

# The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Volume 10 March 2007

"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 Remeber"  
-Langston Hughes

## Parking Permits

By Maurice Selby

After a three and a half hour wait, Professor William King was surprisingly jovial as he strolled back to his office with a cup of Joe and a smile. His determined wait had paid off. He was, by campus standards, a made man; the proud owner of a coveted City College rarity; a parking spot.

On Thursday February 22 the sun had yet to breach the horizon when the line began to form outside the security office on the fourth floor of the NAC building. It was around 3:30am and rather than clinging to their last few hours of precious sleep, a handful of faculty and staff members awoke extra early to secure a good place in a line that would eventually end up spanning nearly one whole side of the fourth floor.

It was business as usual for the rest of the school as students showed up for classes and to their respective offices to work. However, there was something missing, faculty and staff members. There were a number of classes that started late or were cancelled, and some of the college's major offices were also adversely affected.

"I got here at 6:30am and they didn't hand out numbers until nine," said Dr. King, his tone devoid of any cheerfulness or delight. "Their staff was not well set up," they didn't have any chairs and they just left us standing there for quite some time before even saying anything."

In his forty year history at the College, professor King has seen tremendous changes occur with regards to campus parking privileges, rules and regulations. "It (parking) used to be free, and gradually over time, they began charging, claiming that it costs more to run. The problem is, the administration did not plan for parking, and they didn't give priority to parking over any other projects."

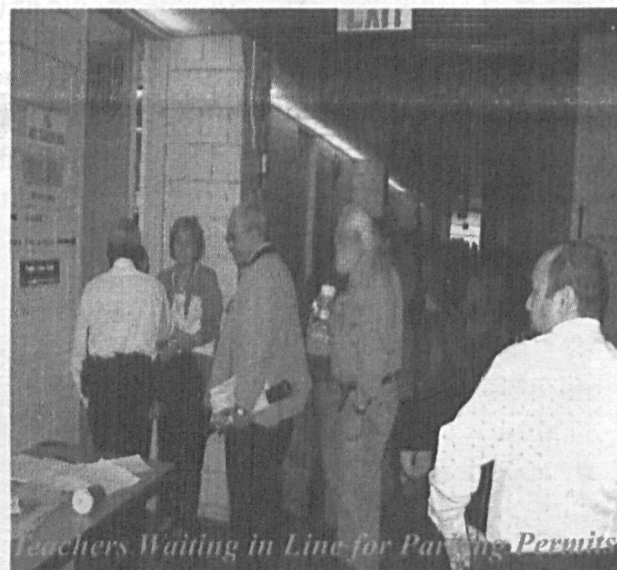
At \$300 a pop, the CCNY parking permit has become a hot campus item, especially in recent months with the addition of new parking regulations. Construction on the south campus has also hampered parking and prognosis doesn't seem to get better when observing the influx of more students from New York's Border States.

"Those are precisely the things that have caused all this madness," said one individual who did not wish to be identified. "The administration really has to come up with some solutions to this problem, because frankly, lotteries and permits aren't proving to be effective."

"Those permits don't always guarantee you a spot," said Professor King about the parking permits. "There are days when everything is taken up and you have to go ten to fifteen blocks to find a spot. It's not that frequent a problem, but it does happen." There are two main parking lots on campus, each with very limited space and accessibility. The NAC Parking Lot is dedicated to full time faculty and staff. The South Campus

Parking Lot adjacent to Aaron Davis Hall, is reserved for full time faculty, staff, and students, but is very limited as well. Just 60 of these parking spots were reserved for students and the permits were distributed via lottery, everyone else, was just out of luck.

The new parking rules that went into effect earlier this year, made eliminated the use of Convent Avenue for parking on weekdays between 8:00am and 6:00pm, further reducing the number of available spots, and with the construction of The Towers, the new School of Architecture Building, and other projects, the number of faculty and students at City will more than likely increase, leading to more parking woes in the years to come.



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### NYPIRG's on the Move Again

By Madi Ceesay

In order for students at the City University of New York (CUNY) and CCNY students in particular to ensure they pay affordable and reasonable tuition fees in school, they need to join the band-wagon of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) in exerting enormous pressure on the State legislatures in Albany, who decide on tuition hike or decrease, according to Scott Zotto, Regional Campus Supervisor in Long Island branch of NYPIRG. Addressing students, as the guest

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### Celebrating Women's History Month

By Martina Bailey

Since 1987, March has been declared Women's History Month by the United States Congress. It started out in 1981 as a week long celebration in Sonoma County, California. Before 1970, Women's History was not a topic for discussion, but today just about every College offers courses in Women's History. In the early 19th century, women were looked upon as second-class citizens, whose place was at home. They were thought to be inferior to men,

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### Transformers Invade NAC

By Donique Jones

The first floor of the Cohen Library known by some as the 'dungeon,' or others as the 'hole' exists in the inner recess of the North Academic Center (NAC) building. This ground level houses a vast array of bound periodicals accumulated over the years. The periodicals are sequenced alphabetically, & encompass the entire floor, so that students can easily access journal topics of psychology, political science, history, etc. to take away our home away from home?

