill Thompson

continued from front page

Nobel Peace Prize to President Obama

of Spain to Moscow; from Accra to Cairo; and it's what I will speak about today," Obama said of his peace initiatives before the UN General Assembly. "Because the time has come for the world to move in a new direction. We must embrace a new era of engagement based on mutual interests and mutual respect, and our work must begin now."

The nation and the world are still waiting to hear Obama's reaction to the honor. He may be just as stunned as the millions of others. According to his press secretary Robert Gibbs, "The president was humbled to be selected," he reported.

Certainly, there are a few accomplishments that are notable during his nine months in the White House, including his stance on torture and the closing of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. And he was able to get Russia and China to go along with his plans on halting the spread of nuclear proliferation.

But for each relative gain on peace there are at least two or three

failed promises made during his campaign and his current occupation of the Oval Office. He has made little breakthrough in the Middle East deadlock between Israel and the Palestinians. We still have more than 130,000 troops in Iraq and there is the prospect that even more will be deployed to Afghanistan.

These latter failures directly contradict what the Nobel Committee stated in selecting him for the prize. "His extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said, also citing his outreach to the Muslim world and attempts to curb nuclear proliferation.

Hours after the announcement there was flood of reaction, much of it predicable and mixed. Even so, there were hopeful comments from voices in the Middle East. Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian peace negotiator, believed the award could be a good omen for peace in the region. "We hope that he will be able to achieve peace in the Middle

East and achieve Israeli withdrawal to 1967 borders and establish an independent Palestinian state on 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as its capital," Erekat told Reuters.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said the award would enhance Obama's ability "to contribute to establishing regional peace in the Middle East and a settlement between us and the Palestinians that will bring security, prosperity and growth to all the peoples of the region."

Screenwriter Michael Russow was less enthusiastic and very skeptical about Obama's triumph. "Whatever one might feel about Obama, he has not earned this singular award. Few American presidents have received it and of those who have, it was bestowed after they'd been engaged in something special. Theodore Roosevelt had helped to negotiate peace in the Russo-Japanese War. Woodrow Wilson had tirelessly worked for the creation of the League of Nations -- a struggle that was blamed for causing the serious stroke he suffered, which left him

disengaged in the last years of his presidency.

"I believe it is enormously premature for Obama to be getting this great tribute, which to a certain extent cheapens the prior recipients and the work all of them performed over so many years," Russow concluded.

According to the Nobel Peace Prize website, the prize is an international award given yearly since 1901 for achievements in peace.

The prize, which includes about \$1.3 million, a gold medal, and a diploma is presented on December 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, its founder. Dr. Ralph J. Bunche was the first African American to win the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1950. Fourteen years later, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the second, the youngest person thus far to receive the Peace Prize.

It should be noted that Toni Morrison was the last American to win a Nobel in literature in 1993.

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Fashion 'Forward'

By Samantha Waugh

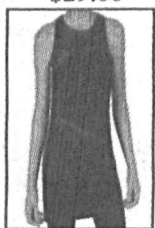
Full 2009's Fashion Week in Bryant Park has introduced a couple of new trends suitable for everyday wear. Here are some ways to snag this runway look for a lot less than designer prices.

Get the Zipper look for less at Forever21!

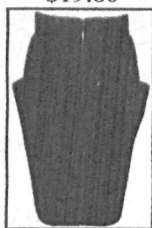


Diesel, Matthew Williamson, Michael Kors, Preen

Architectural Zip Top \$29.00



Double Knit Zip Skirt \$19.80



Zipper Trim Knit Tunic \$22.80



Top Stitched Jacket \$24.80



Ruffle Front Sweater \$19.80



Zipper Front Sweater Top \$22.80



Zipper Trim Sheer Striped Tank \$14.80



Zipper Pocket Athletic Pant \$15.80



Photo provided by Samantha Waugh and from <http://www.forever21.com/>

FIVE DEMANDS

The Student Protest and Takeover of 1969

Cohen Library Atrium
May 4-July 24, 2009

Archives Gallery
July 27-October 28, 2009



Movie Recommendation: Indie Picks

By Naeema J. Muhammad

Not all movies are multi-million Hollywood productions, but that doesn't mean they aren't worth seeing. Check out these wonderful films; buy them or rent them today!

