

The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Volume 125 September 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

Sekou Sundiata: Gifted Poet & Paper Alum Passes

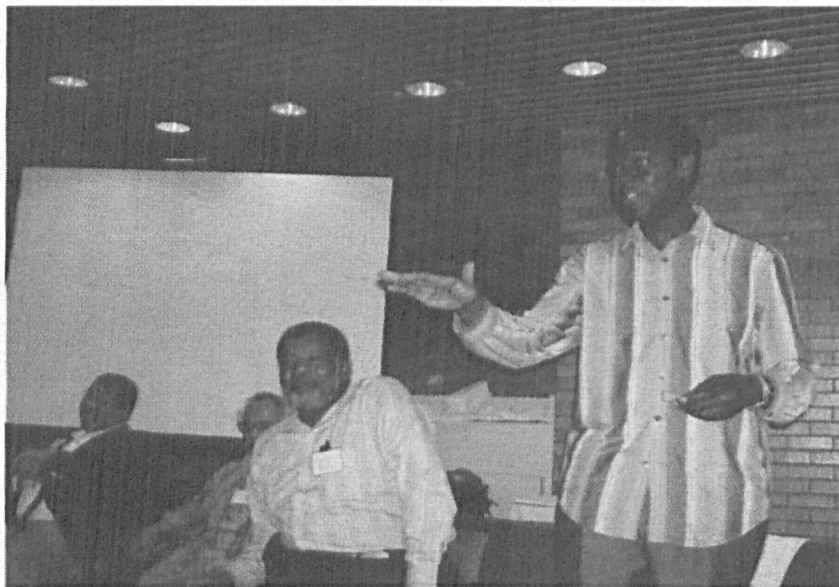
By Lindsie Augustin

To become a member of an organization already in existence may fulfill a personal goal, but to know that you assisted in creating something that will live on through future generations escalates things to a completely different level. This level was reached during *The Paper's* first reunion; when the founding and past members of *The Paper* along with the current editorial staff finally got together Saturday June 9th to commemorate 38 years of determination and success.

The group gathered in Faculty Dining Hall and reflected on what *The Paper* meant to them. Dorothy Randall Gray, a former editor, brought awareness to the passion that kept them all going; "We did the work with passion... we wrote with passion... no body paid us, we had the passion of those days."

While the past members reminisced on old times and the current members took heed to the words of wisdom floating around them that afternoon, no words served more inspirational

than those of the late Sekou Sundiata. Reflection on a man who embodies levels of stimulation many only wish they could reach cannot be done



without speaking of where he came from.

Born Robert Franklin Feaster on August 22, 1948 in Harlem, he changed his name to Sekou Sundiata during the late 1960's. Sundiata graduated from the City College of New York (CCNY) in 1972 with a bachelor's in English and went on to receive his master's in Creative Writing from the City University of New York.

He was an activist, a father, a poet, playwright, song writer, educator, and vocalist; who drew his inspiration from not only his life experiences but from the sounds of jazz, funk, blues, and Afro-Caribbean rhythms.

Throughout his life, Sundiata accomplished so much. Along with fellow CCNY students he played a part in the creation of *The Paper* itself. He served as both writer and performer in his many plays, including *The Circle Unbroken is a Hard Bop*, which did a national tour and won three AUDELCO Awards and a BESSIE Award; *The Mystery of Love*, which was produced by New Voices/ New Visions at Aaron Davis Hall in New York City and the American Music Theater Festival in Philadelphia; *Udu*, produced by 651 ARTS in Brooklyn; as well as *blessing the boats*, which depicted his journey with kidney failure as well as receiving a kidney transplant from a friend, and *The 51st Dream State* both of which was produced by MultiArts Projects and Productions (MAPP).

Sundiata also produced a number of recorded works, his first being *The Blue Oneness of*

continued on page 2

Homegrown Terrorism

By Easter Z. Wood

September 11, 2007 marked the 6 year anniversary of the destruction of the World Trade Center, the damage to the Pentagon and the crash of flight 93 in a field in Pennsylvania. Although some conspiracy theorists believe it was an "inside job" perpetrated by the United States government, the majority of American citizens regard these events acts of terrorism committed by Islamic extremists, and talk of terrorism abounds when the anniversary of September 11 arrives each year. Each year the terror alert is raised and citizens are warned to remain vigilant, lest they allow another attack to occur.

With all this terrorism talk, however, there is rarely mention of the domestic terrorism that many

people – particularly those of color – face on a daily basis and have faced since the beginning of their time in this country. As Larry Pinkney, a former Black Panther and contributor to the Black Commentator, aptly put it:

"Terrorism is not limited to hijacked airliners flying into skyscrapers or bombs exploding in civilian areas. Terrorism also includes enslaving millions of Black people on this continent, socially and economically crippling their off spring, and then denying responsibility for the ongoing horrible damage that has been done, while simultaneously refusing to pay reparations and hypocritically perpetuating de facto racial inequality..."

