

The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent Vol. 127 No. 1 February 2009

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

Celebrating Black History Month

Happy Birthday to The Paper Forty Years of News and Still Going Strong

By Lindsie Augustin

The year 2009 has officially been dubbed the year of celebration, as far as we here at *The Paper* are concerned, but not for the obvious reason. It was 40 years ago, at a time vaguely similar to this one that a group of students stood above the rest and made sure their voices were heard. The City College campus, while diverse within its student body, did not truly represent the students who were matriculating from its grounds. So while the world stood up against inequality, students across the country became inspired to do the same, and thus *The Paper* was born.

Before we became *The Paper*, a Medium for All People of African Descent that you know today, we were *Tech News*, an undergraduate newspaper stemming from the Engineering department with a predominately Jewish staff. Things began to change when Paul Simms became Editor-in-Chief in 1969. Along with his extraordinary writing skills and invaluable contribution to what was then *Tech News*, Simms brought with him a stellar group of writers, who in turn literally paved the way for the existence of *The Paper* today. It became the mission of Louis Reyes Rivera, writer for *Tech News*, to establish a Black student voice within the newspaper; and so what began as a slow and quiet takeover made its full impact

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Street and Places Renamed to Honor Black Icons and New Yorkers

By Herb Boyd

With a few strokes of his pen, Mayor Michael Bloomberg approved the renaming of 49 streets and public places in the five boroughs on Monday, January 5th at City Hall. Among the notable African-Americans whose names will adorn signs in the city are Billie Holiday, Paul Robeson, Count Basie, Zora Neale Hurston, Marcus Garvey, and Drs. Kenneth and Mamie Clark.

The mayor said the names on the list represented individuals who are honored for their lifetime accomplishments.

One of those saluted was Dr. Susan Smith McKinney-Steward, who will have her name enshrined on a place in Brooklyn. In 1867, McKinney-Steward entered the New York Medical College for Women, graduating three years later as class valedictorian. She later did postgraduate work at Long Island College Hospital. "She was the first African-American female doctor in New York," said Dr. Muriel Petioni, speaking on her behalf at the ceremony in the Blue Room.



Billie Holiday

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A Legacy of Wealth and Power

By Maalik Abdul Rasheed

Wealth Activist

Blogger www.whyihatethejoneses.com

The first time I seriously thought about the relationship between money and power was about 5 years ago after reading the book *PowerNomics: The National Plan to Empower Black America*, a book by Dr. Claude Andersen. Keep in mind that this was not the first time I've read a book on economics or personal finance, but what *PowerNomics* does, that many books don't, is create a very elaborate plan for financial empowerment that caters to the unique financial circumstances of the black community. You can call this book the Rich Dad Poor Dad for Black



folk.

PowerNomics inspired me to dig deeper and I stumbled upon the holy grail of economic empowerment books, *The Blueprint for Black Power: A Moral, Political, and Economic Imperative for the Twenty-First Century* by Amos N. Wilson. Don't let the title fool you; you might think this is just some knock-off Black supremacist pseudo-black panther throw back. It is not. This is 900 pages of some of

the most thought provoking and intellectual material you will ever read on self-empowerment and dealing with the lingering effects of American hegemony towards people of African descent. It's a history of the

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The Paper Needs Your Help!!

We're Looking For
Dedicated and Responsible Individuals
Who are Interested on Joining The Paper's Editorial Staff

Come Visit Us in NAC 1/118 or Email us at thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu

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Cross Cultural Dialogue

Regarding the economy, have you seen all the art work, posters, calendars, buttons, cups and t shirts that have been sold? In New York City and D.C., the majority of these items were sold by African Americans and brothers and sisters from the continent, giving them a huge financial boost in these moments of financial crisis. *The Amsterdam News* is another example of recent economic growth. Known as The New Black View (and celebrating 100 years of publication this year!) and the chief African American paper in New York City, *the Amsterdam News* has sold more copies after the Obama election and inauguration than ever before. Now it has more subscribers, and people that never bought the paper will begin to buy consistently. This not only affects the paper economically (they have faced bankruptcy in the past), but also impacts the surrounding neighborhoods as they continue to gain knowledge.

Reparations are not requested as people assume. Those that are in a real legal battle for reparations are not asking for checks in the mail. Although, it would not be unreasonable for our formally enslaved and sharecropping great grandparents who are still alive to receive monetary compensation, and we would love to see this happen before they die. The real reparations being asked for are in health, housing and education; we are asking that the reality of equality be brought forth. How can the Constitution be maximized, or more specifically, how do we pursue happiness when we are underfed, live in squalor, and/or have no meaningful schooling?

I'm mentioning all these concerns because

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Forty Years of News and Still Going Strong

in 1971 when *Tech News* aka *The Paper*, officially became *The Paper*.

The Paper was established to represent the voice and viewpoints of students that had been overlooked on campus prior to 1969. With the Civil Rights Movement still fresh in their minds, the Vietnam War underway and student rights as well as anti-war demonstrations occurring throughout the state, students had a lot to vent about and *The Paper* provided them the means to do so. It was the goal of *The Paper* to report issues that were pertinent to the student body, and was not being covered in other college newspapers or mainstream news; a goal we have continued to live by 40 years down the line.

Even when using the old typeset printing system, *The Paper* managed to print weekly issues – sometimes even breaking stories before the mainstream press – such as reporting on the uprising at the Attica prison weeks before the *New York Times* published their article. In short, if there was an issue plaguing the student body or the world as the students saw it, that issue would surely appear in the next issue of *The Paper*.

Among its many contributions to the Harlem and The City College community *The Paper* served as

sometimes the change goes beyond policy— often these factors are what truly engage the people and uplift them before policy is implemented. We already have many policies in place that simply need reinforcing on the local levels, and please note, just because policies exist does not mean they have been implemented.

When African Americans vote for someone we have had the habit of watching them more closely. Now there is increased diligence to hold government accountable and we have tangible expectations. Additionally, it is more difficult to ignore the public agenda when so many are hyped up, and asking each other “how are you going to get involved?”

President Obama has called all Americans to action, and I believe he will continue to put the government in the hands of the people. Not all will join, but enough have already, and our young people are different—they are excited and inquisitive. I have three God sons that NEVER would have REALLY believed me when I say, “You can be anything you want.” I still struggle to believe that message myself, but them believing is more important to me, and I see that change in belief occurring right before my eyes. Certainly as they get older I will make sure they have “accurate esteem” about their individual capabilities, and unfortunately will have to teach them what movements to avoid when stopped by police, but their self esteem, which is developing now, in our Obama era, is so important to them realizing their awesome potential. I hope this answers the question. Look out for more Cross Cultural Dialogue in *The Paper*.

a vital environment for budding journalists; setting in motion the journalism careers of various staffers such as Jerome Mondesire, Jane Tillman Irving, and A. Victoria Hunter. As it stands today *The Paper* remains to be the only organization that came into existence as a result of the 1969 student takeover and remains in the hands of students, a responsibility both challenging and rewarding.

It is easy for students to pick up a copy of *The Paper* and criticize what is printed, but what they fail to realize is the work it takes to keep this particular media entity running. Not much has changed since the 70s, while we have had faculty support in recent years, *The Paper* remains largely a student run organization and it has always been a struggle to keep it going.

In this day and age, the sheer necessity of utilizing all that has been left behind for future generations to benefit from has become clear. *The Paper* is no less important today than it was in 1969 and it is imperative that it remain our personal mission to ensure its survival throughout The City College community. We have been most successful when the students have made us a priority and we will only continue our success if it remains so.

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

Race Within a Race

By Courtney James

What associations come to mind with the phrase "race within a race?" Many relate it to the subdivision that has been created within many races; others relate it to the obstacles that an individual might personally face. I heard a young lady proclaim her ethnicity the other day, verifying the fact that she was Caribbean seemed to be an essential part of her. Maybe it was just the circumstance she was in at the time but nevertheless, it made me wonder. Why is it that most people of color usually state their ethnicity or their nationality instead of their actual race? When conversing about race, why do people look for specific differences that make them stand out from the rest? Many people who I have interviewed relate to the phrase "Race within a Race" as being a separation of one race into many. But then you can also think of it as being an actual challenge or obstacle getting in the way of accomplishing a goal or action.

