

# The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Vol. 125 No. 3 November 2007

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

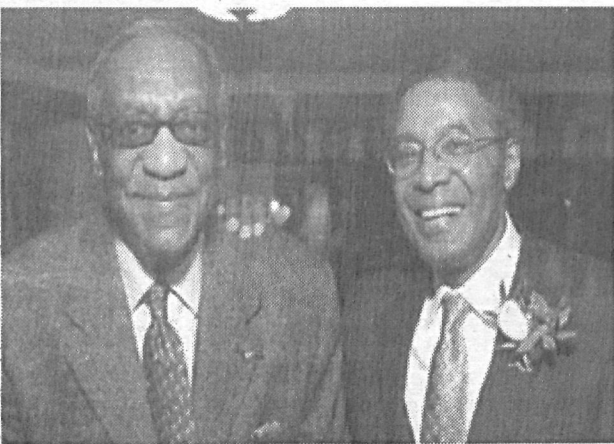
-Langston Hughes

## COME ON, PEOPLE!

By Easter Z. Wood

The Black community is in crisis – at least according to two people. In their telling new book *Come On People: On the Path from Victims to Victors*, Bill Cosby and Alvin F. Poussaint paint a grim picture of reality for many African Americans today. The book had been simultaneously lauded for being honest and critiqued for being too negative despite its attempts at offering suggestions for solving, if not solutions to, the problems it presents.

Due to his previous criticisms of the Black community, Cosby has borne the brunt of the negative commentary, but he and Poussaint stand



Cosby & Poussaint  
Photo Courtesy Harvard University

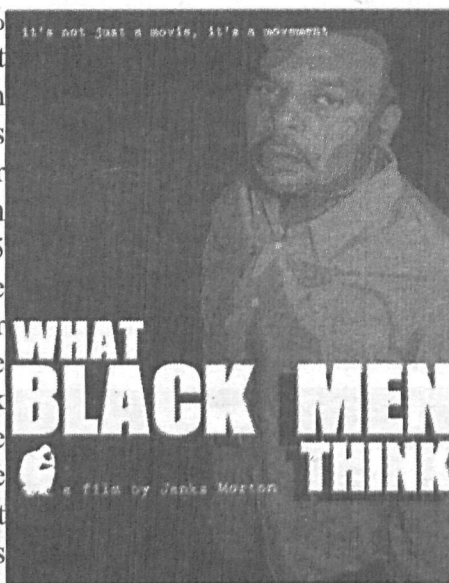
firmly behind their findings and propositions for improvement. The statistics are indeed daunting, starting with the state of Black families today: five out of six Black children were raised in two-parent homes in 1950, compared with today when 70% of Black children are being born out of wedlock and into single-parent homes, and less than two out of six are being raised in two-

parent homes.

After the family issues comes the disproportionate representation African Americans have in certain facets of society including incarceration, disease and education. Black people are approximately 12% of the United States population but make up 44% of the prison population and 41% of all the HIV/AIDS cases in the US. HIV/AIDS is the number one cause of death for Black women between the ages of 25 and 35 – homicide is the leading cause of death for Black men of the same age range. 50% of Black youth are either illiterate or reading below grade level and the drop-out rate for Black males is hovering around 50% which could be a contributing factor as to why one third of all homeless men in America are Black.

Numbers aside, there are several thought-provoking realities that Cosby and Poussaint brought to the forefront in *Come On People* and which they discussed with moderator Tim Russert on a special edition of *Meet the Press* on October 14, 2007 when the entire hour was devoted to discussion of their book. Due to the proliferation of single-parent homes, many Black

children, as Cosby pointed out, may never have seen a healthy example of male-female relations and many have never attended a wedding. Their idea of romance and inter-gender relations comes largely from hip-hop videos and trashy street novels, filled with casual sex, drug and alcohol use and violence.



Janks Morton's Documentary  
*What Black Men Think*

Additionally, due to the absence of many Black fathers, many young Black men and women suffer from what Cosby and Poussaint call "father hunger" – feelings which can affect self-esteem and self-worth. These feelings manifest largely as anger and violent behavior in males and as promiscuity in females, which may partially explain why young Black women easily dance and sing to lyrics that degrade them and why young Black men embrace lyrics and artists that promote violence and sexual objectification of women.

Critics say that Cosby, Poussaint and others and others like them put too much emphasis on personal responsibility and don't give enough

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### CCNY Hosts 2nd Annual BMI Conference

By Maurice Selby

On Friday October 5th, the African Burial Grounds Memorial was opened to the public with a day of ceremonial tributes and festivities. Everything culminated in a candlelight procession from Battery Park to Foley Square to honor the Africans that were brought to the Americas in bondage to essentially build the city of New York. That same day just a few miles away in The Great Hall of The City College of New York, hundreds gathered for the Second annual Black Male Initiative Conference to discuss the plight of Black males in higher education. Whether the coupling of these events on that particular day was planned or purely coincidental, it was a day of profound significance for Blacks in New York City and throughout the

country.

