

THE PAPER

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.

CITY COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK IN HARLEM

Volume LII No. 4

A Medium For All People Of African Descent

February 25, 1997

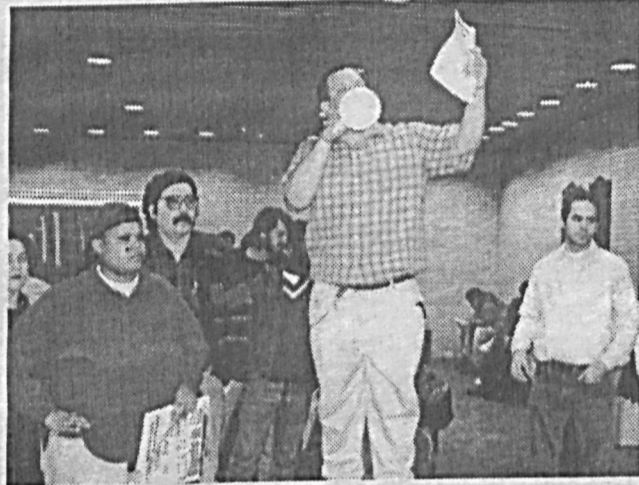
Passing The Budget Could Mean Passing The Buck

BY LA-JUNE MCPHERSON

Another tuition hike appears imminent for students within the City University of New York school system. And with wounds still fresh from the last onslaught of budget cuts, City College students may once again be faced with having to make preparations for what could be another phase in their battle for higher education.

According to recommendations made in the 1997-98 New York State Executive Budget, senior colleges within the City University Of New York are expected to undergo a possible \$33 million cut in funding, in comparison to last year's adopted budget.

City College, according to Vice President of Finance & Management Nathan Dickmeyer, may lose at least \$10.5 million in funding, and experience a \$5.4



Donald Vega, DSG representative, attempts to get the attention of students in the NAC Rotunda.

Photo Credit: La-June McPherson

million reduction in its Tuition Assistance Program. If these cuts should take effect, City College students could see a \$400/year increase in tuition as early as this summer. This would mean that when the academic year begins next fall, City College students may be paying an average of

well as the increase in tuition, Dean Bobb expects more losses in resources, faculty and other services, which stand to propel the declining enrollment at City College even further. Looking back at the last round of budget cuts which resulted in the retrenchment of many departments

\$3,600/year for tuition.

The impact these budget cuts could have on City College students could come in the way of a "double-hit," describes Dean Paul Bobb of City College's Division of Student Affairs.

With the proposed cuts in TAP as

at City College, Dean Bobb now envisions a possible "downward spiral for the institution."

Many students and faculty at City College remember all too well the dismantling of departments such as Black Studies and programs such as Nursing. "It was very painful," says Dean Bobb, "we haven't recovered fully." This may be so, but according to Vice President Dickmeyer, with or without the implementation of the proposed cuts, City College will suffer yet another blow. "That proposal is devastating to the college," he says. "We will be laying off people one way or the other."

With talks of more faculty lines being lost, it can only be expected that enrollment could be adversely affected as well. "Students become aware of the

Budget, continued on page 5

Parking Lottery System May Serve No Purpose This Semester

BY TAMMI DUBOSE BUTLER

For the first time in a long time, there are enough parking spaces available for day time students. This comes as a surprise because in past years, inquiries for parking spaces have exceeded the amount of available spots by more than 20%.

Although permits are acquired by a lottery system, it now appears that all applicants will be able to receive a parking permit, granted that they can pay the fee.

The current fee for daytime students is \$107.00 per semester. Where as evening students pay \$45.00 for the same accommodations. This fee compensates the cost of security at the entrance to the parking lot, supervision, stickers, Snow removal and occasional repairs.

The parking availability issue has been a controversial one for quite some time now. The City University of New York board of trustee's recently



View of an almost bare South Campus student parking lot.

awarded the job of overseeing campus parking facilities to the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation.

This change in management was instituted to address problems such as stabilizing fees, providing more space

for daytime students, (other than the only two lots on the south side of the campus), and promoting a better service that the fees pay for. These changes have yet to be implemented.

Parking, continued on page 8

Photo Credit: La-June McPherson

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Editorial

Have We Already Forgotten?

During the month of February, we traditionally take time out to celebrate the contributions and achievements of our ancestors. But as the month draws to a close, I wonder how many of us really appreciate the struggles that our foreparents had to go through for us?

On February 13th, I attended a Town Hall meeting organized by the Day Student Government, to discuss the proposed tuition increase and learn of the ramifications it could have on the college community. Surprisingly, this meeting was very poorly attended.

I wondered, "Had they really missed seeing the bright, orange flyers posted all over the campus, advertising the meeting?" "Did they not see the big orange and black arrow near the entrance of the NAC Building, inviting them to come to R0/201?" Did they

have classes scheduled during CLUB HOURS!? No! Then what could have been more important than learning about how to effectively combat what could be another tuition hike, which could once again devastate the college community? Have they already given up?

Martin Luther King, Jr. fought and died so that we could all be afforded civil rights, and now when our right to an affordable education is threatened, it seems as if we are not perturbed by it. If that is the case, then Martin Luther King, Jr. died in vain.

Yes, it's all well and good to honor those who struggled to bring us this far, but if we become complacent, and allow simple rights to be taken from us, then all that they fought against was done in vain. How long do we

think we can ride on the coat-tails of those that have gone on before? We all need to take steps in the "here-and-now" to ensure that generations to follow will not have to see history repeat itself. Not when we've come this far.

Sitting back and waiting for a tuition increase to happen won't make it any better. For too long I've heard the same old story of "the white man's keeping us back," when it's us as a people who need to move forward and take the initiative to ensure that we are not cheated out of an education. Maybe some of us need an in-depth lesson of our history. In the words of Claude McKay, "...Like men we'll face the murderous cowardly pack, pressed to the wall, dying but fighting back!"

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

As everyone should be aware, in 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voters Rights Act. This was created to allow Blacks the right to vote. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan signed an amendment to extend this right for an additional twenty-five years. You guessed it... In 2007 (ten years from now), Congress will decide whether or not Blacks should retain the right to vote.