On January 20th, 2009, our nation swore in its very first African American President. With the support of many, history has now been altered in a myriad of ways extending its hand to open possibilities of change and renewal. This occurrence has recently given me a better understanding of the potential our people have. We look around and sometimes all we see are bits and pieces of an action being enforced instead of the whole thing together. This also goes for the way we think as a whole. We constantly see subdivision being the main focus these days. It has led me to believe that at this most crucial point and time, many races have created division within. Without realizing it, we have individualized ourselves in so many ways dealing with race just so that we can stand out in any way possible. For instance, the young lady I mentioned seemed to think it was important to declare her identity as a Caribbean woman.

Every day you see people distinguishing themselves from their common race and it's not to say that this is wrong; the real suspicion I had about this subdivision is does it hurt races as a whole instead of pushing them forward in these rough times? Through seeing this joyous occasion of having Barack Obama as our President, we have come to understand how important sticking together as one has impacted our lives. It is mentioned in newspapers how much of a change President Obama will make in developing this country. Then you hear all of the hopeful remarks about his strength and how his victory will one day smash out all of the many stereotypical remarks made about people of color.

The phrase "Race within a Race" can be taken negatively. A novel I read last semester titled *Bodega Dreams* by Ernesto Quinonez presented how much of an impact categorizing race can have on society. In a section of this fictional novel, the main character spoke about how segmented his Latino people were. The way Cubans looked down on the Puerto Ricans in the story opened up the theme of isolation. This theme showed the intense differences Cubans and Puerto Ricans thought they had. In a short quote of the book Quinonez inserts an argument to push the theme of Isolation. He wrote "*Dejesus, the shorter and therefore fatter of the two officers showed his nails. You and me have nothing in common, he sneered. I'm Cuban, you're Puerto Rican.*" From this quote you can see the agonizing separation that the Latino culture has to deal with and this conflict also goes for other people of color.

The way many Caribbean people see themselves as different from African Americans is another example of the "Race within a Race." Will it take the coming of an African American President to change the way various races think? Even though we want to stand out amongst others, will isolation and division further push us away from our goals? It's up to those who think of this separation as wrong. As for now, we maintain hope in unity.

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month!

By Troy A. Urquhart

My name is Troy A. Urquhart and I am a post baccalaureate pre-med student here at The City College of New York. Roughly six years ago while working for a mid-sized gastroenterology medical practice, I was brainstorming an idea that would not only bring the practice greater visibility, but would serve to benefit underserved communities with resources concerning the benefit and necessity of undergoing a colonic screening. As an administrative assistant of the practice, my office was oddly enough located directly in front of the operating room where the colonic procedures took place. The physicians of the practice would often scream out my name over the booming sound of medical equipment and invite me in to observe some of their cases. I saw a

litany of medical conditions including but not limited to colonic polyps (an abnormal growth of tissue projecting from a mucous membrane in the colon), some of which appeared to be malignant, extracted from the large intestine. Unfortunately for some, the pathology report came back after evaluation revealing the tissue's malignancy, and those patients were either referred to the colorectal surgeon a flight above our office or to another specialist. Watching the patient's faces, as they re-acclimated themselves from the dissipating sedation, receive the news of an obscure and unfavorable finding was a disheartening experience. I was unable to complete my vision of service as different opportunities opened up and I began climbing the ladder in the clinical administrative field.

Over the years, I was compelled

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A Legacy of Wealth and Power

African-American experience in the United States and a lesson on how to strengthen your own financial situation, while building an economic power base in your own community.

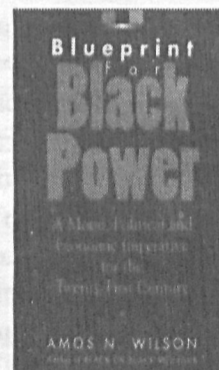
Unbeknownst to me, wealth building among people of African descent has been a tradition dating back to the Mali, Songhai, and Egyptian Empires. Some of these civilizations are almost 4000 years old and lasted for hundreds of years at a time, rivaling the length of the British and Roman Empire. How many of us are familiar with the history of "Black Wall Street?" When I talk about Black Wall Street, I'm not referring to The Game's hip hop record company; I'm talking about the Greenwood District of North Tulsa, Oklahoma that was given the name "Black Wall Street" during the early 1900's. It was one of the most prosperous black business districts in America, home to about 10,000 residents; this community had a mix of doctors, lawyers, entrepreneurs, realtors, and many other professionals. Greenwood was an independent economy; everything was produced and consumed within the community. The circulation of "black dollars" inside the community allowed the business district to thrive economically. Unfortunately, in a set of tragic events, a race riot broke out on June 1st, 1921 resulting in the complete destruction of Tulsa. For the sake of this discussion I will not get into the racial politics of how Tulsa was destroyed, but for more information you can read *Riot and Remembrance: the*

Tulsa Race War and Its Legacy by James S. Hirsch

At this present moment, African-American Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the total we spend on goods and services in 1 year in the United States, makes us the 13th or 14th largest economy in the world. Quite impressive, considering we are only 15% of the population in the United States of America. The GDP of African Americans will grow to 1.7 trillion dollars by 2010; add Latin Americans GDP and you have a wealth initiative greater than the GDP of Canadians. (Reuters 2008) Wealth and economic empowerment is not a new phenomenon in communities of African descent (African-Caribbean, African-American, African-Spanish, native African etc.) it's actually a tradition that

dates back to our ancestors thousands of years ago. Re-claiming this tradition of business development, entrepreneurialism, personal financial responsibility, small business resourcefulness, thriftiness, monetary intelligence, philanthropy, high saving practices, personal sacrifice, proper debt management, and community responsibility is a legacy we must continue.

Building wealth is no small task, but with the right intention, proper financial education, sacrifice, patience and due diligence, you can achieve your financial goals. There are a number of books that you should have in your financial toolkit. The philosophy is really simple. R.O.A.R.: Read | Observe | Apply | Repeat



TheLee Cez: What About Malcolm?

By Jeff Delices

From history to current events to opinions, mainstream America and media have the notion that what is white or makes the most money is right. *TheLee Cez* stop believing everything you see because presenters in suits sitting behind desks don't always speak the truth. *TheLee Cez* is the other side, not left or right, this side challenges the reader to form his or her opinion while thinking outside the box. *TheLee Cez* gives readers information; hidden, altered, or omitted from mainstream mediums in an effort to promote the ideas of a person instead of a people. With that said *TheLee Cez* is asking the question; **What About Malcolm?**

The election and inauguration has come and gone, the world has been kissed and touched by change. However, I noticed throughout the election; prior, during, and after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was consistently referenced in the press as a doppelganger to President Barack Obama. Yet, not once did the media acknowledge El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X) and his similarities to President Obama in their efforts to address America's ignorance towards the African in America. I understand Malcolm was more militant than Martin, but Malcolm's efforts also contributed to the rise of America's first Black President. Minister Malcolm X was just as influential in changing America's ideals as Dr. King yet receives little—if any—acknowledgement in discussions about America's current status. Remember, both lived in the same time and battled the same injustices.

Minister Malcolm and Dr. King disagreed on concepts and methods early on however, after Malcolm's pilgrimage known as the *Hajj*, his ideas had changed. Both men are leaders and icons to the African in America, most importantly, the young Black youth. Moreover, Minister Malcolm was not a hate-monger nor was Dr. King just a dreamer like the media portrays—they were human rights activists. The molding of history has caused

Malcolm's work and message to go unnoticed.

Minister Malcolm's life parallels President Obama, more than Dr. King's life. For instance, the Minister's mother was of mixed race, he was raised by a single parent (after his father was killed) and he was a victim of American vices, drugs and alcohol—all similar to President Obama. Malcolm was much more rebellious, as he went to jail for burglary; however, X rehabilitated himself while in prison, found *Allah* (God) with the help of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad (Peace Be Unto Him), and dedicated



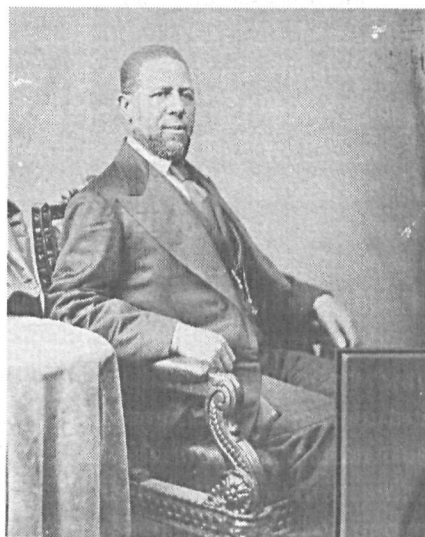
his life to changing the mentality of the African in America from ignorant to enlightened. Minister Malcolm married Betty Shabazz, had six beautiful daughters, was active in his community and was an accomplished orator. Why has he never been mentioned in comparison to Obama?

