

The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Volume 3

November 2005

"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

The Fight To Save Tookie

By Maurice Selby

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Stan "Tookie" Williams is the author of award-winning children's books and has continued to be instrumental in steering youth away from gang violence.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California has the life of Stan Tookie Williams in his hands. He will make his decision on granting clemency following a closed-door meeting on December 8, 2005.

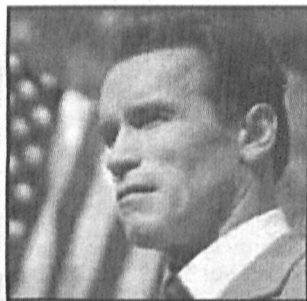
With the December 13th deadline for his execution less than two weeks away, the fight to save Stan "Tookie" Williams'

has intensified as activists across the country call for California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to grant the five time Nobel Peace Prize Nominee clemency.

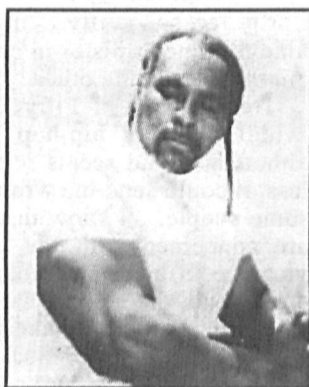
"We're trying to save the life of a man known as the peacemaker," said

Jeff Detoro of Rochester.

Williams, the founder of the notorious street gang, the Crips, was convicted of murdering four people in 1981. In prison, Williams has exhibited the behavior of a changed man, writing children's books and working to steer kids away from the violence



Stan "Tookie" Williams (left). Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (above).



and crime associated with gangs.

"There's just no need to kill him," said Clare Reagan. "He's not a danger to anyone right now."

Governor Schwarzenegger will have a closed-door meeting to discuss granting clemency to the award-winning author. In addition to the pressure exerted on the governor by the myriad protests of activists, many celebrities have shown support for Stan "Tookie" Williams. Snoop Dogg, Jamie Foxx, Mike Farrell, Tim Robbins, and Danny Glover. That meeting may be the last chance for Williams to be saved. Williams' final appeal to reopen his case was turned down by the United States Supreme Court.

There are still debates over the fairness of Williams' trial as supporters of Williams believe he is innocent. They believe that Tookie is the victim of circumstantial evidence and racism. Activists have referred to a shotgun that Tookie allegedly used in the crime. The gun that was said to have been the murder weapon was apparently used in an earlier crime, which leaves skeptics of the investigation to believe that the gun was planted by police. In addition to that, the prosecutor that took on Williams in his criminal trial, was disciplined by the state of California for allegedly making racist remarks in other legal proceedings. This led to the overturning of convictions of other blacks that faced him in court.

While there is a general outpouring of support for Stan Tookie Williams,

there are many people that are totally against him being spared of the death penalty, with many of them citing the brutality of his crimes in their arguments.

"He was caught red handed," said Thomas Cupo, who feels that

Williams has manipulated people into thinking he is reformed. "It's funny how one minute people want him dead, but upon writing a few books and saying some positive things for once, he's the greatest thing since Snapple."

Review

Moon Over The Rainbow Shawl

By Maurice Selby

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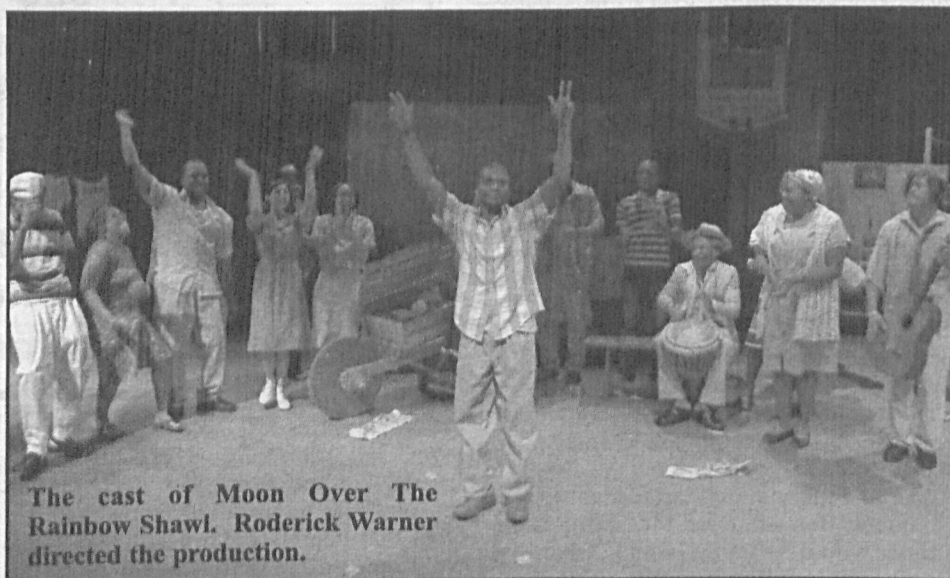
In just about any and everything a person can do, the first time around is rarely a charm, but CCNY's own Roderick Warner proved to be the exception to the rule in his directorial debut of *Moon On a Rainbow Shawl*. With strong performances from Ron Bruce as the confident and equally stubborn Ephraim, Jihan Carswell playing the affectionate Rosa, and Alexandra Bernard as super-mom Sophia Adams, the play was executed with precision and passion that ultimately resulted in the overall success of the production.

Written by Errol John, *Moon On a Rainbow Shawl* depicts the daily struggles and ongoing problems in the lives of townspeople in a small area of Trinidad in 1959. The story's events take place in the midst of the country's struggle for independence from England, which was wonderfully captured by both

the main and supporting characters in the show.

The initial pace and ambiance of the story was captured in the opening act with the song *BangBang LuLu* in which the various members of the small, struggling community got together for a bit of singing and dancing to celebrate life. Jelani Pinnock turned in a stellar performance as Ketch, a rowdy and utterly comical member of the neighborhood with a penchant for singing and writing music that brightened the lives of his fellow townspeople. Ephraim is introduced as a hard-working and ambitious young man looking with prospects of moving up on the social ladder. His interaction with Esther Adams (wonderfully played by Jajmi Robinson) and her newborn baby brother exposed an intimate side of Ephraim that is captured brilliantly by Ron Bruce. Rosa, Ephraim's girlfriend and the seeker of love from her companion, was introduced with *Old Mack*

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The cast of *Moon Over The Rainbow Shawl*. Roderick Warner directed the production.

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Preserving Rosa Parks' Legacy

By Orin Abel

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On Monday, October 27th, Rosa Parks, the mother of the civil rights movement, died in Detroit, Michigan. Parks is renowned for refusing to give up her seat on a bus in accordance with segregation laws during the 1950's. Her defiance and the ensuing Montgomery bus boycott have become etched into American History. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stated, "I can honestly say that without Mrs. Parks, I probably would not be standing here today as secretary of state." Parks played an instrumental part in the progression of the Civil Rights movement.

Preserving Parks' legacy entails continuing her dream of equality. The life and death of such an icon should inspire us to search out the buses of oppression that confront us today. We must take a stand in such buses of our own. Rosa

Parks stated, "People need to free their minds of racial prejudice and believe in equality for all. We need much more education especially those who are narrow-minded." Rosa Parks dedicated her life striving for equality.

Correspondingly, the issues of inequality that remain today must be confronted. Rosa Parks stated, "There is still as much racism among some people. It still exists, but ... not under the legally enforced segregation." Decades after the mother of the Civil Rights movement took a stand; issues of prejudice and racism continue to exist. For instance, the US Census Bureau reported in August 2005 that 24% of Blacks are below the poverty line compared with 8% of Whites. Additionally, the US Bureau of Justice reported in October 2005 that 8.9% of Blacks between ages 25 and 29 are incarcerated, compared with 1.4% among Whites. Such issues of inequality must be confronted in order

to make the goal of equality a reality.

