

The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Vol. 128 No. 1 September 2009

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

Club Leaders Talk of a New Student Union

By Maurice Selby

Forty years since the infamous student takeover, it seems that the students at The City College of New York have prompted new calls for students to unite in bringing certain issues to the attention of the administration. At workshop held during the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development's (OSLLD) Annual Leadership Retreat, club leaders discussed the need for various groups on campus to work together to ensure that the needs and concerns of students are acknowledged and addressed.

"I think we must create a new union of clubs that identifies issues that affect all students and that will be able to bring together all the different entities on campus to fight for what we need," proposed Raja Abdullhaq, the President of the General Union of Palestine Students. Spoken Heard representative Jason "D.K." Wright said "We need all the clubs, all student groups in on this,...If we all get behind this we'll be able to force the changes we want to see happen."



Students at the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development's Annual Leadership Retreat

With over 145 registered clubs and student organizations on campus, a student union composed of all the various groups could potentially allow for easier and more effective campaigns to enact change on campus. Currently, the Council Of Organizations (COO), which is run by the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), is the only body to which all registered clubs at City College belong. While there have been attempts by the USG to bring groups together using the COO, the results were mediocre at best, with many groups reverting to their isolated ways once all parties felt that an objective was met.

According to Emanuel Zamor, President of the City's Football Club, the COO isn't the right group to take up the task of raising awareness amongst administrators about student concerns. The only way to create a sustained dialogue with the administration is to have a group whose sole function is to communicate students' sentiments directly to the USG and the administration.

"The COO is certainly necessary, and I truly believe that it is effective in terms of making sure that all the clubs have the resources and information to be productive and enhance student life on campus," said Zamor. "However, I think we need a separate group that will work with COO and USG to make sure that student's voices are heard and that people pay attention to what is going on around them."

The larger portion of many COO meetings is spent discussing funding and important deadlines that club leaders must be aware of. In the past, when the USG planned on organizing students to address a particular issue, they would just mention it at the COO

Continued on page 4

New Changes at City College

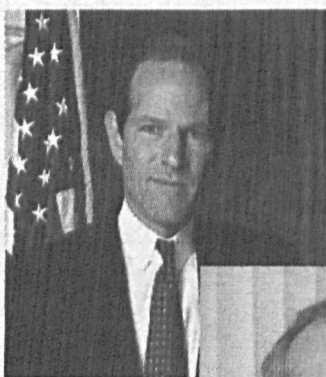
By Lindsie Augustin

As the new semester gets underway, CCNY students have been greeted with several changes to both faculty and administration.

In the political science department, former NYC Governor Eliot Spitzer has taken a position to teach Law and Public Policy. As many may remember Spitzer was brought down by a prostitution scandal in March of 2008 and was replaced with now Governor David Paterson. Currently Spitzer has been hired as an adjunct professor—however it will be interesting to see if this position will stick.

On another note, President Gregory H. Williams will be resigning as the 11th president of

City College on November 1st. Williams has accepted a position at the University of Cincinnati.



Above: Eliot Spitzer
Below: CCNY President Gregory Williams



In a letter from Williams to the City College community, he writes "I have loved my time at

The City College of New York. I cherish the support that I have received from each and every one of you. Together I believe that over the past eight years we truly. Together I believe that over the past eight years we truly transformed the City College."

His departure from CCNY has generated mixed feelings from students. Many of whom never felt a connection with Williams and thus are not personally effected by the news of his leaving. Nor have they agreed with his decision regarding the betterment of the campus. Nevertheless *The Paper* wishes him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Why More Cops in Harlem Won't Solve our Rape Crisis

page 3

TheLee Cez:
The Obvious Bias: Are You Voting Wisely?

page 4

Parenthood on The Hill...
Children and Education

page 9

10 Things
You Probably
Didn't Know About Islam

page 10

H1N1 Update

From City College Website

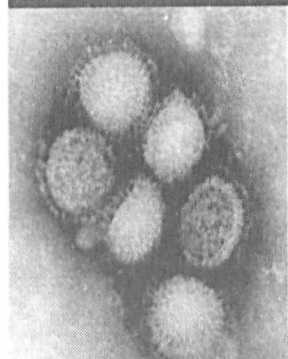


Photo from www.voanews.com

Throughout the summer, CUNY campuses have been busy preparing for a potential resurgence of H1N1 influenza by circulating informational posters, keeping soap dispensers well stocked, and keeping abreast of H1N1 developments.

The University has updated its pandemic influenza response plan and has charged its Risk Management Council's Infectious Disease Committee with developing protocols. Numerous briefings have been conducted for the presidents and senior executives on the updated pandemic flu plan.