Year of the Fish (2007)



Photo Provided by Naeema J. Muhammad

A young Chinese immigrant Ye Xian (played by AnNguyen) ends up in New York's Chinatown working in Mrs. Sue's massage parlor to send money back to her sick

father. Unfortunately this deal is too good to be true, and she ends up stuck in a situation creating a modern-day Cinderella story. However this modern story is based on the 9th century Chinese folklore that dates back almost 800 years before the well known European version. Besides the story, what makes this film interesting is the animation incorporated look like a Van Gogh painting. *Starring An Nguyen, Ken Lueng, Tsai Chin, and Hettienne Park. Directed by David Kaplan.*

Something is Killing Tate (2008)

Tate (Jocko Sims), a 25 year-old Black male has survived a suicide attempt a day before his birthday and just a couple

of weeks before his wedding. The film answers what's killing Tate with the careful unraveling of a painful childhood full of devastating secrets that Tate doesn't want to face. Portraying difficult topics can be hard to do, especially the side of Black American males we don't often see. With superb acting and a good script, this movie is well worth taking a look at. *Starring Jocko Sims, Aliza Pearl, Luz Beato, Tyrone Caprice, Myron Davis, and Robin Dionne Smith. Directed by Leon Lozano*

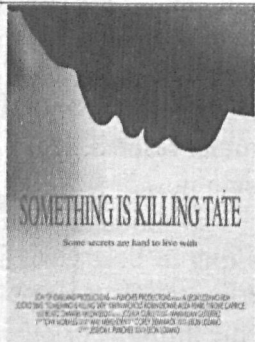


Photo Provided by Naeema J. Muhammad

EXPRESSIONS

From Heart Murmur- A Chapbook Table Four at El Parador

There's no 'us' with him here
Its bared teeth grinning with corpses for eyes
And inquiries from the light-skinned girl with dreads
who asks too many questions--
So I take notes on white receipt paper from the library
To write this.
There's no 'we' at table four
Just purple peep toe pumps tapping while two M.D.s
test my patience
And the mulatto makes a rectal exam more enticing
than
This.
He pretends to be social on 34th
Repeating their words in hopes they won't notice he
really has nothing
To say.
We're not 'we' at El Parador
He's him
And I, me.

-Samantha Waugh

"Writing a poem is
discovering"
- Robert Frost

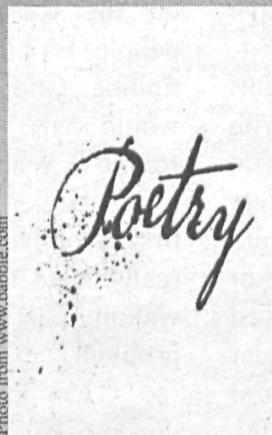


Photo from www.babble.com

"Poetry is the music of the soul,
and, above all,
of great and feeling souls."
- Voltaire

The Wonderful Wizard

You did not laugh at our inside joke
Left me hanging to dry on your witch curled smirk
Entangled in the chatter and dim lighting
That made the walls look like a yellow brick road
I was lost Dorothy wishing for home
Whisked through a red door to Stethoscope City
Where they munch on tasteless salmon and praise each
other
Each being the Wizard himself--
On the eastside Toto turned into one of these
My dog now lost in the masses of munchkins
Gone over to the east on the M4 cross-town bus -
We only walked a while before the road transformed
beneath us
I'm stranded with my suede purple pumps
That don't click like shiny red flats-
Only add four inches to my five foot two
Keeping the illusion alive for Glinda
Scarecrow's soul is in me, now If I only had a brain
I'd know that Tin man needs a heart to notice
That we're not in Brooklyn anymore

