

The Paper

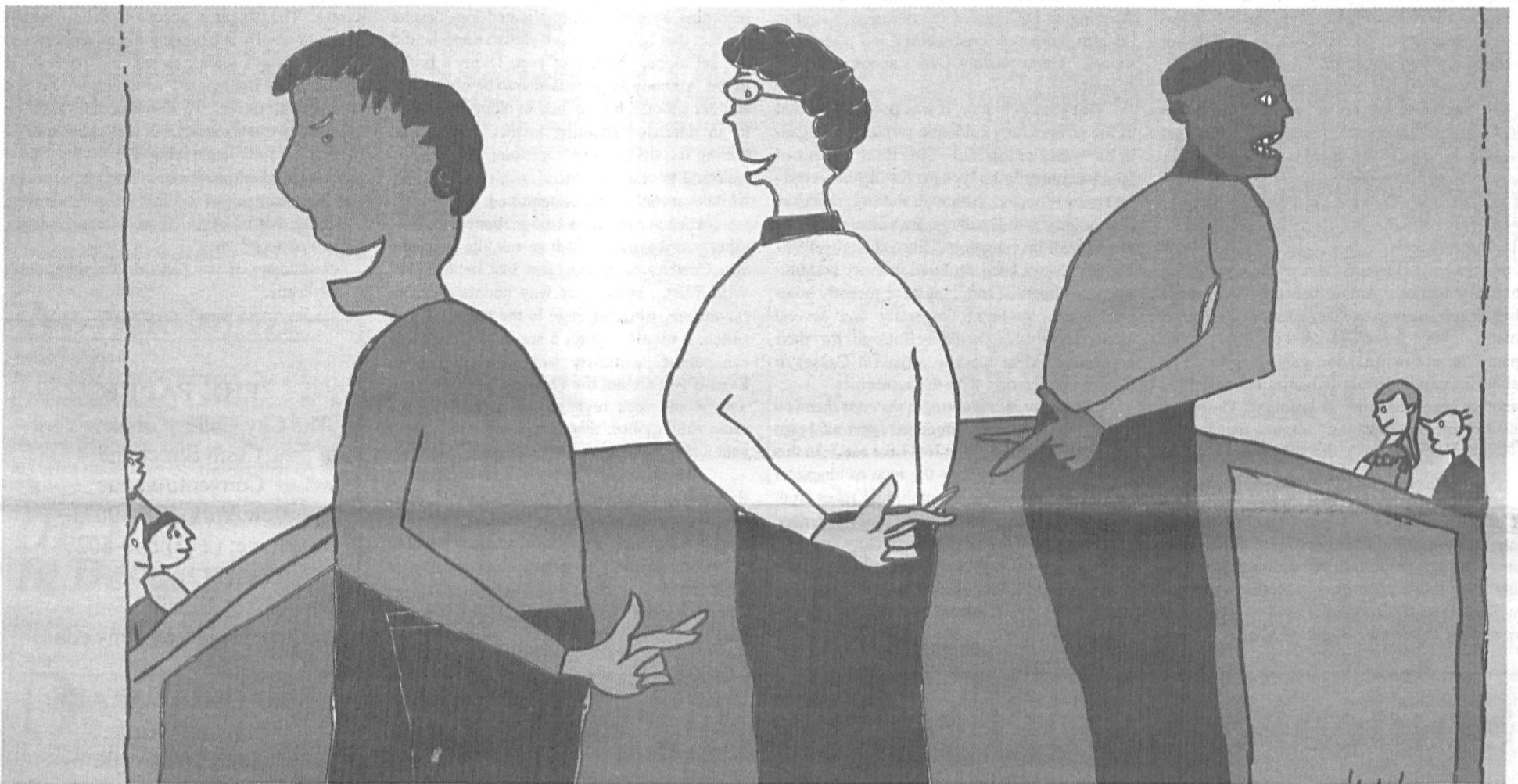
Medium For People Of African Descent

Volume 5

MAY 2006

"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

Politricks as Usual



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By Orin Abel

Student government elections are upon us again. This year's candidates for the Office of Presidency are Seth Cutler (AAA), Iqbal Muhamud (Diversity) and Chike Ukaegbu (City Unity). With the time of voting lingering, each respective party has taken time from

their busy lives to fill ours. Banners and flyers proclaiming *Unity's* qualified candidates, *Diversity's* diversity and *AAA's* grade "A" service have sprouted the walls of the college. On May 2nd, 3rd and 4th, the impact of the media campaign will be witnessed. The only remaining issue

arises in every election, whether for the President of the United States or of the City College of New York. How apparent will the slogans and qualifications of the candidates be after the ballots are thrown? The answer is up to you.

News Brief

Black Male Initiative on The Move

By Ernesto Johnson

In March, President Gregory Williams, Dr. Maudette Brownlee, Dr. James DeJongh, Dr. Claude Brathwaite, Professor William Gibbons and Rasheen Allen, convened at a special luncheon to present an overview of City College's Black Male Leadership and Mentoring Project. The invitees were made up of a distinguished community of faculty and adminis-

trators who were briefed about the initiatives designed to assist students in need of specially selected services and support from the school.

The lunch meeting also served as a forum to attract more professors to the Black Male Initiative program, which is set to launch this summer. President Williams, the chair of the task force, spoke about

the importance of this initiative and the high caliber of professors and administrators committed to this effort.

With the exception of three women, the roomful of guest was all men and this created a fraternal bond. These efforts have created a sense of relief for individuals concerned about the welfare of the future generation.

TO SNITCH OR NOT TO SNITCH

By Ernesto Johnson
ernestjohnson@yahoo.com

If you knew who was responsible for the death of hip-hop artist Tupac Shakur, or the Notorious B.I.G., and you considered reporting it to the authorities, would you be considered a hero or a snitch? Furthermore, who would consider you a hero, and who would consider you a snitch? If this question seems a bit absurd to some readers, the reality is, deciding whether or not to cooperate with the law could possibly reap serious consequences, especially if you are from the hood or participate in unlawful activities. Even in instances where snitching seems like the appropriate thing to do, or the only way out of a bad situation, or a way to right a wrong, in the underworld, snitching is an act of betrayal, while not snitching is perceived as an act of courage.

Being labeled a snitch implies that you are a liability, especially under pressure. It implies that you were involved in some type of criminal activity in which you disclose who the other participants are in order to save yourself from taking the fall. Snitching is a form of bargaining with the authorities to reduce sentencing. To persuade criminals to snitch, the law employs any measure, fair or not, including hardball tactics. Authorities may even offer lighter sentences in exchange for detailed information about the crime or the other participants. Its not unusual for authorities to try to elicit information from one criminal regarding another unrelated crime or criminal. The premise behind "no snitching" implies that no one should cooperate with the law under any circumstance.