The University has been coordinating its H1N1 influenza efforts with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), which recently issued the following advice in a report titled Preventing Transmission of H1N1 Influenza in Colleges and Universities:

"Although most people diagnosed with H1N1 flu to date have experienced mild illness, more serious illness has also occurred, especially among those with chronic health conditions that place them at risk for complications of seasonal influenza.

"Like any flu virus, H1N1 is spread mainly through respiratory droplets that are released when an infected person sneezes or coughs. People in close (within 3 feet) proximity can become infected if these droplets contact their mouth, nose or eyes, or if they touch a person or surface with virus on it (like a door knob or telephone receiver) and then touch their mouth, nose or eyes. The same measures that reduce transmission of seasonal flu will also reduce transmission of H1N1 flu.

"Specific measures that can be taken to prevent flu among students, faculty, and staff and reduce secondary transmission through the self-isolation of people with mild influenza-like illness are:

- Practice respiratory etiquette (cover your cough with tissue or handkerchief, dispose of used tissues in a wastebasket);
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and running water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially after coughing or sneezing or throwing a used tissue into the garbage; and
- Isolate yourself (stay home) while experiencing influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat). Do not attend classes or other group activities until you have been free of symptoms for 24 hours."

For additional information on H1N1, please visit:
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/cd/cd-h1n1flu.shtml>,
New York City Office of Emergency Management
http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/downloads/pdf/flu_guide.pdf

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/websites>.

The University continues to monitor H1N1 developments and will share updates as appropriate. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your campus Director of Health Services or the University Office of Environmental, Health, Safety and Risk Management (riskmanagement@mail.cuny.edu).

NYPIRG Welcomes Back Students



Dear CCNY Students

Today....I fought hunger, I fought homelessness, I registered people to vote, I made sure the MTA was putting my \$89.00 a month to good use, I fought for student's rights, I fought to lower text book prices, I fought for more financial aid, I convinced my senator to be more environmentally conscious, I empowered a community AND I DID IT ALL WITH NYPIRG.

NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group, is the state's largest non-partisan student directed advocacy organization. We have chapters at over 20 college campuses throughout New York, and we pride ourselves on training student advocates and leaders on effectively influencing political change here in New York. Just last year we enacted the Bigger Better Bottle Bill, which allows for 5 cent deposits to be collected on water bottles, WHICH WAS NEVER ALLOWED BEFORE!!! And it also requires that 80% of unclaimed deposits which used to go to the bottling companies, will now go to the state. And we did it, because of committed students, LIKE YOU, who didn't give up in the face of adversity.

The fight however is not over. We are still working on Climate Change Legislation. In fact, on Sunday, September 20th, New Yorkers from all walks of life gathered in Central Park to call for world leaders to agree upon a global climate change deal. Proving to be a momentous event with incredibly interesting speakers.

We are going to make a HUGE impact this semester. If you're ready to make a difference, and want to see how THINGS GET DONE, then come to our General Interest Meeting which will be on September 24 at 12:30 pm, room to be announced (check the office for room number). We also have weekly meetings in NAC 1-120 every Tuesday during club hours at 12:30. We're open every day, you can come by and see me, Scott, the project coordinator and we'll let you know about all of our campaigns.

...Today I stood up with the rest of the student body and we made a difference, and I'm inviting you to do the same.

Scott Silverman
Project Coordinator
New York Public Interest Research Group
City College New York
New York, NY 10031
(212) 650-5047

The Paper

The City College of New York
138th Street & Convent Ave.
NAC 1/118
New York, NY 10031

Phone: 212-650-5029

Fax: 212-650-5022

Email: thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu

Website: www.ccnythepaper.com

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-In-Chief

Lindsie Augustin

Managing Editor

Taqiyya Haden

Copy Editor

Mitchell Robinson-Ramirez

David Isaiah McClatchie

FACULTY ADVISOR

Herb Boyd

Professor Debra Kennedy

STAFF WRITERS

Jeff Delices

Sam Kimball

Naeema J. Muhammad

Marc Polite

Conor Tomás Reed

Olga Sanjurjo

Gumar Williams

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Maalik Abdul Rasheed

Scott Silverman

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.

Why More Cops in Harlem Won't Solve our Rape Crisis

By Conor Tomás Reed

August 1st marked the beginning of a frightening series of sexual assaults that have inflicted Harlem, causing a widespread fear for women's safety. Four women have been victimized to date, the most recent being a 28-year old woman who was attacked in her apartment bedroom on September 7th.

The New York City Police Department covered the neighborhood with leaflets revealing a sketch and physical description of their suspect, a Black man in his 30s. A fleet of police vehicles now roam through the 14-block radius in which the four attacks occurred, between Riverside and St. Nicholas Avenues.