While the media at large aim at keeping focus solely on foreign terrorism, some recent events have brought this domestic terrorism to light – events that

have poured salt into some wounds on the American psyche that have yet to heal. What is troublesome is that these events have largely been swept under the rug, their perpetrators, where known, essentially given slaps on the wrists.

In Jena, Louisiana, for example, White students at a local High School placed nooses in a tree as a sign of intimidation to Black students not to sit under "their tree." The White students were initially expelled, but not only were their expulsions overturned, but they were not charged with any crime, while the Black teenagers involved ended up on trial and facing upwards of 20 years in prison for a fight that ensued – a fight which was sparked by the noose incident.

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SEEK still helping
after 40 Years
(page 3)

Welcome Back Day
(page 5)

New School Gets
"Explosive Response"
(page 6)

Finley Retreat 2007: "Finding the Center"

By Martina Bailey

The theme of the CCNY 14th annual leadership retreat was, "Finding the Center: Unfolding the Layers of Leadership". The retreat was hosted by the Finley Student Center, which is City College's office of student life and leadership development. This year's retreat took place during the weekend of August 24th through the 26th at Hudson Valley Resort & Spa in Kerhonkson, NY.

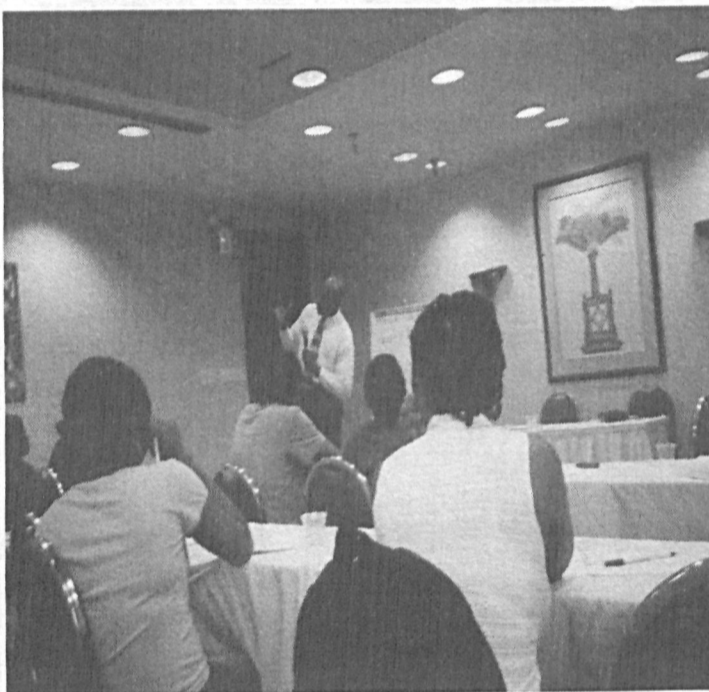
Some of the goals of the retreat included: preparing students for the different tasks that come with being a leader on campus or in their communities, educating on the importance of morals and ethics in leadership and having fun while meeting new people. "Our hope is that you will begin to discover the leader within through the Leadership Development, Group Dynamics, and Team Building workshops and activities..." These were the words of Wendy J. Thornton, Director of the Finley Student Center, in her welcome to the students.

Continuing in the theme of unfolding the layers, students were provided with a program filled with activities and workshops to encourage them to discover the leader within. Dr. Esther Peralez, VP of Student Affairs, Gloria Thomas, Assistant to the Director of IRADAC (Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean) and Michael P. Smalls, Deputy to the VP of Student Affairs, were just a few of the facilitators at the retreat. Pauline Pabon, City College graduate and a veteran of *The Paper* was also one of the speakers there that weekend.

Overall, the retreat was a success. Students

were able to learn, have fun and make connections. The resort offered an intimate and friendly setting with a spa, tennis court and basketball court. The workshops initiated interaction between students, as well as the opportunity for to learn from the speakers the tools to becoming successful leaders. Students were also able to relate to the speakers since many of them were once in the same positions.

I was among the students that attended that retreat and I would advise the leaders of every organization on campus, or in the community, to attend next year's retreat. It's an opportunity to learn about leadership skills and about ourselves. What talents or skills do you have to bring to the table in a club or community organization? Remember that a leader isn't just the President or the Secretary, every organization consists of many leaders.



Sundiata (continued)

Dreams, which was nominated for a Grammy and his most recent *Long Story Short*. Sundiata also performed his work on HBO's Def Poetry Jam and was featured on Bill Moyer's PBS series, "The Language of Life."

Sekou Sundiata passed away on Wednesday, July 18, 2007 due to heart failure in Valhalla, New York. He is survived by his mother, Virginia Myrtle Feaster, his wife, Maurine Knighton, and daughters Diana Gomez, Myisha Gomez and Aida Riddle. Sundiata was a true inspiration to all that came across his path, and while his untimely death was a devastating loss in both the educational and performing arts field, his work will surely live on for years to come.