On November 11, 1996, Yafeu Fula, a.k.a. Khadafi, a member of Tupac Shakur's budding hip-hop group the Outlawz was gunned down in New Jersey and many believed that his unsolved murder occurred in retaliation for his willingness to cooperate with authorities regarding Tupac's assailant. If Khadafi's death

was actually related to snitching, then the consequence that he paid was tragic, especially since so many people wanted Tupac's killer(s) apprehended. Not only was Khadafi silenced, but also, his death reinforced the notion that it is not safe to report anything to the authorities. Furthermore, it also conveys that the law cannot do much to protect people from the consequences associated with snitching. Tupac's death devastated many of his fans, but most dearly, it devastated his family. Khadafi's death devastated many too, but in addition, it sent a chilling message to would be snitches.

Fast forward to 2006 and the hip-hop community continues to be victimized by the stringent no snitching politics. When Harlem based rapper Cam'ron refused to cooperate with Washington D.C. police in after he was shot in his arm, his street credibility and popularity soared. Unfortunately, Cam's shooter remains at large.

This past February, it was politics as usual as the no snitching epidemic surfaced yet again in the world of hip-hop. This time, it claimed Israel Ramirez, a bodyguard for hip-hop veteran Busta Rhymes. Although the triggerman in this incident is still at large, Busta has not cooperated with investigators. Even though snitching has always been deplored in every community, the effects of snitching have recently bombarded the hip-hop community and several artists have been highly criticized for their cooperation (like hip-hop artist Lil Cease) or lack of cooperation with the authorities.

"If you get shot and run to the cops then you not like me," are lyrics found in rapper's 50 cent popular song titled, "You Not Like Me." In this song, 50 cent raps about the type of character one should possess to maintain real street credibility. This song has inspired many listeners, even though many of 50's detractors consider him a snitch for exposing the names and activities of several alleged hustlers from Queens, New York, in his tell all book called, "From Pieces to Weight."

Even if you are not a product of the streets, you still have to know and understand the code of the street. And while in essence people should cooperate with the law, blacks have had terrible experiences and a tumultuous history with the law, so, it has not served to their interest to provide authorities with any assistance because doing so puts them needlessly at risk. Its like, you're damned if you do, and you're damned if you don't. It is very difficult for black people to believe that there is actual justice for them especially since the law often fails to protect them.

In some instances, not snitching offers very little resolve. Back in 1999 when Jennifer Lopez and P Diddy was a hot item, a shoot out at a nightclub involving former Bad Boy recording artist Shyne, implicated him despite the fact that he acted in self-defense and he did not act alone. Matter of fact, Diddy's bodyguard, Anthony Jones was also to be charged as another shooter, but he died in November 2003 in an unrelated shooting incident in Atlanta. During the trial, Shyne's testimony did not go well and he was sentenced to nine long years while everyone else was acquitted.

Justice in the streets comes about from handling your business and it seems like everyone is a Cowboy or Indian, just like in the Wild Wild West. Whichever way people seem to rationalize, when revenge is the response to a snitch, it usually ignites a series of events that can persist pointlessly without a conclusion. Even if you are not the Cowboy type of person who would seek revenge for an offense, the same rule applies, that is to keep your mouth shut and handle your own business.

But snitching is not just a issue affecting the hip hop community, Mobsters live by a similar code. Instead of the term snitch, mobsters use the term "rat." In politics, a snitch is called a "whistleblower." Ironically, the police never seem to snitch on each other, even in instances where they are clearly guilty and even though they are suppose to uphold the law, protect and

serve; they don't, yet they are the greatest advocates of snitching. We all have learned at some point or another that we should not drop dime on our partners (in crime), regardless of the outcome, but is that fair and applicable all the time?

In most every type of group and society, trust is considered one of the most important tenants. The paradox is, vandals mean to live by some of the very beliefs that they violate, but how can they? Gloria Thomas of IRADAC once told me, "Under the right circumstances, could you even trust yourself, implying that its difficult to trust anyone, let alone someone else.

People snitch for many reasons. They snitch for self-preservation, they snitch out of fear, pressure, and some snitch to right their wrong. The danger in accepting the no snitching ideal wholly is believing the misconception that it's always wrong to snitch. Truth is, if people lived righteously, snitching would not be a serious factor. To snitch or not to snitch depends on one's morals, but are crooks moral? Instead of fully embracing the saying "Stop snitching" edict, people should advocate a slogan that campaigns against crimes, or stop believing that its ok to commit transgressions, but not ok to snitch.

Remember, if you can't do the time, don't do the crime.

THE PAPER

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Student Support Services Program

By Juan Nunez

The few years spent in college are important times for every student. It may be difficult to believe that such a small number of years determine an entire future. The truth is the excellence we achieve in college establishes our upcoming opportunities. If one wishes to succeed, it is imperative that he/she takes advantage of all the services available; which is why I would like to introduce the Student Support Services Program (SSSP). The SSSP is a federal funded program that supplements a student's time at college by providing support, tutoring, and counseling. The program also helps students obtain scholarships and many other useful opportunities. The requirements for acceptance into the program are as follows: enthusiastic freshmen, sophomores, transfer in USIP, ESL, or a student with an SAT score less than 480 on both the math and verbal. Incoming freshmen must have a high school average between

80-89; and as for college sophomores their current GPA must be a 2.3 or above. If applicants are US citizens or permanent residents and belong to a household with a certain income level, they will be interviewed and then selected for the program. There are a

lot of good opportunities awaiting students in the SSSP. Taking advantage of a program such as this one will take you one step closer to a successful future. To obtain more information about SSSP visit <http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/sssp/index>.



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CHANGING THE FUTURE OF BLACK AMERICA

By: **Orin Abel**

In 1994, *Time* magazine named Tavis Smiley one of the 50 future leaders of America. Time has certainly proven the accuracy of *Time* magazine. According to tavisalks.com, Smiley's career began in 1988 as an aide to the mayor of Los Angeles. It was during this time he founded Los Angeles' Young Black Professional. Ever since it began he has endeavored to push forward the concerns of the Black community in the media. In fact, *Newsweek* profiled Smiley in 1999, for his work in changing the way in which Americans get the news. Smiley has corresponded for *CNN*, *Good Morning America* and *Primetime Thursday*. He has also co-hosted the *Tom Joyner show*, and hosted *The Smiley Report* and *The Tavis Smiley Show* on the radio as well as PBS's *Tavis Smiley*. In addition, Smiley is also known for his coverage of the African community on *B.E.T Tonight with Tavis Smiley*, which won five consecutive NAACP awards within its five year run from 1996 to 2001. Still, it is his initiative to provide lasting change to the current state of the African American community that sets him apart from others. His stories have illuminated the lives of Americans of all races.