At first consideration, this seems to be the best strategy for capturing the assailant and addressing the danger of rape in our community. Without a doubt, sexual assault remains a terrifying problem in our society, with 1 in 6 women experiencing it in a lifetime. Every two minutes someone in the United States is raped. However, dispatching more cops on the streets of Harlem does not solve this systemic crisis against women. Moreover, it serves as a cynical excuse for the NYPD to indiscriminately target and harass innocent young Black men on the street.

Even though we are told the police represent a force of service and protection in society, Amnesty International recently reported that *"independent inquiries have uncovered systematic abuses in some of the country's largest city police departments, revealing a serious nationwide problem. In each case, the authorities had ignored longstanding and routine police brutality in high-crime districts. Many of these cities have had histories of police brutality and corruption."*

Yet the NYPD, and the city government of New York overall, constantly employ the following equation: more cops = less crime. However, many social scientists roundly denounce this as a statistically false connection. In fact, a recent study concluded what a heightened police presence *can* ensure in a

neighborhood like Harlem. *"In 2006, the New York City Police Department (NYPD) stopped a half-million pedestrians for suspected criminal involvement. Raw statistics for these encounters suggest large racial disparities—89 percent of the stops involved nonwhites."*

On the issue of police protecting women's safety, what's even more frightening is the reported December 6, 2008 rape of an intoxicated young woman by two NYPD officers. The officers had been asked by a



Sketch of the rape suspect in Harlem who remains at large

Photo from www.NY1.com

taxi driver to help her get home safely. Or the February 2007 brutal assault of a 5'3", 115-pound female bartender in Chicago by a 250-pound off-duty police officer... who won't serve a single day in jail for this horrific attack. The assumption about dependable police protection, then, begins to crumble and sour with these disgusting acts.

In addition, if one takes a step back and views how another U.S. armed force—the military—treats women, the picture becomes even more consistently grim. 28% of women who served in the armed forces have reported being sexually assaulted by their peers or commanding officers, according to the Women Veterans Health Program. 90% of those accused of sexual assault in the military go unpunished.

This wider lens must also be used to explain why these sexual assaults happen in the first place. Rapists are a product of our society

because our society is profoundly sexist. Women are demeaned in advertising, in arts and music, on the street, at workplaces, in our schools, and thus directly in personal sexual relationships. Such ongoing inequalities against women inevitably produce violence against women. Therefore, to say that the series of rapes in Harlem are somehow an aberration—the work of a monster who came out of nowhere—is to deny the social factors that may lead someone to commit horrifying acts such as these attacks in Harlem.

We are told to welcome more cops on our streets... not anti-sexist community programs, free women's self-defense classes, robust public education funding, psychological services for the poor, well-lit streets, and better-paid healthy communities who could more adeptly look out for each other on our own without the NYPD's "help." This false logic of police = protection needs to be dropped. Sean Bell, Amadou Diallo, and Juanita Young, among others, would gravely tell us so.

With such concrete figures and examples that demonstrate the local and federal governments' inability to protect women from harm, while continuing the abhorrent practice of racial profiling, the solution is not to avoid understanding how the problems themselves are created and perpetuated. Nor is the solution found in using the same intensely flawed methods of community protection.

History can teach us a lesson for new strategies to keep our communities truly safe and sound. In 1966, the first actions conducted by The Black Panther Party in Oakland, California included monitoring police as they did neighborhood patrols. The people no longer trusted the police, and so they began to police the police. The Party took responsibility for protecting the community from the undesirable elements. If we need to create a new community safety network—one that actually protected women and people of color—what if we did it ourselves?

Conor Tomás Reed is a member of the International Socialist Organization, and can be reached at cocoreed@gmail.com.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

The Paper

Is in search of dedicated and passionate individuals
Who aren't afraid of a little hard work to join our staff

Come Stop by the office and fill out an application
Visit us in NAC 1/118 or email us at Thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu

All majors are welcomed
We look forward to seeing you!!

TheLee Cez:

The Obvious Bias: Are You Voting Wisely?

By Jeff Delices

www.theleecez.com

Last year, many New Yorkers voted for the first time, in support of change. Well, it's another election year, another year of politician's politicking with potential voters. We had September 15th elections for New York City Comptroller, City Council, District Attorney and coming up is the election for Mayor of New York City. Mayor Michael Bloomberg is running for a third term. Bloomberg campaigned to have term limits extended in 2008, a move that sparked debate and controversy. Mayor Bloomberg—the billionaire playboy—is the nominee for both the Republican and Independent Party of America while Comptroller Bill Thompson and City Council Member Tony Avella are competing for Democratic nomination.