Homegrown Terrorism (continued)

Of course, violence is not the answer. However, given the history of lynching in this country and all of the mental and emotional anguish that the sight of a noose brings, in addition to the well-documented fact that lynching, and the threat thereof, was used as a means of intimidation and social control of African Americans it is not surprising that the complete disregard for this history and the allowance of such an incident with no repercussion caused an even deeper racial fissure between the students that eventually culminated in violence.

In this "politically correct" climate when even calling someone by a derogatory name could result in being charged with a hate crime, why was no legal hate crime action taken against these White Jena students?

The lack of action shows that, on some level, threats like these are considered acceptable by the establishment, and that the painful history of lynching is considered "dead and buried" even though its imagery and what it implies is very much alive.

Another incident took place

September 7, 2007 at the University of Maryland: a noose was found hanging from a tree in front of the Black Student Union, much to the shock and dismay of Black and White students alike. The main difference in this instance is that Campus and City authorities are already regarding this as a hate crime and have said that the perpetrators will be punished.

This is a step in the right direction, but it is still not enough. As long as racist, domestic terrorists – including the police who there was an anti-terror march against this September 11 – are still being allowed to wreak their havoc, it is very difficult to expect Black folks to rally behind any "anti-terrorism" campaign that is aimed at a faceless threat when many see a threat with a face and a name right here. For citizens to feel compelled to protect the country, the country must feel compelled to protect its citizens – all of them, regardless of race, creed or economic status. Until that happens there will always be an "eminent threat" from without – and within.

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.

After 40 Years SEEK Still Helps Students

By Lindsie Augustin

Too many times in life, individuals are not fully aware of the abundance of opportunities surrounding them and are therefore in desperate need of a serious wake-up call. During the weekend of June 19th to the 21st, a group of approximately 50 students received their "calls" during the 2007 SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) and College Discovery (CD) Student Leadership Retreat. For three days this group of students and faculty members

from various CUNY campuses took part in a variety of workshops and exercises ranging from the essential skills necessary for conducting an effective meeting to proper dinner etiquette. While the

retreat's main objective was to instill certain skills in the students that would prepare them for the leadership positions they're destined to acquire, the retreat developed into so much more.

Initially the retreat began with a brief history about the SEEK/ CD program by organizers Cheryl Williams, University Assistant Dean of Special Programs at the City University of New York and Chevy Alford, SEEK Program Director at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. It was at that time students began to recognize the privilege bestowed upon them that fall semester they entered their chosen CUNY campuses.

Both state-funded programs began as a means to assist economically and educationally challenged students with a

path to higher education. The programs which were birthed during the 1960's struggles essentially became a fight to insure more African American and Hispanic students were included in the college experience. Now 40 years later, the SEEK and CD program has helped thousands of students graduate and move into various fields such as law, medicine, politics and even the arts.

Over the years these programs have become a family and a stable support system for the students who take part in it. "To be in the SEEK program is actually an honor and you need to recognize that," true words of wisdom from Chevy Alford. Both programs provide financial support, tutoring, and a



knowledgeable counselor guiding students down the right path from the moment they enter the campus. Both programs have become that voice that picks students up and that hand that guides them through the dark; thus, provided countless amounts of students with opportunities, which would have never been in their reach. And while it took that weekend to make those 50 or so students realize what they were a part of, the signs are all over. The values that the SEEK and CD program has attempted to instill are ingrained in the everyday lives of students and are, by far, some of the most important lessons to be learned during the course of one's education.

Attention Readers:

There has been an adjustment to the volume number of The Paper. After years of confusion, we got it just about right. So just in case you were wondering why we went from volume number 10 last semester to 125 this semester, we did the calculations and this is where it should be.

-The Editorial Staff



Dear CCNY Campus,

NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group, is pleased to welcome you back after a, hopefully, refreshing summer! For those of you unfamiliar with us, NYPIRG is the state's largest student-directed, nonpartisan, not-for-profit, public interest, advocacy organization. We work on such issues as higher education affordability, consumer protection, environmental preservation, social justice, mass transit (the Straphangers Campaign), and voter empowerment. Our services here at CCNY include:

- civics and skill development workshops
- 2 internship programs (credit and service)
- coordination of student involvement and representation regarding aforementioned issues
- a Small Claims Court Action Center,
- resources on past and present public/student interest issues

This semester we will fight against tuition increases and for greater financial aid funding. Our campaigns to stop global warming and improve recycling in New York State will continue strong. Currently, we are engaged in innovative efforts to address hunger, homelessness, and need in our community. We invite everyone to participate in these ongoing and time friendly efforts! As always, voter registration and mobilization will continue to be one of our priorities on campus student voter registration is the essential first step toward ensuring that elected officials represent student interests.