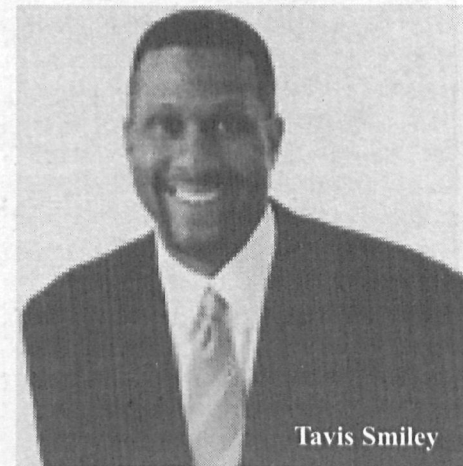
Smiley has used his resources to enhance the Black community and hence America as a whole. His annual State of the Black Union address, tackles varying issues, which burden the Blacks in America. Educators, ministers, politicians, public policy makers and other leaders in the Black community such as Louis Farrakhan and Al Sharpton, gathered to address the issues facing the Blacks. The event has reached over 83 million people as a result of its C-SPAN broadcast. In past years, the State of the Black Union Address, has addressed Economic Empowerment (2006), the Road to health (2005) and strengthening the Black family (2004) among other issues. Smiley's State of the Black Union series is one instance that demonstrates his commitment to the advancement of the Black community.

Most recently, Tavis Smiley was chosen as a recipient of the 2006 NAACP image award for the second consecutive year. The NAACP image award is presented to outstanding men and women who perform or carry forward social justice. And this is certainly evident in the work that Smiley has done in the past, furthering the causes of the Black community. His initiative has no doubt influenced countless Americans to pick up the essential tools and

help pave the way for a positive future for Black America. The recent publication of *The Covenant*, the brainchild of Smiley, addresses healthcare, education, employment, and economic stability in the Black community. The book debuted at number 6 on the *New York Times* Best sellers. According to the book's website, covenantwithblackamerica.com, the chairmen of both Democratic and Republican political parties have agreed that all candidates seeking a presidential run in 2008 will address issues affecting the Black community as outlined in *The Covenant*. The website also features four covenant documents, aimed at youths, community organizers, educators and policy makers, and an advanced covenant document. The documents outline ways in which respective groups can become involved in such a worthy project. In addition, the national tour of *The Covenant*, hosted by Tavis Smiley, arrives in Harlem in May, 2006. *The Covenant* movement is only one way in which Smiley's initiative is expressed.

In every attempt, a positive response from the all Americans is vital in changing the state of the Black community. Apart from *The Covenant* movement, Smiley has also written countless books including *"The Unfinished*

Agenda of Brown vs. the Board of Education", *"Keeping the Faith"* and *"How to Make Black America Better"*. His works address the struggles of Blacks in America. Today, The Smiley Group Inc., the Tavis Smiley Foundation, and the many other groups that he remains a part of, continue to instigate change within our community. The Tavis Smiley Foundation in particular, works to uplift and empower Black youths. Through all, Smiley has shown his commitment to the advancement of the Black community. His initiative has no doubt influence many, and has the potential to changed America.



Tavis Smiley

We Apologize

Editorial Staff

In the March 2006 issue of *The Paper*, we published an article which misrepresented the Prophet Muhammad. As a result, we have offended some of our readers, which was not our intention at all. We were unaware that the Muslim religion does not allow images of any prophet in any circumstances. And for that we apologize to all individuals who may have been offended by the pervious issue of *The Paper*.

OP-ED

In Defense of the Prophet Muhammad

By: **MSO and WII**

Dear respected reader, we the Muslim Students Organization and Women in Islam of CCNY would like to lay out an enlightenment regarding of the misconceptions that could have misled some people from comprehending the truth.

Some Newspapers and other forms of media have spread upsetting, and vicious information that could have only come from jealous, envious, irresponsible columnists, like those who write for the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*, and the arrogant enemies of Islam and its Prophet Muhammad (may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace).

The writers of these newspapers have mocked the best of Mankind and the most distinguished of the Messengers, Muhammad, the likes of whose nobility, honor, justice, and manners the earth has never known of. Neither has it known of a more complete and comprehensive message than his, nor a more just and merciful one. It is a message that embraces belief in all of the Prophets and Messengers, honoring them and defending them from calumny and defamation.

According to the Islamic legislation, it is prohibited to mock or disrespect any of the prophets in any way. Islam does not permit the drawing of ANY of the prophets of God, whether it is Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, or Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of God be upon them all. Islam is known to be the Monotheistic religion, therefore, these images are considered to be idolatry and unbearable.

Another point of dissent that is raised is the way in which the Denmark newspaper and those who follow them depicted the Prophet Muhammad: One of the bogus images depicted the Prophet Muhammad wearing a turban that is shaped like a bomb, making it seem as if Islam is a religion that can be equated to terrorism.

Let it be known that never did Muhammad, his righteous successors or any of his honorable companions ever establish factories for even the most primitive of weapons, like swords and spears, let alone atomic bombs, long-range missiles, or any other weapon of mass destruction. Never did Muhammad build a single weapon factory. Rather, he was sent as a mercy for the entire creation, to guide all Mankind towards happiness in their worldly lives and in their hereafter.

And we would like to address the issue of freedom of speech which the Danish newspaper has so conveniently hid under. Milton Friedman once said "My right to swing my fist ends where your chin begins." This indicates that there is a dead-end for freedom of speech. We as Muslims do believe in free speech just as much as anyone else. However, we believe that free speech has its conditions like every other rule. Due to this, one is not permitted to wrongfully call out "fire" in a crowded theater because of the potential harm which could ensue; the issue is the same with these caricatures. Therefore, such portrayal of the Prophet Muhammad, or any Prophet for that matter should be censored.

College Girls Gone Wild Online

By **Lindsie Augustin**

Drinking in college is a time old tradition, but there is a new twist shocking women on campuses nationwide. Now your wild night of fun could turn into your worst nightmare. According to a report conducted by WB 11's Fact Finders, numerous websites have emerged exposing young college women in their most vulnerable times. While it is uncertain all these women are intoxicated, many critics are certain that this is a growing trend.

Pictures of these young women involved in distasteful behavior are surfacing all over the Internet. Some of these websites are free however others charge a fee, warning for

adults only. These women are so heavily intoxicated, they may not even be aware that they are being filmed. Only to later find out that their most private moments are available for the world to see. These websites are established to humiliate these women and mock them by allowing individuals to rate the pictures on a scale of one to five and leaving comments such as "her mother would be so proud."

Many are wondering how these women were put into situations such as these, but it is not uncommon. Hundreds of college women are lured into parties hosted by

websites unaware of what awaits them inside. Some are asked to sign documents upon entering the party, while others are approached while they are intoxicated. Thinking only about having a good time, these women have no idea by signing that document they just have given away their rights. It is common for individuals in the porn industry to target these parties, figuring it is easier to manipulate these women. Many critics blame the growth of these websites on the overwhelming popularity

of the "Girls Gone Wild" tapes as well as the number of celebrity sex tapes surfacing on the internet.

Koren Zailckas, author of the critically acclaimed book

"Smashed" was one of the first to expose these websites. Zailckas stated, "Some of them [websites] are mixed in with real footage and fake footage. They have professional porn actors and decorate sets as dorm rooms."