Rosa Parks shaped new boundaries and changed history. In honor of her legacy, it is imperative that current obstacles of race relations are defeated and newer boundaries set. Though it will not be easy, we must be fervent in continuing the dream, persevering to the end. The struggle continues.



Editorial: William Bennett Statement



William Bennett

Maurice Selby

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The statement could easily have been the ignorant babble of an inebriated redneck, still distraught over the fall of the confederacy and the emancipation of blacks, but it wasn't. "If, you wanted to reduce crime, if that were your sole purpose, you could abort every black baby in this country and the crime rate would go down." These were the words of former Secretary of Education, William Bennett on his radio talk show, Morning America. After igniting a firestorm of controversy, Bennett defended his statement and refused to apologize, saying that his words were taken out of context and that people should apologize to him for misinterpreting his words.

"I really don't see what there was to misinterpret," said Karl Jones, a Brooklyn native who is upset with what Bennett said. "I mean, if that is not what you were trying to say, then why would you say it? It just doesn't make any sense to me."

Almost immediately after making the comment, Bennett stated that doing such a thing would be unlikely and "morally reprehensible," but he still maintained

that the crime rate would go down if blacks were aborted, which ultimately translates to blacks being responsible for the majority of criminal activity in the United States. There were countless debates following the broadcast, in which people tried to determine if Bennett was simply a racist spewing baseless hate filled nonsense, or a scholarly former public servant looking to find solutions to an ongoing and costly national crisis. Blacks are responsible for less than half of serious crimes committed in the United States and there has recently been a decline in the rates at which African Americans engage in criminal acts. From this the main question now becomes; how can a man of Bennett's intellect and insight make such hollow and statistically unsubstantiated statements?

Many people agree that the media has played a major role in making black synonymous with negativity of all sorts, including crime.

"Today all you see in movies, videos, art, and in the news," is the image of the black man taking part in some sort of negative, or criminal act," said Ted Joseph of Rosedale Queens. "The sad thing is that everyone watches this stuff, including myself. It's all entertainment. The only thing is that most people don't take it all to heart, while some do."

Last week, a number of activists and many black leaders across the country, expressed concern over billboards advertising the film "Get Rich or Die Trying," the new movie featuring Fifty Cent that depicts the hip-hop star's rise from the endless depths of the ghetto to the top of the music industry. In the ad,

Curtis Jackson (Fifty Cent) is holding a nine millimeter pistol in one hand and a microphone in the other.

Trevor Dash, a Fifty Cent fan and avid listener of hip-hop believes that although the ad seems relatively harmless, it could send the wrong message to some people. "I know that most people are concerned with the ad promoting violence in black neighborhoods, but I don't think the ad will have that effect. It could, however make people think that people of the black community embrace such violence and are more likely to commit violent acts against others. That is where the line has to be drawn and is why that ad must be replaced."

The news media has also been instrumental in permeating the minds of millions of Americans with the mental link that associates blacks with crime. Leading television networks' news programs load their half an hour to an hour long shows with stories and images of black men and women that allegedly broke the law. Rarely mentioned are the thousands of heinous crimes committed by various other racial groups. After the fall of Enron and Tyco's leading executives, it seems that tales of corporate corruption have become hackneyed, forcing news agencies to revert to more agreeable and traditional subject matter, which results in the criminalization of blacks and various other minorities throughout the United States.

The danger of Bennett's statement lie not in the literal meaning of his words, but in the pattern of thought that it perpetuates in the minds of millions of Americans. "Whether Bennett is a racist or not is the least of a

black man's worries," said Trevor Dash. "The problem is that if a man of Bennett's status and intellectual capacity can think so linearly, then there are tons of other people that are susceptible to the forces that molded Bennett's opinions in such a way."

"The sad thing is that everyone watches this stuff, including myself. It's all entertainment. The only thing is that most people don't take it all to heart, while some do."

THE PAPER

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Editorial

Invasion of the Inconsiderate People

Lindsie Augustin

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It has come to my attention how inconsiderate people are in this day and age. It seems like in today's society it is perfectly acceptable for a person to disregard the well being of another for his or her own temporary pleasure. As a native New Yorker, I am perfectly aware of how cut-throat this city is, survival of the fittest is the code we live by. But what I really want to know is whatever happened to the concept of common courtesy for your fellow patron?

Imagine its 6:00pm, the height of rush hour and you're on your way home from a long day at school. Images of a hot meal and your bed cloud your mind. While you begin to drift away with these happy thoughts, the man sitting across from can not stop coughing. Now all your pleasant thoughts are being interrupted with a feeling of fear. Apparently it was too much of an inconvenience for him to cover his mouth. As a result of this only heaven knows what types of air borne virus are circulating in the air because of this man.

Reading newspapers provide people with knowledge of the world around them. While I am in favor of reading papers, I am not in favor of them being read over my head. Understandably during rush hour

trains are crowded, and one may have a long ride ahead of them. Wanting something to entertain yourself is perfectly normal. However considering the size of certain papers they can be a bit cumbersome on a crowded train. Unfortunately, the simple notion of folding the paper into a decent size or simply repositioning their body to avoid any problems, is to much of a complex thought for some develop. And as a result, the unsuspecting commuter must now be abused by another's paper.

While my approach may be a little exaggerated, it is still very relatable. People are so hasty to complain if another person causes them any type inconvenience, but never think twice of being an inconvenience to someone else. It just so happens while writing this article on my way home, a man clearly too big to fit in an available seat next to me, sits down anyway. Now forcing me to sit the remainder of my ride on a slant. Had someone done that to him, chances are he would have been as annoyed as I was. What bothers me the most is how rude people are. Words like thank you, excuse me, and sorry have become as outdated as phrases like groovy, can you dig it, and dynamite. Overall, it saddens to see how self-absorbed society is as a whole and how little a person can do to change it.

The N-Word

By Ernesto Johnson

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The editorial staff at The Paper felt that it would be interesting and provocative to poll a variety of people, from different backgrounds, to gauge how they felt about the use of the N-word. For many, the use of the word is very offensive, especially those that are acutely aware of the historical connotation of the word, particularly our elders. Contrarily, a substantially large amount of people feel that the use of the word is not offensive at all, with many separating the word nigger from its derivative nigga, which many believe is a totally different. Largely, many of the people who are not bothered by the use of the word are younger and generally have not assessed the exact meaning, ramification or effect that the N-word carries.

This topic has become the basis issue because such a diverse group of people (white, black, Latin, Asian, youth, elders, man, woman, the hip hop generation and comics) have popularized the word. It is no longer a black and white thing. It has now become a culturally embedded slang word to the dismay of people who feel that it doesn't matter how the N-word is used, or even the ethnicity of people that using it, it is a derogatory expression.

The original use of the N-word denigrated African Americans. It was not used as an endearing expression, as many people nowadays claim. Some scholars suggest 'nigger' was derived from the Latin word for the color black which is spelled 'n-i-g-e-r.' A black professor here at City who wishes to remain nameless, stated that the word nigger was a mispronunciation of the word 'negro.' He said that the word evolved from nigger, because Southern whites could not pronounce the word Negro, and when they tried to, it sounded like 'nigger.'

Most whites and other ethnicities probably and privately do acknowledge that

the usage of 'nigger' is personal to blacks. Black people have essentially become caretakers of the word and have created rules about its appropriate use.

Some may suggest, especially this current generation, that the spelling of the word changes its meaning, (Nigger vs. Nigga) but that is ludicrous. How can a word be both hateful and endearing? If that's true, does the same rule apply for (Cracker vs. Cracka), and (Spic vs. Spik)? Furthermore, if a white person was to call me nigger, I wouldn't ask him which spelling is he referring to, I would simply respond to what I heard.