College students have traditionally made enormous impacts on social movements like the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s and the anti-apartheid campaigns of the 1980s. Through NYPIRG, you can continue this legacy and affect change in just about any area of interest, while gaining valuable experience. Some of the marketable skills you learn and refine are public speaking, leadership, campaign organizing, event planning, writing, and media relations.

So, stop by the NYPIRG office in NAC 1/120, email us at citycollege@nypirg.org, or call us at (212) 650-5047. Make the most of your college experience; supplement your academic career with invaluable experiences and self-development.

Sincerely,
Jessica Scholl
CCNY NYPIRG Project Coordinator

Expressions

One Heart Beat At A Time
By Andre Brissett

One heart beat at a time, its beats repeatedly
Pounding like the drums of a drummer when he plays
Dazed by her midnight cry when she weeps
Gasping for air as he creeps
Promising the never returning touch of his love
He finds himself drenched in the breath of death
Torn apart bred insanity
Instantly prolifically she spoke words
Words without form or desire to breathe
Words that can only be breached
The four walls where she was enslaved
In her mind held bound, ground no longer found
Her security now dissolved in the midnight sky of promiscuity
Infidelity now walks before her
Flowers no longer bloom and the sun will refuse to set at noon
She cries desperately
Tears refuse to crawl down her face, dust falls
Into the night wind stained
With unfeasible gain that her father would come back again

One heart beat at a time, its beats repeatedly
Pounding like the drums of a drummer when he plays
A mother weeping in despair
Whose children tears she cannot bare
To see evaporated in poverty's air
Hunger now strikes as her face doth folded
In her hands her tears now wasted
Gathered around the table, they now waited
With their eyes now elated
Faces of disappointment, she can only envision
For food she has not to feed
She then heeds
To the voices of homicide, suicide
To end this disaster
To kill the perpetrator
Herself, her pride
She then applied for welfare
For which she was not qualified

One heart beat at a time, it beats repeatedly
Pounding like the drums of a drummer when he plays
The earth begins to weep immensely
For the blood they shed profusely
The nation is left destructed
Reflected through the eyes of the infected
Who feels rejected, later ejected
From the new world they had erected
Tick Tock the clock still tocks
Between these lines the keys unlock
The voices of heroes, who cry
"Bring us back"
To this nation that has forgot
Conscience that taught integrity
Integrity that breeds honesty
Honesty which reflects humanity
Humanity that has lost its veracity
Veracity that is scourged by duplicity
Duplicity that is now our government
Our government which is now compromised
Now forgotten are the voices of dead men
who fought for freedom
But dumb are we to believe we are free
For freedom is for the blind, who lives within his own mind
And so his heart continues to beat repeatedly
Pounding like the drums of a drummer when he plays

**ATTENTION
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**Got
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Events @ City

THE SURVIVAL OF THE MAYAS
DATE Mon, Sep 17—Wed, Oct 31
ADDRESS 25 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, New York
PHONE 212-925-6625 x258
BUILDING Center for Worker Education
ROOM Auditorium
DESCRIPTION A 45-piece photographic exhibition by Guatemalan Enrique Bauer highlights present day Mayan Quiches, heirs of the ancient Maya. Opening reception Sept. 17.
ADMISSION Free

HEALTH INSURANCE FAIR FOR CCNY STUDENTS
DATE Thu, Sep 20—
TIME 11:00 AM— 02:00 PM
ADDRESS 160 Convent Ave
PHONE 212 650 8222
BUILDING NAC Rotunda
DESCRIPTION Learn about health insurance plans for students. Bring proof of age, address and income to expedite the process.
ADMISSION Free

NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION
DATE Thu, Sep 20—
TIME 12:00 PM— 02:00 PM
ADDRESS 160 Convent Avenue
PHONE 212-650-8229
BUILDING Shepard Hall - 2nd Floor
ROOM Great Hall
DESCRIPTION This is the formal convocation celebrating the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year. All are welcome; new students are required to attend.
ADMISSION Free

THE SNOWS OF KILIMANJARO
DATE Mon, Sep 24—
TIME 12:20 PM— 02:13 PM
ADDRESS 160 Convent Avenue
PHONE 212-650-6388
BUILDING NAC
ROOM 6/316
DESCRIPTION Ernest Hemingway's short story gets the star treatment in this classic starring Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner, Susan Hayward, and Hildegard Neff, directed by Henry King.
ADMISSION Free
URL <http://www.ccnycuny.edu/rifkind/events.html>

Welcome Back Day!!