Malcolm's efforts and work are on the level of King, the youth respected and admired Minister Malcolm so much that he was invited to address the students of Harvard as well as other colleges and universities.

Moreover, President Obama has openly acknowledged Minister Malcolm's influence on his life in reference to being biracial in America and forming his personal identity. President Obama states in his memoir *Dreams from My Father*; "Only Malcolm X's autobiography seemed to offer something different. His repeated acts of self-creation spoke to me; the blunt poetry of his words, his unadorned insistence on respect, promised a new and uncompromising order; martial in its discipline, forged through sheer force of will." (Obama, p.86)

The comparisons of Dr. King to President Obama are unsubstantial and mold an incomplete image of the President. If the media is going to compare King to Obama then they need to throw in El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, as it is more accurate. I am not discrediting the achievements of neither King; I am only questioning the media's decision to not mention Malcolm X, once. El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz is the American Dream.

Honorable Mentions



Sen. Hiram R. Revels



Marian Anderson

This month we honor our Ancestors through Black History Month which began as one week in 1926. The original idea came from the great Dr. Carter G. Woodson (PhD from Harvard) who wanted to honor the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln in a week he named "Negro History Week."

Here is a short list of some greats you may or may not recognize that were either born on or are celebrated in this month. There are additional historical events that have and continue to take place in the short month of February, but here at *The Paper* we decided on honoring these specific influential figures and moments. This is an invitation to explore how they have contributed to our present and future history making. Also, feel free to write your own "honorable mention" anytime, you don't have to wait until next February!

Jackie Robinson Major League Baseball	January 31, 1919
(James) Langston Hughes	February 1, 1902
Rick James (James Ambrose Johnson Jr.)	February 1, 1948
William Ellsworth, Artist	February 2, 1914
Rosa Louise McCauley Parks	February 4, 1913
Robert Nesta Marley	February 6, 1945
Justina Ford M.D.	February 8, 1871
Roberta Evelyn Martin	February 12, 1907
Frederick Douglass	February 14, 1818
Fay Jackson	February 15, 1902
W.E. Burghardt Du Bois	February 23, 1868
Ida Cox	February 26, 1969
Marian Anderson	February 27, 1897
15th Amendment Passed	February 3, 1870
Murder of Minister Malcolm X	February 21, 1965
U.S. Sen. Hiram R. Revels Took Oath	February 25, 1870
NAACP Founded	February 12, 1909
Gabriel Prosser the Revolutionary enslaved African in America 1776 (since we couldn't find his exact birthday as is the case with many born into slavery, why not?)	
Matilda Sissieretta Joyner Jones 1869 (birthday is sometimes listed as January 5 but celebrations are also noted on February 26)	Opera Soprano Singer

Letter to King

Dear Dr. King,

Since you have been gone, a lot has happened and a lot is happening. New York City rioted and looted after you were killed. James Earl Ray was allegedly the shooter; he died in prison. Journalist Earl Caldwell was in Memphis and he says different. Nevertheless, you know how arrogant the White man can be. Bobby (Kennedy) was assassinated two months after you. Yes, they got another one and the Kennedys would face a few more tragedies after Bobby.

You became a worldwide icon, Dr. King. You have a holiday in your honor and many schools and streets are named in your honor. Recently, your name started to ring loudly again, with the election of Barack Hussein Obama as President of the U.S. of A. However, many Whites think "racial barriers" have fallen because of the nation's first African American President. Obama has been compared to you, I vehemently disagree. I say Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Barack Hussein Obama is Barack Hussein Obama. John Kennedy, was also, thrown into the mix, which I am also against. Aside from President Obama, New York appointed David Paterson as Governor and Sacramento elected former NBA player Kevin Johnson as Mayor. Both men are the first African Americans to hold their positions.

Besides racism and assassinations, many things occurred since your death. The seventies were about peace, feminism, and not following in the footsteps of "the man;" women burned bras and wore afros; pot usage was heavy, as well as, anti-war movements. The peace movement ended after John Lennon died. Lennon befriended Bobby Seale of the Panthers; with Lennon's money and Seale's strong personality, something had to be done. I know you would disagree with the Panthers in public, but in private, you loved their efforts.

The eighties gave life to crack, HIV/AIDS, and a pause in the movement. The rise of crack and AIDS killed many of our people. Many say, AIDS was man made—I believe that to be true. It moved from Africa to Haiti before becoming a worldwide epidemic. I don't think it is a coincidence that AIDS was discovered in our homeland and moved to the first Black country that gained its independence. The arrogant White man had to get his revenge, somehow. The crack epidemic is still killing our people to this very day. Many say, Ronald Reagan was behind the crack epidemic—I believe that to be true.

The nineties were less productive; the first Bush, Clinton, Puff Daddy, street gangs, tattoos and Pepsi controlled the nineties. Generation X proved to be hopeless and useless. The elders attack Generation Y for the mistakes of their children (Generation X.) I blame the elders for not being protective of their children. Overall, the movement for human rights was

modified and altered and now it is difficult to comprehend. Racism and sexism is hidden and difficult to fight. In addition, homophobia has been added to America's highlighted list of problems.

The Millennium was supposed to be the end of everything; nine years later, I see how pessimistic Americans can be. We became tougher and more ruthless when the twin towers fell and eight years later the country is still suffering from the tragedy. Many say, Bush was



behind 9/11—I believe that to be true. Dr. King, I am not gullible, just a conspiracy theorist.

Ossie Davis passed away a few years ago of natural causes (I know you know that.) Ruby is still kicking; she played Denzel Washington's mother in "American Gangster." Denzel is a phenomenal actor and respected by his peers and fans, but is rarely recognized for his work. Denzel received an Oscar for his role as a crooked cop, instead of his role as Malcolm X, Ruben "Hurricane" Carter or Coach Herman Boone. The irony is most crooked cops are White; many young African American men have been killed, shot, beaten, et cetera at the hands of police officers (PIGS) since your assassination.

Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson have marched in protest for the Africans in America; however, Jesse has not been the same since your death. Jesse has a fascination with cutting "nuts" and crying. Sharpton fights hard for the race, but money, well, can change any person. Aside from Sharpton and Jackson; Oprah Winfrey, Harry Belafonte, Bill Cosby, Louis Farrakhan, Tupac Shakur, Dr. Leonard Jefferies, Dr. James Small, many other Pan-Africanists (local and abroad) have contributed to changing the perception of the African in America.

The non-white person's plight continues in America and abroad; it is hard to change the minds of the uninformed. Ignorance is still Bliss, for the ignorant at least.

President Barack Hussein Obama's inauguration took place on January 20, 2009. Most African Americans believe their lives will change for the best. I think his election is a step in the right direction, but it's not enough. As a young African male in America, I am still the victim of discrimination from all people, not only white people. Obama's election has affected everyone around the world; Fidel Castro supported Obama as well as Muslims (Muslims are still disliked by many Americans.) It is amazing to watch people of all complexions supporting a man named Barack.

Earlier, I mentioned my dislike of the comparison between our newest President and yourself. I don't like the comparison because America tries to hide the fact that you were killed because you were fighting the injustice of Black people in America. The American media turned your legacy into a single speech, which I believe was more than a dream. Dr. King, you were not begging for equality; you were demanding it. Moreover, you were willing to FIGHT and die for the people. I know that, but many try to remove the true message. President Barack Obama is not fighting for Black people, he is fighting to change a nation facing an economic crisis, health insurance and foreign policy issues. President Obama has accomplished a goal, which was not a thought for most 40 years ago. However, he is not you. Barack Obama is his own person. In addition, you should not be forgotten. I wish AMERICA would acknowledge and be honest about all your efforts and struggle.