The opening of the African Burial Grounds addressed a poignant period in American history as the African people who helped build this country were finally acknowledged in a formal ceremonial burial and tribute. While this was long overdue, it served as the perfect event for the rebirth of optimism for Blacks in the U.S. And the BMI event at CCNY complemented the opening of the Burial Grounds as the future of African Americans in education was discussed in a public forum.

Throughout the country, much has been said concerning the lack of participation amongst Black males in higher education, but there haven't been many progressive movements to

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## CCNY Hosts 2nd Annual BMI Conference

address the problems and social ills contributing to this crisis. However, the CUNY sanctioned Black Male Initiative is perhaps the first organization devoted to addressing this problem with a concerted multi-disciplinary and grass-roots campaign. The Second Annual BMI Conference didn't simply serve as a forum for members of academia, but a forum for the surrounding community as well. There were many people in attendance with no official ties to the college or the university. "This problem with our Black men is something that everyone is aware of," said David Cook, a resident of Staten Island. "The bigger problem is that people don't get together to talk about it, that is why I'm here, I'm not afraid to confront it."

Trevor Dash, a former student of Piscataway New Jersey and resident of the city attended the conference to gain new insight into young men like himself who have difficulty adapting to the college environment, "I couldn't pass up the opportunity to hear what some of our most valuable minds had to say about this issue," said Mr. Dash of one of the event's

distinguished speakers. "We need to have people here to listen, learn, and lend their own experience and opinion to the conversation in order for us to make progress toward a solution to this problem."

Among the distinguished speakers was Dr. Gail Thompson, author of *Through Ebony Eyes: What Teachers Need to Know but are Afraid to Ask About African American Students* and Associate Professor at the Claremont Graduate University. Prominent legal theorist, Professor, and author of *All Deliberate Speed: Reflections on the First Half-Century of Brown v. Board of*

*Education*, Charles Ogletree Jr. was also in attendance and spoke of Black men being conditioned to enter the "school to prison pipeline" from the earliest point of formal schooling. The Reverend Dr. Calvin Butts was charged to deliver the afternoon keynote address and served as the perfect person to close out the event.

The events of that October day are now conflated in history, and may one day signify a turning point for Blacks as many important issues were addressed regarding the past, present, and future of not just African Americans, but the African Diaspora.

**"The Second Annual BMI Conference didn't simply serve as a forum for members of academia, but a forum for the surrounding community as well"**

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Continued from front page:

## COME ON, PEOPLE!

credence to the institutional racism that Blacks face on a daily basis. To this, Cosby responded that they understand and accept that racism is there and it has always been there – in more violent and insidious forms than it takes today – and yet our forefathers managed to persevere and overcome that we might be here today. Racism, they say, is a challenge – not an excuse for failure.

Janks Morton, producer of the documentary *What Black Men Think*, agrees with Cosby and Poussaint on many points – particularly their views on the family – but cautions readers of their book and any statistic-heavy publication to be wary and take all statistics with a grain of salt. He points out, for example, that despite findings to the contrary many people – mostly Black people – continue to cite the incorrect "statistic" that there are more Black men in prison than in college. Through independent census bureau research, Morton found that, in fact, of men aged 18-24 – which is the average college age – Black

men in college outnumber those in prison four to one. He also cites the problem with even presenting a statistic like this because men in prison can be of any age, whereas there is a specific age range typical to those in college. Aside from blatant misinformation, Morton believes that spouting these types of incorrect statistics support some of the negative views that many Blacks hold of themselves and those in their community which adds ammunition to what he calls the "civil war between [B]lack men and [B]lack women."

Cosby, Poussaint and Morton can all agree that there are definitely issues that still need to be addressed within our community, and all express the hope that these issues can be addressed and redressed with concerted effort. The effort, however, must not only be used to fix what's wrong, but to recognize what's right and not to forget to encourage the positive trends while discouraging the negative.

## The Paper

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*The Paper*  
Wants to Hear from YOU!!

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

### OUR MISSION

For over thirty years *The Paper* has served as a medium through which students, faculty and members of the local community can communicate. As a publication for people of African descent, The Paper focuses on pertinent issues facing the Black and Latino community as well as issues that are of relevance to people of all races and ethnicities. In addition, 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.

## Commentaries

# SHOW UP

By Jodie Alexander

The greatest challenge that faces the African American community is lack of unity, as it pertains to the desire to make life better for the community. African Americans have failed to “show up” for one another and to uplift the community. Individuals have resorted to stepping on one another to reach their desired destinations. We have forgotten the rallies, petitions, struggles and togetherness that the community once took part in. African Americans need to wake up out of our stupors, step outside of ourselves, and start considering ourselves as part of a whole. We need to realize that sitting around waiting for others to do something about problems that affect our community makes the community less powerful and more vulnerable to injustices.