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## NYPIRG'S on the Move Again

speaker of NYPIRG's annual student action meeting, in the Lillian and Harold Hoffman Forum, Thursday afternoon, February 22, Zotto disclosed that tuition in the State of New York is "notoriously" decided upon by the politicians in Albany. Therefore, according to him, it is important that students at CCNY join their counterparts from other NYPIRG chapters in other CUNY colleges to go over to Albany and speak against tuition hike in the city's largest university system. Zotto further mentioned that last year students received the best deal in twelve years when they were able to stop the Governor's and State Legislators' plans to cut student financial aid and raise student tuition fees.

Zotto's speech which at some point provoked laughter from the dozens in attendance was more of persuading students to express their discontent against

what he called "injustice" in the hike of tuition fees. He stated it is the responsibility of every student to remind the politicians at Albany that they do not deserve tuition increase." You should definitely get there and let them know that you do not want high tuition", he added. Speaking earlier, Jason Alleyne, project coordinator, of NYPIRG's CCNY chapter, who also moderated the meeting, stated that this semester's focus of the Group is to make sure that State Legislators in Albany pass a bill which would make student higher education tuition affordable.

In a brief speech, Sofya Frenzel, one of the only two elected board members of CCNY NYPIRG Chapter, highlighted the main responsibilities of the Group's board members and its composition-- two elected members from each of the over twenty chapters in each CUNY college. She stated that the board meets several times a year, during which they select among themselves executive members.

NYPIRG, a student advocacy group was established more than thirty-years ago at Queens College of CUNY. The group focuses on four main pertinent issues: homelessness and hunger; environmental protection; higher education and voter rights education. Every year the group devotes special attention to issues that Albany politicians are not working issues that are not in the interest of the student population.

Thursday's action meeting, which is held at the beginning of every Spring semester, kick-starts NYPIRG's campaign of awareness on issues of most concern. One of this year's campaign include "The Bigger Better Bottle Bill" which aims to increase the amount of things that can be recycled.

To join NYPIRG or for more information, contact  
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## Transformers Invade NAC

Simply put this all has to do with the schools desire to gain more power, specifically electrical power. The school has long since been developing plans to increase the electrical power to the South Campus. The power mains along Amsterdam Avenue have made it necessary to develop a central point to conduct electricity between the North & South Campus. This halfway point will consist of bulky transformers that are slated to occupy 16,700 square feet. It was previously planned to be housed in the campus parking lot outside of the NAC, but recent changes have relocated the transformers to the first floor of the Cohen library. These changes circumvent any opposition they might have received from the local community by housing it within a CCNY facility.

Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President Lois Cronholm has been the guiding force in developing these plans.

She has claimed that that the installation of compressed shelving could be used to redistribute the periodical collection into other floors of the library. There will also be an increased need to reinforce all library floors to compensate for the additional weight. The high price of redistributing these materials has lead to the realization by library faculty that the collections have a considerable chance of simply being 'tossed out.' Who will protect this wealth of knowledge, the legacy of our school from being discarded as if it were trash?

Their also needs to be a bit of concern in the dangers of housing these bulky transforms in a building as widely used as the NAC. Especially in light of the recent explosions which took place on Monday February 26 near West 138th Street and Lenox Avenue. Con Ed claims that around 11am melting snow mixing with salt running into manholes, caused the insulation on underground cables to wear away, & eventually

sparked electrical fires. "The explosions fried several power lines, killing the power in numerous buildings, including the Annie G. Newsome Day Care Center (with 50 children)." Con Ed claims, "the fires triggered power outages in as many as 20 buildings...& contributed to high carbon monoxide levels in two buildings."

Transformers as shown do pose a tremendous threat when they malfunction. It is therefore essential for 'we,' as the student body, to make sure that our school officials are not simply putting us in harms way. We have to protect our schools legacy but even more important we have to protect our lives. There has to be a greater inquiry into the safety of housing these transformers in the NAC, it's not simply the school's building, but it's our building too. Therefore it's our responsibility to question, to probe, & to demand that there is a thorough investigation before there is more progress.

# The Paper

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*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!

## 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 to that, this publication is a valuable resource for CCNY students and faculty alike as information on everything from scholarships to job opportunities can be in the newspaper. With increased membership and support of the student body, *The Paper* will continue to serve CCNY and the surrounding community.

**Get Active Join The Paper!**

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## Celebrating Women's History Month

which made them completely dependant on their husbands. They were not encouraged to have their own opinions or to get an education.

African American women during this time didn't have any rights or privileges at all and were constant targets for racism. It was not until the middle of the twentieth century, with the help of the Civil Rights movement, that African American women were granted their rights. Despite all their obstacles, racism being the first, African American women still managed to make history in the field of their choice.

"Negroes everywhere must be independent, God being our guide. Mr. Black man, watch your step! Ethiopian's Queens will reign again, and her Amazons protect her shores and people. Strengthen your shaking knees, and move forward, or we will displace you and lead on to victory and glory." These are the words of Amy Jacques Garvey, wife of Marcus Garvey, leading Pan-Africanist and Black Nationalist. She was born in Jamaica in 1896 and migrated to the United States in 1917. In 1922 she married Garvey and together they were actively involved in the United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA).