My advice to everyone who uses the word is, don't. Even when it's meant as a term of endearment, it can cause problems and confusion. If we regard this word in the exact nature as other curse words or derogatory expressions and realize that it may offend a particular audience, perhaps then it would not be used as often. Moreover, if we understood the historical significance and use of the word, maybe that could also curtail its usage. A good replacement for the N-word is brother, or sister; test it out for yourself and I guarantee that that won't be perceived as offensive.

I posed this question to many administrators, executives and professors at the school and most of them shuddered away from responding. They made it seem almost taboo to discuss. It's interesting to note how some of our elders rather not talk about sensitive matters like this topic, yet it is expected that we younger folks understand the ramifications attributed with this word. Please help to educate us.

Here's how other people felt about the use of the N-word. We asked the questions "Do you think the use of the word nigga is offensive? Why or why not?"

See the next page for the Question of the Week to read the different responses.

Rosa Parks—A Legacy That Lives On

By Andrew J. Chappell III
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Rosa Parks' role in sparking the American civil rights movement history earned her an iconic legacy in American culture and the broader worldwide civil rights movements.

The Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development was founded by Mrs. Rosa Parks and Ms. Elaine Eason Steele in February 1987 in honor of Rosa's husband Raymond Parks, who died from cancer in 1977. The institute runs "Pathways to Freedom" bus tours, which shuttles young people to important civil rights and Underground Railroad sites throughout the country.

In 1999, she was a guest of President Bill Clinton during his 1999 State of the Union Address while Time magazine named Mrs. Parks one of the top twenty most influential and iconic figures of the

twentieth century.

On October 27 and October 28, the Senate and the House voted to have Mrs. Rosa Parks lie in state in the U.S.

Capitol Rotunda, making her the first woman, second African-

American, and second non-governmental official ever to receive this honor.

Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright, commenting on Mrs. Parks said, "she was such a peaceful person. There have been wars and great battles fought over much less and she never lifted a finger in hostility and yet to change the world with her actions ... her legacy of quiet and peaceful rebellion against hatred will live on for many years to come."



Aborting Black Children Equals Reduction in Crime Rate?

Lindsie Augustin

Laugustin1987@yahoo.com

On October 8, 2005, Bill Bennett decided to set the record straight, at a business conference in Bakersfield California. Bennett has been accused of being a racist, due to a comment made on his radio show, Morning in America. In an attempt to point out some of the ridiculous arguments for and against abortion, Bennett's comment was blown completely out of proportion.

Apparently, during a discussion with a caller, Bennett purposely made a detestable argument for abortion. He stated "the abortion of black children would lead to a reduction in crime." The only reason Bennett made such an outrageous comment was to "immediately shoot it down." Unfortunately, critics pounced on Bennett without giving him a chance to explain.

Directly after making his comment Bennett described it as "morally reprehensible." Bennett truly regrets how poorly his statement has been represented in the media.

Although, Bennett is pro-life he is definitely not a racist. Bennett has done a lot in support of the black community. During 1967-1968, Bennett taught philosophy at the University of Southern Mississippi and became well known for teaching the philosophy of Martin Luther King

Jr. In books he has written Bennett has been against all types of prejudice against all race and ethnicities. In fact, he makes it his duty to portray positive role models for all, in his novels. In his past Bennett has also fought against segregation in Massachusetts. And makes it his business to provide a safe environment and educational opportunities for every child in this country.

Clearly, Bill Bennett never meant for his statement to be the cause of such controversy. Was there a better way to get his point across, obviously. There are certain things that should never be said and Bennett's comment was one of them. However after all this, I'm sure the next time Bennett wants to show how ridiculous something is he'll choose his words carefully.

THE CAREER CENTER

Professional Etiquette

Your academic knowledge and skills may be spectacular, but do you have the social skills needed to be successful in the workplace? Good professional etiquette indicates to potential employers that you are a mature, responsible adult who can aptly represent their company. Not knowing proper etiquette could damage your image, prevent you from getting a job and jeopardize personal and business relationships.

Meeting and Greeting

Etiquette begins with meeting and greeting. Terry Cobb, human resource director at Wachovia Corporation in South Carolina's Palmetto region, emphasizes the importance of making a good first impression—beginning with the handshake. A firm shake, he says, indicates to employers that you're confident and assertive. A limp handshake, on the other hand, sends the message that you're not interested or qualified for the job. Dave Owensby, human resources manager for North and South Carolina at Sherwin Williams, believes, "Good social skills include having a firm handshake, smiling, making eye contact and closing the meeting with a handshake."

The following basic rules will help you get ahead in the workplace:

- Always rise when introducing or being introduced to someone.
- Provide information in making introductions—you are responsible for keeping the conversation going. "Joe, please meet Ms. Crawford, CEO at American Enterprise, Inc., in Cleveland." "Mr. Jones, this is Kate Smith, a senior majoring in computer information systems at Northwestern University."
- Unless given permission, always address someone by his or her title and last name.
- Practice a firm handshake. Make eye contact while shaking hands.

Dining

Shirley Willey, owner of Etiquette & Company in Carmichael, Calif., reports that roughly 80% of second interviews involve a business meal. Cobb remembers one candidate who had passed his initial interview with flying colors. Because the second interview was scheduled close to noon, Cobb decided to conduct the interview over lunch. Initially, the candidate was still in the "interview" mode and maintained his professionalism. After a while, however, he became more relaxed—and that's when the candidate's real personality began to show. He had terrible table manners, made several off-color remarks and spoke negatively about previous employers. Needless to say, Cobb was unimpressed, and the candidate did not get the job.

Remember that an interview is always an interview, regardless of how relaxed or informal the setting. Anything that is said or done will be considered by the interviewer, cautions Cobb.

In order to make a good impression during a lunch or dinner interview, make sure you:

- Arrive on time.
- Wait to sit until the host/hostess indicates the seating arrangement.

- Place napkin in lap before eating or drinking anything.
- When ordering, keep in mind that this is a *business* lunch. Order something easy to eat, such as boneless chicken or fish.
- Do not hold the order up because you cannot make a decision. Feel free to ask for suggestions from others at the table.
- Wait to eat until everyone has been served.
- Keep hands in lap unless you are using them to eat.
- Practice proper posture: sit up straight with your arms close to your body.
- Bring food to your mouth—not your head to the plate.
- Try to eat at the same pace as everyone else.
- Take responsibility for keeping up the conversation.
- Place napkin on chair seat if excusing yourself for any reason.
- Place napkin beside plate at the end of the meal.
- Push chair under table when excusing yourself.

- Place napkin on chair seat if excusing yourself for any reason.
- Place napkin beside plate at the end of the meal.
- Push chair under table when excusing yourself.

Eating

Follow these simple rules for eating and drinking:

- Start eating with the implement that is farthest away from your plate. You may have two spoons and two forks. The spoon farthest away from your plate is a soup spoon. The fork farthest away is a salad fork unless you have three forks, one being much smaller, which would be a seafood fork for an appetizer. The dessert fork/spoon is usually above the plate. Remember to work from the outside in.
- Dip soup away from you; sip from the side of the spoon.
- Season food only after you have tasted it.
- Pass salt and pepper together—even if asked for only one.
- Pass all items to the right. If the item has a handle, such as a pitcher, pass with the handle toward the next person. For bowls with spoons, pass with the spoon ready for the next person. If you are the one to reach to the center of the table for an item, pass it before serving yourself.
- While you are speaking during a meal, utensils should be resting on plate (fork and knife crossed on the plate with tines down).
- Don't chew with your mouth open or blow on your food.