-Samantha Waugh

"Poetry is language at its most
distilled and most powerful."
- Rita Dove

I Am What I Am

I am what I am
Formed in my mother's womb
Taking her skin into mine
I am what I am

Incarnate of the spirit of my people
I stand on their shoulders
To attain heights I could not have achieved alone

I am what I am
I am the embodiment of a proud culture that will not be
trampled or kept shut.
That will not stand to be mislabeled or misrepresented
By the ignorance of people who claim to know us better then we
know ourselves

No man has a right to define me
No man has a right to claim my soul and place a suffocating
hold upon
my being and constrain me from achieving the dreams and
goals that
I have set out for myself

No, I am not going to change my roots so I can fit into another
man's shoes
No, I am not going to lose my ethnic identity so I can fit in.
Because I'd much rather stand out
But it's so sad when I see my own people being sucked in
Into this black hole of self hate and self loathe
Because they are ashamed of what they are
Because they have forgotten who they are

I am what I am
But it's getting harder and harder
To remember what that means.

- Tauhid Mahmud

"Poetry is a deal of joy and pain
and wonder, with a dash of the
dictionary."
- Kahlil Gibran

Taqiyya Talks Truth on Annoying Days!

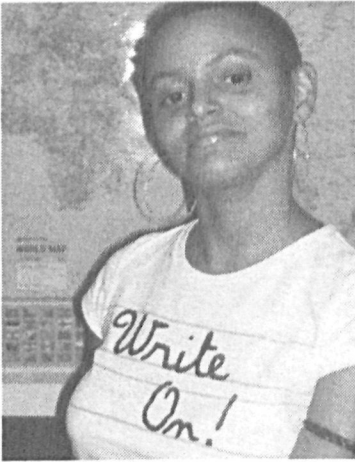


Photo Provided By Taqiyya Haden

"I rant, therefore I am."

Dennis Miller
(comedian)

Ever have one of those days when you walk out the door and EVERYTHING makes you roll your eyes, suck your teeth or blow like there's a candle in front of you? Well here's to one of those days!

When you walk can you at least look in front of yourself? We all get distracted occasionally, but I can teach a 7 year old to watch where she's going!

How many men that walk around with their behinds exposed are actually looking to attract a boyfriend? By now doesn't everyone know that in jail having your pants "sagging" is a forced fashion indicating you are a punk to another man and always available? So no, it doesn't make me think you are "hard," quite the opposite.

Question: Will cracker, spic, or kike ever be said without a second glance? Even the world's beloved Michael Jackson was forced off the shelves for using kike in a song teaching us about hate. I cannot even say "white man" on a subway platform without attracting looks by somebody.

Answer: I wear a Panther pin in honor of free food programs offered to children and elders, not because I hate whitey, carry a gun or support cop killers! So many people hold on to stereotypes about The (Original) Black Panther Party, but if you ask them for specifics they start looking up at the sky as if names, dates and facts are going to start falling like leaves.

Your dog is smaller than my foot and I wear a children's size 4! So how did the two of you manage to take up the entire sidewalk?

"How are you?" Yeah right! Do you really want to know? You don't know my name and you never stop long enough to hear a real answer. I know you are just trying to be nice or polite or whatever but today it just annoyed me. I'm Horrible! Want to hear about it? There are multiple wars! Want to talk about it? Didn't think so!

Wear your hair down your back, out 8 inches and all around but keep it off of me. Hair is so dirty and flipping it in my face, well that's just wrong.

Bi-racial, multi-racial, tri-racial or half human? This is the United States! If you notice we pick sides when it comes to everything; political parties, sports teams and even boroughs (ask anyone from Brooklyn) so do me a favor and pick a race! Stop trying to be down with everybody! Not everybody wants you. If we know you're a Twins fan and when they lose you hide your jersey, your friend from the Yankee side will go find it and ridicule you till the season starts again.

He's just not that into you! They made the book and the movie. Read it and watch it because you still don't get it!