Welcome Back,
Welcome Back,
Welcome Back...
the theme to Finley Student Center's festivities on Thursday September 6th. It was a day for students to meet up with old friends and for new students

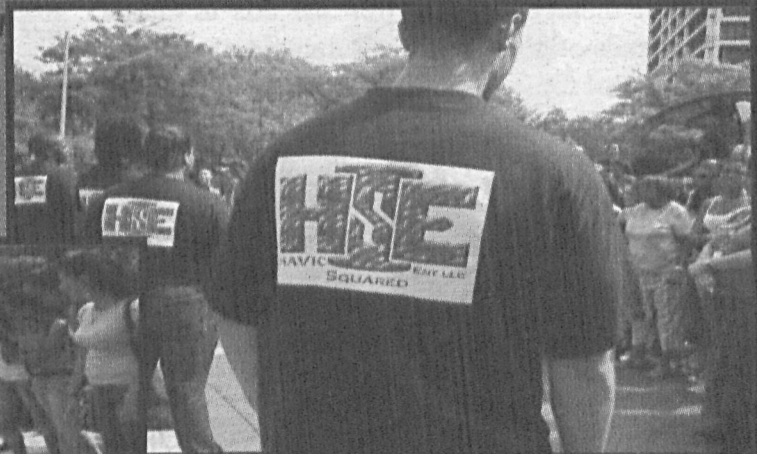
to see what CCNY is all about. Students gathered outside the NAC plaza between club hours, for music by DJ Scoop, with a variety of different foods and free giveaways which included goody bags that contained pens, pencils, folders, and much more. Maui Wowi Hawaii also provided students with free smoothies.

The event began with President William's words of wisdom about the importance of college along with some educational advice on how to succeed in college. Different departments provided students the opportunity

to become more involved at school or with the community. NYPIRG provided information on voter registration and on campus internships. Finley provided a sign-up sheet for those interested in community service through City Service. Other departments that took part in the festivities were the Wellness and Counseling Center and the Athletics department recruiting new individuals to join their teams.

Students enjoyed and saw first hand the talent of the African Dance Club, the Middle Eastern Music & Dance Club and the Salsa Mambo Club. The show stopper of the event bringing lots of energy to the crowd was Havoc², who showed the students what stepping was all about. And after all that entertainment, the crowd was given an extra treat when Jason D.K Wright, president of Spoken-N-Heard, soothed the crowd's minds with his poem "Different and Gifted" Overall, the event was success in getting students ready for what is sure to be yet another year of hard work and fun at CCNY.

-By Teshaka Bond



Commentary

Back to School Blues

By Easter Z. Wood

Another academic year has begun here at CCNY and throughout the city, and students are trying to get back into the swing of things. Getting up early, reading, handing in assignments on time – it can all seem like much too much sometimes.

But, actually, none of the aforementioned activities are what's giving me the "Back to School Blues" – yeah it's tough, but I can handle the alarm clock, the books and the writing. What I can't handle, however, is the complete takeover of the Baskerville building and now the North Academic Center by High School students.

Three of my four classes have been moved from the NAC to two other buildings, and I'm sure I'm not the only one who has come to class over the past week or so and found a list of courses that have been moved, with the explanation that "this room will now be used by the high school between the hours of 12pm and 4pm." I'm also sure I'm not the only one who has been aggravated by now having to schlep to not only another room, but another building as a result of this takeover – even the

professors who have fallen victim to this have complained heavily and one that I know of has been petitioning her department to find another room in the NAC for her class since the day the change happened, to no avail.

Now please, don't get me wrong. I have nothing against teenagers and I want every one of them to get the best education they can – but why does it have to be at the expense of the comfort and convenience of CCNY students who are actually paying to be here? Isn't one building enough? I have a hard time believing that each and every room in the Baskerville building is occupied such that the students have to spill over into the NAC. I also have a hard time believing that there are no other rooms in the NAC that the displaced classes could have been moved to rather than being forced into other buildings and students and professors alike having to run back and forth in a rush to get to classes on time, some of them trying to carry books and other materials to enhance their students' educational experience.

I called this "Back to School Blues" because, despite the tribulations they document, the blues generally have the theme of redemption

and a bright spot of hope intermingled with the adversity. One bright spot is that two of the moves have brought me from stuffy, shoebox classrooms with no windows to rooms with windows. Another bright spot is that I now know my way around two new buildings. Those are, admittedly, nice things but they don't outweigh the inconvenience of having to run back and forth to three different buildings – particularly in the rain or when it starts to get cold out.

The biggest redeeming factor in this, however, is that we don't have to sit back and take it! This is our school and we have the right to fight and petition for the things we want – and against the things we don't. The Student Government Association (SGA) is the conduit between students and administration and I urge any of you who are displeased with this or any other situation here at CCNY to contact your class senators or other members of SGA and make your voices heard. Perhaps, with their help we can bring our classes back to the NAC.

Until then... I'll see you in the mob that forms at the elevators in the Marshak Building just before 2pm. Fun fun fun!

New School Gets "Explosive Response"

By Julian Robinson

On Tuesday, September 4th, the very first public funded Arabic-language school opened. Due to a large number of protests, the Khalil Gibran International Academy, ironically named after the Christian poet best known for peace, made sure to open up with extra security. Since the announcement of the opening, there have been huge outcries for months by people who believe the school will possibly be influenced by anti-American Islamic extremists.