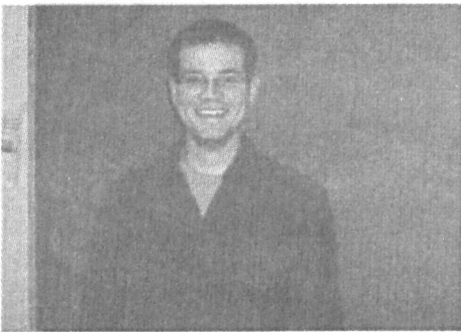
The interviewer will usually take care of the bill and the tip. Be prepared, however, if this doesn't happen and have small bills ready to take care of your part, including the tip. Never make an issue of the check.

Social skills can make or break your career. Kenitra Matheson, human resource director with Dellinger and Deese in Charlotte, N.C., emphasizes, "Etiquette and social skills are a must! Our employees have to exhibit a certain level of professionalism and etiquette, given that we constantly interact with our clients." Be one step ahead—practice the social skills necessary to help you make a great first impression and stand out in a competitive job market.

Written by Jennie Hunter, a professor at Western Carolina University.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“Do you think the use of the word nigga is offensive? Why or why not?”



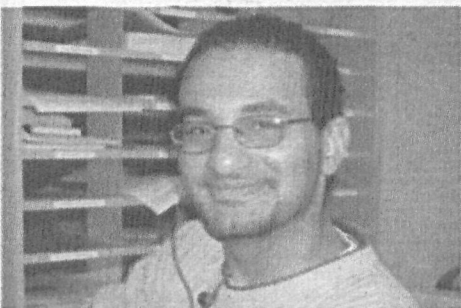
Professor Aidan Byrne
English Department

Yes obviously, “Nigga” has become a different word from “Nigger”, but its still offensive. There is simply too much history to separate the two. I know its offensive because, as a white male, I’m absolutely not allowed to use the word in a conversation, no matter what the context. Just the fact that I could upset, hurt, or anger another person by using a word lets me know that it’s offensive.



Zarinah Conry
Biology Major

I guess it really depends on who is saying it and in what context its being said. For instance, if a white women says, “Look at those niggers” when she sees a group of black kids it would be considered offensive. Personally, I would want to slap her for that. Yet if a black man addressed his friend saying, “that’s my nigga” I wouldn’t have a problem with it. I mean I’ve used the word plenty of times, but I try to cut back on it. Even though it can be used in a friendly manner, its mere historical origins are offensive to my people and me.



Andrew Bastaros
Mechanical Engineering

Personally, I believe that the use of the word in this current day of age is offensive. In previous generations, the word did not hold any derogatory value. Today it might, depending on its use, by whom it’s used and to whom it’s said. If there is a possibility for it to be taken negatively, then it may be deemed offensive.

Mark Twain, the author of “Huckleberry Finn”, used the word in his writing, reflecting on the language and culture of the south during slavery. The book is currently a classic, read by many high school students. An attempt to ban or censor the book brings a great awareness of what it use to be like and a reminder of how it should never be. I would never use it in a conversation with a friend or otherwise.



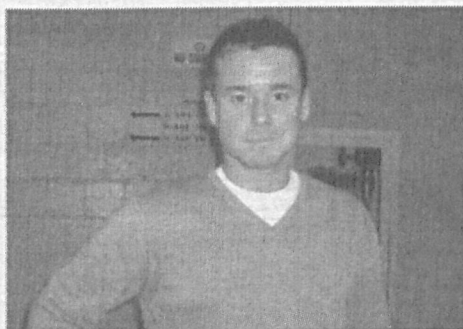
Jermaine Foskey
Computer Science
Chair Emeritus of CCNY
National Society of Black Engineers

In today’s society you will find that this world ‘nigga’ is used as a form of slang. But I think a lot people really don’t understand how disrespectful and degrading this word “nigga” is. Black people have fought, protested and put their lives in jeopardy for years to get equality and respect for the “Black” race. Our ancestors worked hard to improve life for the youths of today and stop disrespectful words such as “nigga” from being used to refer to our people. I feel that people need to make more of a conscious effort not to use this term or slang.



Emmanuel Kay Olubiyi
Biology

I think the use of the word “nigga” is not offensive because we cannot judge the root of a word with its present evolved definition. The word “nigga” presently does not have the same definition as it did in the past. But nonetheless, we still must minimize our use of this word because it not appropriate for aspiring professionals, like us college students in the world we wish to enter. I guess I have mixed feelings when it comes to this issue.



Professor Chris Rempfer
Speech

I find the word to be extremely offensive and am troubled that it is being used with such frequency these days. Whether the word has taken on a new meaning and sense of empowerment by some of those who use it is irrelevant to me, because its origin was an attempt by morally unseemly people to convey the utmost disrespect. Sticks and stones are NOT the only things that break bones; words carry great power and used irresponsibly can inflict the greatest of harm and break the backs of those who seek equality, mutual respect and a humane human race.



Kevin McCormack
Jazz Performance

Yes, this word has had a history of causing and conveying hate. It should not be used.



Ericka Deadwyler
Biology

Yes, I believe the use of the word nigga is offensive. The background definition of the word to me still holds. Even though the word is spelled differently, to me it still has a negative meaning. I believe that the word should be left in history and no longer be used in the present of future.



Alexis Tinglin
Liberal Arts

Yes, that word is very offensive for any race to use. It has to stop now and it has to start with our African American brothers or sisters. We use the word so freely, it’s unbelievable. (I can’t use that word in my house). Maybe parents should enforce it more and make sure their kids don’t say it.



Jennifer Moreno-Diaz
Spanish

I do believe it’s offensive. It is a disrespectful word, which was used with a disrespectful intention. I don’t understand, however, how it’s meaning changes depending on who says it. As for me, I don’t use it, but I hear it a lot.



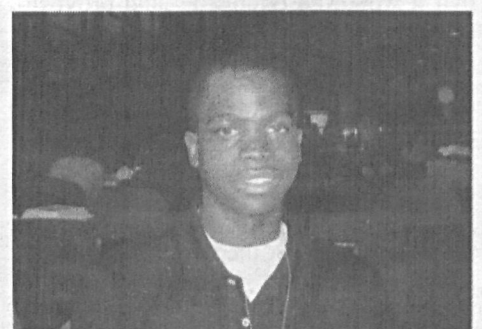
Lisa Navarro
Post Bacc. Student

The word “Nigger” is! I think musicians and performers to counteract the negative connotations that the word “nigger” carries with it created the word “nigga”.



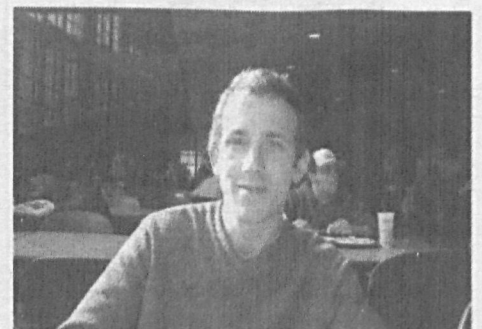
Lily Woll
International Studies & Spanish

Depends on the contexts, which it is being used.