Dr. King, your work was not in vain and your supporters will carry on your beliefs.

Sincerely,
Jeff Delices

Attention Students:
It's Time for You to Join

The Paper

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or Visit **NAC/118**

AUTHORIZED USE OF THE N WORD!

By Taqiyya Haden

Authorized use of the N Word is not only about a writer finding favor with certain ways the word is used, but is also a call to action for us to pay attention to the words we use, how we use them and why we use them.

The poem I chose for this month's issue is "Niggers Are Scared of Revolution," produced by The Last Poets on the self titled album released first in 1970, performed by Umar Bin Hassan. Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones) has referred to The Last Poets as "prototype rappers." I wish more rappers of today took notice of and studied their use of words.

This piece has been my favorite revolutionary poem since I first heard it and I implore you to look for it on youtube or myspace to hear it recited by the original writer. The rhythms and emotion with which he tells us about ourselves made me laugh and become very somber at points. The times have changed since this was written but what is interesting is how little we have changed as people. Unfortunately most are still scared of revolution but fortunately many still love ourselves.

I, Taqiyya Haden deem this authorized use of the term.

Niggers are scared of revolution

But niggers shouldn't be scared of revolution

Because revolution is nothing but change

And all niggers do is change

Niggers come in from work and change into pimping clothes

and hit the streets to make some quick change

Niggers change their hair from black to red to blond

and hope like hell their looks will change

Niggers kill other niggers

Just because one didn't receive the correct change

Niggers change from men to women, from women to men

Niggers change, change, change

You hear niggers say

"Things are changing? Things are changing?"

Yeah, things are changing

Nigger things into Black nigger things

Black nigger things that go through all kinds of changes

The change in the day that makes them rant and rave

Black Power! Black Power!

And the change that comes over them at night, as they sigh and moan:

Ooh White thighs, ooh, white thighs

Niggers always goin' through bullshit change

But when it comes for real change,

Niggers are scared of revolution.

Niggers are actors, ooh niggers are actors

Niggers act like they are in a hurry

to catch the first act of the 'Great White Hope'

Niggers try to act like Malcolm did

But when the white man doesn't react

toward them like he did Malcolm

Niggers want to act violent

Niggers act so coooool and slick

causing white people to say:

What makes them niggers act like that?

Niggers act like you ain't never seen nobody act before

But when it comes to acting out revolutionary causes

Niggers say: 'I can't dig them actions!'

Niggers are scared of revolution.

Niggers are very untogether people

Niggers talk about getting high and riding around in 'els'

Niggers should get high and ride to hell

Niggers talk about pimping

Pimping what

Pimping yours, pimping mine

Just to be pimping, is a helluva line

Niggers are very untogether people

Niggers talk about the mind

Talk about: "My mind is stronger than yours"

"I got that bitch's mind uptight!"

Niggers don't know a damn thing about the mind

Or they'd be right

Niggers are scared of revolution.

Niggers fuck. Niggers fuck, fuck, fuck

Niggers love the word fuck

They think they so fuckin' cute

They fuck you around

The first thing they say when they're mad is 'Fuck it'

You play a little too much with them

They say 'Fuck you'

When it's time to TCB,

Niggers are somewhere fucking

Try to be nice to them, they fuck over you

Niggers don't realize while they doin' all this fucking

They're getting fucked around

But when they do realize it's too late

So all niggers do is just get fucked up

Niggers talk about fucking

Fuckin' that, fuckin' this, fuckin' yours, fuckin' my sis

Not knowing what they're fucking for

They ain't fucking for love and appreciation

Just fucking to be fucking.

Niggers fuck white thighs, black thighs, brown thighs, yellow thighs

Niggers fuck ankles when they run out of thighs

Niggers fuck Sally, Linda, and Sue

And if you don't watch out

Niggers will fuck you!

Niggers would fuck 'Fuck' if it could be fucked

But when it comes to fucking for revolutionary causes

Niggers say 'Fuck revolution!'

Niggers are scared of revolution.

Niggers are players, ooh niggers are players,

Niggers play football, baseball and basketball

while the white man is cuttin' off their balls

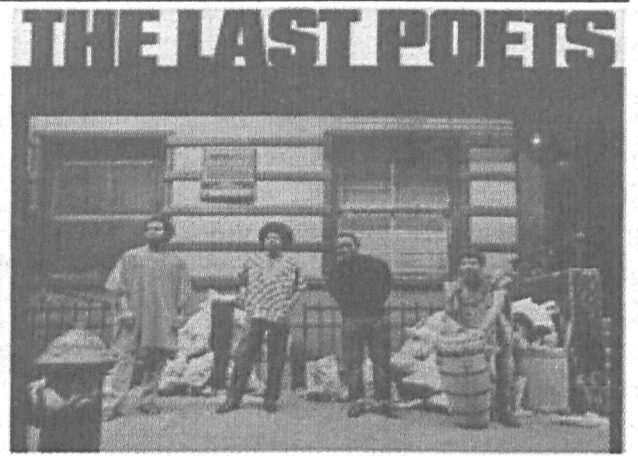
When the nigger's play ain't tight enough

to play with some black thighs,

Niggers play with white thighs

to see if they still have some play left

And when there ain't no white thighs to play



with

Niggers play with themselves

Niggers will tell you they're ready to be liberated

But when you say 'Let's go take our liberation'

Niggers reply: 'Ooh I was just playin'

Niggers are playing with revolution and losing

Niggers are scared of revolution.

Niggers do a lot of shootin'

Niggers do a lot of shootin'

Niggers shoot off at the mouth

Niggers shoot pool, Niggers cut around the corner and shoot down the street

Niggers shoot craps, cee-lo

Niggers shoot dope into their arm

Niggers shoot sharp glances at white women

Niggers shoot guns and rifles on New Year's Eve

A new year that is coming in

When white police will do more shooting at them

Where are niggers when the revolution needs some shots!?

Yeah, you know. Niggers are somewhere shootin' the shit

Niggers are scared of revolution.

Niggers are lovers, niggers are lovers

Niggers love to see Clark Gable make love to Marilyn Monroe

Niggers love to see Tarzan fuck over the natives

Niggers love to hear the Lone Ranger yell "High Ho Silver!"

Niggers love commercials, niggers love commercials

Oh how niggers love commercials:

"You can take niggers out of the country, but

you can't take the country out of niggers

Niggers are lovers, niggers are lovers, niggers are lovers

Niggers loved to hear Malcolm rap

Niggers loved to hear Malcolm rap

Niggers loved to hear Malcolm rap

But they didn't love Malcolm

Niggers love everything but themselves

Niggers love everything but themselves

But I'm a lover too, yeah I'm a lover too

because I love niggers,

yes I love niggers

Because niggers are me

And I should only love that which is part of me

I love to see niggers go through changes

Love to see niggers act

Love to see niggers make them plays and shoot that shit

But there is one thing about niggers I do not love

Niggers are scared of revolution.

Expressions

O of many...

If Obama had joined a gang where would he be?
If Obama wore his jeans below
waist exposing his O
would you vote for him?

If Obama had never went to class
where would he be?

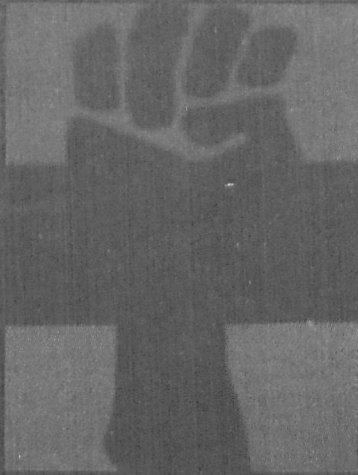
If Obama never cared to marry and stand by his
wife and children
would you want to be where he is?

Obama my Brother thank you for being you!
Black, white, father, teacher, husband
where are our plans what's our dreams,
he still has more
while so many of us, content just gettin on the back
of the bus without
payin a fare and without a destination and where
are we going?

I am in line since you're not going or rather
just have not made up your mind
I hold your spot and am prayerful for

From Kenya to Kingston back to Harlem,
DC, Chicago or Hawaii
Obama, Obama thanks for the shoes a bit too big
but I am growing.

Fajro Martin



Healing

I am still a child
longing for a mother's touch
her arms to reach out to
without frowns or exasperation.