In order for this to be passed, thirty-eight states will have to approve an extension. For me, as well as many others, this was the first time that we had heard this—thus, bringing concern to all of us! What many Blacks before us fought and even died for as well as the milestones that we, as Blacks have achieved, this can be taken away from us...AGAIN!

If this issue has taken you by surprise as well, I encourage YOU to contact your congress person, alder person, senator—anyone in government, that you put your vote behind and ask them what are doing to—firstly, to get the extension and furthermore, make our right to a vote a LAW. This has to become a law in order for our right to vote to no longer be up for discussion, review, and/or evaluation. (Remember: Blacks are the only group of people who require permission under the United States Constitution to vote!). Secondly, ask your representative how can we as Black individuals make our voice a louder one and become a foot soldier of the present! Bonnie DeShong, co-host of V-103's "The Monds Squad", who was also surprised to hear of this, will be recapping this weekend's events on the

afternoon show. John Davis of V-103 and CBS will also have excerpts of this trip aired on Channel 2 during Black History Month (dates to be determined).

As Black people, we cannot "drop the ball" on this one! We have too far to be forced to take such a large step back. So, please let's push on and forward to continue to build the momentum towards gaining equality.

Please pass this on to others, as I am sure that many more individuals are not aware of this. Thanks. —End of excerpt from Jordan, Bryan.

Write to:

Congressman Charles B. Rangel
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The above excerpt is from a document being circulated within the black community, which may be of some interest to our readers. We at The Paper would like to point out that the Voters Rights Act was signed to assure that the right for Blacks to vote would be protected. Meaning, it would prevent others from being able to use discriminatory reasons for refusing Blacks that right.

"Letters To The Editor" can be e-mailed to:
lmcperson@journalist.com

CORRECTION

In the December issue of *The Paper* it was incorrectly reported that Professor Edward Scobie edited the Journal of African Civilizations. Professor Scobie served on the editorial Advisory Board in the early 1980's.

The Paper welcomes articles from contributing writers, reader responses, letters to the editor and faculty editorials. Due to space restrictions, however, *The Paper* reserves the right to edit and condense all letters and articles. All work *must* include name & telephone number, but requests for anonymity will be honored. All work *must* also be in by the deadline.

THE PAPER

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Features

THEY'RE B-A-C-K!!

BY CAMILLE WATSON

As City College opens its doors to a new semester, faces of former students, who opted for a leave of absence and transfer to other schools, are once again gracing the campus with their presence. They are not here to visit, but rather to re-enter the halls of their former home—C.C.N.Y.

Many of these students were forced to leave in the last wave of tuition hikes and retrenchments that took the college and the CUNY system by storm. Like a country suffering from a natural disaster, they had to regroup, recuperate and work to gather funds in order to once again stand strong and travel the road of success.

Although enrollment has suffered a steady decline, the few that are making their way back say that they are doing so in a last minute effort to seize the opportunity of a life-time -- a college education. That is, they say, before tuition once again goes on the rise.

The majority of returning students confess that, the budget cuts and the steep rise in the tuition, along with their personal responsibilities played a major role in their absence. Director of Public Relations, for the college, Charles DeCicco agrees. "Clearly the concept of increases in tuition, the reductions in financial aid and the fact that we have been forced to reduce programs and close programs under this tremendous financial pressure has made it difficult for many students to continue to go to school," he says.

Returning student Kiesha Adamson, knows all too well, the pain of not being able to go to school

as a result of financial strain. Like many others, Adamson has to pay a part of her own way through school; financial aid only covers a portion of her tuition. Adamson found herself fighting an uphill battle as tuition skyrocketed taking along with it her hopes of completing college in four years. To add to her grief Adamson's dreams of becoming a nurse were dashed when the nursing program was cut. "I was totally devastated," lamented Adamson. "Tuition was being hiked, and I barely had a job. To make things worse, I didn't have a major either, because they eliminated nursing." She was in a state of limbo. Not knowing what else to do, Adamson put school on hold for an entire semester. She was in a desperate effort to get a full time job to save money in order to support herself through school. Knowing she was unable to afford the cost of another college, except those in the CUNY system, Adamson reconsidered her major and returned to City College.

According to Mr. DeCicco, with students today [unlike those of his time who had free tuition, attended school full-time, and worked mainly in the summer], it is very common and necessary to work while studying. He added that, the reason for this turn around was somewhat based, if not entirely, on the fact that students today are older and more mature. He pointed out that, "what we are seeing is the pressure of trying to balance financial obligations with family obligations."

It didn't take long for Frantz Valentine, a third year student who had taken a year off from school to figure out his priorities. Frantz, had sudden-

ly found himself with new responsibilities, as the head of his new family; his girlfriend and their baby. "I had to get two jobs just to get started," he said. "It was hard to leave school for so long but I had to do what I had to do." Despite his hardships, returning to school never once deviated from his mind. "I have a goal," he said. "That goal is to graduate and earn my degree. I just don't want a job, I need a career; therefore I had every intention of coming back," he said smiling. "I refused to be another drop out statistic."

Rick Smith, left City College under different circumstances. Smith, a transfer student majoring in biology with special interest in the physician's assistant program, found himself stuck between a rock and a hard place. He was informed that he was not allowed to take any science courses, until he had upgraded his math to the calculus level. "I couldn't stay in school for an entire semester doing only one subject," said Smith. He instead decided to try his luck with Brooklyn College. Upon registering, he found himself submitted to degree requirements, which called on him to take classes he had already completed. As a result, Smith found himself back through the gates of City College.

In an effort to retain the present students and encourage others to come despite the newly proposed cuts, certain measures are being put in place to help boost enrollment. According to Mr. DeCicco, "The college president, Yolanda T. Moses, has made it very clear that even with these cuts and reductions, where we may have some fewer programs, we are not going to

sacrifice academic quality. We are going to maintain the upper strength of the college, the quality of our programs," he said. He continued, "We are also attempting to fight the newly proposed budget cuts, and tuition increases. The president and the administration, in co-operation with the students and faculty, alumni, friends are mounting a campaign to inform the public, to inform the legislature and to inform the governor, what an important role City College or any other CUNY college play in the future well-being of our city and our state." Mr. DeCicco, also mentioned the launching of ad campaigns to publicize the college. One such ad was printed recently in the New York Times, featuring General Colin Powell, "one of City College's most distinguished alumni." The ad urged support for the college. Radio announcements, television public service announcements and a new recruitment video produced by the Public Relations Office in co-operation with DWJ television are also being launched, in an effort to boost enrollment. "The investments made in the college over the years have been paid back many times," said Mr. DeCicco, "by the contribution of our graduates and by the taxes they have paid." He stressed that City College graduates, are among the ten leading sources of top business executives in America. This, he said, is the message that the college is trying to send to the general public; one of progress and potential. For many returning students, City College is their home of "progress and potential". It is their home of success, and home is where the heart is. Welcome Home. □

City Speaks Out On Ebonics

BY ODETTIA FRANCIS

The Ebonics proposal has many City College students and faculty on opposing sides. Some individuals think Ebonics is a sick joke, while others think it might just be the answer to the public school crisis.