Since the academy is an experiment, school officials will gradually continue adding grades to the school, year by year. The first grade that will be implemented is the 6th. Although the Khalil Gibran International Academy is currently the most controversial themed school, it's not the only one in existence in New York. There are other schools that offer themes varying from the arts to ethnic backgrounds of the world. For example, the Henry Street School for International Studies is an ethnic-themed public school in New York as well. What makes this "themed" school stand out, is the fact that it is the first Arabic-themed school in the City. As a result, it's been getting a pessimistic reaction from people living in New York.

According to the Department of Education spokeswoman, Melody Meyer, "We need more Arabic speakers in this country, and that's part of the reason this school is being opened." However, some may wonder if there is a need for more Arabic speakers in the US, why not simply introduce the Arabic language into public schools that are already



in existence?

Interestingly enough, the controversy surrounding the academy does not stop at the topic of its opening, but also with its employees. The school's principal, Debbie Almontaser, left in early August due to criticism towards her affiliation with a group that manufactured t-shirts with the word "infitada," an Arabic term referring to the Palestinian uprising against the Israelis, imprinted on it. Since the incident, she has been replaced by an acting interim principal, Danielle Salzburg, a woman with no Middle Eastern descent and who does not speak the Arabic language. In fact, Salzburg is, ironically, of Jewish descent.

Could the opening of the academy really be such a big deal? Why is it that we now live in a society that is so critical, that it could cause so much controversy over such a small issue? Why is it that individuals are so narrow minded in a day and age where our society is so diverse and mixed? The questions are many, the answers few, but hopefully the success of the Khalil Gibran International Academy will open the eyes our critical society.

textbooks

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RENT

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Credit Orientation

By Carheem Cooke-Coleman

A wise person once told me, "If you don't have the money to pay for something... you don't need it right away". This statement possesses a lot of truth, the sort of truth that young people would rather not hear. Nevertheless, we are going to keep it real! When was the last time you were out with a predetermined destination, came across a store, went in to browse and came out with a \$250 purchase, even though you went in the store with no money? We as young adults have to be smarter than that. It seems as if we are setting ourselves up for a life of poverty rather than success.

I posed the issue to some passing students here at CCNY. I asked them a series of questions concerning shopping and spending. When asked, how often do you shop? The responses varied from every week to once every three months. One third of the students, however, said they spent over \$100 on one single item of clothing. I asked whether they owned any credit cards and half said they owned one or two. Although approximately 16% possessed five or more active credit cards, one third of those questioned did not own any credit cards at all. Roughly, 30% of the students approached stated they have credit card debt of over \$1000, while 1/6 hold less than \$500 debt. And 50% have not acquired any debt.

In our communities, fashion is a big part of the culture. Moreover, many young people in this new day and age believe they have to be on the cutting edge of the latest trends. If that desire requires paying \$160 for the newest pair of Steve

Madden boots, or \$320 on the freshest True Religion jeans, then our priorities are heavily misplaced. Our spending habits have gone way out of control. When a full time college student with no job, no "hustle", and no money has an iPhone, a SK3, Prada shoes, D&G frames, or the like, the focus is not on their financial future. One CCNY student identified the issue as "a culture of excess", the need to just "have". Another student said, "I'm not a shopper... maybe three or four times a year. I don't follow trends. I

just one reasonable purchase that can be paid off when the bill arrives. That way, we will build our credit rating and secure a stable and rewarding financial future.

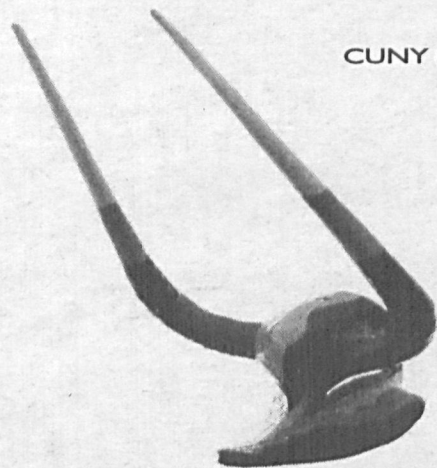
According to Washington Mutual's credit profile help, creditors and lenders look at a number of factors when determining our creditworthiness. The first is payment history: how often payments are made, are they paid on time, and any derogatory items or delinquencies, etc. Outstanding debt: how many accounts are open and what's the balance on each of them. Length of credit history: how long have we've been active in using our credit? Next is severity and frequency of derogatory credit information: bankruptcies, charge-offs, collections, etc. Finally, the amount of credit used compared to the amount available: how much is being spent in relation to the credit limit. The creditors and lenders also use this information to determine the type, or amount of interest that should be charged to a customer.