Nevertheless, these websites exist and young women are constantly being exposed online. A word to the wise, next time you are at a party don't leave your common sense at home. Be aware of your surrounding and know your limits. And guaranteed your fun night out will be just that a fun night out.



The Nuñez Report 2006

By Juan Nuñez

In the last issue of *The Nuñez Report*, I listed a couple of places where CCNY students can take their minds off school. This time around I want to focus on a more educational approach with a twist. Whoever said that a group of people couldn't learn while having fun? It certainly was not the following locations, the *Museum of Sex*, which exhibits a collection of sex toys, magazines, and machines; the *Top of the Rock*, which offers the best views of the city and a timeline of Rockefeller Center; the *Museum of TV and Radio*, which gives people the opportunity to review their favorite classic programs on personal monitors; the *Studio Museum of Harlem*, which displays about 1600 works of contemporary African American art; and finally the *Brooklyn Historical Museum*, which displays the history of labor in Brooklyn and a library where one can trace his/her lineage. And just for fun, I added a highly recommend bowling alley that also offers arcade games and much more.

RATING =*

MUSEUM OF SEX

Location

233 Fifth Avenue (@ 27th Street)
New York, NY 10016
(212) 689-6337
Adults (18+): \$14.50 + tax
Students and Seniors (with valid ID):
\$13.50 + tax

TOP OF THE ROCK

Location

30 Rockefeller Plaza, 70th Fl.
New York, NY 10112
(212) 698-2000
\$14-Adults

MUSEUM OF TV & RADIO

Location

25 West 52nd St.
New York, NY 10019
(212) 621-6800
**

STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM

Location

144 West 125th St.
New York, NY 10027
(212)864-4500

Adults (\$7)
Students (\$3)

LEISURE TIME BOWLING

Location

Port Authority @ 42nd St.,
625 Eighth Ave 2 Fl.
(212) 268-3539/ www.leisuretimebowl.com
Music by: DJ Ness Digi

BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Location

128 Pierrepont St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(At Clinton St.)
(718) 222-4111
**

EVENTS @ CITY

Eduardo León Jimenes
Art Contest: Selection of
Award Winning Works

April 24th - June 23rd
N.A.C Building
Cohen Library

Annual Spring Concert

May 10th
Aaron Davis Hall
Marion Anderson Theatre
7:00pm

Dreamgirls

May 11th, 2006 - May 13th, 2006
Directed and Choreographed by
Keith Lee Grant
May 11- August 12
Theater B-ADH
7:00pm

Finley Student Center and USG
Masquerade: A Formal Affair

Friday, May 12th
The Great Hall
6:00 pm to 1:00 am
\$5.00

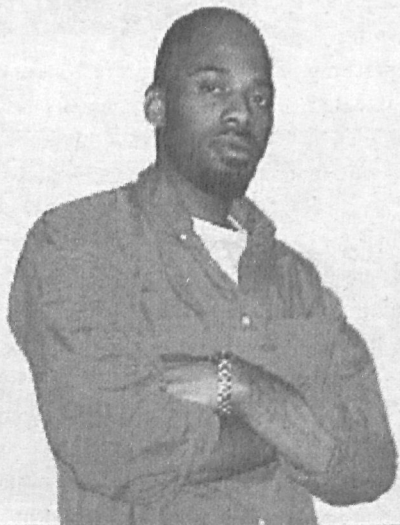
Jazz Vocal Workshop
Sheila Jordan / Students

May 15th
Shepard Hall 95
3:30 pm

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Cultural Vive

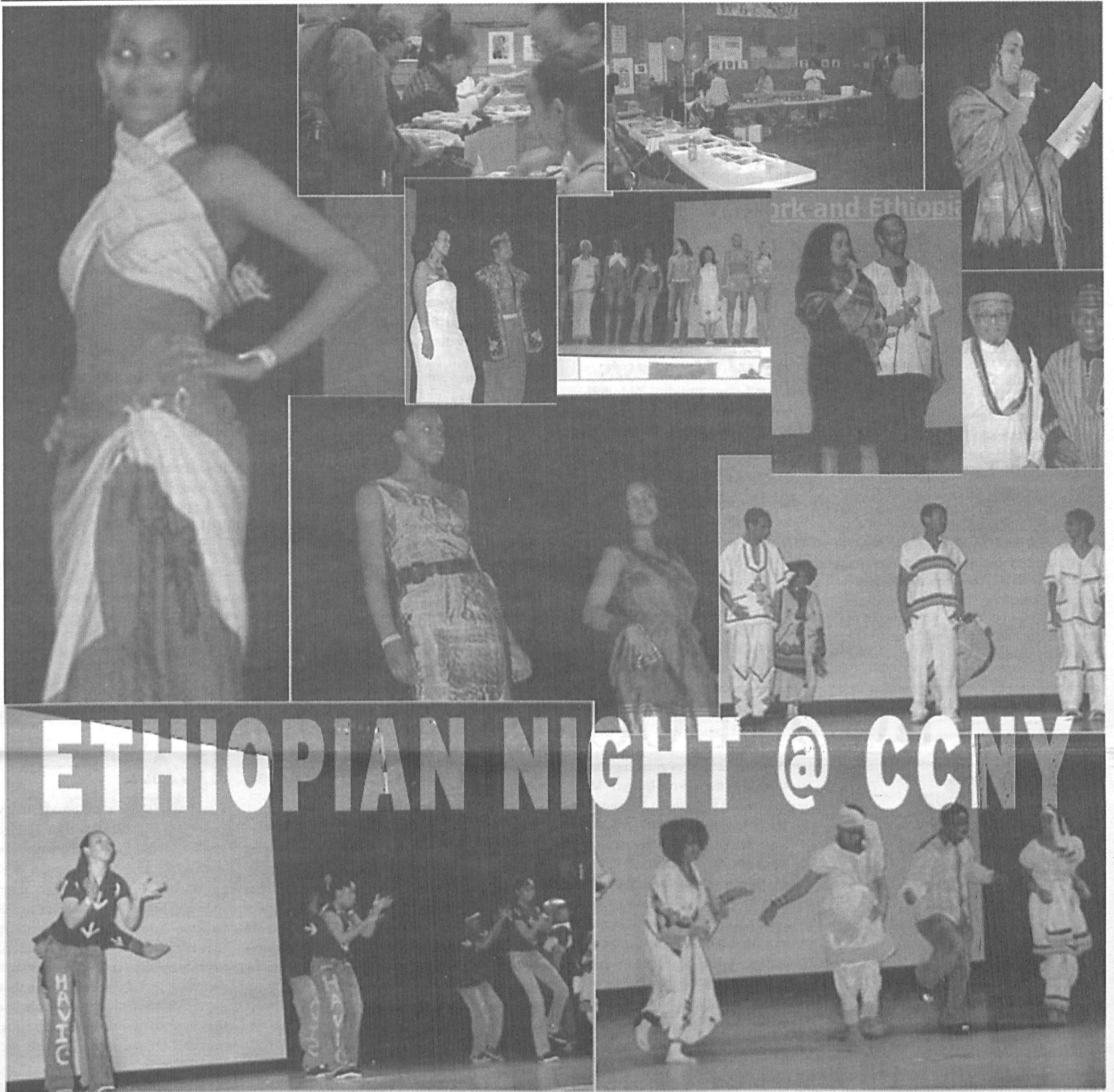
*Our hearts attract our ears, calling us to the sound of our drums
Our warrior chants, speak of our tongues being dip in black ink,
so our lips, can properly articulate imprints of sound
Our African rhythms, travel on divine currents vibrating from our soul
Our poetry becomes spoken word
Oral tradition transferred, never lost or destroyed, merely transformed
to reborn the written on our faces, manifested throughout our bodies
We will continue to tell our story
So our blackness we can hear
Properly learn not to fear, our phenomenon
See without opening our physical eyes
Breathe like our soul speaks
Speak like the flow of our energy feeds
For our desire to create the unseen & seen is harmony
Our infinity lets us be in unity with our hearts drumbeat
Attracting our ears
Listen...
Eternal Mind*