Something about being religious seems to make you mean too. Why aren't the brothers and sisters reading the Bible aloud on the train smiling at other people, EVER? I would think that finding God and enlightenment would make you happy or at least friendly? What would Jesus do?

Ladies the NAC building first floor bathroom! UGH, do I really need to say more? People walking past the door know it's a problem.

I'm in my space and did you knock or just walk in? Are you here to help? Or do you just want to list all the mistakes I already know about? Do I look bored or busy? Pay attention and ask for mine before you make yourself comfortable and start talking.

Having a million facebook friends means...NOTHING! I hope it helps your self esteem because that is all it's worth, a self esteem booster. It takes a person half a second to accept your friend request but how many of those people do you actually know? And if you have that much time and energy to "network" you should turn it into a business that pays.

Are you really sleeping? Why come to class? Go take a nap in the library. You wasted your time and I'm sure the professor is not impressed that you showed up to drool on the desk.

You and your friends' conversation may be interesting but it is not what I paid over \$500.00 to hear in class so SHUT UP! Please.

Writing on the desk?! Is this grade school? If you have some major political point to make about Obama being a Wall Street front man then raise your hand, writing it on the desk just makes you look dumb and it doesn't help people that may share your views.

If I want a free newspaper I know where to get one. Please stop throwing it at me like I was blind and deaf to you passing out. And to the AM News...Whatever!

John Montone on 1010 WINS has his "Mouth off to Me," so here is a start to your "Write off to The Paper."

Whew! I feel better, but there's always more, so tell me what annoys you?

AUTHORIZED USE OF THE N WORD!

With Taqiyya Haden

"The white man in this town knows me. I can talk to any white person on an equal basis. The rest of you niggers can't do that." The crowd laughed. Nobody could say "nigger" with such aplomb. It would swing off his tongue, full of affection and goodwill to all of us.'

This Authorized Use was taken from Nigger in the Window, a book by Helen Jackson Lee, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1978. Who has time to read books for pleasure during the semester? Well if you are a lucky person this is an

enjoyable read waiting for you in CCNY library.

Despite the book acknowledging the characters ability to say the word in the spirit of goodwill towards others, I still do not want to be called "nigga," even if the word rolls off your tongue with

affection! The people that would use it towards me or around me and tell me they don't mean it negatively have not experienced the word in the ways the writer and her characters did. Most of the generation using it in every other

sentence has never had a violent act committed towards them while being called nigga, nigguh, or nigger.

The book title was taken from a James Baldwin quote: *"Although the U.S.A. doesn't have apartheid, there's still ways to say*

'nigger.' You have a few black models on TV. They are just niggers in the window-a showpiece." Baldwin made this statement on NBC's 'Today' show on June 2, 1971. Can anyone imagine such a comment calling out the reality of

Black people in the United States now? It is over 35 years later and we are too politically correct for NBC to air an expression of our ongoing oppressed state. Yet, I am not so sure NBC refrains from airing music by artists that use nigga. What does that say about our media culture that claims to have become less censored and more open to diversity? I'm often questioning film and television representing for gangsters, women in bikinis and crude comments on Family Guy, why can't the conscious person who annoys the hell out of people get a scene? Even if the characters tendency to hate on the language and style was ridiculed by the bunch, at least let them exist.

Photo from <http://papercuts.blogs.nytimes.com>

James Baldwin

CCNY Professor Krakowski Discusses New Indie Film Looking for Palladin

By Naeema J. Muhammad

Any filmmaker will tell you, making a movie is not easy. It's a time consuming collaborative art form and if you are willing to put in the work, your end result can actually find its way onto the silver screen.

That doesn't always happen for independent filmmakers who aren't working with big studios, but then you have a film such as Andrzej Krakowski's *Looking For Palladin*. You may not have heard about it through commercials like other films, but it already has a reputation worldwide from its inclusion in different film festivals. Now it's being brought to theaters in New York and Los Angeles this Fall.