As a non-voter, I supported Michael Bloomberg for making the trains run faster, and playing the role of an independent. However, since becoming a registered voter, I realized the importance of my vote—even if I become further entrenched in the system—my vote not only affects my life, but fellow students, neighbors, family members, and people of color. I realized I could not just support Mayor Bloomberg because the L train happens to run on time. I have to think about the J and 2 trains—which run slow—the buses, and shuttle trains, which slow down during the evening. I have to take into consideration the reason for the quickness of the L train. Is it because my neighborhood of Bushwick is being gentrified? Moreover, the newcomers need to get to Manhattan.

Elected officials work for the people and must cater to the welfare of all people, not one over the other. Correct? Well our current Mayor—Incumbent, Michael Bloomberg has not. Bloomberg has been biased, and has made laws, plans and/or supported cases, which do not benefit the people, rather his agenda,

benefits his fellow billionaires.

For instance, in 2008, Bloomberg canceled the N.Y.C. property tax rebate and proposed a 900 million dollar increase in the city's sales tax. The tax increase would affect all homeowners throughout the city, and if implemented will cause more homeowners to lose their home, investments, and/or lead many homeowners to sell their homes. Also this would force many renters out of their apartments, as a result of the landlords wanting to sell. In other words, help gentrify neighborhood like Bushwick, Bed-Stuy, and Harlem.

As a participant of local elections, in Brooklyn, I have noticed that incumbent's good deeds and longevity overshadows all the wrongs/mistakes he or she has done. Moreover, the amount of time they spend in office benefits their run, as many voters prefer to "stick with the devil they know." As a young adult voter it is time I take into consideration the reason many politicians maintain their respective seats. Is it their influential friends or fellow politicians? Is it the amount of money they spend on their campaigns? Or specifically in Bloomberg's case the propaganda, of "He's only paid \$1 a year from the city?"

Before I cast my vote in this year's Mayoral election, I must find out Bloomberg's *real* reason for supporting cop killer Officer Andrew Dunton—who fired 6 shots and hit Police Officer Omar Edwards 3 times, killing him instantly—while publicly condemning former Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress. Burress accidentally shot himself in the thigh at the Manhattan Night Club, Latin Quarters. As readers may recall, Bloomberg stated in reference to Plaxico Burress' shooting, "It would be an outrage if we don't prosecute to the fullest extent of the law." However, in response to the killing of an African American police officer, killed by a White police officer, while chasing down a suspect, Bloomberg said, "I promise you, we will do everything possible to learn from this

tragedy."

As a Black man in New York City and a registered voter, I need to

know the reason for this bias, before I cast my vote. N.Y.C. residents can learn from a Black man being killed however cannot when one accidentally shoots himself. A White police officer kills a Black police officer and receives no time in prison, suspension, or even a day in court. However, a Black man accidentally shoots himself and automatically faces 3 years in prison—there is a bias on the implementation of laws in New York City.

In the case of Plaxico Burress, he shot himself with an unlicensed gun, however, no one but Plaxico Burress was hurt. On the other hand, Officer Andrew Dunton, shot and killed a fellow Police Officer, in a matter, which, was not life and death. As I understand an officer must take into consideration, before firing his or her gun: Weapon, Intent, and Delivery System. Is the weapon deadly? Is there intent to use the weapon? Is the person able to use the weapon? For instance, a person with a knife, standing behind a door is unable to harm, compared to standing a few feet from the Officer.

Although, the courts are responsible in deciding whether a person should be tried and convicted, when the Mayor of the city publicly voices his opinion in a case or situation, people will listen. In addition, if his statements prove to be inconsistent with previous ones, as voters we must take notice and let our voices be heard at the polls. I have no intention of influencing voters, however, I do encourage voters to study and analyze the actions of all politicians before making a vote. I have watched Mayor Michael Bloomberg and my voice will be heard on Election Day.



Courtesy by Jeff

continued from front page

Club Leaders Talk of a New Student Union



Students at the Retreat

that they wanted to be made.

Among the issues that were presented as requiring immediate action on the part of students were, student space, cafeteria food prices, and access to campus resources and facilities during the weekends and off peak hours. If enough students could gather to speak up about the aforementioned issues, the administration would have to hear them out. Thus, a new student club union might be just what is needed to accomplish such a seemingly difficult task.

"The beauty of this [the club union], would be the sheer number of people that could be readily assembled to fight for what we need as students," said one student leader that wished not to be identified. "All we would

need is about 10-15 people from each club and we would have well over 1000 students to go and tell the administration what we want to see happen on campus. Imagine what might have happened if we had those numbers when we were out there protesting the tuition hikes. This could be a very powerful thing, and I hope we can get everyone together to get this thing going."