Fashion 101

M G A P X T T M A E V R L E Y
D O U N Z D D A E K E A B T T
N U S C A V F R L R R E U S K
R H A C C B P C E U A W R O Y
E A O B H I B J T O W A B C T
C U L J R I X A I B A C E A X
Y A A P N I N C G Y N O R L I
N Z G N H A G O R E G R R D S
E V I S U L E B E N C A Y I S
I N A M R A A S P O A L R O S
E C A S R E V U P O E D O R I
B C B G I R L S R D H J A D M
S K I M E D A K A E H U L R I
T A H P Y B A B R J N V E L P
I N T J U I C Y C O U T U R E

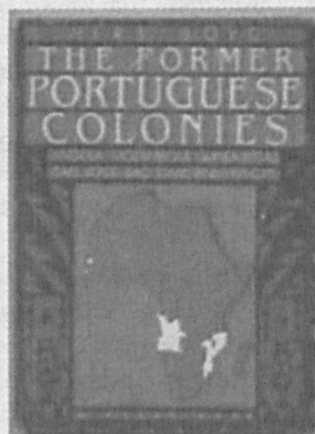
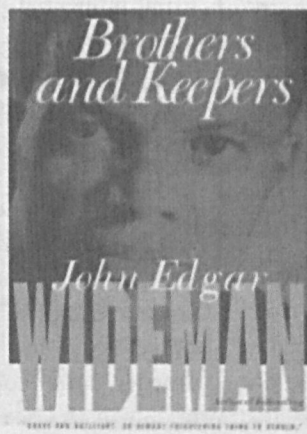
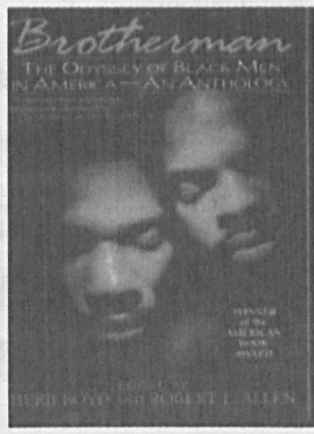
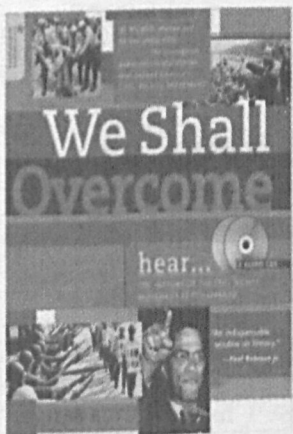
AKADEMIKS
BABY PHAT
BURBERRY
DOLCE GABBANA
ENYCE
GIRBAUD
JUICY COUTURE
LETIGRE
MISS SIXTY
PRADA
ROCAWEAR
VERA WANG

ARMANI
BCBGIRLS
DIOR
DOONEY BOURKE
EVISU
GUCCI
LACOSTE
MARC JACOBS
MOSCHINO
RALPH LAUREN
SEAN JOHN
VERSACE



ETHIOPIAN NIGHT: *Dancing, Fashion, Food AID Awarness*

**BOOKS BY
HERB BOYD**



Let's Think About the Animals

By William Crain

Today's universities resent the label "Ivory Tower," a phrase that suggests that they are bookish places that are out of touch with the real world. Universities claim that they cast considerable light on the world around them.

But there is horrible, widespread suffering in our society that is almost never discussed in college classes. This is the suffering of animals.

Most of the meat we eat is produced on factory farms where the animals live hellish existences. Pigs, chickens, and other animals are typically confined to cages so small they can barely move. They never see the sunlight, and they suffer painful illnesses. The vast majority of layer hens, used solely for egg production, also must live under these conditions. Most dairy cows are kept in tight stalls, forced to stand on concrete floors that hurt their legs, while machines work on their bodies. Their calves are taken from them at birth, and the mothers cry horribly. Each year in the U.S., a million of their babies are soon killed for veal.

On rare occasions, a prominent person has spoken up for the animals. One was the Yiddish writer Isaac Bashevis

Singer. Singer, whose mother and younger brother died during the Nazi Holocaust, was so affected by the suffering of animals that he compared it to concentration camps. In his 1966 short story "The Letter Writer," the protagonist says, "What do they know—all those scholars, all those philosophers, all the leaders of the world...? They have convinced themselves that man, the worst transgressor of all species, is the crown of creation. All other creatures were created merely to provide him with food, pelts, to be tormented, exterminated. In relation to them, all people are Nazis."

Local Protests

Just before Thanksgiving, three students—Sophia Seeramlal, Cindy Inez, and Tasha Prosper—and I picketed the La Granja Live Poultry store near The College. (It's on Amsterdam and 126th Street).

The chickens, geese, ducks, rabbits, and others animals in "live poultry stores" are trucked from unspecified sites in tight crates. The trucks often cover long distances, and not all animals survive the trips. In the stores, the animals are crowded into cages until they are selected by customers. Then they are taken into a back room and slaughtered. If you walk into the nearby store, you will see some of the dis-

tressed animals poking their heads through the wire, staring at you.

Whenever I have gone into the store to see what was happening, I have wondered, Why must these frightened animals die? People can live perfectly well on a vegetarian diet; indeed, a vegetarian diet is generally healthier than one that includes meat. The students I mentioned felt the same way, and because the killing is taking place right next door to us, we felt a special obligation to picket the store.

Picketing doesn't suit everyone. But if you share our feelings over the way our society is treating animals, you can protest by adopting a vegetarian diet. Some people not only stop eating meat, but also refrain from eggs and dairy products because of the cruel treatment of hens and cows. Others try to make sure the milk and eggs come from animals that live free-range lives. Whatever step you take, it will help the animals.

I also have been doing what I can to eliminate hunting. In December, 2005, I was arrested during a demonstration against New Jersey's black bear hunt.