In 1919 Amy Jacques Garvey became Secretary General of the UNIA and from 1924 to 1927 she was associate editor of the group's newspaper. The paper was entitled The Negro World and it was through this paper that she was able to present her ideas on feminism and Black Nationalism.

After Marcus Garvey's death in 1940, Amy continued in the endeavor for Black Nationalism. In addition to the impact she made in the UNIA, she went on to become a contributing editor for The African, a journal published in Harlem in the 1940's. She also founded the African Study Circle of the World in Jamaica towards the end of the same decade, as well as published two collections of essays, Black Power in America and The Impact of Garvey in Africa and Jamaica. Amy Jacques Garvey died in 1973, still pushing for Black Nationalism.

Another African American woman who changed history is a five foot eleven, right hander with good foot speed, who was known for playing

an attacking game-cleaning up only for stiffer competition. Her name is Althea Gibson and she was the first African American woman to win a major tennis tournament. She was born in 1927 in Sliver, South Carolina and grew up in Harlem.

As a child she disliked school, but was extremely skilled in sports, basketball being her favorite. Subsequently, Gibson quit school and began to play in tennis tournaments arranged by the predominantly black, American Tennis Association. During this time, she was mentored academically and athletically by two black doctors, Herbert Eaton of North Carolina and Robert W. Johnson of Virginia. At the age of twenty-one Gibson graduated from High School in Wilmington, North Carolina and five years later graduated from college at Florida A&M.

With practice and her natural ability Althea Gibson paved the way for black women in sports. Her accomplishments include winning the French Championship in 1956 and being the first African American to do so, and in 1957 and 1958 she won at Wimbledon and US Nationals. Gibson once said, "No matter what accomplishments you make, somebody helped you." This was exactly the case at US Nationals in 1957 when Gibson was barred because she was black. Alice Marble, a white four-time single winner at Forest Hills, intervened on her behalf and she was allowed to compete.

Regardless of the hurdles she had to overcome Althea Gibson did indeed make history. In 1971 she was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame and in 1980 she was inducted into the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame.

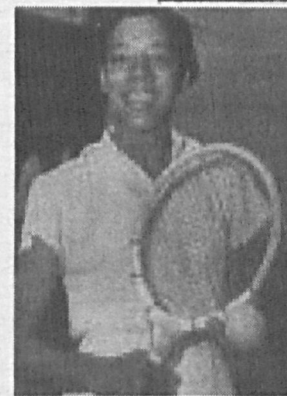
While continuing to look at how black women made their mark in history, consider the poet Rita Dove. She was born in 1952 in Akron, Ohio. Her works include poetry, novels, short stories and musical text. She graduated from the University of Miami, summa cum laude, with a degree in English and the University of Iowa with a Masters in Fine Arts.

Dove once said, "In my poems, and in my stories, too, I try very hard to create characters who are seen as individuals- not only as Blacks or women, or whatever, but as a Black woman with her own particular problems, or one white bum struggling in a particular predicament-as persons

who have their very individual lives, and whose histories make them react to the world in their individual ways."

Rita Dove was the second African American poet to win a Pulitzer Prize; she was awarded twenty honorary doctorates and was Chairperson of numerous editorial and advisory boards. Her biggest achievement was to be the youngest and the first African American to be Poet Laureate, which is the highest rank a poet can obtain in the United States, and she was a consultant in poetry at the United States Congress. Her works include six published volumes of poetry, a novel, Through the Ivory Gate, and a reputable verse drama entitles The Darker Face of Earth. Rita Dove is currently a commonwealth professor of English at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

It was anonymously written that, "A strong woman has faith that she is strong enough for the journey...But a woman of strength has faith that it is in the journey that she will become strong." Women of Color, not only of African descent, are on a continuous journey to have their voices heard, change any disagreeable circumstances under which they are forced to live, and make history. So far, they have left their marks in politics, sports, literature and a number of other fields. This March as we celebrate women's history, let us also pay tribute to the history of Women of Color.



From Top: Amy Jacques Garvey, Althea Gibson, Rita Dove

## Dr. Petioni Speaks at IRADAC

By Maurice Selby

On Thursday February 22, the Minority Association of Pre-health Students (MAPS) was honored to have Harlem Hospital's Dr. Muriel Petioni as a guest at one of the club's general meetings. It was more than seventy years ago that Dr. Petioni took the Hippocratic oath, and to this day, she has been diligent in living up to its ideals.

"It's both rewarding and truly inspiring to see how much she has done for her community, especially when you consider what she had to endure," said Rachel Pierre, an aspiring physician and President of MAPS.

Among the things Petioni spoke about was the role of a healer in a community and

how their actions can make a huge impact on the surrounding environment in various ways. She used Harlem Hospital as a perfect example, as it importance to the community as a healthcare institution and as a place where the culture and history of the community are deeply embedded.

Dr. Petioni's practice was similar in that respect as she provided top level care to the poor and underserved of Harlem for over forty years. In addition to that she has remained very active since retirement by getting involved in numerous community oriented projects.