Students in Workshop

meeting and tell club officers and hope that they would spread the information to their respective members. Many leaders would in fact share what they learned with the people in their groups however, there would never be plans to effectively organize all the groups to have public demonstrations and movements that would help students affect the changes

Back to Our Senses: Health Care Debate

By Marc Polite
Opinion

President Barack Obama's address to Congress on August 14th brought civility back into the discussion on health care. For the better part of the summer, the debate on health care descended into organized heckling, ridiculous accusations, and, in some cases, outright misinformation. Instead of a serious discussion on fixing an existing system that leaves millions without coverage, we all were inundated with images of angry mobs and oft repeated falsehoods. As a result, the more sensible and progressive voices were almost shut out of the conversation.

Out of political necessity, the President had to acknowledge both sides of the debate, and was forced to address baseless claims. The most horrendous one circulating was the notion that "death panels"—a board to decide end of life issues—would be part of the health care reform bill. Also handily dismissed was the idea that Medicare would be cut in order to pay for health care reform. The plan does not at all call for that, this is just another outright fabrication. With those misrepresentations exposed, the way is

clear to move on to what the actual reforms proposed.

Referred to by President Obama as "consumer protections," the health care reform bill would make it illegal to deny coverage for a pre-existing condition. It will also be against the law for insurance



President Barack Obama

companies to drop someone from coverage when they become sick. These are a few of the many proposed reforms that will go a long way towards keeping the health care industry honest and forcing monopolies to behave in a humane way towards their customers. Regulation of the health care industry is necessary, seeing as the insurance companies were reluctant to make the adjustments themselves.

There will also be a not for profit

public option to compete with the established insurance companies. The public option will also cover the uninsured, to the relief of those without coverage, a figure that increases by 12,000 daily. In addition, the public health option will encourage private companies to be more efficient, a move that is needed in light of rising health costs. Another important stipulation of the bill is that there will be limitations placed on out of pocket charges.

Health care reform will not be the poorly conceived plan that the conservative opposition originally maligned it as. The different insurance options will be phased in over the next 4 years. This is ample time for the health insurance companies to adjust their current business practices. It is not a "government takeover", but a way of alleviating the most outlandish abuses.

Now with a much better tone set, and the facts out there, let's continue to hold the politicians' feet to the flames on the long overdue issue of health reform. Let's not forget those obstructionists who held up this possibility, and fought it every step of the way. Reasonable input, not pointless outbursts, is needed to improve the state of health care for everyone in this country.

Baruch College & Merrill Lynch Invitational Entrepreneurship Competition 2009–2010

Have a great idea for a socially oriented or for-profit business?

Winners are eligible for over \$100,000 in cash prizes and startup funds

Come to Our Kickoff Fair

Friday, September 25, at 10am
Baruch College
Newman Vertical Campus, Room 14-220
55 Lexington Avenue at 24th Street

Have any unanswered questions?
www.baruch.cuny.edu/bcec/college
E-mail: barry.dumas@baruch.cuny.edu