Black bears have not caused the death of any human in New Jersey for 150 years. Indeed, during the entire 20th century, black bears were implicated in the deaths of 36 humans in all North America, whereas humans kill about 30,000 black bears on

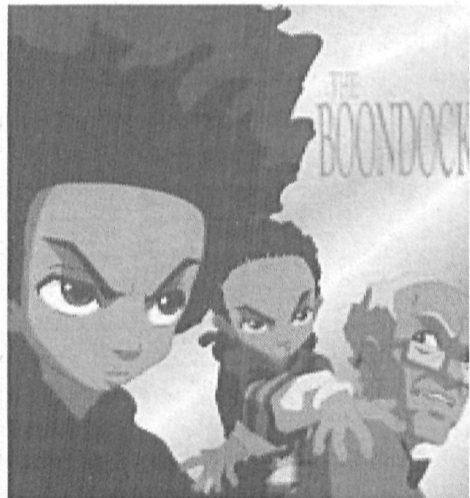
the continent each year. But as real estate development expands into the rustic areas of New Jersey, the bears are coming into conflict with humans. Actually, these sensitive and intelligent animals are timid and fearful when it comes to humans. But they look scary to some, and they can be a nuisance. In particular, they get into uncovered garbage cans. So the state of New Jersey endorsed two hunts, one in 2003 and another in 2005, to kill many of them. There were no restrictions on the age or gender of the animals hunted—males, females, and cubs were all fair game.

The hunts struck me as terribly cruel, and during the December demonstration, I engaged in an act of civil disobedience by standing in an area reserved for the hunting officials. When I refused to move, the police handcuffed me and took me away. As I was being put into the police car, a reporter asked if I wanted to make a statement. I said that we are placing human convenience—people's right not to be bothered by whatever nuisance the bears might cause—over the bears' very lives. I believe we must put a much higher value on animals, our fellow beings on this earth. Soon a New Jersey court will render a sentence for my action.

William Crain is a professor of psychology at The College. His extension is 5650.

THE BOONDOCKS

By: Juan Nunez



On October 2nd, 2005, the Cartoon Network premiered *The Boondocks* series on its late-night program Adult Swim. Prior to the animation of the show, it was a comic strip that became infamously popular and was syndicated by over 345 American newspapers.

The show consists of three main characters that move from the ghettos of Southside Chicago to an overly white populated suburban area called Woodcrest. Robert Freeman, also known as "Granddad," is an aged black grandfather who obtains an inheritance and moves to the suburb. He brings along his two grandchildren named Riley and Huey Freeman. Riley is an eight-year-old "gangsta" wannabe whose interests are guns, money, and being real. Huey is a ten-year-old kid who visualizes himself as an activist and promotes political revolution.

The show has attracted an abundance of media attention because it focuses on sensitive topics, such as racial stereotypes and politics.

Perhaps, the issue of great importance is the excessive use of the N-word (nigga). Many people have endeavored to erase the N-word from their vocabulary, thus, to hear the word so many times on basic television most reasonably disturb them, Reverend Al Sharpton is one of the people that disapprove of the N-word being used on a cartoon. Let's be honest, even if we try to discard its use, the word "nigga" often slips from most of our mouths, this is the point that Aaron McGruder, the creator of *The Boondocks*, seems to make. He states that, "I think it makes the show sincere. At a certain point, we all have to realize that sometimes we use bad language, and the N-word is used so commonly, by not only myself, but by a lot of people I know that it feels fake to write around it and to avoid using it."

The show has had mixed reviews. Many individuals seem to like the realness of the show while others declare that, compared to the newspaper strip it is not real enough. A friend of mine who watches the show said, "it was aight, but I won't watch it again."

Personally, the show has its good and funny moments and in order to grasp them, one must see the majority of the series. The show has a very unique way of publicizing current issues while making viewers laugh and also leaving them thinking about serious issues. *The New York Post* stated that, "If you love a big, seriously politically incorrect, brilliantly funny show that delivers laughs of the 'South Park' quantity, then this one's for you."

Mc Gruder has decided to take six months off starting in March. Nevertheless, if any one wishes to see the show, reruns will be shown Sunday nights at 11pm on Cartoon Network. The new premiere will start in October.

They Made it Without a B.A.

By: Lindsay Augustin

Since childhood we have been constantly told, the only way to become a success in life is to receive a proper education. And it just so happens the only way to obtain that education would involve going to college. Well, that's really not the case anymore. Many of today's successful individuals never made it through college.

In the fall of 2004, Mary-Kate Olsen enrolled in New York University (NYU) and in the summer of 2005 she dropped out. While this may have come as a surprise to some, she simply figured out early that college wasn't the place for her. Even though, Olsen spent a majority of her childhood breaking records, she wasn't the first to do this. In actuality, Olsen followed in the footsteps of many influential people in the lime-light today.

Brad Pitt dropped out of the University of Missouri, two credits short of graduating. Karl Rove left the University of Utah in 1971, and went on to become the Senior Advisor of the President. Bill Gates dropped out of Harvard and ended up created Microsoft. Not to mention Jamie Foxx and Kanye West both dropped out of college and one went on to win an Oscar and the other two

Grammys. These stars among many others never made it to their college graduation and look at where they are now.

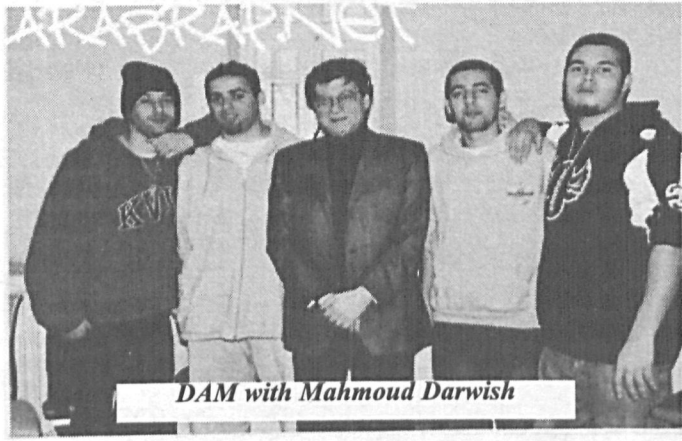
Understandably, some of these individuals had large incomes to fall back on. So dropping out of college may not have been much of an inconvenience. However others were not so fortunate. Like everyone else they started from scratch and made the decision to follow their dreams, jumping off the conveyer belt and banking on their talent.

So if you're a student struggling through college and you have some talent, don't fret. Maybe college is not for everyone. Hilary Swank never finished high school and she won an Oscar. While I'm not condoning dropping out, it's good to know that you can have a successful career without a B. A.

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International Hip-Hop

By: Julia Dodson



DAM with Mahmoud Darwish

Music has been an entity to take refuge in, to leave the craziness of the world and find one's own truth in the marriage of rhythm and lyrics. The most recent musical genre, which embraces this idea, is hip-hop. Once considered the voice of rebellious youths with a cause, hip-hop has taken a drastic dive into the fiery pits of over saturation, commercialization, and sheer emptiness.