Dr. Petioni is the founder of the Susan Smith Mckinney Steward Medical Society, an association dedicated to the empowerment of black female physicians. In addition to that she founded the group that is now known as The Council for the Consensus of Women. Recently,

Dr. Petioni was honored by the CCNY Alumni Association and was interviewed by President Gregory Williams on his WHCR radio program, City Scope.

The event sponsored by MAPS was held in IRADAC and was attended by many students looking to gain some wisdom from a very stirring and informative person.

"You can't understate the importance of meeting someone like Dr. Petioni," said Hilberto Pacheco, an undergraduate majoring in Engineering here at CCNY. "I would've recommended this event to everyone, even those not interested in medicine, because it's not often that you can find someone willing to impart so much knowledge and wisdom on a bunch of young people."



**Academic Report**

This week the Academic Report provides scholarships that give students of opinion an avenue to voice their thoughts.

The National Association for Campus Activities  
www.nacusa.org/NACA

The NACA East Coast Undergraduate Scholarship for Student Leaders is available to undergraduate students who demonstrate leadership skills and ability and have held significant leadership positions on campus or in the community. You must be enrolled in a college or university in one of the following states: Washington, D.C., Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York or Eastern Pennsylvania. A minimum 2.5 GPA and a two letters of recommendation are also required to be considered for this award.  
Award - varies; Deadline - March 31st

The A. Patrick Charnon Scholarship is open to full-time undergraduate students who have been accepted to or who are currently enrolled in a four-year college or university. Students who value tolerance, compassion and respect for all people in their communities, and who have demonstrate their commitments to these values by their actions will be considered for this award. In addition to an official transcript and three letters of recommendation, you must submit a typed 2-4 page essay on how community service experiences have shaped your life and how you will use your college education to build communities in a manner consistent with Pat Charnon's values of compassion, tolerance, generosity and respect.  
Awards - \$1500; Deadline - March 31st

**Ode to Black**

By Rukayat Aliyu

An African man Should have an African nose Wide and low and strong and bright And it should shine The way anything smooth and Black and strong Should shine

An African man should have African hair Black, so Black It shines with coconut oil luster And the waves and naps and thickness Are better than that of the jungle tops It's Black and it's thick and it's marvelous

An African man should have African marks on his face Of protection And of strength And of pride Perfectly symmetric On both cheeks That they may call attention to his African nose Or on both sides of his mouth That they may call attention to his African mouth

For

An African man should have an African mouth With those curved stencil lines That with such ease Draw his thick lips on his face Just in time For his easy smile to reveal his perfect African ivory teeth Big, and wide and white like the tusks of his elephants

And his chest Oooh, for an African man should have an African chest That gleams with cocoa oil And is taut and strong and so proud, That it always arrives before he does And he beats it in order to announce himself

Oh, and his arms

For

An African man should have African arms Arms that look as though God himself tightened them Arms that come out from shoulders As though they were afterward attached Because He had to spend more time rolling the clefts Between his thumb and forefinger

Than he'd spent smoothening such perfect skin. And all of this too beautiful to cover, To hide from any untrained eye So he parries only in his loincloth And those legs that run beneath his decorated brown linen Oh, I could just die Just to touch them would be a dream Those hunter legs that join at the knee His muscular, rounded-off thighs with his Lean, strong and fast dinner-catching legs For me Who awaits him By the fire Our fruit on my back His dinner in my Breasts Which await Him For dessert.

**Events @ CCNY**

The Music Department: Piano Recital by Jeni Slotchiver  
March 19th, 2007 @ 3:00 PM  
This guest pianist will perform works of Bach-Busoni, Guarnieri and Piazzola.  
Shepherd Hall Rm 95

The Center for Worker Education: 25th Documentary Screening and Exhibition  
March 23rd @ 7:00pm  
The history of the department is presented through art and film  
NAC 7th Floor

The Simon H. Rifkind Center: Billy Wilder's "Some Like it Hot"  
March 27th @ 2:00pm  
The Ebert-acclimated comedy starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon comes to CCNY.  
NAC 6/6316

Turning Point  
April 19-21 @ 7:00pm  
Documentary about th plight of Black Men in America.  
Aaron Davis Hall Theater B

**SUDOKU**

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Answers to the February 2007 Issue Sudoku



## STUDENT ARRESTED FOR DETAINING THE POLICE

By Farahly Saint-Louis

We are aware that many evils exist in the world, but the scariest of them all are those that are systematically imposed by those with so-called "authority." The first group that immediately comes to mind is the US Police Force. They seemingly have no boundaries and limits to what actions they will carry out against citizens and if they do, they continuously definitely step outside of those bounds. We all know about Amadou Diallou, Abner Louima, and of course the most recent harassment and killing of Sean Bell, but unfortunately these well-know, media-covered cases are only a sampling and a reflection of what takes place on a daily basis in racially and economically oppressed neighborhoods.

Our brother, and fellow student, Igwe Williams, from the Student Liberation Action Movement (SLAM) was arrested in February for simply documenting police actions as they were harassing local residents for "possible possession" of narcotics.