We can start by staying on top of the problems that affect our community instead of complaining. If individuals come together from all cities, states, counties and boroughs, irrespective of gender, class, status or religion and stand on one accord, the community would be powerful beyond

*Sitting around waiting for others to do something about problems that affect our community makes the [Black] community less powerful and more vulnerable to injustices.*

measure. This power could then be executed in ways to deal with all the vices that affect the community. Nelson Mandela posed the question, “Who are you not to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous?” The Black community needs to ask itself the same question and answer it by saying that we will be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous. The only way the community can be all those things though, is if African Americans come to the realization that one individual cannot make lasting changes, but as a unified group our voices will be heard, and the community will find solutions to its problems.

It is in the act of “showing up” that African Americans can diminish adversity. I challenge African Americans to be more responsible. If one of our brothers or sisters is hurt, then we should all be hurt – if one has a problem, then we all should have a problem. If one is experiencing injustice, then we all experience injustice. “Show up” and “stamp out”. Show up for equality and stamp out injustice. Show up for education and stamp out racism. In all that it does, the community should be unified. One person cannot change the world, but that person can surely be apart of the movement that will. Black people: simply SHOW UP.

## Blocking Opportunity at CUNY

By Professor William Crain

Chancellor Matthew Goldstein plans to raise the cutoff scores on the Math SAT and other tests for admission to CUNY’s senior colleges. The plan appeals to many people. They believe that, among other things, higher test scores will improve CUNY’s image. But there is a more fundamental matter at stake. It concerns social justice.

A just society would give everyone an equal opportunity for an excellent education, but this isn’t how our society works. Some children are born into affluent families and receive an excellent preparation for college. Others are not so fortunate. Many experience discrimination and must attend overcrowded, underfunded schools—schools that cannot adequately prepare them for college. Under these circumstances, justice requires institutions to step in and provide opportunities to those who have been denied them. This is what CUNY did under Open Admissions. It gave many students—especially students of color—their first chance for a first-rate education.

But many influential people attacked Open Admissions, saying it lowered the quality of CUNY’s senior colleges. It is true that CUNY had to offer more remedial classes, but most senior college students completed their remediation within a year, and they went on to perform as well as students who hadn’t needed remediation. What’s more, the colleges continued to excel on accepted measures of excellence. For example, between 1983 and 1992, in the heart of the Open Admissions era, 860 CCNY graduates went on to earn Ph.D. degrees—a number higher than that for CCNY’s prestigious neighbor, Columbia College. The Open Admissions policy demonstrated that if

we give students opportunities, they can achieve stunning success.

But the opponents of Open Admissions eventually won, and in 1999 the Board of Trustees voted to ban remediation at the senior colleges. The trustees ruled that students must pass standardized tests to enter the colleges. According to this policy, it doesn’t matter how good a student’s grades and other credentials might be; every student must pass the tests to gain admission. Many faculty members tried to tell the trustees that the standardized tests are poor indicators of students’ potentials and the test-dominated policy would disproportionately hurt students of color, but the trustees wouldn’t listen.

The test-dominated admission policy has, indeed, had a negative impact on students of color. Since 1999, three of CUNY’s most prestigious colleges—City, Baruch, and Hunter—have suffered sharp declines in black enrollment. Between 1999 and 2006, City College experienced an 11-point drop in the percentage of black students in the undergraduate student body. Now CUNY’s Chancellor plans to raise the tests’ cutoff scores, which is likely to make the situation even worse.

Currently, students must receive a 480 on the Math SAT. Beginning in the Spring 2009, applicants will need a 500 at six senior colleges and a 510 at the five “top tier” colleges (City, Baruch, Hunter, Queens, and Brooklyn Colleges). Students can substitute passing scores on the Math Compass skills test, but the cutoff scores for this test will rise, too. Students also can substitute a 75 on the Math Regents exam, a score that will remain the same until the state reviews the test. Higher cutoff scores on the reading and writing tests will follow.

CUNY’s Central Administration says that

the new cutoff scores will ensure that students are prepared for college-level work. But studies by the Rand Corporation and CUNY’s Office of Institutional Research have found that the SAT and other CUNY tests are weak or worthless predictors of success at our university. A recent study at CCNY found that the SAT didn’t predict success among SEEK students at all. (High school grades did predict success, but the SAT did not.)

There also is growing concern that the SAT is seriously biased. In a 2003 issue of the Harvard Educational Review, Roy O. Freedle presented data that suggests that the SAT’s language favors white, middle class students. Jay Rosner of the Princeton Review Foundation suggests that the SAT test-makers unknowingly reject items on which students of color outperform white students. The same problems might plague other standardized tests.

CUNY should stop giving make-or-break power to standardized tests. It should allow each college to holistically consider test scores along with many factors, including high school grades, motivation, and special talents. And since no set of variables can predict college success very well, colleges should always lean toward giving students a chance.

CUNY was founded to serve social justice—to give opportunities to those disenfranchised by our society. It initially opened college doors to working class European immigrants, then to women, and then to people of color. The plan to raise cutoff scores on questionable standardized tests will unjustly shut the doors on many people of color. Our college should vigorously oppose the plan.