A number of students, almost all that were interviewed, admitted to not knowing nearly as much as they should to be financially independent in their future. Some have suggested talking to a financial planner, or credit counselor. Another suggestion was, as a senior in High School and during young adulthood, to attend financial workshops to help guide economic stability in life. Once we become regularly active in using our credit we must stay on top of our credit history, making sure to correct any inaccuracies or fraudulent behavior in order to ensure accuracy of all our financial and credit information. And if necessary, seek professional help.



don't want any type of jeans that are ridiculously expensive". This is exactly the type of thinking a college student needs to have.

When bombarded by credit card companies as soon as you turn 18, what are we to do? As a matter of fact, anyone can walk into any college campus, especially during freshman orientation or the moment the weather breaks warm, and you are guaranteed to find vendor after vendor luring unsuspecting students to their table to fill out credit card applications. Rather than purchasing that \$600 PS3 or \$400 XBOX 360 subsequent to you receiving that \$0 Annual Fee, Pre-Approved Platinum card with a \$2500 Credit Line, and minimum 21.99% Variable Annual Percentage Rate, which is almost impossible to pay off on time, we should consider making



15th Anniversary
CUNY DOMINICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE
at The City College of New York

Celebrating
CUNY ALUMNI OF
DOMINICAN DESCENT
35,000 and counting...

Saturday, December 8, 2007
The Great Hall
The City College of New York
New York City

Register Now
space is limited.

The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute at The City College of New York will mark its 15th Anniversary with a black tie celebration to honor CUNY's more than 35,000 alumni of Dominican descent. We invite all Dominican graduates of CUNY's 23 colleges and schools to join us at this joyous event recognizing the educational advancement of students of Dominican descent and the role that CUNY has played and continues to play in their success.

Please help us in our effort to find Dominican alumni of CUNY.

For more information about this event, please visit our Web site at www.ccny.cuny.edu/dsi. We have posted a pre-registration form for CUNY alumni of Dominican descent to let us know of their interest in attending the event.

CUNY DOMINICAN
STUDIES INSTITUTE

The City College of New York
160 Convent Avenue NA 4/107
New York, NY 10031
Tel. 212.650.7496

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
BLACK MALE INITIATIVE
SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Focus on the State of Black Education:
Investing in the Next Generation of African American Students

Featuring

Keynote Speaker

Morning Session on K-12 Issues



Dr. Gail Thompson
Associate Professor, Claremont Graduate University
Author, *Through Ebony Eyes: What Teachers Need to Know but are Afraid to Ask About African American Students*

Keynote Speaker

Afternoon Session on Higher Education



Reverend Dr. Calvin Butts, III
President, State University of New York,
The College at Old Westbury
Pastor, Abyssinian Baptist Church

The Second Annual CUNY BMI Conference will also feature the following panel discussions:

African American and Latino Male Initiative Programs from Kindergarten to High School
Challenges Facing African American Male Students: Pre-Kindergarten to High School
Increasing the Number of African American Male Teachers
Community-based Models to Promote Academic Success
Unemployment and Underemployment of Young Black Males
Increasing Access to Higher Education for Formerly Incarcerated Persons
Concrete Strategies to Promote the Academic Success of African American Collegians
Promoting Academic Success in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

The City College of New York

The Great Hall in Shepard Hall and the North Academic Center

Friday, October 5, 2007

9 am to 6 pm

Please RSVP to:

Elliott Dawes, Director, CUNY BMI, at Elliott.Dawes@mail.cuny.edu, or
Michael Shaw, Interim Associate Director, CUNY BMI, at Michael.Shaw@mail.cuny.edu.

Details and updates will be posted at our website: <http://www.cuny.edu/bmi>

Please send an email confirming your attendance at your earliest convenience as space is limited.

Sports

Barry Bonds - Home Run King?

By Nicholas Chin

On August 8th, 2007 the Washington Nationals went up against the San Francisco Giants. When Barry Bonds went up to bat, the audience was on their feet, anticipating another home run. Nationals' Pitcher Jason Bergmann threw the pitch; Bonds hit it forcefully, then put both his hands up and started to round the bases. The entire stadium stood up in celebration, as they witnessed history in the making.