She had let go of my hand
than ran to snatch it back
but it was too late.

I barely held balance on my two feet;
wobbling through happiness
latching on to a red sadness
I let pain replace my dinner
and became a hermit to life.

Now, embracing woman hood
I greet the mornings with a kiss
and drink life with a crazy straw
it has its drowning points still
and when that happens I feel like
all I really need is a band-aid
with a kiss to make it all better.

Naeema J. Muhammad



The Gift

I have heard the songs of fairies as they reveled in the fresh dew of a blossoming
flower.

Today, you ask me to listen to the awkward noises of the quarrelling neighbors in their
struggle for power.

I have seen angel dust sprinkled from heaven, as a blanket around a sleeping newborn
babe.

Today, I stand face to face with the garbage produced in the pits of the city and you
wonder why I complain.

I have lain on beds of clouds, with stars to illuminate my dreams.

Tonight, you congratulate yourself that you have given me a cot in the corner of a
drafty room, with a candle that flickers every time I breathe.

Karen Wright

"The noblest spirit is most strongly
attracted by the love of glory."
James Baldwin

"Out of suffering have emerged the
strongest souls; the most massive characters
are seared with scars."

Khalil Gibran

Are We Still Sick?

Are we still sick massa
Not we, but you
Cause if you is, then we is needin' a tissue
As a slave, we was caught
Some died as we fought
as ya'll taught the rest
There was no home if we left
Just illiterate stress
And thoughts that weren't worth thinking
mammie and uncle tom stayed
As bucks got tough
coons wanted to get paid
And pickinies gave birth to mutts
So they wouldn't have to slave
Light skin house niggers, to this very day,
Jealous of the rape, a division was made

Are we sick massa?

After getting ya kicks
whipped & stung
we ran, some hung
Trees wore blood diamonds
And black gold
Like a cool noose necklace piece
Not of Jesus, just a nephew, niece
Profit capital of people ownership
Now you do it without the whip

Are we still sick massa?

Cater to your ever need
chicken noodle soup
Or nigga smoking some weed
Envision dangerous killas on tv
Pimpin baskets of biscuit bitches
For crackers to give um cheese
And rat city is BET
So we get played
Now you want to own ya massa's slaves
Massacre the masses for massa's sake
Because Hov gets played
Owners don't have photo shoots on display
of themselves but of their maids
To distract a large audience
Of who's the target

Are we still sick massa?

For trying to fix it
Like King, Panthers, X, Assata, Pac, and Gong Rasta, or am I wrong for
reminiscing?
While we in another depression
My bad, it's a recession
Tell me, how did you brain wash us
To make us care so much
About faces instead of our placement
What more could we do
Cause when you're sick,
We ask if we sick too
So are we
still sick
massa?

Inf'o Da Poet

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Of American Celebrities: The Unsung Heroes of the Bush Era

By Okumu Owuor

Thanks to George Bush's arrogant and imprudent leadership, the last eight years have truly been some of the worst for the United States, particularly regarding its image around the world. Even with the election of the new president, many of us still cannot resist the temptation of taking another stroll down memory lane, looking back at this era of errors, giving it a last jeer before jotting it on the dark pages of history, and trashing it in the eerie side of our memory box. Surprisingly though, Bush still does not come close to the clique of world's worst leaders whose names have legibly punctuated history books. Such categorization is reserved for the likes of Hitler, Mussolini and even Mugabe. Of course these three were/are notorious dictators but that is not the only reason the outgoing president has had a free pass. With nose diving popularity ratings and innumerable cases of diplomatic faux pas, it remains startling that our 'Iron man' cannot make it to the tablet of the condemned. Unknown to most of us is the existence of a crop of individuals who have done more than the ambassadors to keep the U.S. popular. These same people can be directly credited with holding America's head high amidst the strongest gales of criticism and open hatred in the last eight years. But do we know these silent ambassadors?

We call them *celebrities*, *stars*, *entertainers*, *hotties* etc. and we have had a cycle of them for decades. Even with the beaming adjectives adjacent their names, it has never crossed some of our minds that these individuals could breach the boundaries of the entertainment world and cross over to become the greatest surrogate diplomats of the United States. Ordinarily, people do not believe that the charisma and caliber in Hollywood can be translocated to political circles. In fact, we have submerged ourselves into intentional oblivion, advertently restricting our minds to think that our *celebrities* are no more than theatre rats. I believe that this notion is abstract in every sense and has to be stopped. The diplomatic vitality of our *entertainers* is indispensable and can't be pushed underfoot if this country is to remain great. I'm not saying that we don't recognize the Hollywood *stars*, of course we do, but I think it is time for their natural diplomatic prowess to be publicly honored and put to use. Maybe a few examples will serve to help you fathom what I'm trying to purvey. For many foreigners, the mention of America only conjures up images of *stars* dancing in front of mammoth crowds with loose clothes and alluring eyes or appearing on their TV screens as actors. To others, this is the only reason they still appreciate America while they loathe the Iraq war and scorn America's dominance over the world. Without raw statistics to back up these statements, I'm sure that omnipresent

common sense will inform you to not argue against this near-fact. The cosmic influence of Hollywood around the world is a matter closed to any reasonable debate but there's been little recognition given to this influence beyond the entertainment industry. It is this last reality that compels me to compose a dirge.

All over the world, many people (and rightly so) despise America for its repressive policies; paradoxically these same people adore American *celebrities* almost to the point of worshipping them. This irony, likely unintentional, is the most candid portrayal of the cardinal role that our *hotties* play to keep us at the bosom of the international community. It has insulated the perpetrators of the U.S.'s inconsiderate agendas from much harsher characterization. The image of Hollywood deflects from the ugliness of American leadership and in turn cools the darting sparks from American critics whose mouths are like canons of fire. When these same critics appreciate some American citizens, it is tantamount to respecting the whole of America including its leaders. That marries with the principle of *esprit de corps*, each is a part of the whole and therefore a representative of the whole. Peruse through a foreign newspaper today and you will see the strong worded editorials rebuking America's actions in Iraq countered by tones of other articles and snaps applauding the pretty, sassy damsels of Hollywood. Some foreign papers have dedicated large columns of their dailies and invested a great deal of their time to update themselves on what transpires in the lives of the likes of Jolie, Cruise, Kidman and Denzel. Perchance it is because they think that Hollywood depicts the truth of America and its culture. The supposed kindness, loveliness and likeability of our *celebrities* undoes the combative and patronizing approach that America has always given to global affairs and this contradiction has done a lot to salvage the dipping popularity of America in the world especially during the G.W.B's years.

Far from the U.S., you may have heard of George Clooney's and Don Cheadle's involvement in the campaign to end genocide in the world. Both have been featured in a documentary and a movie (respectively) depicting the genocides in Rwanda and Darfur. They have gone the yonder side and are now United Nation's goodwill ambassadors who have avidly volunteered to stomach the burden of teaching the public on the need of upholding human dignity. Some months ago, I also read that the renowned actor cum "environmentalist" Leonardo DiCaprio had moved to an environmentally friendly apartment in Manhattan. Of course this may sound like a joke, but it would be unjustly punitive if these aspects of our *stars'* achievements were to be archived in the back shelves of the library and forgotten. It is harsh to think that we never admire our Hollywood stars for being environmentalists or human rights activists. We have relegated them to the role of marionettes

even when they prove to be more than just Oscars and Grammys.

Although their beauty may have obfuscated their substantial roles in our society, I hope that the plastic mentality will change now that almost everything else is changing in America. To break the ice, let's ask the new president to consider appointing Paris Hilton to some diplomatic position like the Under-Secretary of State for African Affairs or as a White House Advisor. After all did he not receive their support with open hands? We managed to put up with the Toxic Texan for eight years and nothing will shoo us from our own lovely Paris. Maybe that will also be the smartest way to appreciate the selfless efforts of our *stars* and reward the youth whose votes tilted the election in favor of Obama.