William Crain is professor of psychology at The City College. His email is Billcrain@aol.com

# Caribbean Beat

Compiled by Martina Brissett

This is the section that's dedicated to keeping you up to date with the politics and cultural happenings of the Caribbean. We'll also give you facts and portions of history from countries in the region. If you're representing the Caribbean, or you would like to read about a particular country, just email us at [thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu).

## Bahamas

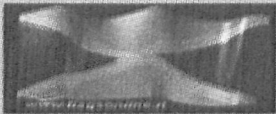


Team Bahamas recently visited three schools to inform students on the importance of education and self confidence. Each member of Team Bahamas has at least a Bachelor's degree. Although athletics helped many of them earn their degrees, they still encouraged the students to stay on top of their studies. The lectures, which featured Minister of State for Youth and Sports Bryan Woodside, emphasized building champions on all fronts of the Bahamas.

*Bahamian culture is a hybrid of African and European influences. Perhaps its greatest expression is a rhythmic form of music called Junkanoo. Aside from Junkanoo, other indigenous forms of music include rake and scrape, calypso, and a unique form of hymnal, known internationally through the music of the late Joseph Spence.*

[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

## Jamaica



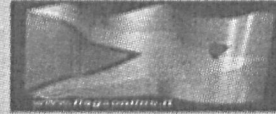
As a result of a 67 percent increase on the world price of wheat between January September of this year, the Jamaican market place will now see a 30 percent increase on counter flour and a 20 percent increase on baking flour. Indeed alarming, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Investment Karl Samuda informed citizens that the price increase will be affecting the entire Caribbean community. He is urging citizens to be more frugal in what they eat, and opt for growing their own food on their farms rather than relying entirely on foreign imports.

*The Rastafarian movement was founded in Jamaica. This Back to Africa movement believes that Haile Selassie of Ethiopia was God incarnate, the returned black Messiah,*

*come to take the lost Twelve Tribes of Israel back to live with him in Holy Mount Zion in a world of perfect peace, love and harmony. Bob Marley, a convert to the faith, spread the message of Rastafari to the world. There are now estimated to be more than a million Rastafarians throughout the world.*

[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

## Guyana

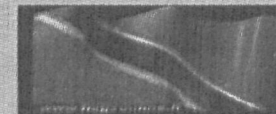


On October 16th, Guyana celebrated World Food Day under the theme 'The Right to Food'. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization has recognized World Food Day since 1979 and Guyanese are especially thrilled this year because of their achievements in food security. The recent progress of Guyana as a whole is as a result of improvements in agriculture. Prime Minister Samuel Hinds and Minister of Agriculture, Robert Persaud, along with others in the department were at the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA), where the celebrations took place. Minister Persaud made it known that Guyana has aided in the reduced level of world hunger. He also commented saying, "It is a testament of the resolute and indomitable spirit of Guyana's farmers, that despite so many climatic and natural setbacks, we continue to be a net exporter of food in recent years."

*Guyana played host to international cricket matches as part of the 2007 Cricket World Cup (CWC). A brand new 15,000 seat stadium, Providence Stadium, was built in time for the World Cup, and was ready for the beginning of matches on March 28th. History was made on that date at the first international game of CWC 2007 held at the stadium when Lasith Malinga of the Sri Lanka team performed a helmet trick, or double hat-trick (four wickets in four consecutive deliveries).*

[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

## Trinidad & Tobago



The Trinidad and Tobago government is proposing new divisions to diversify the economy, promote the expansion of businesses and create new jobs. The ultimate goal though is to raise the country's status to one of a well developed country. Here is a list of the news sectors and their functions

from the Trinidad and Tobago Government Portal [fastforward.tt](http://fastforward.tt) Vision: (courtesy of [www.caribseek.com](http://www.caribseek.com))

The Seafood Industry Development Company Limited, has a mandate to improve the regulatory, institutional and competitive environment of the fish and fish processing industry, through the empowerment of coastal communities, the creation of opportunities for business development, and the hosting of programmes on food safety among industry stakeholders.

The Trinidad and Film Company Limited, will facilitate the expansion of the local film industry, and the creation of employment and revenue in this sector.

The Trinidad and Tobago Entertainment Company Limited, has the tasks of; ensuring that the country is identified as the home of steelpan, calypso, soca, parang and chutney; promoting the arts and culture of Trinidad and Tobago abroad; assisting entertainers and artistes with project funding; and facilitating private sector investment.

The Government Human Resource Services Company Limited (GHRSL) is mandated to fill the skills gap that exist in the public service of Trinidad and Tobago by recruiting professionals (nationals and non-nationals) from abroad, and provide human resource strategic and technical services to public sector departments.

The Government Information Services Limited (GISL) will facilitate the transmission and dissemination of information about government's policies and programmes, and promote the development of quality local programming.