The police are constantly patrolling our neighborhoods in search of a fight and if an outsider were to look at the neighborhood and see this they would assume it was a dangerous neighborhood just because of the unnecessary patrolling. If the police were just there watching that would be one thing, but even that can bother the psyche of the residents making them feel like they are trouble makers even though they are not. People may say that the police should keep close watch of such residents because they do engage in selling narcotics. This may be the number one issue in unprivileged communities. Most people who sell drugs do not do it because they want to: they do it in order to survive. No one but the government gets filthy rich off of selling drugs. The government sells drugs which addict and kill many more people than illegal drugs, but it's ok because they're FDA "approved." Even Chris Rock mentions in his stand up comedy

about the ridiculous commercial advertisements for medications for every "condition" under the sun. He mocks the ridiculous "symptoms" they mention: "Do you go to bed at night and wake up in the morning? We've got a pill for you!" Why don't the police harass these people?

Many of these communities have no institutions established to provide jobs, nor do they have places for the youth of the communities such as parks, tutorial centers, or after school activities. People of all ages are selling narcotics because of the lack of opportunity in the communities. While we all recognize that his needs to change, harassing citizens with violence is not the way to change it.

Autonomous watchdog organizations run by community members are a great way to start improving the situation and holding the police accountable for their actions. Williams was displaying some form of participation in the organizing process by simply looking out for his fellow neighbors who were being harassed. He was taking pictures on his camera phone to show how rough and disrespectfully the police engaged with the residents whom they were frisking when the police confronted, and ultimately arrested him, on charges of "obstruction of justice," among other unfounded charges..

I recently had the privilege to interview the soft-spoken senior English major. When asked his opinion on police behavior, he first referred to them as an "army of the wealthy as opposed to the people's army." He mentioned that the police force was made up of people who are not of our race and patrol our neighborhoods "they can't relate to us socially, don't care to understand the struggle, they keep us down, in line, [and] protect the interest of the wealthy." When I asked him if the police naturally have a lot of power or do they exceed the power that they are given he explained that the police force "[has] the power of the U.S. government" and that they "operate on levels of autonomy." Coming from a highly drug infested neighborhood, Inwood above

Washington Heights in Manhattan, Williams mentioned that he feels that the government is the "enemy of Black and Latino communities."

After further learning about police harassment and the "powers" they possess, I asked what measures can be taken to prevent the harassment that takes place in our neighborhoods and he listed the following:

- Learn your rights. Know that you have the right not to be searched or touched. You can say "I don't consent to be searched. I don't consent to be touched."
- Know that you are able to tell the police officer to "show proper recourse for being questioned or detained."

While Igwe encourages people to use these rights, he quickly points out that unfortunately knowing them only works to a "certain degree because of [our] racist system." Police may, and often do, violate them.

Williams also spoke about how he is a part of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement (MXGM) how they implement police patrol within their communal organization. "MXGM has cameras and legal observers." And the neighborhoods these cameras are set up in hardly have police harassment issues anymore. He mentioned that using videotape and camera phones are a way to demand recourse but warns that, although citizens have the right to do these things, they do often get shut down, possessions get confiscated and, in worst-case-scenarios arrest is a possibility.

When asked when did he become a revolutionary, Williams humbly stated that he wasn't a revolutionary and added "unless you're doing something that makes radical change you're not a revolutionary." Those are very honest and very true words. Igwe, we wish you the best for the future – especially with regard to your impending court hearing because as you say, "It takes a tremendous amount of resources when going against the bully in court."

## First Haitian-Born Makes Brooklyn Councilman

By Teshaka Bond

On February 20th 2007, Haitian born Mathieu Eugene beat nine other candidates in Brooklyn, making him the first Haitian elected official in this city. Eugene, who is 54, has a medical degree but doesn't involve himself in any medical fields. Eugene also serves as the founder and director of a nonprofit youth organization called, Youth Education and Sports.

Eugene received a total of 34% of the votes, while his nearest competitor Jennifer James tallied in at 15%. "This is a wonderful thing," said Eugene. It's a very good moment in the history of Brooklyn and the history of the 40th council District. I'm very proud." Eugene's success also serves as a victory for many Haitian-American communities in Brooklyn such as Kensington, Prospect Lefferts and Ditmas Park.

Eugene will also represent Flatbush and East Flatbush which plays host to a large community of Caribbean immigrants.

Many fell Eugene's victory will bring about peace amongst many who feel a certain way about "Haitians." "I don't say 'Haitian' the way people say 'Haitian'. I say 'Haitian' because they're a part of the Caribbean. One of the reasons why I'm pushing for Dr. Mathieu Eugene is because I want to move the Haitian community out of isolation," said Una Clarke, former District 40 Councilwoman. Clarke hopes that Eugene's presence will build bridges in the diverse communities he represents.

For the next few months, Eugene can look forward to many supporters backing through his journey as Councilman. Councilman Bill de Blasio and Haitian American star Wyclef Jean were amongst the many that supported Eugene. Eugene's success lies with the networks of the

supporters that he was able to build during his campaign. "I will be the councilman for all people," said Eugene.