"It is comical that they can propose that Ebonics is bridging a gap, when it is really another means of equating black students to a lower level," says Denise Mensah, a writing major.

Bilal Senghor, a teacher an Afro-Studies and Education major P.S. 288 and P.S. 239, has a different opinion.

"The Ebonics proposal is a tool already being used by teachers to interrelate with their students," he said, "I use Ebonics to teach. It does not go on the board, but I use it to get them inter-

ested in the subject I'm presenting."

Ebonics, which literally means "Black sounds," "Pan-African Communication Behaviors," or "African Language Systems" has been one of the most talked about subjects for quiet some time.

On December 18th the Oakland Unified School District Board of Education of California had unanimously agreed to recognize Ebonics as a language. They also agreed to implement programs to enhance and understand the language of their black students, who account for 53% of the Oakland schools. The Standard English Proficiency Program (S.E.P.) is one such program that promotes English Language Development of African-American students. According to the Oakland School

District, the S.E.P. training proposal will enable teachers and administrators to respect and acknowledge the culture and language that African-American students bring to school. The proposal came from a six month study made by the African-American Task Force, which examined the situations of African-American students within the school district.

City College students disagreed about whether or not the S.E.P. program will be effective.

"The proposal is not the solution to the problems of public schools," said Keeanga Taylor, President of the International Socialist Organization, City College Chapter. "Ebonics may or may not work, but we will never know, as long as there is overcrowding in classrooms..."

"I believe Ebonics is a solution," states Political Science freshman, Caroline Montero. "It will be giving teachers a tool to help their students."

The effectiveness of Ebonics is not the only issue. There are differences on how important it is to recognize black English.

James De Jongh, professor of English, and interim director of the CUNY Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC), is a supporter of black English.

"African-American vernacular English is rich and has its beauty," says De Jongh. "...There is no need to go around degrading it [black English]...It bothers me when black

Ebonics, continued on page 4

Campus Affairs

Quick Thinking Averts Disaster In Science Lab

BY ARLENE ORTIZ

On the afternoon of February 3rd, Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S), a lethal and explosive gas, leaked from a cylinder from Lab J1311 of the Marshak Science Building. This resulted in the evacuation of dozens of students and faculty on the 12th and 13th floors.

Though no one was hospitalized, one person did experience stomach problems and dizziness. The gas escaped from an all steel cylinder, which was located at the entrance to the laboratory. The 13th floor was partially consumed with gas during the evacuation. Neighborhood firemen, along with HAZ-MAT, (firemen who specialize in hazardous material emergencies) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) responded quickly, and held the cylinder out the window, to prevent further contamination of the laboratory.

It was due, in part, to a lack of noise coming from the exhaust system, which happened to be off at the time, that the lab technician was able to hear and see the gas leak.

According to sources in the Chemistry Department, a technician was sitting at a computer when he heard a hissing noise and immediately

knew it was gas escaping from a cylinder. Simultaneously, he saw the dust on the floor, which prompted him to immediately open a window; the only one that would open. The technician proceeded to tell his co-workers on the 13th floor to evacuate. Some co-workers did not believe what had happened and did not evacuate. He then went to the 12th floor and told his supervisor, and proceeded to telephone Security to inform them of the situation. The technician then went down to the Lobby and tried to stop people from taking the elevator.

Joe LaRubbio, Chief Technician of Chemistry, Dr. Stanley Radel, Chairman of Chemistry and Dr. David Calhoun, Chairman of the Bio-Chemistry Division all proceeded to the 13th floor to try and remedy the situation; all had on gas masks with the exception of Dr. Radel. Mr. LaRubbio went inside to look for anyone who might have possibly collapsed and saw no one. He heard the hissing noise and thought it was coming from the top of the cylinder. Moving his hand down the side of the cylinder he was able to locate a tiny crack. Mr. LaRubbio then stepped out of the lab, shut the door, and placed a wet newspaper along the

bottom of the entrance in an effort to contain the gas to that one lab.

After arriving on the scene and assessing the situation, firemen from Ladder Company 28, Engine 69, commonly known as the "Harlem Hilton", HAZ-MAT and the DEP decided to let the gas escape naturally into the air. They thought this would be safer than trying to wheel the cylinder out of building, placing students and faculty in danger, and risking a possible explosion during transport. Since the cylinder already had a crack, transporting it could have enlarged the crack due to

increasing internal pressure.

A source at the Chemistry department, who wishes to remain anonymous felt that "we should have been better prepared for this." On the other hand, department heads didn't seem too worried about such an incident reoccurring. "This is the first time in 30 years that this has happened" said Mr. LaRubbio.

Although the chances of this happening again are slim, there are those who still feel that no chance is worth the risk of not being properly prepared. □

Ebonics, continued from page 3

leaders think that *black* English is *bad* English, and devalue it to emphasize the language of the market place."

Computer major, Ini Ekanem had something different to say. "Blacks are already seen as illiterate. Recognizing Ebonics as a black language just brings us down..."

Tyrone Latour, a Pre-law major, feels that "It's a fantastic idea. Ebonics will raise pride and self-esteem among black students."

There are still those individuals that are troubled by the ramifications of passing an education proposal that

only benefits *some* public school students. "Ebonics is a step back from the movements that fight for equal rights in education," states Keeanga Taylor.