*Trinidad was first settled by pre-agricultural Archaic people at least 7,000 years ag, making it the earliest-settled part of the Caribbean. Ceramic-using agriculturalists settled Trinidad around 250 BCE and then moved further up the Lesser Antillean chain.*

[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

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# Expressions

*I Musta' Fit the Description Again*

*By Kahlil Almustafa*

*I guess I musta' fit  
the description again,  
five foot ten, male,  
African-American.*

*That must be why the Korean man*

*follows me from aisle to aisle  
with that suspecting smile.*

*And that must be why  
I always get stopped  
by the cops a lot.*

*I musta' fit the description  
of someone who mugged you before.*

*I musta' looked like the guy  
that tried to rob your store.*

*As I walk by old women  
grabbing their purses  
firmly with both hands.*

*I wonder what makes them think that way,*

*I just can't understand.*

*I don't see myself that way  
when I look at my reflection.*

*I see myself in a different way  
fitting another description:  
a doctor, lawyer, scientist,  
astronaut or engineer,  
a poet, author, singer  
or maybe a multimillionaire.*

*That's the description  
that I'm fitting in,  
five foot ten, male,  
African-American.*

## Events @ City

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>Panel Discussions on the Film "Supersize Me"</b>
<b>DATE</b>	11/15
<b>TIME</b>	12:00pm
<b>ADDRESS</b>	138th Street & Convent Avenue
<b>PHONE</b>	212-650-5002
<b>BUILDING</b>	NAC/ Hoffman Student Lounge
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	A health conscious discussion on having a healthier society.
<b>ADMISSION</b>	Free
<b>EVENT</b>	<b>"Breaking Down Barriers or Racism and Sexism in Medicine"</b>
<b>DATE</b>	11/15
<b>TIME</b>	6:00pm
<b>ADDRESS</b>	Cohen Library /160 Convent Avenue
<b>PHONE</b>	212-650-7271
<b>BUILDING</b>	NAC / Cohen Library Archives, 5th Floor
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	A panel discussion with Sophie David Alumni, featuring Traci Burgess, MD, Nicola Davis, MD, MS and Suzette Oyeku, MD, MPH In cooperation with the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians A National Library of Medicine/American Library Association Exhibition October 10 - November 30, 2007 - Cohen Library Atrium
<b>ADMISSION</b>	Free
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.ccnycuny.edu/library/events.html">http://www.ccnycuny.edu/library/events.html</a>
<b>EVENT</b>	<b>Undergraduate Open House</b>
<b>DATE</b>	11/17
<b>TIME</b>	10:00am - 1:30pm
<b>ADDRESS</b>	160 Convent Avenue Manhattan
<b>PHONE</b>	212-650-6981
<b>BUILDING</b>	Shepard Hall / The Great Hall
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Prospective students will meet the faculty, learn about our many academic majors and tour our beautiful campus.
<b>ADMISSION</b>	Free
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.ccnycuny.edu/admissions">http://www.ccnycuny.edu/admissions</a>
<b>EVENT</b>	<b>Blood Drive</b>
<b>DATE</b>	11/21
<b>TIME</b>	10:00am- 4:00pm
<b>ADDRESS</b>	138th & Convent Ave
<b>PHONE</b>	212-650-7517
<b>BUILDING</b>	NAC/ Ballroom
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Your very own CCNY Volunteer Emergency Squad (VES) and Caduceus Society is holding a blood drive to help those who are in need. If you have any question(s), feel free to contact us. VES: x7517 Caduceus: x7837
<b>ADMISSION</b>	Free

## Black Women Still Feel the "Double Negative" of Racial and Gender Discrimination

By Andrew Ricketts

In an astonishing turn, Americans have decided to become familiar with racism in its ubiquitous, menacing form. The news outlets treat racism as the bane that it is, but also dare to bring it to the fore, after rumblings that it had been conquered for so many years. The stories of note have one fact in common: Black women are the whipping post of biased institutions across the nation. They bear the brunt of the most severe public floggings that, until now, had not been publicized. Of course, this country has an inglorious tradition of mistreatment concerning Black women. Slave



Professor Madonna Constantine

owners reserved special sexual abuse for Black women, the preferred breeders on the plantation. Thomas Jefferson typified the hypocritical rift between the principles of liberty and the perpetual degradation of Black female slaves, whom he described in animal terms in regard to their supposed libidinous habits. And so, when high-profile cases of sexual assault and harassment surface, such as the Duke men's lacrosse team's indiscretions with an exotic dancer, or the New York Knicks' head coach and his choice epithets disguised as "racial terms of endearment," it seems like another drop in an overflowing bucket. The television audience in particular has been exposed to this incredulous string of civil abuses without proper context, but with all of the related shock value. CNN aired a brief, brutal segment early this month of Shelwanda Riley, a 15-year-old Floridian, being detained by police officer Daniel Gilroy, who imposed his will on Riley with a punch to the temple and a mist of pepper spray. Ms. Riley was being arrested for breaking the Fort Pierce town curfew. The images were startling at least, heart-breaking at most. But anchorman Anderson Cooper broached neither the race nor the gender of the "suspect" (a Black woman) although her struggle was evidently symbolic of the one that many of her peers face. In another decidedly gruesome tale, Megan Williams of West Virginia was found beaten and sodomized in the torture chamber of deviant locals, where she,

among other atrocities, was forced to perform sexual acts on her son. The news story circulated as most do, through the scrolling headlines of a temporal media rotation. The attackers used slurs to berate Williams and took turns beating her over the course of a week. Carmen Williams, the adoptive mother of the victim, claims she has a mental disability which caused her to follow the strangers to their home, thinking she would be attending a party.