Events at City

FEBRUARY

To be Black in America Today

Tuesday 2/24

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Hoffman Student Lounge

Morning Chats

Wednesday 2/25

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Hoffman Student Lounge

Closing Black History Month Event

Thursday 2/26

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Hoffman Student Lounge

Dominican Republic Independence Day

Thursday 2/26

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

NAC Ballroom

MARCH

Opening Women History Month Ceremony

Tuesday 3/03

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Hoffman Student Lounge

Diversity Cultural Fair

Tuesday 3/10

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

NAC Ballroom

Domestic Violence Workshop

Thursday 3/12

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Hoffman Student Lounge

Film: Women Empowerment

Thursday 3/19

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Hoffman Student Lounge

Don't Walk By

By Adele Scott

As we all head back to school by foot or by train, wrapped in woolen hats, tight-fitted gloves and silky scarves to escape the freezing winter weather, how often do we encounter men and women who have to spend these nights alone with no heated homes or quilted beds? When we walk to school, they are often sitting alone on the park benches trying to stay warm using layered blankets, or moving slowly down the streets with heavy shopping bags or metal shopping carts. When we take the subway we see them trying to get a few hours of rest aboard the heated cars amidst the bustling students and business people and hearing the rings of closing doors. They have no home and no place to go. Why does this have to be?

It doesn't. This is the question and answer that sparked a group of inspired residents of New

York who decided that the time has come where "just walking by" is not enough. The time has come to offer help and find others to support the homeless of New York.

In fall 2008, several churches and rescue missions met to discuss this issue. They named themselves the "N.Y.C. Rescue Alliance" and include The Relief Bus, The New York City Rescue Mission, Street Light Ministries, Street LIFE Mission and the Bowery Mission. They began a large outreach effort for the homeless and have spent every Saturday this past month volunteering their time to seek out the homeless throughout Manhattan. Naming themselves the "Don't Walk By" campaign, they search the lighted streets and go under every dark bridge and corner that they find.

This organization has recruited over 1000 volunteers to help search and bring the men and women back to local churches where the homeless receive warm clothing, a meal and are encouraged

to find placement in residential programs.

This is not only a positive action helping the city's homeless men and women, it has proven to be an excellent experience for many people, young and old who volunteer in this service. Fred Mow, from The Bowery Mission who has helped on several of these nightly rescue missions says: "The goal of the "Don't Walk By" campaign is twofold; to provide life changing services to the homeless of course but also to create a great opportunity and experience for volunteers. We all see homeless men and women everyday on the train or in the park but many New Yorkers do not know what they can do about it. Perhaps that is why they walk by. Now through the NYC Rescue Alliance many can become involved with addressing this escalating problem in our city."

Continued from front page

Street and Places Renamed to Honor Black Icons and New Yorkers

Jacob Morris of the Harlem Historical Society, who has been a tireless advocate for getting the city to recognize Black New Yorkers with renaming of boulevards, streets, avenues, roads, squares, drives, ways, places, circles, corners, terraces, and plazas, spoke at length about several of those being honored. "This round of renaming of streets will remake the map of New York City," he began, before citing a few names from the list. "Paul Robeson was one of America's most distinguished citizens, excelling in the realm of politics, sports, music, theater, and literature. I am grateful that we have finally come around to giving him what he deserves."

Morris was equally eloquent about Charles Hamilton Houston, who he deemed a formidable and key player in the Civil Rights Movement. And he praised A. Philip Randolph as the nation's foremost labor leader and architect of the struggle

for justice and equal rights. "And 126th Street from Seventh to Eighth avenues, in back of the Apollo Theater, will be named in tribute to James Brown," he added.

Victor Swinton, president of the Guardians Association of the NYPD, accompanied by historian Roger L. Abel, author of "The Black Shields," devoted his few moments at the microphone to Sam Battle, the city's first Black police officer. Dr. Carolyn Brockington was on hand to commemorate her grandaunt, Ella Baker. "Among the many things she did in the civil and human rights movement was to help found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee," she said. And there wasn't enough time to mention her work exposing the Bronx slave market, as well as her unstinting dedication to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Nor was there time to single out the

magnificent legacies left by Shirley Chisholm, the Rev. Dr. William Augustus Jones, and such Latin American notables as Rev. Manuel T. Sanchez, Lorenzo Da Ponte, and William E. Rios.

Overall, of those honored, said Councilman Robert Jackson, "They represent and reflect the diversity of our community." That diversity included Clarence Robertson of Weeksville, who was there to acknowledge his gratitude for honoring that historic Brooklyn site.

Several police officers and firemen were also honored with a renamed street, including Shawn Powell, Richard Sherry, Thomas A. Casoria, James "Pop" Colon, Edmund F. Lewis, and Louis Martinez.

Originally printed in the January 8-January 14, 2009 of THE NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS

Continued from page 3

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month!

not to discard any of the leg work I amassed concerning my idea. I had a box in my basement covered with dust and full of paperwork; the box read, "A March in March." This was to be the name of the event, as colon cancer awareness month is in March and I thought a walk or marathon would complement the existing event nicely.

After matriculating to The City College, I joined the Black Male Initiative (BMI), a program designed to increase, encourage, and support the inclusion and educational success of the underrepresented group in higher education. I brought my idea to Dr. Claude Braithwaite who is the head of BMI and professor here at City; he thought that the event would not only serve to benefit the underserved community of Harlem, but also the student body and faculty alike. Unbeknownst to me at the time, "A Relay For Life" (RFL), an event created and sponsored by the American Cancer Society (ACS), had its first annual and successful event here at The City College in March of 2008. After speaking with the RFL student committee and the ACS, I realized that "A March in March" would

fit in neatly, and the fact that "A Relay For Life" was to be held in the month of March was an added benefit.

As such, "A March in March" will be a collaborative event with "A Relay For Life" and is slated for March 20, 2009 in the Nat Holman Gymnasium starting at 5:00pm and ending 8:00am the following morning! I am really excited to see the vision come to fruition and there will be live entertainment thanks to Jazz musicians who are members of BMI and the talented middle school students of the Harlem Children's Zone. This event is open to the public. The vision of "A March in March" has remained the same and will be a fundraising and colon cancer awareness event designed to provide resources concerning colon cancer prevention through early detection via an endoscopic evaluation by a board certified gastroenterologist. Many in the minority community avoid facing this procedure because of its invasiveness as 'the scope' presents a factor of intimidation. We at BMI want to inform the public that if a colonic polyp is left unattended and not

extracted that it could progress to the cancerous stage. We hope to show that colon cancer is easily preventable if an endoscopic evaluation is done in a timely manner.

We invite all students and faculty to come and celebrate in the collaborative effort between "A March in March" and "A Relay For Life" in a fun filled night of celebration, hope and progress in the fight against cancer. In addition to the City College event, the American Cancer Society will host "A Relay For Life" in 139 other communities across New York and 4,800 other communities across America. One day, we at BMI hope that "A March in March" will have the same terrific effect. To find out more about "A Relay For Life" in your community, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

For more information concerning the Black Male Initiative and A March in March, please contact the office of Dr. Claude Braithwaite at 212-650-8851 or feel free to email at either cbrathwaite@ccny.cuny.edu or mesnard@ccny.cuny.edu Join us to help save lives!

Innovators In Their Field

By Sara Morsi



Dr. Daniel Hale Williams
(January 18, 1858 – August 4, 1931)

Daniel Hale Williams was born in Holisburg, Pennsylvania in 1856. His father died when he was only eight years old and Williams often remembered his father telling him "We colored people must cultivate the mind." Daniel worked hard and became an apprentice in the office of a medical doctor. After two years of training, he became aware of the discriminatory problems faced by African American nurses and doctors who could not practice in all White hospitals. His solution to this problem of discrimination was to organize and establish his own training school and hospital open to all citizens.

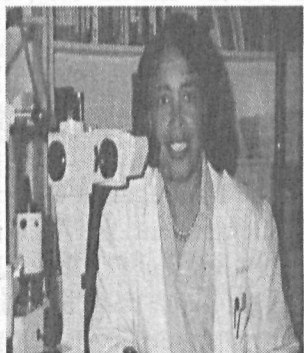
After repeated appeals to the African American community, he was able to open the first interracial hospital in the United States. The new institution called Provident Hospital opened in January of 1891 in Chicago. Provident started as a small 12-bed hospital and grew into a medical facility with more than 65 beds.