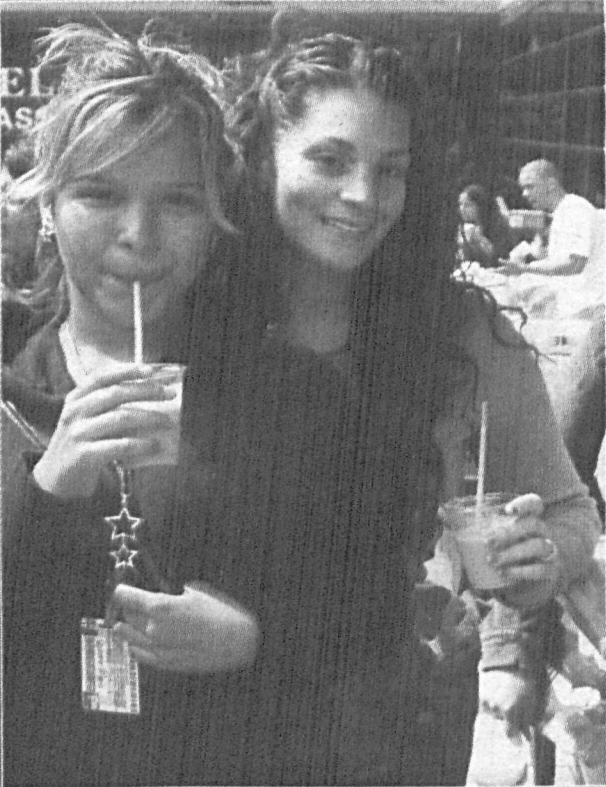
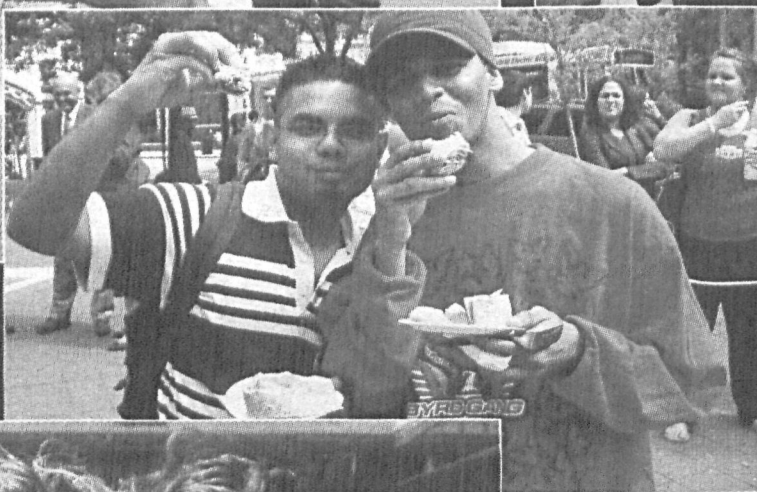
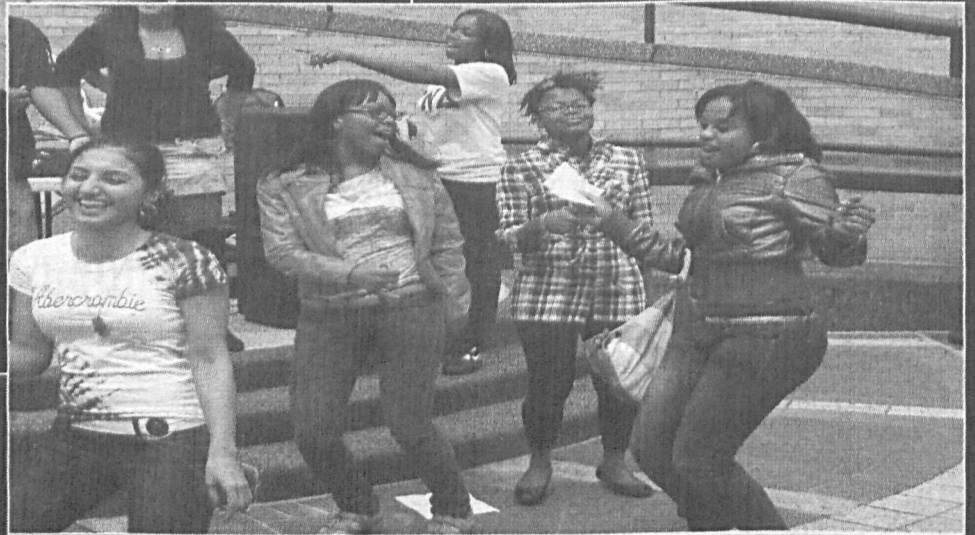
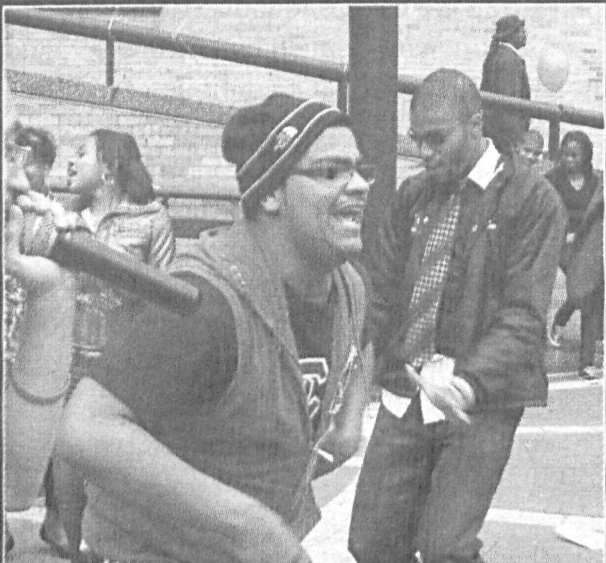
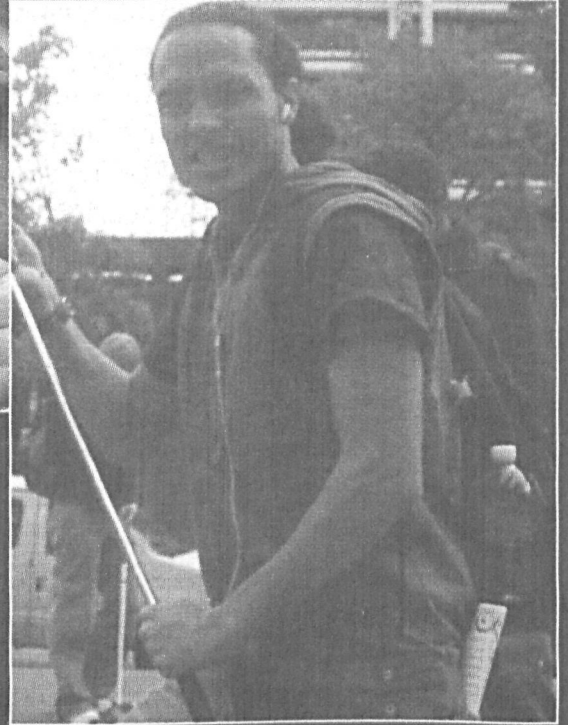
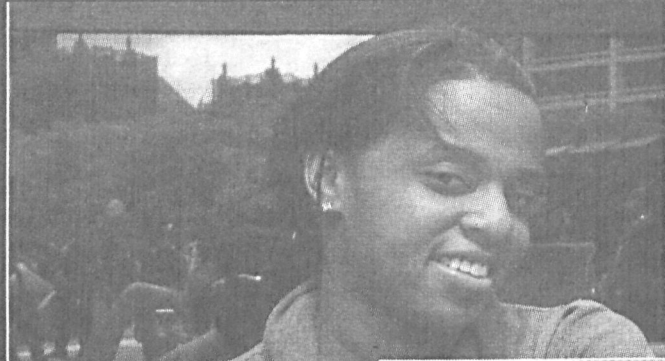
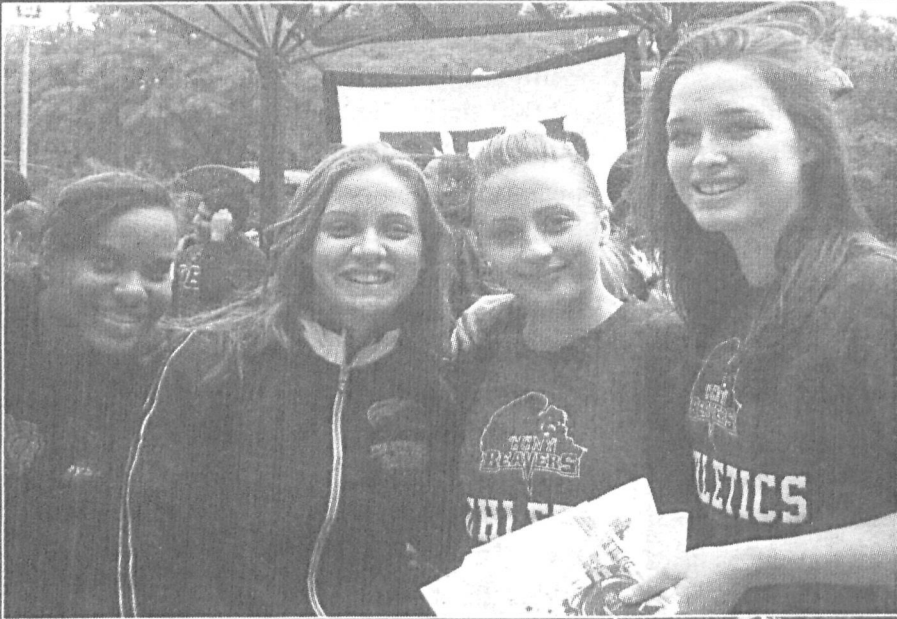