The Oakland school officials announced that close to 125 teachers of 25 different schools in Oakland have received some form of Ebonics training along with education on Black history and literature. School officials assert that the S.E.P. program is working successfully, but the outcome of the Ebonics debate remains to be seen. □

**ATTENTION
ALL STUDENTS!!!**

**Call for Day, Evening & Graduate
Students**

**to submit Petitions for
Student Government for
the 1997-98 School year.**

**Petitions may be picked up at
the Office of Student Affairs/A201,
the Finley Student, R1/210,
the NAC Information Desk &
the Ombudsman's Office R1/106**

Make A Difference, Get Involved!!

Petition Date Deadline: April 1, 1997

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C.C.N.Y. STUDENTS:**

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE?**

**IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS
THE TRANSITION FROM
WELFARE TO WORKFARE**

PLEASE CONTACT:

**THE PAPER
AT**

(212) 650-5029

Budget, continued from page 1

fact that they are not being treated or afforded some of the amenities that they can receive on other campuses," says Dean Bobb, citing Adelphi, Pace University, and Manhattan College as examples. "They can go there with the same financial aid package and receive a better treatment." Because the budget is enrollment-driven, "the fewer students we have, the less money we're entitled to," adds Dean Bobb. Therefore, if the cuts are implemented, and more students are unable to attend City College, the operating budget for academic year 1998-99 is expected to decline even further.

Even though word of the proposed cuts has been highly publicized throughout the City College community, many students failed to attend a meeting on February

13th, organized by the Day Student Government (DSG) to get feedback from the student body.

One such student was Vishal Paul, a fourth-year Biochemistry student, who instead of being at the meeting, opted to lounge in the cafeteria and listen to music with his friends. Paul, who also experienced the last tuition increase, feels that students are powerless when it comes to fighting New York City's bureaucrats. "It'll be hard," says Paul, "but politics is too powerful." Felicia Lamb, a Film & Video senior, also sees the proposal as a no-win situation for City College students. "You have to deal with whatever's thrown to you," she says. "People who don't have enough money to go to school it seems like we have to work extra hard to prove that we

really want to go," she adds.

Kim Faison, a Political Science senior, sees the proposed increase as just another drop in the bucket. "\$400 isn't gonna make a difference to me," she says. "By the time I'm finished here, I'm going to be at least \$15,000 in the hole," she says, referring to the number of loans she has had to take out in order to pay her way through school.

Although the college community seems to be having mixed reactions to the recommendations made in the budget proposal, Donald Vega, a DSG senator, says "A unified message has to come out of City College." In hopes of generating more awareness within the student body, a "Letter Writing Teach-in" has been planned for March 23rd, as well as other events to come in the weeks ahead.

City College students still have a small window of opportunity wherein which they could fight the cuts and tuition increases that have been proposed. The budget first has to be approved by the New York State Legislature then the CUNY Board of Trustees before any changes can take effect. And even though by law the budget has to be passed by April 1st, according to Vice President Dickmeyer, it could take even longer. Last year's budget was not approved until sometime in September.

If the cuts do take effect, will this be the end of the City University system? Dean Bobb does not think so. He only hopes that it will not move the university from its central mission: "to serve the poor, and the citizens of this city." □

**THE PAPER
SPRING '97
SCHEDULE**

2nd Issue

Deadline
March 6th
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March 17th

3rd Issue

Deadline
March 27th
Publication Date
April 7th

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Deadline
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5th Issue

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EXPRESSIONS

A Prayer In Honor Of Our Homeland Afrika

(Dedicated In Memory Of The Late Dr. Edward Scobie)

O grant us our blessings in these harsh and wicked days
Our Blessed Ancestors,
Your children are suffering at the hands of those who
Continue to persecute us throughout the centuries,
Deliver us from the hands and deeds of the wicked,
Let our enemies scatter before the rays of our mighty
Warriors, your children,
Let them vanquish our enemies as our children march
Victoriously into the next century.

Bless our homeland Afrika, make her prosperous,
Let her continue to be a great example to her children
Throughout this Earth, for out of one nation shall rise
many nations.

Arise, Arise, O Mighty Lion Afrika !!!

Stretch forth thy arms throughout the four corners
Of the globe

And with a mighty roar shatter the very heart of
This universe, as you claim your rightful place among
Many nations.