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## Power of Our Words

By Lindsie Augustin

Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me, if only such a saying were true. Unfortunately, while words may not induce any physical pain, they can however have an extremely emotional and mental effect on an individual's everyday life. And what is most alarming about this situation is not that our words have such a huge impact on others but that those with the power are unaware that they have it.

If you find yourself reluctant to accept such a statement as fact, I suggest you take things into perspective. For example, let's look at the state of the general public in reference to the stability of the government. It's simple, there is no faith in anything the public is being told, and who can blame them. After countless times of major public officials such as the President withholding and manipulating various amounts information to support his beliefs, it has become impossible to believe anything coming out of his mouth and result of that his approval rating is now at an all time low.

Sadly enough the President is not the only individual whose questionable choice of words have negatively effected the public. Young teens are headed down a downhill spiral as they mindlessly follow and live by the warped ideas of far from inspirational rappers and athletes. Due to the lack of interest in anything that does not pertain to girls, promiscuity, drugs, and ignorance many fall into the trap of not knowing any better. So who's to blame?

The answer to that is very simple...everyone. Parents and older siblings need to understand a nine year old singing the latest single from Dipset is not adorable, it is however sad. From a young age that child is learning the essentials of how to disrespect not only women but the legal system in general. So I ask you, how is that behavior adorable? But wait it doesn't stop there. How can we expect future generations to amount to anything when we stunt their growth by not correcting those damaging behaviors from the start? All it takes it one individual to give them someone to look up to. All it takes is one minute out of your day to talk to them about difference between right and wrong. All it takes is one.

As easy as it is to blame the negativity flowing around on the Hip-Hop industry as so many have, the problem is rooted deeper than that. Truth, is a concept long lost too many and it's only when one is frustrated with being lied to do we object to the things we're being told. As a whole we base our live on the creditability of someone else's opinion or what they choose to pass off as a fact. Because the power of the spoken and written language is so intense, I am baffled that there are still great deals of individuals who use it so nonchalantly. If you choose to remain ignorant, than you should feel right at home when someone opts to treat the same, however if that is not your style and you value the power of knowledge and your opinion I suggest you take it a step further and help the person next to you. Remember it only takes one individual to change your negative ways.

Have a poem or short story you want to share with CCNY?

Send it to The Paper!

All submissions should be emailed to  
thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu

We look forward to reading your work!

## Forming a Revolutionary Black Intellegentsia: Can it be Done?

By Easter Z. Wood

The All-African People's Revolutionary Party says, yes! The party, known as the AAPRP and now in its 41st year, was conceptualized by Kwame Nkrumah in his *Handbook of Revolutionary Warfare* on the principle that "all people of African descent, whether they live in North or South America, the Caribbean, or in any other part of the world, are Africans and belong to the African Nation." Nkrumah, who was the first president of Ghana post-colonialism, made this statement because he believed in the unification of all African peoples worldwide – an ideology known as *Pan-Africanism* which was also touted by Sekou Ture, Marcus Garvey and countless others. Though those others who forged the way have departed this world, there are still dedicated activists who believe in their vision of empowerment and the mantra of "Africa for Africans" hard at work trying to make that vision a reality.

The main tool in the fight against capitalism and, more recently, the oppressive aspects of globalization, which the AAPRP regards as the enemy of African people, is education – but not just any education: African-centered political education. The capitalist system currently in place has continued to separate people along artificial lines and benefit the old colonial powers while subjugating the rest of the world, and African descended peoples worldwide continue to suffer the effects disproportionately to other groups. The AAPRP finds this unacceptable. Only through political education that leads to true social change on a wide scale can this suffering be alleviated.

An intelligentsia is a group of educated people; as it stands, the majority of African descended peoples who are able to obtain higher education move away from their communities and become a part of what is often referred to as the *petty bourgeois intelligentsia* – people who, while educated, conform to capitalist ideologies of acquisition and domination, and largely have no concern for their people's plight as long as they are able to reap material benefits. The AAPRP aims to replace the *petty bourgeois intelligentsia* with a *revolutionary intelligentsia* that understands the system but, rather than conform to it, are focused on changing it for the better.

Students have often been the driving force behind social and political movements worldwide. To this end the AAPRP, like many other groups, has focused its attention on recruiting students as members and organizers and has hosted several programs here at City College in recent semesters. Be on the lookout for upcoming programs this spring; topics will include *African Women: Unsung Heroines in Our Pan African Struggle* and *Reclaim Your African Mind: the Necessity for Constant Pan-African Political Education*.

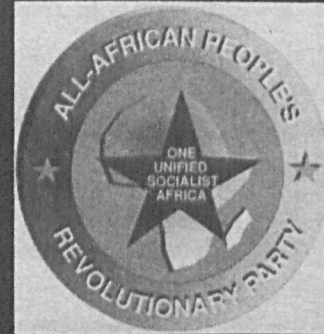
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# 72-Hour Cure for AIDS in Gambia

By Madi Ceesay

At the dawn of this year, the President of the smallest country in Mainland Africa, The Gambia, Yahya Jammeh gave his nation and continent the most controversial new year's gift ever given by a sitting African leader: that he has found the "cure for HIV/AIDS and asthma" and that he has been "given the mandate to cure" them.