Professor Andrzej Krakowski—as he is known at the CCNY Film and Video Program in the MCA Department—has been a filmmaker for many years. Originally from Warsaw, Poland, he attended film school in his home country and was offered a scholarship to the United States in 1968. Since then, he has worked on many Hollywood productions but according to him, nothing could be better than working on a project close to your heart.

Krakowski says, "*Looking for Palladin was probably the most personal film I have made to*

date, I had the most control I ever had and the most creative, warm and friendly crew. I never felt that there was anything else but the project that mattered."

The film is about an arrogant talent agent Josh Ross (played by David Moscow) who is sent to Guatemala to find Jack Palladin. Things become complicated for Josh as he hurriedly tries to find a man who he holds contempt for, while dealing with a growing sense of annoyance from the community. The movie starts off as a comedic look at life that develops into a dramatic soul-searching journey—something that may sound confusing but seemed to work well for the director.

"I...wanted to experiment as a filmmaker," the Professor states about why he chose to structure the film this way. "I wanted to make a film that would start as a comedy and gradually, almost imperceptibly turn into a family drama. I was told that very few directors were able to do it. I wanted to make a film without violence, sex or bad characters."

Before winning several film festivals, including Queens International Film Festival and Orlando Hispanic Film Festival, getting the film off the ground was difficult. It was originally slated to take place in Katonah, New York, a place the Professor has considered home for many years.

After building strong support from the community to shoot the movie there, news came that they weren't going to be able to shoot in their original location. "We were informed that we [could not] shoot there due to some arcane ordinance of the town's books," the Professor says. "Time and money-wise... it was a big loss."

Armed with a new location in the small town of Antigua, Guatemala, a crew was assembled from both the States and South America. With the summer months Professor Krakowski had off from teaching, the movie was shot. "It was magic from the beginning to the end," he says of his experience shooting his film. "I've never shot in such an environment, where the beauty of the place was matched by the warmth, creativity, devotion and dedication of the crew... In retrospect, moving the production was the best thing that ever happened to our film."

Krakowski wasn't the only person from CCNY working on this project; Jerry Carlson, who teaches Critical Film Studies in the MCA Department, was a co-producer and also starred as himself in the film. In addition, Professor Babak Rassi served as the editor of the film, and Professor Bahman Saltani played himself. Both teach in the Film and Video Program.

Thanks to all the hard work put into the through independent



Photo Provided by Naeema J. Muhammad

efforts, *Looking For Palladin* will be opening in New York at Cinema Village at 22 E. 12th Street on October 30th. I encourage everyone to show their support and spread the word; indie filmmakers don't have much room in their budgets for commercials or billboards, so the marketing department functions by word of mouth.

In reference to the film eventually being released worldwide on DVD, Krakowski had this to say; "We have some offers that are on the table, but everyone is waiting for the results from the New York and Los Angeles releases. The stronger showing we have in these two cities, the wider distribution "*Looking for Palladin*" will receive. Please spread the good word."

COMMENTARY

The Organic Paradox

By Salwa Sayed

David, an American business man and a loyal consumer at Dean & DeLuca whole food store located in Soho, N.Y., eats all organic. He believes organic food products are healthier than their conventional counterparts. David is part of a growing number of people who prefer organic foods.

Today, Americans are unclear about what organic food truly represents to them. They do not agree on the value of organic food, and they have conflicting views on the credibility of the organic food market. Many people purchase organic food on daily basis as part of their every day routine. Others

may not be able to afford it due to its high cost compared to regular food products that are conveniently found in every shopping store.



Photos Provided by Salwa Sayed

There are also those who do not have a clear picture of what organic farming and organic food stands for. However, they are strongly influenced by the organic food movement and the

prestige surrounding it. Jessenia Martinez, a junior at John Jay College, seemed clueless when she was asked in an interview



why she believes organic food is healthier. She instantly replied "because they say it is." She does not consume organic food, and she thinks that organic food does not represent any advantage to her or

her family. She told me, "I did not grow up with it. My mom never bought organic food."