Let the wicked suffer for their wickedness

Let their children suffer for their parents sins shall

Be visited upon them, for their crimes against humanity

Blessed be thou Afrika,

Land of our ancestors, among many nations,

Your children, though scattered throughout the Earth,

Still lift up our heads to offer thanks and praises

In your holy name

Blessed be thou Afrika among many nations,

We offer hymns of praises and glory to The Creator

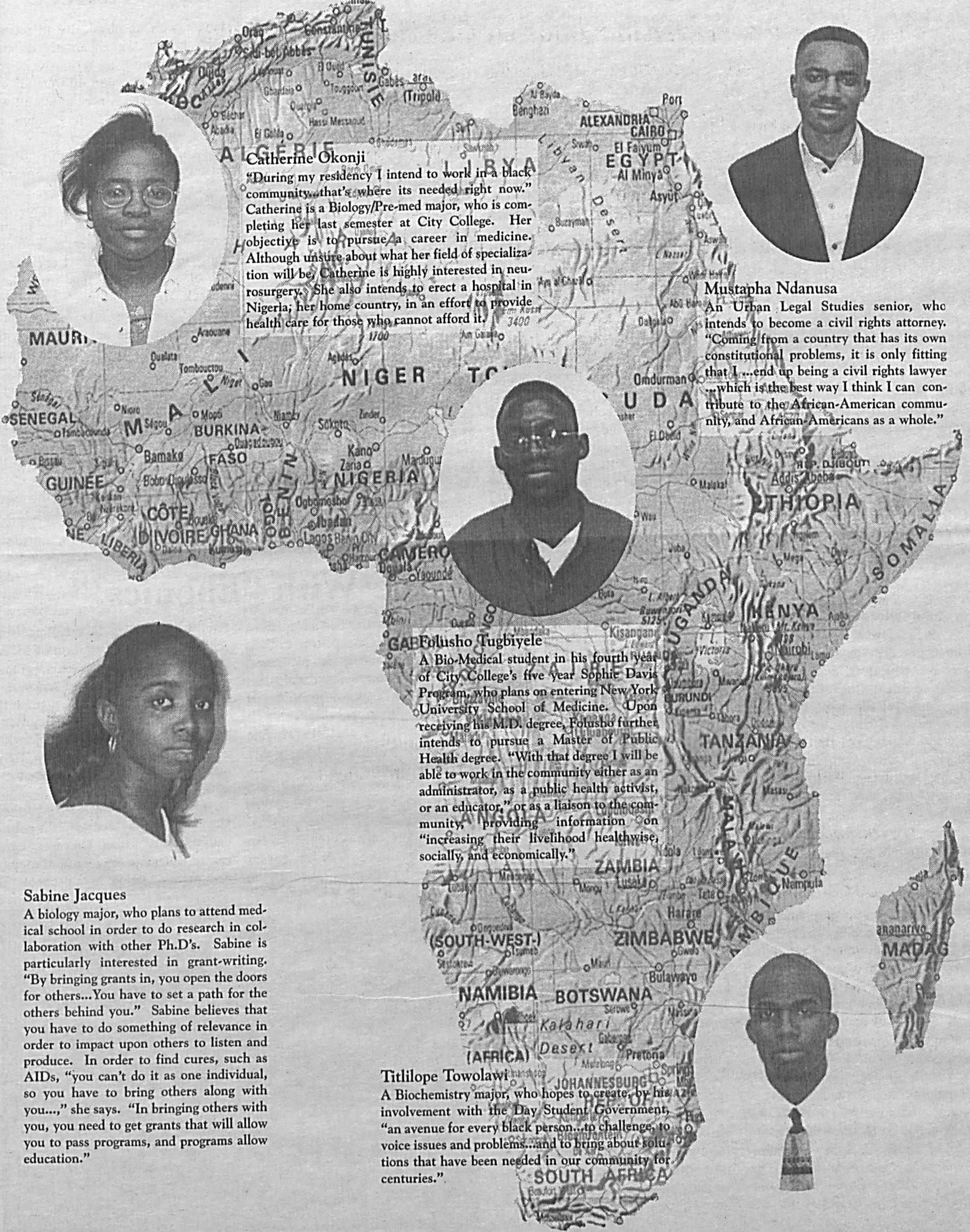
In honor of thy holy name

God bless Afrika Land Of Our Forefathers And Mothers.

by Ian Slocombe

Remembering Our Past, Focusing On Our Future

As we reflect on the past and the achievements of our foreparents, The Paper recognizes a few of the many students at City College who have the potential of making a positive impact on the Black community. The future looks bright in the eyes of these students, as they prepare themselves to continue the legacy of our ancestors.



Catherine Okonji

"During my residency I intend to work in a black community...that's where its needed right now." Catherine is a Biology/Pre-med major, who is completing her last semester at City College. Her objective is to pursue a career in medicine. Although unsure about what her field of specialization will be, Catherine is highly interested in neurosurgery. She also intends to erect a hospital in Nigeria; her home country, in an effort to provide health care for those who cannot afford it.

Mustapha Ndanusa

An Urban Legal Studies senior, who intends to become a civil rights attorney. "Coming from a country that has its own constitutional problems, it is only fitting that I...end up being a civil rights lawyer...which is the best way I think I can contribute to the African-American community, and African-Americans as a whole."

Folusho Tugbiyele

A Bio-Medical student in his fourth year of City College's five year Sophie Davis Program, who plans on entering New York University School of Medicine. Upon receiving his M.D. degree, Folusho further intends to pursue a Master of Public Health degree. "With that degree I will be able to work in the community either as an administrator, as a public health activist, or an educator," or as a liaison to the community, providing information on "increasing their livelihood healthwise, socially, and economically."

Sabine Jacques

A biology major, who plans to attend medical school in order to do research in collaboration with other Ph.D's. Sabine is particularly interested in grant-writing. "By bringing grants in, you open the doors for others...You have to set a path for the others behind you." Sabine believes that you have to do something of relevance in order to impact upon others to listen and produce. In order to find cures, such as AIDs, "you can't do it as one individual, so you have to bring others along with you..." she says. "In bringing others with you, you need to get grants that will allow you to pass programs, and programs allow education."

Titilope Towolawi

A Biochemistry major, who hopes to create, by his involvement with the Day Student Government, "an avenue for every black person...to challenge, to voice issues and problems...and to bring about solutions that have been needed in our community for centuries."

Opinions

Are We Taking "Black History Month" For Granted

BY BASEEMAH SMITH

It is "Black History Month" once again and for some reason I have as much enthusiasm as I do for the "Kwanzaa Expo" at the Jacob Javits Center. What initially started out as an attempt to have us embrace our heritage (then just a week) with deserving pride, has become predictable and even ignored. For me it is like a balloon with a small hole; the essence is escaping and disappearing slowly. It reminds me somewhat of my feelings toward some of my experiences at City college.

I chose City College over all the colleges in the CUNY system for a number of reasons. As an evening student, its proximity to my job allows me a quick commute, which means I can take "an early class." More important to me however, was that it is in HARLEM, U.S.A. not to mention its reputation of having one of the best Black Studies Departments of all the colleges.

From what I understand, the Black Studies Department here at CCNY was implemented as a result of protests by (Black) students of the

institution and some individuals from the surrounding neighborhood. They felt that the college and those in charge should give something back to the community in which it existed.

I enrolled in my first Black Studies class and was very disappointed not by the professor, but by some of the students. That disappointment has lingered even after my fifth Black Studies class. Many students taking Black Studies courses do not seem to give the same serious attitude and respect as they do their other classes. They complain and try to avoid buying the books. They do not come prepared for class and even expect the professors to accept work which is hand-written (sometimes in pencil) on notebook paper, which anyone could see was ripped out minutes before coming to the class. It is almost as if they believe that because they are Black, they can "wing it" or are entitled to an automatic "A."

What many Black students here at City College fail to realize is that we are privy to an incredible resource of information which we are failing to tap into. Many of these Black

Studies professors are walking encyclopedias. They could be at other, private institutions earning "beaucoup bucks" but their love of their people has led them to remain at the grass-roots level, to be accessible to their community. They have travelled and experienced the world and therefore are not stagnant or out of date like the books we are often assigned to read. Each one of the professors in this department has their area of expertise, and aspect of our history which they have more than just book knowledge.