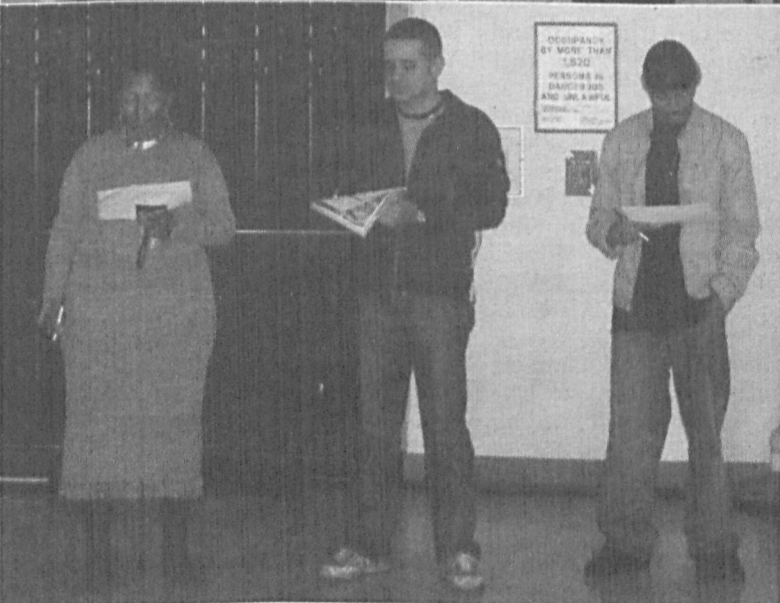
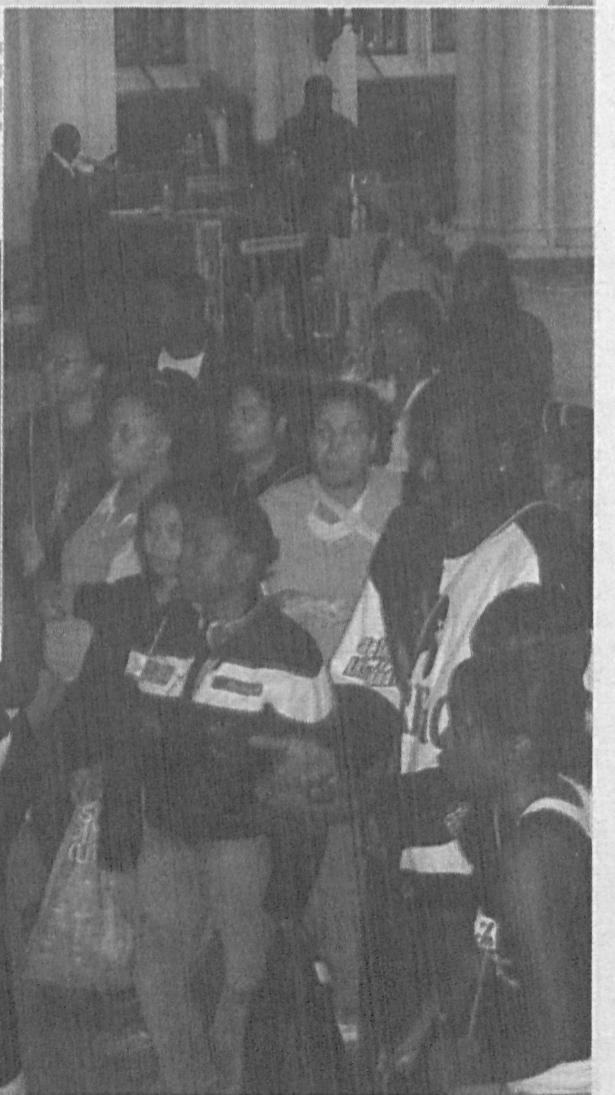
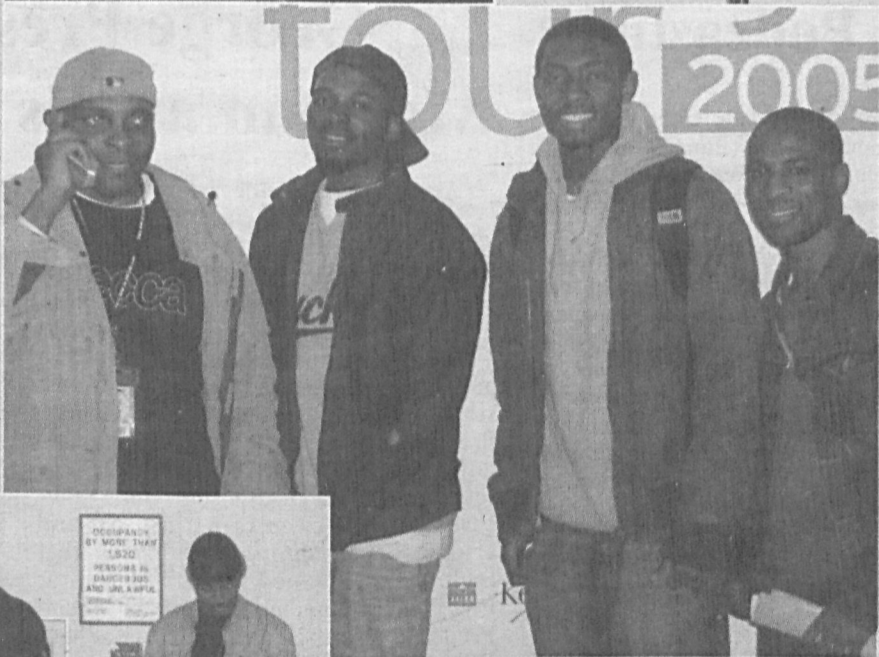
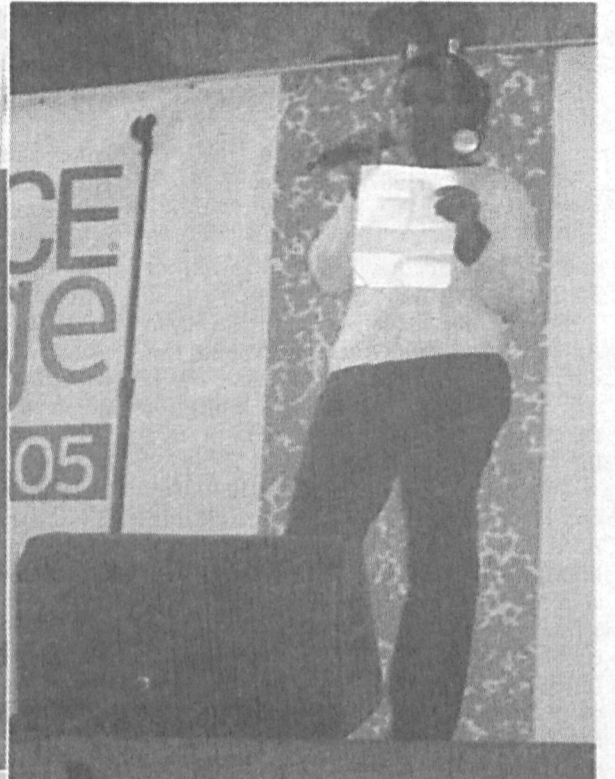
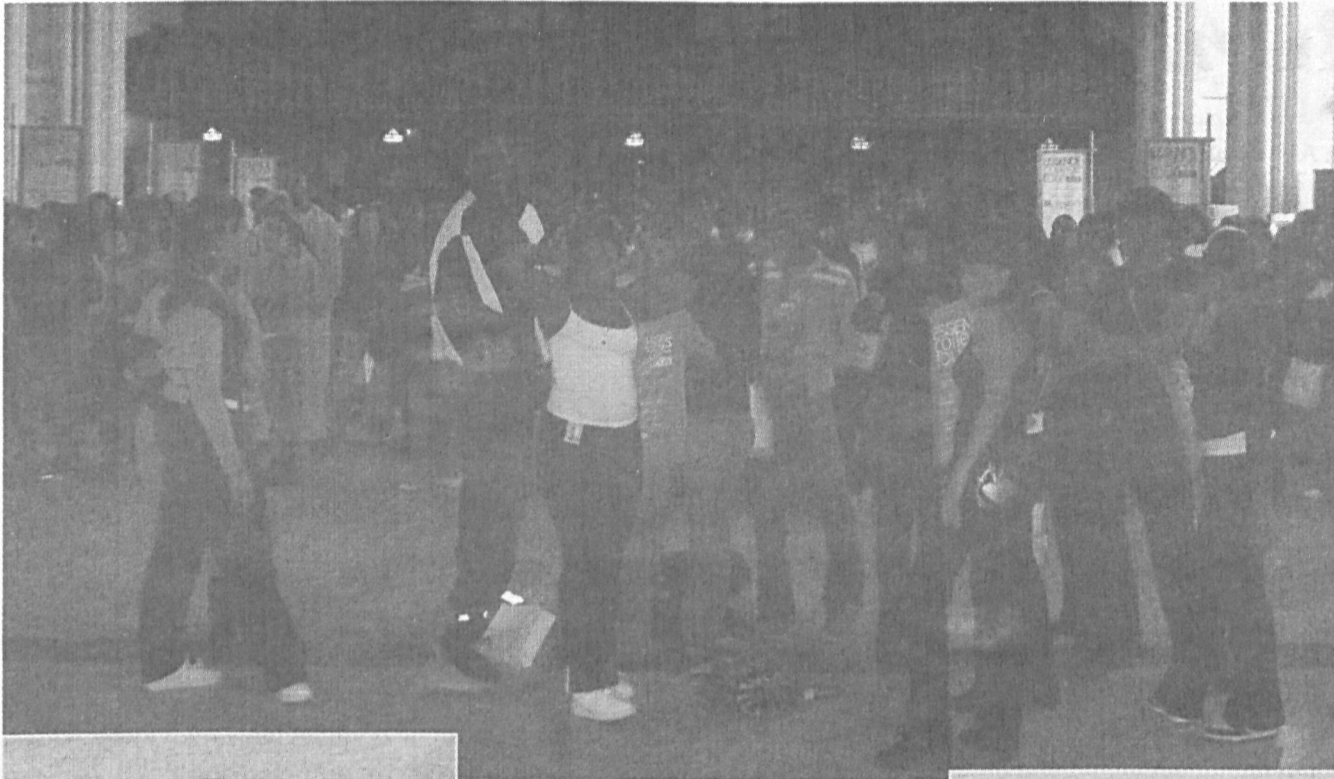
Andre Brissett
Biology