Despite the fact that a portion of Americans do not support the organic food movement, the market is expanding in scale each day. According to research conducted by market research firm Hartman Group, in 2005, 66% of Americans bought organic food occasionally. In 2007, the number increased to 70%. Today the market controls over twenty billion dollars in sales. "A lot of customers buy organic products. They are trying to be healthier" acknowledges Tirso, an employee at Dean & DeLuca. For Tirso, organic food taste better, but in his view, it does

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Uniting for People of Color In a Changing Climate

350

Photo from www.treehugger.com

By Shannon Ayala

On October 24th, 350.org, an organization dedicated to reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to safe levels, is set to hold the biggest climate rally that our planet has ever seen. The organization was started by Bill Mckibben, a scholar in residence at Middlebury College, in Vermont. The United States, along with the other members of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will discuss a plan for worldwide sustainability in Copenhagen

this December. In order to raise awareness on the topic as this event nears, 350.org's International Day of Action will string together a photo-petition of rallies, or Actions, from all over the planet. In anticipation of our school's Action, posters are already lining the halls of City College. This event promises to transcend the noble, but conflicting agendas of two clubs on campus, bringing them together for a common purpose.

Last year, my heart broke when I sought to unite the two nonprofit organizations I belonged to at the time. Lauren Schuster, the environmental project coordinator of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), warned me not to ask West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (WE ACT for Environmental Justice) to lobby with us for the American Clean Energy and Security Act of

2009, (ACES). As presented in the House of Representatives, ACES was designed to increase green jobs and clean energy investments. When I discussed the issue with Stephanie Tyree, the Sustainability Policy Coordinator of WE ACT, she explained that the bill disregarded communities of color. Lauren won me over, after much deliberation; by arguing that the bill was all there was to fight for at the time. Moderate as it was, the bill was still too radical. It didn't pass the Senate.

My heart shall mend on October 22nd when, at last, NYPIRG and WE ACT will unite as one to spread one simple message: we need to reduce carbon dioxide to the safe level of 350 parts per million in our atmosphere, or risk extinction.

My first task for WE ACT @ CCNY was to promote and volunteer at the National Conference on Climate Justice

held at Fordham University in the Bronx. I met people from all over the US: journalists, lawyers, and activists, including student activists from across the city. The message was that countries dear to the students of CCNY, such as Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and the many coastal nations of South America, Africa and Southeast Asia are most vulnerable to climate change. Hurricane Katrina was used as an example of the minimal care showed toward communities of color from our government. As activists, our job is to start now, to seek climate justice to ensure that tragedy doesn't become a regular event.

Our 350.org Action at will take place on Thursday, October 22nd, during club hours. We urge students to come out, and to bring flags from their home countries.

Does Michelle Obama's Hair Really Matter?

By Courtney James

Infotainment spoof or real-life importance? One thing the media knows how to do is excite their audience. Usually their main topic is something you never figured would be news worthy in the first place.

While checking my email in early September, I came across an article entitled *Why Michelle Obama's Hair Matters*, by Jenee Desmond-Harris. In this *TIME* magazine article, Harris touched on why African American women pay such close attention to their hair and how the versatility shown in hairstyles by Michelle Obama has bedazzled the media. Yes! It is in fact a vast topic when discussing the importance of the African-American hair but this article took it deeper than the thick surface presented. Harris stated in her article what might be the real deal about Michelle Obama's 'dos: "...Still, her hair is the catalyst for a conversation that begins with style but quickly transcends outward appearance and ultimately transcends Michelle herself—a symbol for African-American women's status in terms of beauty, acceptance and power."

This chatter seemed to stem from a simple question. After the Democratic National Convention—held August 25th-28th, 2008—many were wondering if Michelle's lovely

strands of hair were chemically straightened or treated only with heat. The amazement that branched from Michelle Obama's "hair secrets" seemed somewhat ignorant at first because for so long, African American women have been straightening their coiled hair in order to receive some sort of acceptance in the now "Eurocentric America". It is clear that Michelle Obama has simply pressed her hair. When this topic buzzed online, comments streamed from all perspectives, but the way she goes about sporting her hair is what reflected the serious debate that brought back history-filled texts on oppression and assimilation. One commenter stated, "Chemicals, hot comb, round brush and dryer ... same effect, different methods. I could see it being a big deal or inspirational if she were natural and wore it in natural styles." Another stated "Girl, ain't no braids, twists, afros, etc. getting into the White House just yet ... LOL."