And so now that it is "Black History Month," I feel as if we are hypocrites. We laud our ancestors Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman and the list goes on. Those who fought for us to get this department should be disappointed in us. For the most part we sat idly by as it was dismantled. With the Black student body here at City College it should never have happened. We do ourselves a disservice when we show a lack of respect and reverence for our elders here at City College. Must we wait until these greats are no

longer with us physically to recognize them? We apparently do not take our history as seriously as we should. We can spurt information on Europe and The Americas but all we know of our own history seems to begin with the slave ship.

And so I call on you this "Black History Month" to: yes, pay homage to our ancestors, for they have paved the way and continue to guide us. However, we must also live in the present. All of our elders have something to share with us. I encourage all of you, during this so-called "Black History Month" and after, even if you never take one of their classes take time out to speak with our professors. Not just in the Black Studies Department, for each of us brings an experience that is both common and different. Ours is a tradition of oral history, even if these individuals write books not everything should or can be expressed in that medium.

Take time out for both the sung and unsung heroes of the Black experience. □

What's Really The Main Issue With "Ebonics?"

BY HUGH DRUMMOND

Much of what has already been said about this subject detracts progressive educators, behavioral and social scientists from the most puzzling and yet the most challenging issue facing America today: how to prevent young people (especially Black and Latino youth) from perceiving the English language as a complete waste of time, therefore acquiring no motivation of mastering its use.

The major source of distraction results from the idea that "ebonics" of "what-the-brothas-an-sistas-on-the-

Parking, continued from page 1

Students have complained for years about accessibility, the high cost of fees and where the lot is located. Evening students who pay less than day students, are fortunate enough to have two additional lots open to them. They also have the convenience of parking on Convent Avenue, which opens after 6:00 pm.

Faculty who pay the same amount for permits as day students, have at their disposal four lots as well as a six block radius on St. Nicholas Avenue. A lot of students feel they can barely pay for tuition and books, let alone the cost of a parking permit. Ms Cleonia Stroud, Executive Secretary for student affairs agrees that this year's

street" speak naturally, will rival the dominant language of society within the confines of the classroom; that it will somehow seek federal dollars to fund necessary research, and so on, ad infinitum. The English language is highly valued in our society, allowing it to be the appropriate language of discourse. Not only is it highly valued, it has supported and will continue to support whole civilizations.

But the very nature of what students bring to the classroom is the issue: what prevents students from mastering the English language may

number for permits has declined mainly due to affordability.

Sharon Jones, who is pregnant has a hard time walking to class, due to the far distances where student parking lots are located. She prefers to park on the street which is much closer to her classes. Street parking has rules of alternate side parking but most of the residential community don't use the streets.

Complaints about City College's parking facilities may never be resolved, but for now, students can take advantage of the open slots that are still available, providing they can afford it. □

strongly result from albeit unconscious attempts by circular experts to exclude or dismiss student's speech patterns in the classroom, causing potential alienation. If the educational establishment seeks to reverse overwhelming statistical evidence that student's reading scores and writing proficiency fall below expectations-in New York City's schools one in five third graders cannot read at grade level (The New York Times, February 17th 1997) progressive educators must act to underscore its significance as a pragmatic tool for students. "Ebonics" or "Black

English" according to sociolinguistic scholars is a legitimate form of social speech with unique lexicon, grammar, phonology, syntax and semantics. There must be a serious attempt to assimilate its impact into the curriculum so students feel comfortable with what they bring to the classroom. They may develop an awareness of the benefits of learning English.

Let's face it: what distinguishes "language" from "dialect" is a politically divisive issue. However, concerned educators cannot afford to witness renewed failure in our schools. □

EVERY MONTH IS
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

Arts & Entertainment

Review "Bearing Witness: African -American Vernacular Art of the South"

BY E.D. HARRIS

If you feel that Black history should be an ongoing experience, and not something that should only be "observed" or "celebrated" during the *shortest* month in the year, you will be interested in an *ongoing* exhibition at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Bearing Witness: African -American Vernacular Art of the South is an exhibition featuring over 80 works of art by 25 self-taught African-American artists of the South. Some of the art work range from constructs made out of root, wood, and found materials, to elaborately framed canvases, and hair and costume jewelry.

Artists featured in the exhibition include James "Son" Thomas (1926-1993) of Mississippi, who was a well known blues musician and who also learned to express his experiences through the visual arts; Lonnie Holley (b. 1950) of Birmingham, Alabama, who uses his home as a sculptural environment; Bessie Harvey (1929-1994) of Tennessee, who designed hair and costume jewelry; and various members of the Dial family of Alabama, headed by Thornton Dial, Sr. (b. 1928), Thornton Dial, Jr. (b. 1953), and Richard Dial (b. 1955).

Bearing Witness pays tribute to artists originating from the South, which Howard Dodson, Chief of Schomburg Center, says is "the African-American natal environment..." from which "most African-Americans are descended from..." Dodson credits the artists with courage, which is embodied in their continual commitment to the South, struggling "with the contradictions of the South" and for making "the South a very different place from what I had been."

These self-taught African-American artists from the South received no formal training in the visual arts. Their artistry came from experience, from what Dodson says are "inner visions and thoughts...reflecting on issues and events of importance to the African-American experience, especially in the region but also in the context of national and global politics."

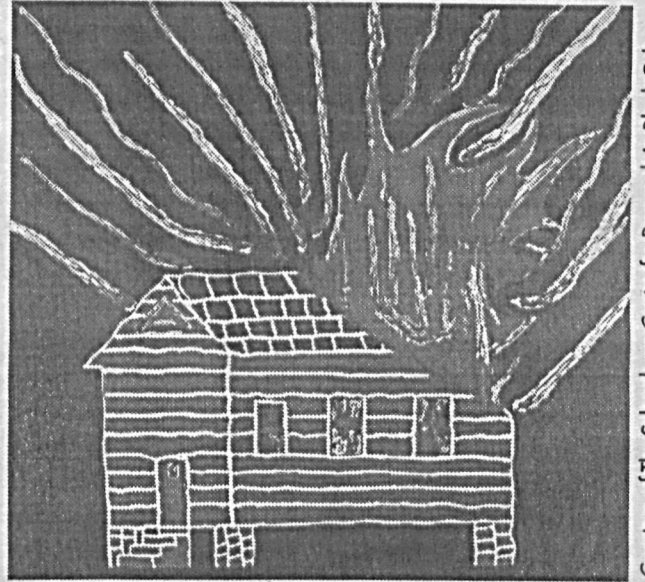
Langston Hughes' artistry was conveyed passionately through his written words, Dr. King's vision expressed resoundingly through the spoken word, and these artists' lives are represented by gripping images. "This exhibition shows how creative impulse is inherent in the human experience no matter how much oppression and exploitation people

undergo, that creative impulse will find a way to emerge through song, through dance, through religion, through art," Howard Dodson says.