The word nigga was a derogatory word used by the white man to refer to black people. It’s depressing to learn that today our black people have now taken this phase to use on their own kind. The word is offensive and no matter how a black person tries to justify their reason of why they call each other a nigga it’s a free excuse for “unity”. It doesn’t rock.



Michael Case
Music, Jazz Performance

Yes, because the word has its roots in discrimination and racism.



An Icon Remembered

Lindsie Augustin
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Rosa Parks February 4, 1913 - October 24, 2005

On October 24, 2005 the African American community suffered a great loss with the death of Mrs. Rosa Parks. Parks was one of the most prominent leaders of the civil rights movements; and has lived a life worth remembering.

Parks was born Rosa Louise Mc Cauley on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. As a child she attended the Montgomery Industrial School for girls, and later graduated from Booker T. Washington high school. For a short time, Parks also attended Alabama State College in Montgomery. In 1932, Parks married a barber by the name of Raymond Parks; and together they became active members in numerous civil rights causes.

On December 1, 1955 Parks made her mark in history by starting a 381-day boycott against the Montgomery bus line. After refusing to surrender her seat on a segregated bus to a white passenger, Parks was arrested and fined. Due to her affiliation with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Parks' actions sparked one of the most successful boycott lead by African

Americans. As a result of their boycott, on November 13, 1956 the Supreme Court ruled against Alabama's state and local laws segregating the bus line. Stating that these laws were illegal and called for immediate termination.

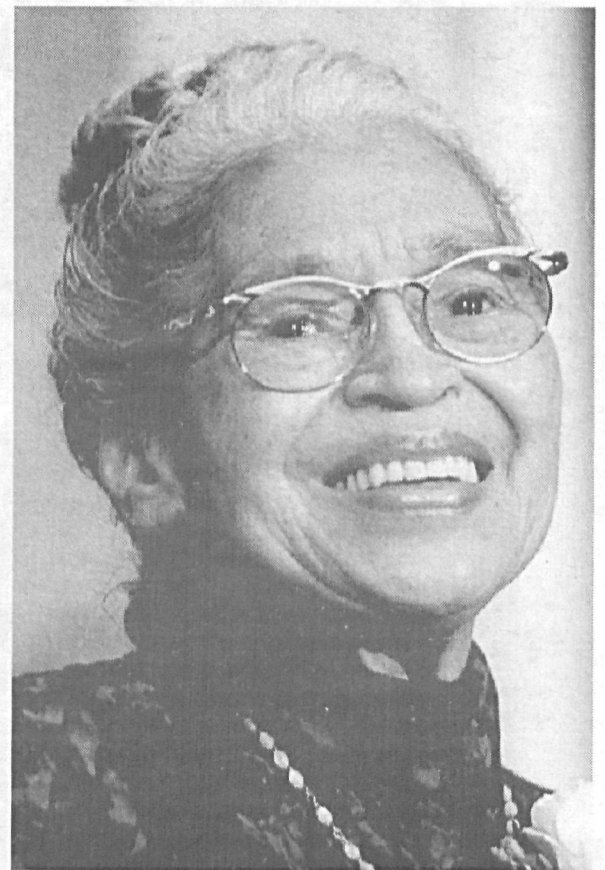
The Montgomery boycott was one of the many cause Rosa Parks was associated with. Throughout her life, Parks has been involved with many civil rights issues. She began working with the NAACP in 1943 and was later elected to be secretary of the Montgomery branch. In the year 1957, Parks moved to Detroit Michigan. Where she began working as the receptionist for an African American member of the US House of Representatives named John Conyers. Though Parks was in a new state, she remained an active member of the NAACP, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and served as a deaconess at Saint Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church.

When one has lived a life like Rosa Parks has it is satisfying to see her honored for her good deeds: Parks received numerous amounts of rewards for her contributions to African American history. She received an honorary degree from Shaw College in Detroit, Michigan. In 1979 the NAACP honored Parks with the Spingarn Medal. The SCLC presented the Annual Freedom Award in her honor. Parks

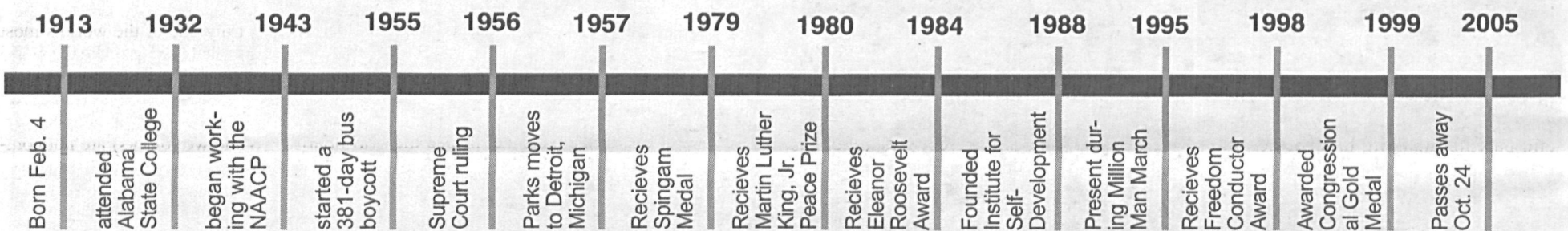
received the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize in 1980; and in 1984 she was presented with the Eleanor Roosevelt Women of Courage Award. During 1988, Parks founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development. Whose main purpose was to provide African American youth with the proper knowledge for leadership roles. And in the year 1989, Parks was acknowledged for her accomplishments while at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington DC.

Its not surprising that Parks, was present at the Million Man March in Washington DC during October 1995. Or that in 1998 she received the first International Freedom Conductor Award from the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Not to mention in 1999, Parks was rewarded the Congressional Gold Medal, which the highest civilian honor from President Bill Clinton.

Its clear, Parks' life was far from ordinary, she accomplished so much for the advancement of the African American com-



munity. Who knows were we would be now if Rosa Parks had not refuse to comply with the norms of that time? Rosa Parks was a true pioneer of the civil rights movements; and because of her activism, many are now able to enjoy all the wonders of the world.