On the hand, hip-hop on an international level has become a powerful medium of self-expression and in some cases retaliation. This is the case in the Middle East, where Palestine has now become the mecca of hip-hop. A large reason for this

is Palestine's 58 year war with neighboring, Israel. This war has left Palestine in turmoil, facing issues of drugs, pollution, unemployment, gangs, racism and violence.

Speaking out against the oppression is the hip-hop group, DAM (Da Arabic Microphone

Controllers). DAM is comprised of Tamar Nafar, Suheil Nafar, and Mahmoud Jreiri. According to group member Tamar the hip-hop bug that bite him was rapper Tupac Shaukar. It was easy for him to relate to Tupac because like him, Tamar understood what life was like in the ghetto. Tamar stated, "We sing about what we see, about the violence, the humiliation we face, and so on."

Unlike the elders who are afraid and runaway from today's politics, Tamar and the members of DAM are running towards it. "We want people to start thinking for themselves by offering them a mirror. We want people to develop their own poten-

tial," said Tamar. DAM seems to be walking the same path as Public Enemy and KRS1 by using hip-hop to inspire and provoke.

While the Middle East is feeling mild tremors of hip-hop, Brazil is feeling its rapturous rumble. Hip-hop has become the voice of the underrepresented Black community in Brazil; creating a real movement in the favelas (ghettos) usually inhabited by Blacks.

The leader of the pack is Brazilian MC MV Bill. MV Bill focuses on Brazil being racially divided; excluding Black Brazilians out of Brazil's mainstream media. Such divisions have created a situation where Black Brazilians are battling for equality, respect and improved living conditions.

In an attempt to change such conditions, MV Bill started CUFA- Centro Unica Das Favelas (Unica Center of the Slum Quarters). Which is a non-profit organization using hip-hop for cultural and educational leadership development. Hip-hop has become a critical tool in Brazil's fight against racism and poverty.

Internationally hip-hop is being used for betterment, for change, for revolution.

While, America hip-hop's original home seems to be monetarily robust but contextually feeble. The state of this country's domestic affairs certainly leaves much to be desired, so where is the hip hop that will be the voice of change for us?

Granted there are some hip-hop songs that speak of much more than materialistic things but commercial hip-hop, which reaches the masses, is generally all about having expensive cars, getting money, and how many "bitches" you can get. Each sub-genre of hip-hop services a specific audience but the problem is lack of balance. The world is swamped with images of rapper 50 cent who embodies the so-called "thug life style" as the front man of hip-hop which is alright, but to counter that why isn't the rap group Little Brother who focuses more on life's everyday struggles also a popular hip-hop representation.

Across the world, hip hop is being used as a means to much greater and fruitful ends but here, in its birthplace it remains stagnant in the "bling-bling" MTV vortex. It is time for hip-hop to leave its complacent comfort zone and commit itself to a much greater cause of inspiration and change.

OP-ED

Vote Hypocrite for VP of Academic Affairs

By: George Vargas

Is bigotry alive and well in the candidates running for Student Government? Jessica Sell is a poor choice to represent City College's diverse student population. In my dealings with her, I have found her to be insensitive, disrespectful, and dismissive of opinions and actions that are not along the lines of her thinking. Specifically that as far as she is "[...] concerned, prayer does not work.

In an email I received from Jessica Sell, she stated,

"As for the prayer thing, I'm an atheist. I was raised catholic, thankfully I escaped, but anyway I've always believed prayer was of a personal nature and better left to oneself. So while everyone must do what they choose, I'm always suspicious of the authenticity of prayers rendered to a group.

Jess"

As an individual I respect Jessica's right to be an atheist and to have her

opinions on faith and religion. Conversely, as a candidate seeking office in student government she has opened herself up to public scrutiny. At the very least her statements reflect that she is a mean spirited individual who lacks the patience, sensitivity and tolerance to competently interact with the diverse student body at City College.

If this is the best response she can offer to a single student that wanted nothing more than to pray for our Methods of Social Research group because we were not getting along, then I can only imagine the hostility that she would show towards the thousands of students on campus. There are various clubs, organizations, and everyday students at City College that have a very strong connection to their faith and religion. They same way that we can not mistrust or be suspicious of Jessica's lack of prayer to a group or belief in the Lord, is the same way that she can not mistrust or as she stated, "always [be] suspicious of the authenticity of prayers rendered to a group."

If one of the Muslim, Jewish, or Christian organizations on campus

decides to pray for the Student Government, Jessica will automatically be suspicious of them and negate her ability to adequately and equally represent the entire student body. As a Catholic I take offense to her referring to my religion as something that needs to be "thankfully [...] escaped" from. How can she represent the Catholic portion of the student body including The Catholic Newman Club if this is her stance on Catholicism? What about the vast Latino population on campus that has strong ties to both the Catholic and Protestants faiths? If the Muslim Students organization, Spiritual Vibe Club, or the Women in Islam club decide to pray for the Student Government, they become suspect in Jessica's eyes. Should the members of City College's Korean Christian Fellowship wonder if they would be discriminated by the Student government if they pray for it?

There is enough racism and bigotry on campus as it is. Let me make it clear that I am not suspicious of Jessica because she does not pray or because she is an atheist. It is diversity that makes

our college what it is. As people of color we have a hard enough time walking down the street or going into a department store without people wondering if we are criminals, and in many cases terrorists. We should be able to attend City College and pray for a group or pray for the sake of praying without our elected officials becoming suspicious of our prayers, which in simple and direct terms means suspicious of our faith, of our ethnicity, our culture and of US!

Her statements about prayer and in effect about those that pray is bigotry, which falls in line with Jessica Sell as I have come to know her. Jessica is aware of my opinion of her and with great hostility has told me to look up the word bigot. It means a person who bigoted. Bigoted means to be obstinately convinced of the superiority or correctness of one's own opinions and prejudiced against those who hold different opinions, intolerance toward those who hold different opinions from oneself. Maybe Jessica should look up the word sensitivity.

In Memorium of Octavia Butler

By: Teshaka Bond

On February 25, 2006, African American literature suffered a great loss with the death of science fiction writer Octavia Butler.



Octavia E. Butler was born on June 22, 1947 in Pasadena, California. As a young child, Butler constantly read the Bible; the stories provided her with an uplifting feeling to write stories of her own. Butler began writing to escape loneliness and boredom. It was only after graduating from the University of California did she begin to focus more on science fiction. Her writing focused on race, gender, religion, poverty, power, politics, and science that touched many readers. Under the influence of writers such as Langston Hughes and Gwendolyn Brooks, Butler was able to think beyond writing average stories.

Butler was highly acclaimed by reviewers and received numerous awards, including a Mac Arthur "genius" grants, both the Hugo and Nebula awards, the Langston Hughes Medal, and a Pen Lifetime Achievement Award.