Were these comments deliberately put for sporting fun, or do they really display the underlying point of this media buzz—that deep down America, as a society, is not ready to confront the true style of African American kinky-coily roots? You decide and see what answers you come up with. Check out the article online at www.time.com.

continued from page 9

The Organic Paradox

not necessarily mean it is healthier for his body. He observes how influential the media is on the views of the public by convincing people that organic is the "best". Tirso added on "[that the media's portrayal of organic food] is a big show." "Organic farming does not use pesticides, [and] does not include confinement for animals. It uses natural farming practices that do not require animals to live in an unnatural way," stated Michelle, an office coordinator at Park Slope Food Coop.

At the same time, the Organic Center states that eating organic food has many benefits for our health. It reduces the consumption of pesticides residue by 350%, which can prevent cancer, diabetes, and obesity. Organic fruits and vegetables contain a higher level of Vitamin C and anti-oxidants, which can reduce the risk of health complications. United States Department of Agriculture places restrictions and rules to govern the organic food industry but some Americans are skeptical about how these rules

are implemented, and how the regulation process takes place.

Recently, The Peanut Corporation of America was charged of sending out contaminated products that surprisingly had the organic certification on them. Consequently, many Americans became unsettled about the value of organic food and questioned whether or not it is safer for their health and their children. "Organic food customers who can afford an extra couple of dollars to spend on their food are going to stay loyal to the organic food market no matter what happens," Stated Melissa, a journalism student at Brooklyn College.

While Americans share their different views about what organic food implies to them, economic researchers expect the organic food market to continue on growing over the next few years, yet we do not know if people will stay loyal to the organic food market as Melissa indicated, or if they will divert their attention and money to something other than the organic movement.



Photos Provided by Salwa Sayed

Parenthood on the Hill

Are we ready to Race to the Top?

Presenting President Obama's Answer to No Child Left Behind

By Olga Sanjurjo

Two weeks ago President Barack Obama discussed the *Race to the Top* initiative, his plan to bring America's education system into the 21st century. \$4 billion dollars in federal aid have been allocated, under the \$787 billion economic stimulus package in February with the goal of increasing the achievements of all students and schools across the nation.

A major part of the Initiative is increasing early childhood education; Universal Pre-school for 2 and 3 year olds, increasing Universal Pre-K for 4 year olds, expanding existing early development programs - Head Starts, Day Care, Nursery - so that younger children have the opportunity to participate in enrichment programs. The President stated that the focus will be where it is needed, poor communities where the high school dropout rates are the highest.

Funding is also allocated to go directly into teacher and principal training, increasing recruitment of educators in Math

and the Sciences, scholarships and enrichment programs for schools that need it.

During an interview with the *Washington Post*, the President explained how funding would work to stimulate individual states into developing new approaches to education; explaining, that federal dollars need to be spent in ways that will improve students' achievements.

The Race to the Top Initiative also addresses restructuring of the length of time students spend in school. This has been a source of heated debate. In outlining a new approach and the need to make drastic changes, the President stated the following;

"We can no longer afford an academic calendar designed when America was a nation of farmers who needed their children at home plowing the land at the end of each day. That calendar may have once made sense, but today, it puts us at a competitive disadvantage. Our children spend over a month less in school than children in South Korea. That is no way to prepare them for a 21st century economy."