In early January, president Yahya Jammeh, a 42-year-old military-turned-civilian head of state convened an emergency cabinet meeting witnessed by foreign diplomats and journalists to say that those days were gone when the world's deadliest virus continued to ravage the continent, because he could "cure" AIDS in as little as 72 hours. In the meeting attended by his entire cabinet, ambassadors from Cuba and Taiwan and the local press, televised live on state television, the Gambian witch-doctor-cum president looked his audience straight into their eyes and dropped the bomb: "I can treat Aids and asthma... within three days the person should be tested again and I can tell you he/she will be negative, Jammeh discloses"... and I now have the mandate to treat them". The presence of the Taiwanese and Cuban diplomats is not a surprise because both countries have been long-term partners in the development of health care in the Gambia, since Rtd Colonel Jammeh came to power in a military coup in July 1994, that deposed the former 30 year-old civilian regime that had ruled the country since independence from the British in 1965.

President Jammeh went further to thank God for enabling him make what he called: "a breakthrough" in the fruitless global combat against this pandemic that has claimed millions of lives, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa where the Gambia is found.

Since Jammeh made his AIDS cure claim, several questions have been asked, the most important of which has been who gave him the "mandate"? He will never reveal that, he says. How and where does Jammeh administer his treatment? Who gets enlisted for the treatment and when does he treat his patients?

Every Thursdays and Fridays he "treats the AIDS patients" while Saturday and Sunday are for the asthma patients. The rest of the week he runs the country as President. With verses recited from the Koran and quick sessions of smearing herbal concoctions over the half-naked bodies of the patients, Jammeh sends his patients to the wards of the Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital (RVTH), the country's largest health facility located in the Capital city, Banjul. After three days, he would authorise medical experts to test the HIV level of his "treated patients". Similar treatment procedures are administered on the asthma patients.

On January 18 President Jammeh attended his first batch of "26 AIDS positive patients", who had been selected from a pre-screening exercise of 27 applicants. Three days after the so-called "treatment", samples were obtained from ten of them and sent to Senegal, a neighboring country, which has better medical facilities for HIV level

test. The lab tests were conducted by professor Soulaymane Mboup, the head of bacteriology-virology laboratory of the University Teaching Hospital of Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal. A week later, President Jammeh's government health ministry issued a well publicised document said to be written and signed by Professor Mboup. The medical document states that out of the ten samples taken and tested after Jammeh's "treatment" nine have registered "remarkable increase in their CD4 cells" and that they were no longer HIV positive because their HIV level was no longer "detectable". To give the results stronger weight, one of the "treated" AIDS "patients", a professor at the University of the Gambia, Ousman Sowe, said on state television "I now believe that I am HIV/AIDS negative. I have noticed increase in weight substantially over the last ten days. I have 100% confidence in the president."

Whether the tests were credible or not is still a mystery, but Gambia's Health Minister Dr. Tamsir Mbowe insists that he was "absolutely certain" that Jammeh's HIV/AIDS "cure" works. Since Jammeh made his AIDS cure claim, Dr Mbowe who has been doing the job of an outpatient clerk registering people for treatment instead of running his ministry, said "in fact this has greatly eased the burden on the hospital". He said prior to the "treatment" some of the patients had less than a count of fifty CD4 cells and after the "treatment" medical lab tests indicated some patients with a CD4 cells count of "more than one thousand".

Not surprisingly, President Jammeh's controversial claim has provoked huge criticism and skepticism from within and outside the Gambia among journalists, medical experts and diplomats.

Demba Jawo, veteran journalist and former chairman of the Gambia Press Union and the current English editor of the French news agency, AFP, based in Dakar said "it is extremely necessary for the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the international community to come to the rescue of the Gambian AIDS patients who may be given false hopes and made to believe that they have been cured of the infection while they are not". Well, until the time of filing this report the WHO has remained mute over this issue.

However, professor Jerry Coovadia the head of the HIV Research Team at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa, believes that President Jammeh's AIDS cure claim is absolutely false. "A response within 3 to 10 days and a three-day course is almost inconceivable for a disease like HIV/AIDS" professor Coovadia told the BBC.

Not only is President Jammeh's cure claim disputed, but his mode of treatment has come under heavy criticism. While administering his "treatment" he is always surrounded by dozens of aides who are no relatives of the patients. Next, the state-controlled television station run unending perennial broadcasts of the "treatment" sessions depicting the patients half-naked. Their identities are also revealed, violating their privacy to live with HIV/AIDS secretly. And this practise has

outraged many. Professor Coovadia said it is tragic that the Gambia had a "political environment that allows the health minister and the President to violate every foundation of science and public health. The entire exercise is circumscribed by secrecy-- that's not how science works".