Zicklin
School of
Business

The Lawrence N. Field Center for Entrepreneurship



WELCOME BACK DAY 2009



Photos by Mitchell Robinson-Ramirez

Expressions

Girl Blues

I.
Graceful, elegant beauty,
gliding through streets with wings
that would make even Gabriel
jealous.
You wear earth's robes for clothes
while lilies make your hair
If I could be all that I would, but
try finding beauty in negative spaces.

II.
Water used to be enough
to quench my thirst for perfection
but suddenly the body is a jelly roll
My skin, a serving of cottage cheese
eyes a dull, bitter licorice
flavoring my lips with soot

III.
Sassy, star-studded beauty,
spring and summer go easy on your
edges
hydrating you with fertile ground.
While it leaves me, a lump of clay
birthing worms from the borrows.

IV.
I'm forever blinded by bright lights
that won't bend to make rainbows.
This pot of gold, is out of my reach.
No matter how far I go, the stretch is
endless
while you dance to the bounty
I trip and fall, bruised with femininity

V.
Oh bright-eyed, sweet beauty
before you, there was me.
I hide behind your mask, caked into
my psyche
there's just so much of you
plastering the crevices of my mind
appearing on all four walls it's hard
not to stare, admire, imagine, aspire
pretend, love, hate, despise, idolize,
fear, want, desire
to be you
a plastic sustenance
that I just
can't
dine on.

- Naeema J. Muhammad

Camouflage

When you go out shining your light
Everyone knows that you are bright.

It seems like you're having a good time
But your true feelings are camouflage.

What lies deep inside you is but light
There's hatred, fear, and sadness.
Is that bright?

You're up to the point where you can't eat or sleep
Wanting to be left alone and not hear a peep.