Professor Madonna Constantine of Columbia University Teacher's College was subject to a more figurative form of invective, but a damaging gesture all the same. She arrived at her office door to find a noose hanging there.

It was no mistake that Constantine's

classes on racial equity in education gave the assailants motive to single her out.

Unfortunately, none of these stories elicited the same outrage among Black leaders as the Jena Six case of Louisiana. The disjunctive tendency among media figures and politicians to treat Black women as an afterthought, to neglect their double plight, is one of the remaining hindrances in our nation's comprehension of the race problem. Even with the clamor surrounding the terms "racism" and "hate crime," we have collectively ignored the primary causes of the phenomena. As Black women ascend to greater heights of social prominence, there is a presumption that the biases against them, and the injurious effects of those biases, have somehow disappeared. These attention-grabbing headlines underscore a larger issue: racism is no ghost of a distant past, nor is sexism. Our only means of addressing these problems is to make them public. The news media cannot fairly thrust these issues into the public forum, however. Citizens, politicians, educators, workers, parents and students must make the topics of racism and sexism take on new life in renewed dialogues. Instead of mucking up the process by eliminating the vernacular of hate, we must pursue the history of it and grind it down to its nefarious core. For this to happen, Black women must be at the forefront of the mission and be acknowledged for their efforts and sacrifices.



The City College of New York's Yearbook,

## Microcosm

Is looking for people who are interested in being part of the CCNY Microcosm Staff

If you're truly dedicated to the project there will be a general meeting on November 16, 2007, during club hours 12pm-2pm, in NAC 1/209

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# Mickey Factz: Forward Ever, Backwards Never

Interview by Kelly Brown

Introduction by Easter Z. Wood

When asked if he aims to bring real hip hop back, Mickey Factz replies: "Why bring it back when I can move it forward?" And move it forward he does. A native of the Bronx, Mickey Factz's futuristic sounds are somewhat reminiscent of the unique rhythms of artists like the Neptunes and Lupe Fiasco, but Factz has a flavor all his own. The Paper's new music correspondent, Kelly Brown, had the pleasure of interviewing Factz on the day before his new album, *Heaven's Fallout*, dropped. Always fun, full of laughs, and a definite flirt, he and Kelly have a spirited interview where he speaks about life, his music and the things he just can't live without.

**KELLY:** your album is dropping tomorrow. Are you excited about it?  
**MR FACTZ:** Of course. I put a lot of work into this project. I feel like I've elevated as a musician and writer after this album. Are you going to download Ms. Luv?

**Most definitely! You already know I'm in there at 12:01. So tell me more about the album. What were you trying to achieve with it?**  
 (laughs) It's dropping tomorrow some time... just so you know (laughs)

**(laughs) I know!**  
 On this album, it's really personal and experimental. In my opinion I've found my sound and style with this album. People are going to gravitate to it cause it sounds like no other album or release that has come out. It's a sound changing album.

**I know that you work a lot with Precize. Was it just you and him again for this project?**  
 Precize is my right hand man, but on this project it was a collective GFC project. We had everybody pitching in ideas as well as insight on songs. Everybody in GFC is a song. Me and my Engineer Whytebone sang on some music as well as produced. You ask that cause you like Precize's beats huh?

**(laughs) I do happen to like his beats... but enough about me! So you sang? What song did you do that on? I didn't know you could do that...**  
 Yea I got my Marvin Gaye on in a song called "Jacob's Ladder" which is a very inspirational song. One of my favorites on the CD. It speaks volumes.

**Speak a little more on that song...**  
 It's a very... life changing song. It asks us questions: What is our purpose in life? Not just mine, but us as humans. It asks a lot of tough, challenging questions that we all need to ask ourselves. I answered and interpreted them in my own way. I hope the listeners can follow or come up with their own answers. Make sure you tell me yours Ms. Luv (laughs)

**You already know I will... what are some**

**of your favorite songs on the album?**  
 "Talk Yo Ish", "Jacob's Ladder", "Access Granted", "Nothing Left" and "Breathe". I love the whole thing though.

**Understandable. You make great music. And I'm not being biased with that statement (laughs)... tell me a little about your album artwork. It's very... unique. You better not be... We hired Jayson Atienza to bring the music to a visual medium. Its basically abstract art. An angel kneeling in between a gate. I love the picture!**

**OOO!!! I see it now!! (laughs) Yessss!!**

**I've been wondering for a couple weeks what that was (laughs) I'm glad I've uncovered the killer of JFK for you!**

**(laughs) So I heard you went to China. How was that experience??**  
 Yes, it was absolutely wonderful. A culture shock for real! So much different from the people to the landscapes to the food to the mannerisms to the money. I loved it. And I was treated like Jay-Z.