What In The World Is Podcasting?

By Andrew J. Chappell III
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As a splice of the words iPod and broadcasting "Podcasting" is a means of distributing audio and video programs via the Internet that lets users subscribe to a number of files, also known as "feeds," and then hear or view the material at any time or place. A feed is usually in the MP3 audio format. Beware that this does not mislead you because neither podcasting nor listening to podcasts requires an iPod or any portable device, and no broadcasting is involved.

The popularity of Podcasting rose in late 2004 with the spread of free software downloads that enabled the automatic collection of audio MP3 files onto computers and portable MP3 devices. However, it is distinct from other types of online media delivery because of its subscription model, rather than one-time delivery. A series of files are delivered because subscribers want to get the information regularly.

For those that still aren't clear on what podcasting is, think of it as a TiVo system, where you are able to watch your favorite television program or movie whenever you seem to have the time. Hence, podcasting

automatically downloads audio files to a user's computer for listening at the user's convenience. Even more exciting is the fact that this innovation contains no commercials.

Podcasts are usually in a talk show format, but can be music or audio clips from television programs, movies, newspapers, space communication, chat groups, daily horoscopes or lectures. Most podcasts are freely available on the Internet and do not contain commercials or advertisements.

Anyone can be a podcaster who has bandwidth, a website, a computer with a microphone and necessary software. Podcasting software and podcasts are widely available on the Internet. Such sites include: www.ipodder.net, www.podcast-er.net, www.podcasts.org, www.ipodder.org, www.podfeeder.com and www.audible.com. Of course, one must be careful of copyright laws protecting certain content.

For more assistance and knowledge on how to podcast on how to podcast, go to <http://www.podcast411.com/page2.html> and browse through the site. Sources that were integral to the writing of this story are Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia and Collegiate Broadcasters Inc.

George Preston Opens Museum at His Harlem Home

By Maurice Selby
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On November 10, 2005 visitors of the Museum of Art and Origins located at 430 162nd Street, were greeted not with a row of columns standing in front of a huge municipal building, but with the steps of a brownstone, Dr. George Preston's brownstone. The distinguished CCNY Professor, who will retire at the end of this semester, showcased his collection of African Art and artifacts to a throng of visitors that included acclaimed Nigerian Author Emmanuel Obiechina, hip-hop legend Freddy Braithwaite, and Rachael Robinson, wife of the former Jackie Robinson. Just a couple of blocks down the road on West 160th Street, Kurt Thometz, a collector of rare books, opened up Jumel Terrace Books, a book store that features books on Africana, the history of Harlem, and Jazz.

The homes of Preston and Thometz seem to be the ideal places for such cultural institutions as both are situated on the historic Jumel Terrace. The area is also home to the Palladian Morris-Jumel Mansion. Built in 1765, the building happens to be the oldest house in Manhattan.

Three floors of Dr. Preston's Harlem

brownstone are crowded with the art and relics of various African tribes and from a variety of periods in history. The 66 year old scholar obtained the objects during his numerous visits to Africa and as the curator describes the origin and significance of each item in his collection.

Jumel Terrace Books occupies one room of Kurt Thometz' home on 160th Street. Thometz, who moved into the neighborhood in 1973, worked in a bookstore when he first came to New York City and helped certain celebrities organize their libraries. Each book in his collection bears special weight as they are all books that Mr. Thometz prefers.

"I've hand picked everyone," said Thometz, 53, to the New York Times. "The books I haven't read I want to read."

Both Preston and Thometz plan to keep each institution open and accept visitors by appointment with Dr. Preston charging a \$5 entrance fee. The collections of each of these collectors will no doubt expand, giving one more reasons to visit the two exhibitions of African art and culture. One can visit the Museum of Art and Origins at 430 162 Street and Jumel Terrace Books just two blocks down at 426 West 160th Street.

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Stop the Legal Lynching of Stan "Tookie" Williams

By Hadas Thier and Emanuel Santos

Will the death penalty claim the life of another innocent, poor, Black man on December 13th? Since the U.S. Supreme Court rejected Stan "Tookie" Williams' final appeal, the state of California has set its course in a race to execute Tookie, a five-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee. The countdown to a legal lynching has begun, and the only thing that can stop it is a massive campaign by Stan's thousands of supporters around the world.

Stan "Tookie" Williams was one of the founders of the Crips street gang in South Central Los Angeles. In the late 1970s the notoriously racist LAPD brought four murder charges against him in connection with two robberies. There was no physical evidence against him, and Stan was convicted with questionable testimony from a jailhouse informant. Fingerprints found at the crime scene were not Tookie's.

Williams spent years in solitary confinement and went through a personal transformation. He emerged intent on pushing a message that renounced gang violence. His talent for writing and his passion for stopping youth violence encouraged him to write numerous children's books, warning against gang violence. In 2004, he helped negotiate a truce based on the "Tookie Protocol for Peace" among gang members in Newark, New Jersey. And he continues to receive thousands of messages from former gang members, police officers and parents thanking him for helping to transform thousands of lives and creating a more peaceful environment.

As Zachary Williams, 7th grade student from Oakland, told The New Standard, "He's a role model to me" "I have read his books about life in prison. He encouraged me not to do some of the stuff my friends do." And former gang member-turned-community activist, Najee Ali interviewed in The Guardian said, "So many preachers, politicians and law enforcement officers talk about stopping gang violence, but they don't have any experience of it. But when you have the founder of the most well-known gang in history, it speaks a lot."

Tookie Williams actions make him a

heroic figure in poor and working-class communities of color. Why does the state of California consider him a criminal? Perhaps scapegoating men like Tookie helps to cover up their own crimes of neglect.

Williams' case exposes the injustice of the criminal justice system. His trial was full of holes. For instance, the shotgun shell supposedly matched the weapon he had bought several years earlier. But that gun was in the possession of a couple that was also facing serious felony charges. After they claimed that Stan had confessed to them, the investigations against the suspected felons were dropped. The main evidence against Stan were testimonies of jailhouse informants. Since the original trial, one witness has come forward to say that he witnessed one of the informants being given the file of Stan's case by members of the Sheriff's Department so that he could learn details about his case and incriminate him.

Like many criminal cases, the trial was steeped in racism. The case was moved to a conservative, white area and an all-white jury was selected. The prosecutor referred to Stan as a "Bengal Tiger in the zoo in his environment" and that he would behave like a tiger in his "habitat." This same prosecutor had been censured twice by the California Supreme Court for his racist practices, which led to death sentences in two of the cases he prosecuted being overturned.

There has been a lot of involvement from activists and celebrities (such as Snoop Dogg, Jamie Foxx, Bianca Jagger and others) to help save Tookie's life. This has helped increase Stan's profile and put pressure on Governor Schwarzenegger. It was just such a strategy that helped to save the life of another California Death Row inmate, Kevin Cooper last year.

To get involved in this campaign, look up www.savetookie.org. There is a national campaign, and here in New York, we'll be protesting former Attorney General, John Ashcroft.. Contact iso@ccny.cuny.edu for more information. We need all the support we can get to save this innocent human being's life.

Review

Moon Over The Rainbow Shawl

continued from page 1

(Chike Ukaegbu), the owner of the row of houses that serve as the main site of the action. Mr. Mack was in love with Rosa and was rewarding her for escorting him around the town. Ukaegbu took on double duty as both Mr. Mack and as a member of the band, expertly tending to the drums and ultimately adding to the Caribbean flair that essentially permeated the plot.

Sophia and Charlie Adams (Alexandra Bernard and Thierry Saintine) were two struggling parents trying to make ends meet in the small town. Charlie Adams, played by Mr. Saintine, was having difficulty keeping a job and would often come home without enough money

to take care of his family. The cynical and seductive Mavis (Darneice Foster) and her boyfriend Prince (Neil Ferguson) served as comic relief throughout the story, lightening the load of the emotional challenges that bring the story to life.