Bearing Witness functions not just as aesthetically pleasing artistry. It penetrates not only the eye, but the spirit, and it serves as powerful testament of the artists' individual life experiences and struggles as part of the collective African American experience.

In addition to this exhibit, the Schomburg Center will conduct a symposium entitled, "African American Vernacular Art and the Politics of Art Criticism in America" on Saturday 1 March 1997. *Bearing Witness* will continue through March 29th.

Although African-American history is "observed" for 28 days, it should be embraced *everyday* as an inherent aspect of the African American culture. The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of The New York Public Library is a



Mississippi Burning, 1989 by Thornton Dial Jr.

Courtesy of The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

resource that should be utilized as an asset for the purpose of providing access to the history and culture of people of African descent. Because of its vital function, the Schomburg should not be discovered solely during "Black History Month," but embraced always.

Hours of service at The Schomburg are Monday through Wednesday from 12 to 6 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Center is located at 515 Malcolm X Boulevard at 135th Street. For further information call (212) 491-2265. □

Review: "Rosewood"

BY LA-JUNE MCPHERSON

Are you tired of seeing black men being portrayed as "thugs?" Are you tired of paying \$8.50 just to see yet another movie illuminating the black race in a less than positive light? Well, if you answered "yes" to these questions, and are indeed fed up with seeing the same stereotypical images of African-Americans over and over again on the "big-screen," then you absolutely have to see John Singleton's latest film, "Rosewood."

"Rosewood," which opened in theatres this past week-end, is an unbelievably gripping story about the ordeal a black community in Florida had to endure 74 years ago. Based upon actual events, this film paints a vivid picture of the American black experience in the South.

Using true-to-life accounts of the events surrounding the first week of January 1923, Singleton documents the rape of a town that did not have to happen. It all began with one lie; a lie which set into motion a



Jon Voight, (center) assists women and children, as they flee from their homes in "Rosewood."

chain of events that brought the town of Rosewood, Florida to its knees. Because of this lie, a violent mob of white men, in the space of four days, destroyed this once prosperous community.

Starring in this film is Ving

Rhames as "Mr. Mann," and Jon Voight as "John Wright." The two men, one white and one black, are

able to put aside their differences, forming an unexpected alliance. Working together, the two men were able to demonstrate through a great show of courage, that humanity could still be found in some, when others are at their worst.

This film contains graphic scenes which may not be for the faint of heart. Nevertheless, this is a must-see-movie. In a recent interview on "Hot 97," John Singleton says of "Rosewood," I like to make movies that inspire you to something." Out of John Singleton's passion comes a movie that no-one wanted to talk about for 70 years. It must have taken a great deal of courage for him to direct this film, and by all means, he should be commended. Show your support by coming out in droves to see the film. □

Photo courtesy warner bros.

Support The Paper become a staff writer
TODAY!!

CUNY Budget Quiz

1 Governor Pataki proposes to

- a. hike SUNY and CUNY tuition \$400 more
- b. slash \$175 million statewide from TAP (Tuition Assistance Program)
- c. cut \$56.9 million in state aid for CUNY's operating budget
- d. all of the above

2 New York *already* has

- a. raised tuition at a faster rate than any other state since 1989-90
- b. cut state support for colleges and student aid faster than any. Other state in the last two years
- c. the 10th highest tuition in the U.S. (in a General Accounting Office study of 1995-96 rates)
- d. all of the above

3 To win lower tuition and a better budget, students should

- a. Write their Assemblymember and Senator (*Drop these completed postcards in the Higher Education boxes located at the main entrance so many classroom buildings.*)
- b. Sign up with NYPIRG to lobby legislators in Albany and at home
- c. Get involved in the Higher Education Campaign (*Contact NYPIRG or Student Government*)
- d. All of the above

4 Bonus - Choose One:

- Pay more, get less.
- Pay less, get more.

NYPIRG. Building Student Power

1997 SPRING STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS CALENDAR

January 29	Classes begin
January 29	Circulation of Election Guidelines and Petitions
March 6	Workshop ("How to Get on the Ballot..and Win!")
March 26 & 27 (Until 9:00 PM)	Late Nights to Submit Petitions in A201
April 1 (5:00 PM)	Last Day to Submit Petitions*
April 1 (5:00 PM)	Last Day to Submit Referenda Petitions in A201**
April 2,3 & 4	Certification of Petitions
April 8 & 9	Petition Appeals (in writing to A201)
April 7 - 14	Campaigning
April 10	Presidential Debate & Candidate's Forum
April 15,16 & 17 (10:00 AM to 9:00 PM)	Voting and Restricted Campaigning
April 17 (9:15 PM)	Results Announced
April 18 (5:00 P.M.)	Written Appeals (in writing to A201)
April 20 - 27	Spring Recess; No Classes

* Important Note: Petitions may be submitted anytime between January 29th and April 1st (at 5:00 PM). To insure validation of petitions, candidates are encouraged to submit their petitions before April 1st.

** Per CUNY By-laws, a referendum proposing changes in the student activity fee shall be initiated by a petition of at least ten (10) percent of the appropriate student body before it is presented to that student body for a vote.

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SPORTS TALK



CCNY Star Athletes Flying High

Jacqueline Hunter, a member of the City College track team, broke a 10-year CCNY women's indoor record in the 400-meter dash when she recently clocked a :56.51 run at the Terrier Classic held on January 25th at Boston University.

A five-time Division III All-America in the 400-meter run, Hunter's new school mark broke an indoor women's record set in March 1986 by CCNY All-America's Trena Marshall and Sharon Mason (:56.96).

"This recent accomplishment is one of many that Jacqueline has been able to fulfill over the past four years," said CCNY track and field coach, Errol Anderson. "I'm very proud and happy that she has broken such a long-standing record set by two great CCNY track & field Hall of Famers."