**Red carpet treatment huh... Way beyond red carpet. Try Gold Carpet.**

**Ok back to the album! You created your version of Royksopp's "Remind Me". How did that come about?**  
 Steve-O gets credit for that. I was reluctant to write it cause I was tryna finish "Flashback". But Steve was so focused on the song cause it was a commercial and it was on the radio. So I did it and it was a hit. And somebody tried to steal it. Shout out to my mans and 'em. You know who you are.

**Oh no! We wont get into that... really good song though. I love those Geico commercials (laughs) Ditto kiddo.**

**Word on the street is, you just recently did a Trace Magazine photo shoot. I'm jealous! (laughs) What was that like?**  
 That was exhilarating. It let me know I'm on the right path. We had soooooo much fun and soooooo many laughs that day. It was just another day in the life of a GFC member.

**It looks like you guys are having the time of your lives... what is a day in the life of Mickey Factz like?**  
 Studio sessions, Meetings, Jokes, Shopping, Laughing, Sidekicking, Promoting. Alllllll day long.

**Yeah I know for a fact that you grind. Hard. I admire that about you kid (laughs) What are some**

**things that you cant live without?**  
 My sidekick and women. Sheesh

**(laughs) Typical!... I had the pleasure of catching you perform at the Knitting Factory earlier this month. You have this amazing, infectious energy. Do you prefer studio sessions or live performances?**  
 I prefer live performances. It just sets me in a mood to be free. All my frustrations are let out on stage. I try to capture the crowd. Still got a lot to work on though. What about my show did you like?

**Like I mentioned, your energy is insanely infectious. You know how to keep the crowd entertained and involved, and you just seem to be in your own world. It's really great to watch... when is the next time the people can catch you perform live?**  
 Very soon. Keep your eyes open... Me and you might have a live show (laughs)

**(laughs) ANYWAY... at your performance, your song "Talk Yo Ish" got the crowd hype. Please tell the people more about this song... I was trying to create a song that just**

sounded so different from everything that's out there. So I decided to sample some stuff and put it together and that's what I got. The response on it is amazing. I need everybody to hear this song.

**The song is on your Myspace page, correct?**

Yes. The Myspace page is [www.myspace.com/itzmickey](http://www.myspace.com/itzmickey). The song is soooooooooo infectious. TRUST ME!

**This year is closing out soon... what are your plans for '08?**  
 Promoting *Heavens Fallout* and the 3 singles we have. "Talk Yo Ish", "Rockin & Rollin" and "The Supra Song". Also preparing the album. Shooting video's and getting signed.

**I hear that. Well good luck with everything. A label will sign you if they know what's good for them! Exactly, and I'ma sign you.**

**(laughs) seriously though, you're truly talented. Everything will fall into place. Any last words before you sign out??**  
*Heavens Fallout* is dropping for free on [GFCNY.COM](http://GFCNY.COM)

**Any shout outs?**  
 Everybody!  
*Heavens Fallout* dropped October 31.  
**Free download at [GFCNY.com](http://GFCNY.com)**

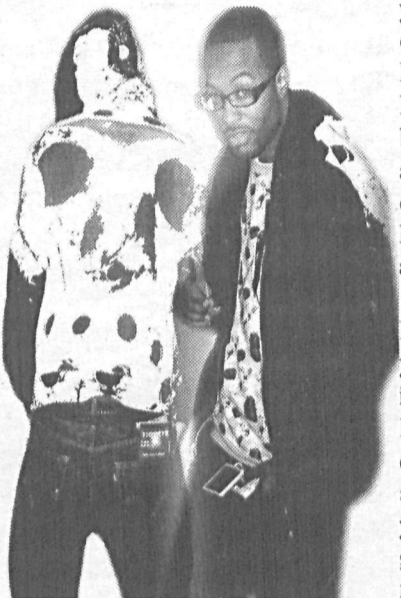


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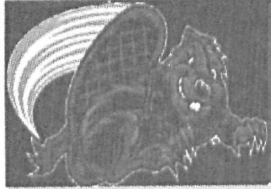
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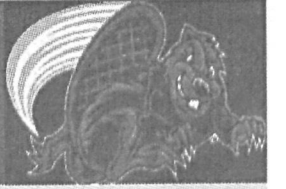
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# Sports



## Yankees Face Uncertain Future

By Nicholas Chin

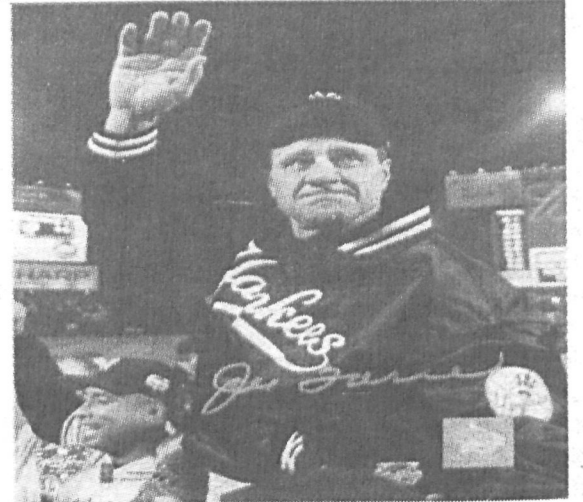
The 2007 Baseball season began, and immediately, New York Yankee fans were disappointed. After signing Roger Clemens, it was supposed to be a huge benefit for the team, one that should have ensured the Yankees to a tenth straight division title; and with pitcher Andy Pettite back from the Houston Astros, their pitching rotation was set. Not to mention they had the best batting lineup in baseball, with Alex Rodriguez, the highest paid player in sports history, leading the pack. But as it turned out, the Yankees got off to a slow start.