Many an audience member left the theater deeply satisfied and impressed with the production. There were even some people that pledged to return for the next day's shows to further enjoy the show and extract more meaning from it.

The Paper congratulates the cast and crew of the production Moon On a Rainbow Shawl and is looking forward to future projects featuring the members of this extraordinary show.

A Brief History of The Civil Rights Movement

Gregory Smiley
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The civil rights movement brought new ideas and addressed lasting problems in the United States. While blacks were long freed by President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, they were still at the bottom of the barrel, when it came to their rights that were allegedly guaranteed to them by the Constitution of the United States. Nearly a century after the chains that bound blacks to plantations were broken, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. realized this and chose to address the matter without using violence.

He learned this method by studying the practices of Mohandas Gandhi. Dr. King used non-violence as a tool to show the world that the conditions blacks had to endure in the south were intolerable. While most people are familiar with Dr. King and his crusade of non-violent protests, there aren't many individuals that are aware of the sacrifices he made and the tribulations he faced as a prominent leader of the civil rights movement that not only wanted to help black Americans, but America as a whole. After reading "What Manner of Man" a biography of the life, accomplishments and death of Dr. King I have a new sense of humbleness. Lerone Bennett Jr. the author of Dr. King's biography doesn't just list Dr. King's accomplishment he has given a unique insight into the life of an extraordinary man. Mr. Bennett also used photo to give visual aids to his illustrations which in my opinion magnified and vivified Dr. King.

Dr. King was also the chairman and spokesman for the Freedom ride Coordinating Committee. The freedom rides were in brief one of the tools that helped the civil rights agenda to be publicized. The freedom rides were in brief, white and black collage students riding on the same greyhound bus to the south. This made southern segregationists uneasy. They attempted to stop the

freedom rides by resorting to throwing fire bombs into the buses. The federal government eventually intervened and dispatched U.S. Marshal to accompany the bus through out the south.

Dr. King was so dedicated to his belief that he was willingly arrested over two dozen times in civil protest of the conditions blacks had to deal with. Dr. King gain powerful allies both in the United States and abroad. One of Dr. King's most recognized allies in the U.S. was President John F. Kennedy. President Kennedy and Dr. King became allies after President Kennedy indirectly intervened and allowed Dr. King to be pardoned from jail. President Kennedy benefited from this greatly as he was elected President of the United States of the backing of Dr. King and consequently black Americans.

I will now forward to one of the greatest moments in American history, Dr. King's I Have A Dream speech. The end of the speech struck me the most. "Let freedom ring from every hill and mole hill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring. When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics will be able to join hands and sing in the worlds of that old Negro spiritual, (Free at last! Free at last! Thank God almighty, we are free at last!)"

Dr. King is truly one of the world's most significant people that tried to make the world a better place. I am truly grateful to be one of the products of his life's efforts, to integrate America and give every man the opportunity to flourish. While we (blacks) are not completely judged by our character, we have come a long way. I will do my best to make sure that Dr. King's life, work and death was not in vain by becoming a successful black man.

Word Search Puzzle

<http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com/code/BuildWordSearch.asp>

S C H O L A R S H I P M M C G
 S T N E M N G I S S A K A R V
 O F F I C E H O U R S H E N K
 H A M I L T O N H E I G H T S
 S B A L R E T U P M O C P N N
 L L A H E L L I V R E K S A B
 H C R A E S E R Y B E A V E R
 N H K W L L E W O P N I L O C
 C P V R E G I S T R A T I O N
 I N T E L L E C T U A L V C B
 L D I A L A I C N A N I F O V
 B X J I S H E P A R D H A L L
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| ASSIGNMENTS | BASKERVILLEHALL | BEAVER |
| COLINPOWELL | COMPUTERLABS | FINANCIALAID |
| GREGORYWILLIAMS | HAMILTONHEIGHTS | INTELLECTUAL |
| MARSHAKHALL | MULTICULTURAL | OFFICEHOURS |
| PUBLIC | REGISTRATION | RESEARCH |
| SCHOLARSHIP | SHEPARDHALL | WINGATEHALL |

18 of 25 words were placed into the puzzle.

Solution

Created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoverySchool.com

NBA Sports: A New Look

By Andrew J. Chappell III
Cherebet8018@yahoo.com

We currently live in a society where people show disregard to the way they dress.

There is a time and place for everything. There is a time to be trendy and there is a time to be professional. The Commissioner of the NBA, David J. Stern instituted a new dress code effective November 1st, implementing players to dress in "business attire." As a result the NBA has now banned sleeveless shirts, shorts, headgear of any sort, chains, pendants, or medallions worn over the player's clothing at anytime during the game or during meetings.

I happen to be a big fan of this game and I am in favor of this new dress code. After all this is PROFESSIONAL Men's Basketball. It seems like the players who have retired took the "CL" out of "CLASS" with them. Mr. Stern is trying

to gain back the class that has waned over the years.

During a telephone interview, director Spike Lee made it clear he was in favor of the new dress code. He stated, "What are all those kids wearing the night they're drafted and they shake David Stern's hand? Suits. In corporate America, you have dress codes. Let's be honest: Image is everything. And they're trying to change the image of the league.



Coach Pat Riley celebrating a victory with the Miami Heat. Pretty soon NBA players will resemble him with the new dress code.

Between the fight in Detroit last year and other perceptions, they've realized they have a public relations issue. They've set out to change it."

Why is it that players being drafted into the NBA have enough sense to dress in suits, but professional players do not? Philadelphia's Allen Iverson stated, "I feel like if they want us to dress a certain way, they should

pay for our clothes." Could it be Iverson, who signed a 6-year 71 million dollar contract in 2000, can't afford to buy a suit? It must be such a financial burden to go to Porta Bella and purchase a suit on sale with shoes.

Several black athletes claim Stern is targeting them. However they need to realize that the NBA is an international sport. Stern's dress code doesn't only apply to blacks, but rather to players of all races, management and owners in the NBA. Its a disgrace that a "professional" ball player would rather pay fines than put on a suit for a few hours of the day.

David Stern deserves tremendous commendation for his attempt to clean up the league's image with fans, players, sponsors, and owners. There are still some players who would rather be defiant, than conform to the new dress code. But it goes to show how much money can alter a person's attitude and regard for their fans.

POETRY

YOU'RE MESSING UP THE PARTY

Don't mean to
be a pest,
but,
you're a mess.
So bad off
you'd fail a drug test.
Need directions?
Use a compass.
Needy personalities
lose the contest.
Dogged out from work
and won't even
protest.
Don't be alarmed.
I have assessed.
You seem
edgy,
irritable,
touchy,
and a little depressed.
Don't get mad.
Just going to suggest.
Take some time off
and get some rest.
Screw your head straight
so you can be your best.
And,
stay away from me
next time
you're overly stressed.
You're messing up the party.

Martinez J. Haslam, NYC 2003

In Life and Death

*When my life ends
Will you come to the celebration?
Will you gaze at me
And wonder where I am?*

*I will be there with you...
I will be in your hair when you brush it.
Each stroke pressing against your head.
I will be in your breath when you breathe
it.
My spirit blowing in the breeze.
And in your heart
Dancing to the rhythm of each beat.*

*I will be in your thoughts
When you think it.
Day dreaming about a life with you.
And then until eternity
I will be in your smile...when you smile it.
Where my life begins...
And ends.*

jg '99

The last leaf to fall this year
Fell last night.
Quietly tracing the wind...
Reflecting the end, but promising
A new light,
It fell.
Brown lines against a black background,
And without a sound.
Scarcely noticed...like the year.

jg '90

double V

*we do...we don't
we did...we won't
play your game
cause the rules ain't the same*

*we could agree
but we can't you see
cause no one asked me
if W, should be double V.*

jg '78