Named Eastern Track Magazine's Division III 400-meter runner-of-the-year last year, Hunter, 23, also holds school indoor records in the 200 (:25.42), 300 (:39.21) and 4x200 meter relay (1:47.63).

A computer science senior and resident of Queens, Hunter never ran varsity track until she came to CCNY in 1993. A graduate of Hillcrest High School, Hunter recently qualified for this year's indoor NCAA Championships in the 400-meter event after she posted a :57.95 run at the Wesleyan University Invitational, held in Middletown, Connecticut. She's also twice qualified for

the national's 4x400 relay competition.

The 1996-97 indoor national championships are to be held March 7th-8th at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Hunter won 400-meter All-America honors during the NCAA Outdoor Championships last May. Her time of :55.62 placed her second for the individual Division III National Championship, which was won by Lisa Melendez from Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Hunter also combined with CCNY teammates Keisha Latty, Robyn McCarthy and Omotola Hope to place second in the 4x400 relay (3:52.31) during the outdoor nationals for her second All-America honor of the 1996 outdoor season. The foursome placed third during last March's indoor national's, in which they ran a 3:58.49 mile-relay to once more gain 4x400 All-America honors. Hunter also placed second in the 400 (:57.37) during the 1995-96 indoor nationals for her fourth All-America honor of the year.

All of those 400-meter times, plus a personal best :55.25 clocked last May at the Princeton Invitational, led to her being selected for the 1996 U.S. Virgin Islands women's 4x400 Olympic relay team at the Centennial Games in Atlanta this past July. □

Marlon Jackson, captain of the City College men's varsity basketball team, was recently named, for the third time this season, to the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Metro-New York/New Jersey Basketball Honor Roll.

A three-year varsity player with an outside chance of going over the 1,000-point plateau this season, Jackson, a senior and resident of the Bronx, is the second ranked scorer in The City University of New York (CUNY) Conference, averaging just over 20 points per game. His most recent ECAC Honor Roll selection came during the week ending February 3rd, when the six-foot guard out of LaGuardia High School averaged more than 22 points per game, 7.7 rebounds and just under 3 steals per contest in games against Hunter (an 89-78 loss); Bard (a 94-43 win); Brooklyn (an 81-80 loss) and Staten Island (a 55-45 loss).

"Using basically a new three-guard system, where he has often been the first option, Marlon has done everything expected of him and more," CCNY basketball coach, Gary Smith, said of his second-year captain. "Along with his scoring, he has also contributed leadership and a general knowledge of the game that's

helped our younger players."

During the week ending January 25th, Jackson averaged 23.5 points, 4.5 boards and 3 assists in 94-69 and 78-54 losses to Baruch and York College, respectively. Jackson was also named the CUNY Conference Player of the Week that week.

Jackson's first 1996-97 ECAC Honor Roll selection came for the week ending December 7, 1996, when Jackson was the bright spot in an 0-2 week as he averaged 22 points and had five rebounds in losses to Yeshiva and John Jay.

Jackson now needs to average 31.5 points to reach the 1,000-point milestone. Last season he was the Beavers' third top scorer, averaging 11.4 points per game and leading the squad in assists (97). And as a sophomore, Jackson averaged 10.4 ppg.

Jackson played his last home game for CCNY on February 21st against Vassar College. □

This Month In Black History....

- 1 John Rock became the first African-American attorney to practice before the United States Supreme Court (1865).
- 2 Jefferson Franklin Long became the first Black person to speak in the House of Representatives as a congressman (1871).
- 3 Former South African President, F.W. de Klerk, lifted the thirty-year ban on the *African National Congress*.
- 4 Alex Haley's miniseries, *Roots*, ended with its eighth episode and became the most watched series of all time (1977).
- 5 Rosa Parks, initiator of the Montgomery, Alabama Bus Boycott was born (1913).
- 6 Henry "Hank" Aaron, "home-run king" of major league baseball, was born in Mobile, Alabama (1934).
- 7 The world mourned the death of Arthur Ashe, the first African-American tennis pro to win the men's singles championship at the U.S. Open and at Wimbledon (1993).
- 8 The *Freedman's Aid Society* was founded to promote education among African-Americans.

- 9 Three South Carolina State students were killed during segregation protests in Orangeburg (1968).
- 10 Bernard Harris became the first Black astronaut to take a space-walk. (1995)
- 11 Andrew Brimmer, became the first Black person to serve on the Federal Reserve Board. (1966)
- 12 Nelson Mandela, currently president of South Africa, was released from a South African prison after being detained for 27 years as a political prisoner in a fight against apartheid (1990).
- 13 *Negro History Week* was observed for the first time—created by scholar, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and other black leaders of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History Incorporated (1926).
- 14 The *Mayflower of Liberia* set sail for Sierra Leone, West Africa, carrying 86 free blacks to a colony established thirty years earlier by African American sea captain, Paul Cuffee (1820).

- 15 Frederick Douglass, was born into slavery in Maryland, but escaped to freedom at the age of 16, and later became founder of the abolitionist publication, *The North Star* (1817).
- 16 Duke Ellington recorded "Take the 'A' Train," which became one of his most well-known songs.
- 17 Joe Frazier knocks out Jimmy Ellis to become the world heavyweight champion (1970).
- 18 Huey Newton, founder of the *Black Panther Party* was born (1942).
- 19 Toni Morrison, a Nobel Prize-winning author, was born in Lorain, Ohio (1931).
- 20 First *Pan-African Congress* organized in Paris by W.E.B. DuBois. (1919)
- 21 Sidney Poitier, American film industry's first major African-American star, was born in Miami, Florida (1924).
- 22 Malcolm X was assassinated at a rally at the *Audubon Ballroom* in New York (1965).

- 23 Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor was denied his seat (1967).
- 24 W.E.B. DuBois, the first African-American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University, was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts (1868).
- 25 Muhammad Ali, then known as Cassius Clay, defeated Sonny Liston in Miami, and claimed the *World Heavyweight Championship* (1964).
- 26 Elijah Muhammad, head of the *Nation of Islam*, died in Chicago (1975).
- 27 Rhythm and blues pianist and singer, Antoine Fats Domino was born in New Orleans, Louisiana (1928).
- 28 Singer, Marian Anderson, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1902).
- 29 Richard Wright's ground breaking bestseller, *Native Son*, was published (1940).