Dr. Daniel Hale Williams made history once again in 1893 when he performed the first successful open-heart surgery at Provident Hospital. It was an audacious operation because it was the first time a surgeon had successfully entered the chest cavity and operated on the heart. The patient, James Cornish, recovered and showed no signs of infection. He lived for another fifty years and died in 1943. Considering the fact that he did not have the advantage of modern medical facilities, this was a remarkable feat.

During the year 1894, Dr. Williams was appointed chief surgeon at Freedmen's hospital in Washington D.C. This famous hospital was established after the Civil War and housed 200 beds. Dr. Williams helped adjust the medical center and contributed to its significance in African American history. He developed a national reputation as an excellent surgeon and medical administrator.

Dr. Patricia Era Bath
(November 4, 1942 -)

Patricia Era Bath was born in Harlem in 1942. She is the daughter of Rupert Bath, a merchant seaman, and Gladys Bath, a homemaker. Her parents encouraged her to believe in her dreams and focus on education. Hence, Bath developed a love of books, travel and science. She excelled at school and at age 16 was chosen to participate in a summer program at Yeshiva University. She gained fame for deriving a mathematical equation for predicting cancer cell growth. She entered Hunter College to study chemistry and physics.



At Harlem Hospital, where there were many African American patients, nearly half were blind or visually impaired. However, at Columbia Eye Clinic, with a different patient demographic, the blindness rate was markedly lower. She came to this conclusion based on a study she did early and decided it was mainly due to many African Americans' lack of access to ophthalmic care. Because of this, Bath established a new discipline known as Community Ophthalmology, which is studied and practiced globally. She also helped bring eye surgery services to Harlem Hospital's Eye Clinic, which has since helped to treat and cure thousands of patients.

In 1981, Dr. Bath invented her most prized work, the Laserphaco Probe, a surgical tool that uses a laser to vaporize cataracts via a tiny, 1-millimeter insertion into a patient's eye. After using the Laserphaco Probe to remove a cataract, the patient's lens can be removed and a replacement lens inserted. Her idea was ahead of its time. Cataracts are cloudy blemishes that commonly form in people's eye lenses, especially in men and women over the age of sixty. Eventually, cataracts can lead to blindness. Typically these have been treated with a somewhat callous and risky traditional surgical procedure, but Bath's innovative device utilizes a faster, more accurate and minimally invasive technique.

Dr. Bath's continues to fight blindness and her best moment occurred on a humanitarian mission to North Africa. There she recovered the sight of a woman who had been blind for thirty years by implanting a kerato prosthesis. Dr. Bath has said "*The ability to restore sight is the ultimate reward.*"

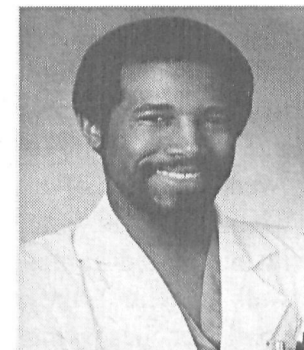
Dr. Charles Drew (June 3, 1904 – April 1, 1950)

Charles Richard Drew was born in Washington, D.C. on June 3, 1904. He received a B.A. from Amherst College in 1926 where he excelled in both athletics and academics. He went on to earn an M.D. and a Master of Surgery degree from McGill University Medical School in Montreal in 1933. He became interested in blood research while working with British professor Dr. John Beattie in Montreal, and he pursued this interest as an intern and resident doctor during his two years at Montreal General Hospital.

In 1935, Dr. Charles Drew became an instructor of pathology at Howard University College of Medicine. Three years later he was granted a research fellowship by the Rockefeller Foundation, and spent two years at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. During this time he also supervised the blood plasma division of the Blood Transfusion Association of New York City. During the course of his research he found that by separating the liquid red blood cells from the near solid plasma and freezing the two separately, blood could be preserved and recovered at a later date. Dr. Drew's system for the storing of blood plasma changed the medical profession forever and helped



to save countless lives.



Ben Carson (September 18, 1951 -)

Benjamin Carson was born in Detroit, Michigan. His mother Sonya had dropped out of the third grade, and married when she was only 13. When Benjamin Carson was only eight, his parents divorced, and Mrs. Carson was left to raise Benjamin and his older brother, Curtis, on her own. She worked at two to three jobs at a time to provide for her boys. However, Benjamin and his brother fell far behind in school and by the fifth grade Benjamin was at the bottom of his class. When his mother saw his failing grades, she was determined to turn her sons' lives around. She limited the boys' television watching and refused to let them outside to play until they had finished their homework each day.

After several weeks, Carson astonished his classmates by identifying rock samples his teacher had brought to class. He recognized them from one of the books he had read. Carson continued to amaze his classmates with his knowledge and within a year he was at the top of his class. After graduating with honors from high school, he attended Yale University, where he earned a degree in Psychology.

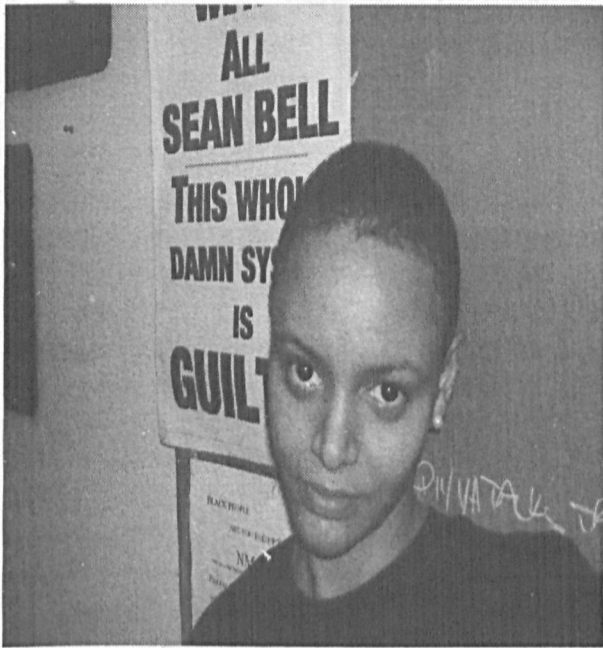
From Yale, he went to the Medical School of the University of Michigan, where his interest shifted from psychiatry to neurosurgery. His magnificent hand-eye coordination and three-dimensional analytical skills made him a fantastic surgeon. After medical school he became a neurosurgery resident at Johns Hopkins Hospital. At age 32, he became the hospital's Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery.

In 1987, Dr. Benjamin Carson had to perform an operation to separate a pair of Siamese twins. The Binder twins were born joined at the back of the head. Separating twins joined in this way had always failed during operation usually resulting in the death of one or both of the infants. He agreed to carry out the operation and a 70-member surgical team, led by Dr. Carson, worked for 22 hours. In the end, the twins were successfully separated and survived independently of each other.

His other surgical innovations have included the first intra-uterine procedure to relieve pressure on the brain of a hydrocephalic fetal twin, and a hemispherectomy, in which an infant suffering from uncontrollable seizures has half of its brain removed. This stops the seizures, and the remaining half of the brain compensates for the missing hemisphere.

In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Carson is in constant demand as a public speaker. In fact, in 2008, Dr. Benjamin Carson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Taqiyya Talks Truth: Facebook, a Waste of Time or an Exercise for My Mind?



With Taqiyya Haden

An English writer Thomas Paine is quoted as saying “... *such is the irresistible nature of truth, that all it asks, and all it wants is the liberty of appearing.*”

What is Truth and can it be defined by one person? NO! So why has Taqiyya decided that she can talk truth?

I am only willing to share what is sincerely my truth. *Taqiyya Talks Truth* tells a portion of my reality with hopes of inspiring you to evaluate your own truths. Essentially truth seems to be mutable and definitely will vary according to the individuals and topics discussed. From menial subjects to things that instantly make your pressure rise truths are made relevant when shared.

We are in the era of finding facts or ‘truth’ on the internet; things like starting research, finding recipes, updating news stories or sharing celebrity gossip has never been easier. With that in mind my first truthful revelation is the question of the popular cyber space called facebook. I asked myself, “Is it a waste of time or an exercise for my mind?”

I resisted joining facebook and only ventured on towards the end of last semester, now I know what I was afraid of. The time consumed in discussion is irreplaceable and too often I can’t stop myself from engaging in angry rants with complete strangers who have somehow “touched a nerve.”