In her writing, Butler dreamed up fantastic worlds and religions, made-up creatures and futuristic plots. In her writing, her sympathies lied with the outsiders; a continuing theme in her work is the responsibilities of the powerful to the powerless. She attributes her most useful training as a writer to work with the Writers of Guild of America West, Inc.; which is an organization that established a program for aspiring writers in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Through the Guild, Butler

made several connections that lead her to the Clarion Science Fiction Writers Workshop; where she worked under several well-known writers that provide good advice on writing and publishing science fiction.

Butler has written numerous works of literature such as "Speech Sounds" (1983) where she won the 1984 Hugo Award for best short story. "Blood child" (1984) where she once again won the Hugo award, Nebula, and Locus awards for best novelette. In addition, Octavia Butler has written three sets of interlocking novels, "Kindred" and her recently published work "Fledging".

The City College of New York (CCNY) was blessed on November 11, 2005; When Octavia Butler visited the campus for the annual 2005 Langston Hughes Festival. During her visit at CCNY Butler had an in-depth conversation with Wesley Brown.

"Choose you leaders with wisdom and forethought. To be led by a coward is to be controlled by all that the coward fears. To be led by a fool is to be led by the opportunists who control the fool. To be led by a thief is to offer up your most precious treasures to be stolen. To be led by a liar is to ask to be lied to. To be led by a tyrant is to sell yourself and those you love into slavery."

Words spoken by the late Octavia Butler, who began writing as a way to escape reality and ended up creating something meaningful. While she was taken from the world of literature so abruptly her writing will remain with us forever.

Butler has written three sets of interlocking novels, "Kindred" and her recently published work "Fledging".

Housing Now Available On City College Campus

By Cherly Beckford

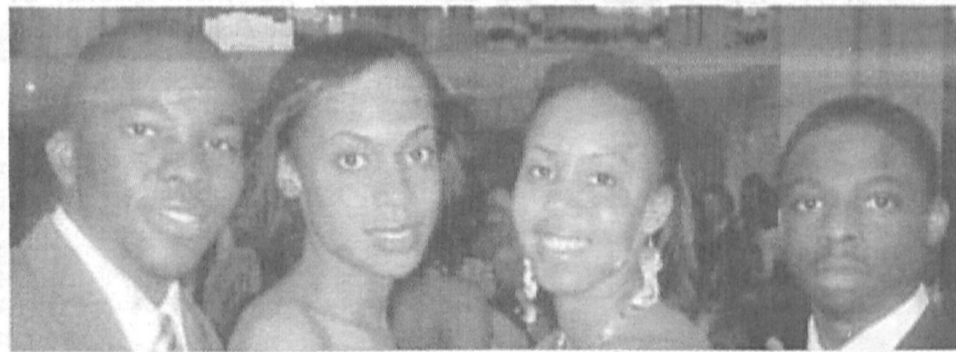
The Towers, City College's first ever residence hall will soon be opening its doors. Overlooking beautiful St. Nicholas Park, The Towers are located at St. Nicholas Terrace and West 130th Street, just walking distance from campus. The Towers accommodate up to 600 students in either four bedroom apartments, three bedroom apartments or 2 bedroom suites. Prices range from \$775-\$1,075. All prices are per month, per resident. It might seem like a lot of money, but each room is fully furnished and equipped with everything you might possible need to live comfortably. They come with a full-size refrigerator; cook-top stove, microwave, air conditioning and high-speed Internet just to name a few. There is also, a 24-hour service desk, private courtyard and patio area, laundry room and fitness center among others. It's a home away from

home. Financial aid can be used to help pay for lodging cost by simply filing a Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) form. After completing the FAFSA, you must then also register for the fall 2006 semester. Proof of registration needs to be submitted to the Housing Office by May 19th. Then you must sign a housing agreement and pay the required deposit and application fee for a total of \$425. These fees will secure your place in the Towers. Living at The Towers should offer students a richer college experience. Living on campus provides exactly that. The Towers provide give students convenience and security for those who work late on various projects. With the development of the residence halls, they can cutback their travel time particular borough.

For more information call 212-650-8977 or email at info@ccnytowers.com. To apply go to www.ccnytowers.com.

The Guiding Hand

By: Adrien Nicholas



The MAPS Executive Board:

(L) Christian H. Bijoux, Rachel Pierre, Shakira Stewart, Kevin Charles

In a time with growing restriction and increasing tuition, access to college seems to be a fading dream for the average student. The fight for increasing enrollment amongst minorities cannot simply end with opening the doors. Students themselves must be armed with the knowledge as well as the perseverance in order to succeed.

The Minority Association for Premedical Students (MAPS) was created to help students obtain the knowledge needed to succeed in college. The program was created and is hosted by students at the City College of New York (CCNY). The brainchild of Mr. Christian Bijoux, the president of MAPS designed the program to introduce high school students to the natural sciences and also offer SAT preparation.

MAPS, represents the undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students of

Student National Medical Association (SNMA). At a recent forum held by MAPS, a discussion on the health disparities among minorities was discussed. Faculty members as well as supporters gave rave reviews about the forum. MAPS currently have chapters spread throughout

the country at over 150 undergraduate institutions.

The CCNY chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) will partner with MAPS in running the program. The Pre-College Initiative (PCI) program is NSBE effort to promote college, academics, technology and leadership to pre-college students. Our primary focus is to encourage students in grades 6-12 to develop interest and skills in math and science. A vital component of the PCI program is NSBE Jr., which serves as the membership category for pre-college students within the society. NSBE Jr. focuses on enhancing the education received by African-American and other minority pre-college students, as well as influencing these students to become tomorrow's corporate executives, entrepreneurs, and leaders. In this spirit, NSBE Jr. is the quintessential recruitment, teaching, and preparation device for the National Society of Black Engineers.

Interested high school pupils must contact their respect counselor. The counselor will in term contact either Christian H. Bijoux, cbijoux@hotmail.com or Adrien Nicholas, ivp_ccny_nsbe@yahoo.com.

CCNY Sports Round-Up

The Women's track team on April 15th registered a combined 29 NCAA and ECAC qualifying performances at the New Jersey Invitational hosted by the College of New Jersey in Ewing, NJ. Mechelle Barnwell and Alecia Watson were named CUNYAC Track Athlete of the Week and CUNYAC Field Athlete of the Week respectively, for their outstanding performances. In the long jump, four CCNY athletes qualified for the top 13. In addition, the Men's team produced eight personal bests and an ECAC qualifying jump by Rinaldy Alvarez. Three of the male Beavers' personal bests were

achieved in the 100-meter dash, and four were accomplished in the 200-meters.

On April 20th, the Men's Baseball team lost to the College of Staten Island 20-16, at American Legion Field in the first of a three game series. The loss reduced the Beavers to 8-5 in the CUNY-AC and 10-19 overall. The twin-night doubleheader game on April 21st initially proved successful for the Beavers with a 7-4 victory over the Staten Island Dolphins. Victory was short-lived as the Beavers lost the final game of the series, 1-2, ending with a 9-6 CUNYAC mark and 11-20 overall.