The program is voluntary and for states to qualify they must

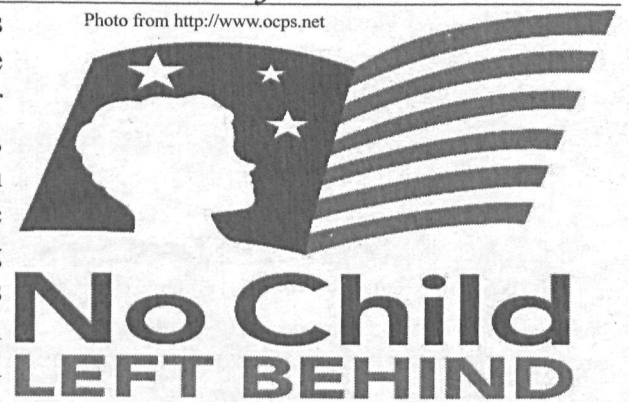
meet strict requirements which are: removing the restriction on the number of charter schools, adopting common national academic standards, removing standardized testing as the primary evaluation of achievement and linking teacher bonuses

to student achievement. Although these requirements have met some opposition from Unions leaders, because they oppose removing caps for charter schools and linking teacher bonuses to student achievements, many educators and parents are applauding the program.

Some are calling it revolutionary; others are lashing out, stating it is another example of how the government wants to control our children. In researching this topic I spoke with several parents and educators. My neighbor Marla, who is a N.Y.C. public school teacher and a mother of three said with honesty, "As a teacher it sucks, but as a parent I think it's great."

When asked what she thought would be a good way to get teachers motivated about

Photo from <http://www.ocps.net>



No Child LEFT BEHIND

expanding classroom time, she gave the following suggestions; "Teachers should be asked to become more involved in developing the curriculum, we have a lot of preparation in this area and if we are included in the process, then we will definitely feel better about working longer hours and in the summer."

There is no doubt that some will politicize this issue, as was done with the President's address to the nation's school children. Because the funding is optional there will be states that will not work to receive the funding, hopefully those children won't pay the price. I approach this optimistically expecting that this initiative will serve the purpose it has been given, bringing our education system into the 21st century.

City College,

Will You Say No to Violence Against Women?

By Agnieszka Rybak

Somewhere in mid-November of this year, the Student Life Activities Programming Committee (SLAPC) of the City College will join the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in the global efforts to Say NO to violence against women.

UNIFEM is the result of the UN First World Conference on Women held in Mexico City in 1975. The fund was established in order to provide financial and technical assistance to promote women's empowerment and gender equality around the world. UNIFEM aims its activities in support of advancing gender equality by concentrating on

four areas: increasing women's economic security and rights, ending violence against women, reversing the spread of HIV and AIDS among females, and achieving gender equality in governance.

United Nations Development Fund for Women



Photo from <http://www.tcdc.undp.org>

In 2007, UNIFEM gathered signatures in support of Say NO by hosting multiple public events. Over 5 million people worldwide signed the petition that was later on presented to the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, at International Day to End Violence against Women celebration by UNIFEM's

Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman. After proving that ending violence against women is top priority among people, the UN Secretary General encouraged UNIFEM to coordinate his multi-year campaign UNITE to End Violence against Women campaign.

This fall Say NO's started a new initiative which aims to record 1 million actions by March 2010. Actions can range from advocating for legislation to volunteering at local shelters that protect women and girls from violence. So let City College be counted, let's take action toward a future free from violence against women and girls.

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TELEPHONE 212-650-7118

EVENT **Book Talk Lecture Series: Billy Collins**
DATE Monday, October 19th
TIME 6:00pm - 8:00pm
ADDRESS 25 Broadway, 7th Floor
PHONE 212-925-6625

EVENT **Dental Clinic**
DATE Thursday, October 22nd
TIME 10:00am - 4:30am
ADDRESS NAC Rotunda
PHONE 212-650-8222

EVENT **Recent Work**
DATE Thursday, October 29th
TIME 6:00pm
ADDRESS 141 Convent Avenue,
 Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture
PHONE 212-650-7118

EVENT **Shobu University Jazz Program**
DATE Thursday, October 29th
TIME 3:00pm - 4:30pm
ADDRESS 160 Convent Avenue Shepard Hall Room 95
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