Their record after fifty games was 21-29, and they were second to last place in the American League East division but by All-Star break, their record was even. And with a turn of luck in the second half of the season, the Yankees had the best record after the All-Star break, 51-25. This spurred them to win the Wild Card position, although they did not win the division. They even managed to catch up to the Boston Red Sox, cutting their lead from 17 games to 2 games at the end of the season. And as the season progressed, things started to click for the Yankees. Rodriguez gave them a boost, posting career numbers in runs batted in (RBI) while leading his team in homeruns. With the way the Yankees finished the season, fans had high hopes for the postseason.

However, in the division series against the Cleveland Indians, they collapsed and lost, 3-1. Rodriguez and Derek Jeter, only had 7 hits in 32 at-bats, while missing opportunities to drive in runs. The Indians' pitching shut down the Yankees.

By the time Cleveland was up 2 games to none, Yankees Owner George Steinbrenner threatened that Manager Joe Torre would not be back next year if they did not win the series. Stating, "His job is on the line. I think we're paying him a lot of money. He's the highest-paid manager in baseball, so I don't think we'd take him back if we don't win this series." The threat of losing Torre put a temporary boost in the team by Game 3, when they won 8-4. But after losing Game 4, the season was done.

Since then, Steinbrenner has been thinking over the decision of whether or not to fire Torre, regardless of all the people expressing their desire for Torre to stay. David Ortiz, Designated Hitter of the Boston Red Sox, and Terry Francona, Manager of the Red Sox, have both said that they wish to see Torre next year. Steinbrenner's decision could also influence the decisions of the players such as Mariano Rivera, the Yankees' closer for the past ten years, who are free agents, and have a choice of whether or not they would like to come back. Pettite also has the option of coming back for another year if he so chooses to. Another pitcher who has the option to leave is Clemens, who only signed on for a one-year deal. He also wants Torre to stay for at least one more year, since this year is the last year that Yankee Stadium will be the stadium for the Yankees. Jorge Posada, the catcher for the Yankees, is not sure whether he will come back for another season as well. He has expressed his desire to play for Torre again, since he has played for him his entire career. And Rodriguez has the option of testing the free agent market, to see how much money he can make. He has expressed his desire to play for the Yankees next



season, but his agent, Scott Boras, wants him to become a free agent.

Because Steinbrenner has opted to treat this situation like a business, so have many of the players. With many players unsure if they will come back, the Yankees' future is left uncertain. This off-season will be an interesting one, where we will see what happens as the Yankees either start to rebuild and go in a new direction, or if they resign Torre and those big-named players who want to come back under his authority.

*Editorial Note: Since the date of publication Torre was offer a one year deal for \$5 million, and he could earned an additional \$3 million as well as a guaranteed \$8 million salary in year 2009 if he got the Yankees to the World Series next season. Torre rejected the offer and recently signed as manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers.*

*Joe Girardi, former major league catcher has accepted the title as the 32<sup>nd</sup> manager of the Yankees.*

### Upcoming Games

(All games are subject to change)			
	12-30	Williams	1:00pm
	01-03	John Jay	7:00pm
<b>Women's Fencing</b>			
11-11	Vassar		10:00am
11-13	Queens College		6:00pm
12-02	NIWEA Christmas		
	Invitational		8:30am
<b>Men's Basketball</b>			
11-17	SUNY Cortland		4:00pm
11-20	Rutgers- Newark		7:00pm
11-24	St. Joseph's L.I.		12:00pm
11-27	Stevens Tech		7:00pm
11-28	William Patterson		1:00pm
12-01	Hunter		7:30pm
12-04	City Tech		7:00pm
12-06	City Tech		7:00pm
12-08	Endicott		1:00pm
12-10	Yeshiva		8:00pm
12-13	Baruch		7:30pm
<b>Women's Basketball</b>			
11-17	Amherst Tournament		6:00pm
11-18	Amherst Tournament		TBA
11-20	Rutgers-Newark		5:00pm
11-24	St Joseph's L.I.		2:00pm
11-27	USMMA		7:00pm
11-28	Purchase		7:00pm
12-04	Hunter		5:30pm
12-06	City Tech		5:00pm
12-08	Centenary		3:00pm
12-13	Baruch		5:30pm
12-15	Keuka		12:00pm
01-03	John Jay		5:00pm

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