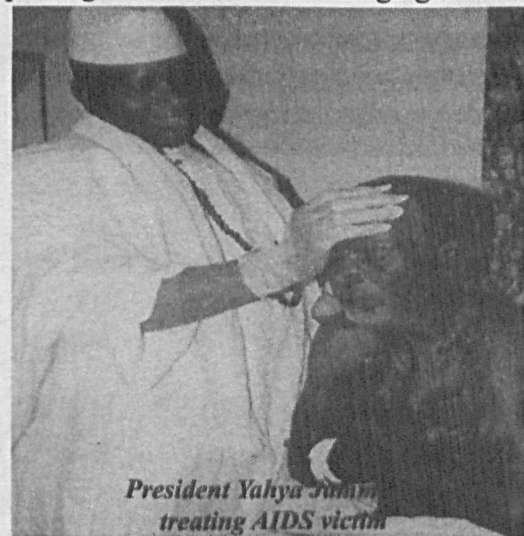
To AIDS advocates President Jammeh's claim is an insult to the medical profession and Africans. "It is an insult to the medical profession and an insult to Africans", said Ibrahim Umoro, a peer educator working for an international NGO in Nigeria. He added "The Gambian president and his health minister should not be allowed to spread their ignorance to compound the problem that has defied a solution for so long".

Even though freedom of expression has been extremely stifled in The Gambia, some anti-HIV/AIDS workers in the government have called it quits in protest of Jammeh's unsubstantiated claims. Saihou Ceesay, the director of the National AIDS Secretariat (NAS) has resigned his post. Another top NAS official Aisha Baldeh, the Global Fund Administrator of the secretariat has also resigned her post.

The NAS is a multi-million dollar World Bank funded secretariat charged with raising awareness about the HIV/AIDS virus in the tiny West African country where the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate between 2003-2005 was 0.6%-2.5%. Currently, the prevalence rate is 2.1% and about 30,000 people are HIV positive in the Gambia which has a population of 1.5 million most of them youth.

As Jammeh's AIDS cure claim gathers global press coverage, some foreign representatives in the country have spoken critically open about, but have paid the price for commenting against African dictators like Jammeh. On February 23, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in the country, Ms. Fadzai Gwarazimba was given 48 hours to leave the country by the Gambian authorities for telling the British Television Sky News that Jammeh's HIV/AIDS cure claim was "irresponsible" and that it was likely to promote "promiscuity" or risking sexual behavior, thus making AIDS a problem.

It is fair to conclude that whether the international community condemns or condones Jammeh's AIDS cure claim one thing is clear: this cure claim puts up a major obstacle that derails the continental decades-long combat against this pandemic. And this explains why he needs to be stopped right NOW, before things go out of hand.



President Yahya Jammeh treating AIDS victim



**Sports**

*Upcoming Games*  
(All games are schedule to change)

**Men's Baseball**

|      |                              |         |     |
|------|------------------------------|---------|-----|
| 3/21 | Polytechnic University       | 3:30pm  | (H) |
| 3/25 | Yeshiva <sup>2</sup>         | 12:00pm | (H) |
| 3/26 | Yeshiva <sup>1</sup>         | 7:00pm  | (A) |
| 3/28 | USMMA <sup>1</sup>           | 4:00pm  | (A) |
| 3/31 | Mitchell <sup>2</sup>        | 1:00pm  | (H) |
| 4/1  | Mitchell <sup>1</sup>        | 12:00pm | (A) |
| 4/3  | Maritime <sup>1</sup>        | 3:30pm  | (A) |
| 4/4  | Matthattanville <sup>1</sup> | 3:30pm  | (H) |
| 4/7  | Baruch <sup>1</sup>          | 12:00pm | (A) |

**Men's Tennis**

|      |                             |        |     |
|------|-----------------------------|--------|-----|
| 3/26 | Ruthers Newark <sup>1</sup> | 4:00pm | (A) |
| 3/38 | Yeshiva <sup>1</sup>        | 5:00pm | (A) |
| 3/30 | Hunter @ NTC <sup>1</sup>   | 3:30pm | (A) |
| 4/3  | Lehman <sup>1</sup>         | 3:30pm | (H) |
| 4/5  | City Tech <sup>1</sup>      | 3:30pm | (A) |
| 4/6  | Baruch <sup>1</sup>         | 3:30pm | (H) |

**Men's Volleyball**

|      |                                   |        |     |
|------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----|
| 3/20 | CUNYAC <sup>1</sup> Championships | 5:00pm | (A) |
| 3/22 | CUNYAC <sup>1</sup> Championships | 5:00pm | (A) |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | CUNYAC                                    |
| 2 | Double Header Game                        |
| 3 | Hudson Valley Conference                  |
| 4 | EWFC (Eastern Women's Fencing Conference) |

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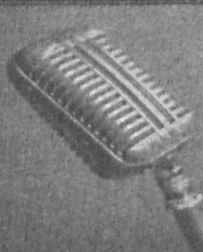
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**The AIAA club is coming out strong for the year 2007. If you have an interest in engineering, this is the club to involve yourself in.**

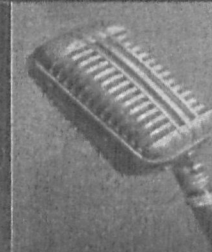
**Major Events**

- ◆ Help make a difference in the pre-college program, which is to be held the last Friday in April.
- ◆ Earn some hands-on experience and apply your knowledge of engineering in the Design, Build, and Fly competition.

For more information about the AIAA club and its activities contact [Ecaraba00@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:Ecaraba00@ccny.cuny.edu).



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