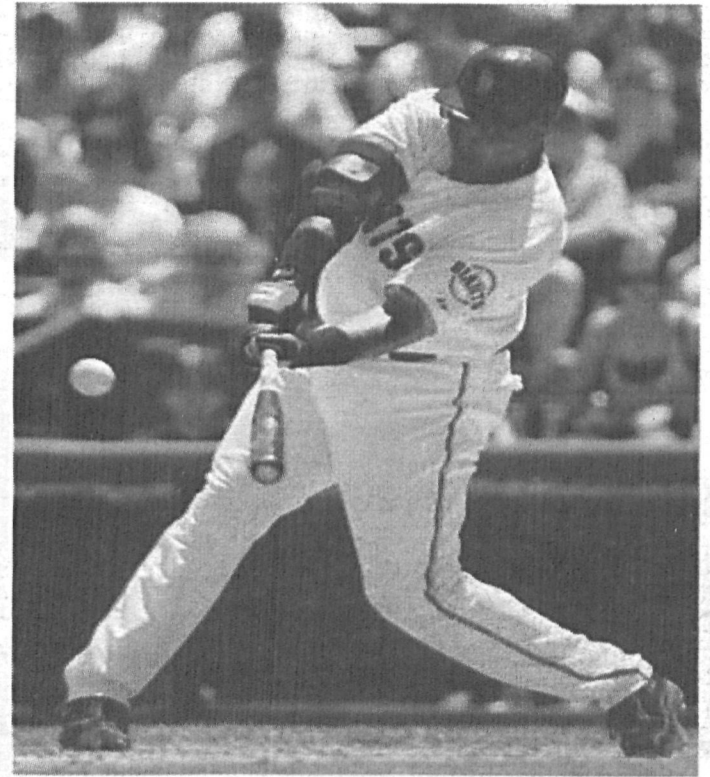
Most sports fans consider records held to be sacred and that they should be treated with respect. Hank Aaron held the home run record for thirty-three years, and fans named him the home run king. As one of the most respected baseball players ever to play the sport, many still consider his record to be authentic, despite Barry Bonds surpassing him.

During the last few years Bonds has been at the forefront in the issue of baseball players taking steroids. He is suspected of using steroids to enhance his playing abilities. In the beginning of his career, he was a player who combined speed and quickness with power. In 1996, he hit 42 home runs and stole 40 bases in the same season. He was considered one of the better players in the league, if not the best. Over the years though, he started to get bigger, and many suspected him of using steroids. Not only did his arms and legs get bigger, but his head also got bigger. His stolen bases per season went down, but the amount of home runs he hit went up. In 2001, he hit a record breaking 73 home runs in a season. The record was broken three years before when Mark McGwire hit 70 home runs, Sammy Sosa also hit 66 home runs that same season.

In 2003, the use of steroids became an issue when Jason Giambi admitted to using them. Because of the Bonds' transformation in the past few years, he was investigated to find out whether or not he was using steroids. His trainer, Greg Anderson was sent to prison because he would not testify before the grand jury about his connection with Bonds and steroids. And even though Bonds was investigated, he was never found guilty of using any illegal drugs.

As a result of all the controversy surrounding him, many fans believe that Hank Aaron's home run record stands, and want an asterisk next to Bonds' name in the record books. Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig did not want to be there when Bonds broke the record, neither did Hank Aaron want any part in it. The two only congratulated Bonds on his remarkable achievements.

There are many who were excited about the feat that Bonds accomplished but there are still those who don't believe he did it righteously. Barry Bonds will forever be questioned on whether or not he cheated in baseball and whether or not his record is authentic. Some say that he is true and plays the game the right way, while others say that he has no respect for the game and should not be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Is his record legitimate? If no evidence comes out against him for using steroids, we will never know for sure.



Upcoming Games

Women's Volleyball Schedule

9/21	Purchase	7:00pm
9/24	Farmingdale	7:00pm
9/25	Hunter	6:00pm
9/28	Polytechnic	7:00pm
10/2	City Tech	6:00pm
10/5	Ramapo Tournament	TBA
10/8	Lehman	TBA
10/8	York	TBA
10/10	St. Joseph LI	7:00pm
10/13	Oswego Tournament	10:00am
10/16	Medgar Evers	7:00pm
10/23	CSI	TBA
10/27	Tri-Match vs. Gwenyd Mercy	1:00pm
10/30	CUNYAC Quarter Finals	7:00pm

Men's Soccer Schedule

9/22	Purchase	1:00pm
9/24	Maritime	7:00pm
9/29	John Jay	12:00pm
10/1	St. Joseph's LI	3:30pm
10/3	Baruch	6:00pm
10/6	CSI	1:00pm
10/8	NJCU	3:30pm
10/10	Hunter	6:00pm

10/13	Brooklyn	6:00pm
10/15	Kean	7:30pm
10/17	City Tech	6:00pm
10/22	Manhattanvill	e 6:00pm
10/27	CUNYAC Quarterfinals	1:00pm
10/31	CUNYAC Semifinals	4pm & 6pm

Women's Soccer Schedule

9/26	Medgar Evers	4:00pm
10/1	Mount St. Vincent	6:00pm
10/4	Mt. St. Mary	7:00pm
10/6	NJCU	1:00pm
10/8	Medgar Evers	5:30pm
10/13	CSI	12:00pm
10/15	St. Joseph NY	3:30pm
10/17	Ramapo	4:00pm
10/20	St. Elizabeth	1:00pm
10/28	HVWAC Playoffs	TBA

Men's Cross Country Schedule

All Events at Van Cortland Park 10:00am	
9/23	Queensborough Invitational
9/30	Lehman Invitational
10/7	York Invitational
10/14	City Tech Invitational