Loving debate, I visit groups that have relevant discussions to my studies or work. Facebook is teaching me to be more concise in my writing; no one wants to read a long thread, so points will be overlooked if you take too long to make them. Engaging in group discussions is an opportunity to hone debate skills. The ease with which one can check their sources, since already online, is very tempting to the fact finder in me.

In efforts to calm the nerd in me that is constantly saying, “What are you doing? That’s not schoolwork!” I have made it a point to invite

friends that post meaningful content and most of my facebook friends share common interests so their posts can be an invaluable source: where the protest is happening, what politician to flood with calls and even social gatherings for an artistic activist. Some consistently update news stories from around the world and others update me on political events in the Harlem community.

Since I don’t watch much TV, there are important events and stories I would have missed without facebooking. Sadly in the New Year my facebook friends brought the news that police brutality had set a tone of death to our young brothers. The stories I would not have heard on the news included; New Year’s Eve Robert Tolan (23), the son of former MLB Robbie Tolan was shot by undercover cops in front of his family home in Texas. As I write this article he is in the hospital with the bullet still in his liver while the officer is on administrative leave. Within hours two more young brothers were unreasonably shot and killed by police. Adolph Grimes III (22) in New Orleans was gunned down and killed by undercover cops on New Year’s Day and the more popular case of Oscar Grant III also (22) in Oakland California shot dead by an officer in uniform.

In the case of Oscar Grant III cell phones recorded video (impromptu cop watch) that led to the arrest of the officer— who is charged with murder— but will the other families see any justice? While Nicole Paultre-Bell continues to solicit support for Sean Bell, (she is trying to get a street named after him so he will be remembered) we are now all Oscar Grant III and Adolf Grimes III!!

My favorite group for cultural learning and political discussion right now is “The Africa they never show you.” There, thought provoking questions are posed and I have been guilty of incessant arguing for African Americans when we get criticized as a group on the site. While reading frustratingly long rants on threads from around the world I pose my common question “what do you suggest we do?” This is where the ride inevitably gets tricky because it seems those spending the most time on facebook are obviously not out in the world fighting injustice. Opinions and debate are all good but ultimately I don’t care who broke the glass. I just want it picked up so I can take my shoes off.

With so many issues close to my heart – Harlem to Somalia, Iraq to Gaza, hungry children everywhere to the HIV/AIDS crisis in New York. How can I possibly expect to address my concerns in a significant way? What am I supposed to be doing about a particular issue? After posing these questions, I am reminded and inspired to think for myself. My answer, for now, is to write and spread the word, vote during local elections, get involved in a younger person’s life to stay informed. This is where

facebook can come in handy.

On a lighter note, when not engaging in intellectual or political battles, I join discussions on “Awesome people that are alone for no reason” and my favorite nonsense group so far— “People who secretly want to punch slow walking people in the back of the head.” We live in New York, and are often in a rush, we all can relate to that. Although on certain days I can be found guilty of being a slow walker.

Facebook is all about balance and maybe that is the key to life anyway. Cyber spaces were created for all sorts of reasons, and have given us access to countless people in a matter of minutes. This is something almost inconceivable— even I never thought it possible as a child, much less my parents or grandparents. So there is glory to it all, but like most things, in moderation.

My facebook friends may not mention it but I must—the year 2009 has many legacies to offer our ongoing Black history. There are many anniversaries of cultural centers and important events; congratulations to *The Amsterdam News* for 100 years as the New Black View. President Obama has aided in raising the sales of this pivotal paper, and I hope we continue to support them toward an endeavor to create the first national Black newspaper. Thank you to the students that protested and enforced demands on City College campus 40 years ago. Congratulations to *The Paper* for 40 years of offering opportunities to all students to voice their concerns or share stories. Congrats to Lindsie Augustin, our long time senior editor here at *The Paper*, who will be sorely missed since she graduates this semester. She is the most motivated and brilliant young woman this campus has seen maybe because she does not facebook as much as I do, if at all ☺.

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Cross Cultural Dialogue

By Taqiyya Haden

The Cross Cultural Dialogue has begun. This question was posed by a Nigerian brother currently living in London. He solicited African Americans to respond so I gladly obliged and I hope you will find his question interesting enough to come up with your own answers.

Beyond the euphoria of "Yes we can" and having a President who phenotypically reflects your kind, what are African Americans expecting from President Obama? Handouts and reparations aside (or perhaps not...), how will the presidency of Obama bring change to lives of African Americans in more areas that just "hope"? What policies has he enacted, or is he in the process of enacting that will serve notable benefit to the African American community? Will the development of government housed areas, or 'projects' be proposed? What will be done to address the 'criminal' and 'financial' divides that exist between the African American and greater American community? Or are you expecting nothing at all, just happy he's in charge? Would love to hear the view of African Americans and I'm happy to be corrected for any inaccuracies in the initial questions...

The question you ask is awesome! First off the messages of Yes We Can and Yes We Did have already created a shift in the mentality of all Americans, especially those that formally felt they had no place in government and usually refrained from voting. Since President Obama's election, the morale and self esteem of children of African and other descents have heightened. The message of Yes We Can has done more than change the attitudes of Americans— it has also given voters a sense of action and responsibility. "Handouts," a phrase that the uninformed use to describe welfare programs, have not been requested on a broad scale. Perhaps this is because public assistance has continued to disadvantage and disrupt our communities and welfare to work has consistently served more White Americans

anyway.

Education will be one of President Obama's priorities and has been a concern for African Americans for some time. Now even more educators and students are participating in making stronger demands on school administrators, I think because of the confidence they gained from him winning the vote. His presence continues to encourage Blacks and Whites in power to be more open to grassroots and other organizations for fair education practices affecting both teachers and students.

Policy changes are still developing and with government becoming more transparent, people are making more requests, such as the creation of a Cabinet member to specifically address race relations. Another suggestion has been to create an investigative bureau concerning police brutality, another huge issue for our community.

Political education and participation cannot be stressed enough, as we already have more children looking into government as a career. More students are asking questions such as "okay what power does he really have anyway?", "who will he put on the Supreme court?" and "will the Senate remain predominately White?" In addition, why have we had so few Blacks in the Senate? These questions show a shift in consciousness for our people.

The fact that President Obama married a bona fide African American woman and that they have brought her mother into the White House, has also made a major social impact. The self esteem of women of color, especially of darker skinned Black women in America, has been a struggle and our new First Lady has instilled pride in many women here. Contrary to popular belief, a successful Black man does not always marry White, or light, or "exotic"— groups with enticing labels which African American women have been excluded from. Michelle Obama's choosing to wear, and dress her children in, reasonably priced clothing is also shifting the mindset away from "I have to have 'things' to feel good about myself," putting money and materialism in its place!

Continued on page 2

SPORTS

Upcoming Games
(All dates are subject to change)

Men's Volleyball

2/19	Medgar Evers	7:00PM
2/21	Multimatch - Lehman	TBA
2/21	Multimatch- Baruch	TBA
2/26	York	7:00PM
2/28	St. Joseph's Brooklyn	TBA
3/3	Hunter	6:00PM
3/5	Philadelphia Biblical	7:00PM
3/7	Multimatch- City Tech	TBA
3/7	Multimatch- Medgar Evers	TBA
3/14	Medaille	1:00PM
3/14	Eastern Mennonite	3:00PM
3/17	Brooklyn	7:00PM

Women's Track

2/22	Princeton Invitational	TBA
2/27	NYU Fast Track Invite	1:00PM
2/22	Princeton Invitational	TBA
2/27	NYU Fast Track Invite	1:00PM

Men's Track

2/13	Lafayette-Rider Invitational	3:30PM
2/22	Princeton Invitational	TBA

Women's Fencing

2/15	EWFC Team Championships	TBA
2/22	Stevens Tech Invitational	TBA
2/28	NIWFA Championships	TBA
3/7	NCAA Northeast Regionals	TBA

Men's Baseball

2/15	St. Mary's College	12:00PM
2/16	St. Mary's College	2:00PM
2/21	Wesley College	12:00PM
2/27	Arcadia University	3:00PM
2/28	Neumann College	12:00PM
3/1	Washington College	12:00PM
3/6	Stockton College	3:30PM
3/7	Stockton College	12:00PM
3/8	Yeshiva University	12:00PM
3/14	Stevens Tech	12:00PM

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