Depression has consumed you to the last drop
And you're standing on the ledge thinking "why stop?"

Then you jump and before you know it
You're dead and lifeless, your emotions did show it.

Nobody knows you as much as you know yourself
And you sometimes feel like crying out for help.

It may look like you're having a good time
But behind the smile your life is camouflage.

- David Isaiah McClatchie

I AM WHAT TIME, CIRCUMSTANCE, HISTORY,
HAVE MADE OF ME, CERTAINLY, BUT I AM
ALSO, MUCH MORE THAN THAT.
SO ARE WE ALL.

- JAMES BALDWIN

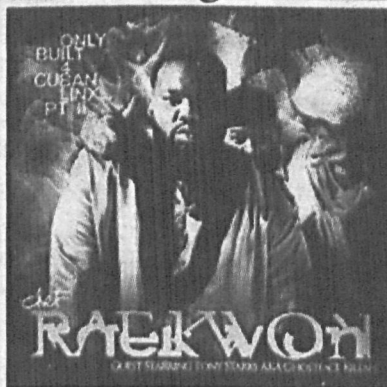
Do you have a poem or short story
that you want to share with the CCNY
community...

Send it to The Paper

Email us thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu

Only Built 4 Cuban Linx Part II

Photo from google images



Album cover for Raekwon's Newest CD

By Marc Polite

Wu-Tang Clan
rules again!
Raekwon the
Chef returns to
the scene with
his latest album
Only Built 4
Cuban Linx

Part II (OB4CL)

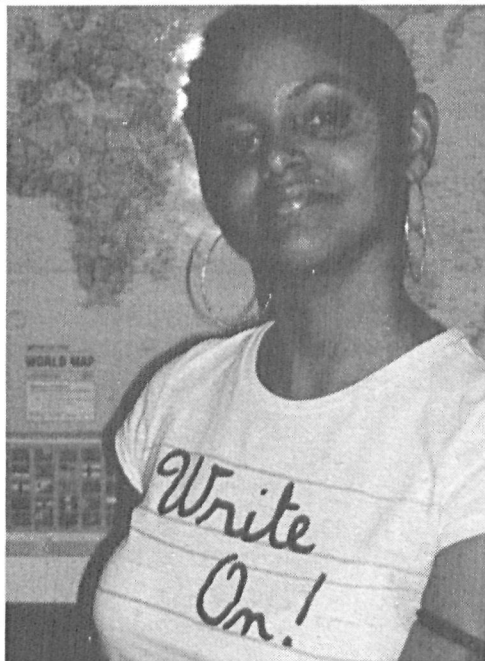
his fourth solo work. This album is the sequel to the 1995 release, and even sports a similar cover. Having been in production for almost 4 years, there was a question in fans minds whether or not it would really debut. There was a question of whether this album would be at least as good as the original OB4CL. The wait is finally over, and this album does not disappoint.

The major thing to note about Only Built 4 Cuban Linx Part II is how well it preserves the Wu-Tang sound. The samples from the martial arts flicks are there, along with the expected

appearances of Wu members. The production, though not all done by RZA, meshes with Raekwon's style of storytelling. His flow is still vintage, and he stays true to his personal form all throughout the album. As far as the performance of other Wu members', Inspectah Deck and Method Man come close to stealing the show from Rae at times. On the tracks "House of Flying Daggers" and "New Wu", hearing the hunger of Meth and Deck makes you wonder what their solo albums will sound like.

The question that everybody asks: "is it better than the original?" While I must say that this is a great album, it is not better than the OB4CL of 14 years ago for a couple of reasons. There were too many feature tracks for a Wu-Tang album. The original had 1, part II has 4. The retail version has 22 tracks, which leaves room for filler. A shorter album would have contributed to an overall better project. However, I still recommend this album for hip hop fans, be they old Wu-Tang fans, or a new generation of listeners wanting to know what the buzz is about.

Taqiyya Talks Truth on The New Racism



Courtesy of Taqiyya

With Taqiyya Haden

And so when I use the term white supremacy, I do not mean neo-Nazism or Klan activity. Rather, I mean the entire structure of American institutions, historically and still too often today. - Tim Wise

Between Barack And a Hard Place racism and white denial in the age of Obama.

I proudly describe myself as a "Race Woman." I think and talk about the social constructs of race, especially as it pertains to the United States of America, on a daily basis if anyone is around to join the discussion, or just nod. One of my favorite people, apt at these types of conversations, is Tim Wise. Tim Wise is a white American male author and public speaker with a profound grasp on race relations that has dedicated his life to the cause of anti

racism.

I finally got to hear him speak in person at an event hosted by WBAI in NYC this summer. One thing that he said in response to my participation in the Q&A was that he does not expect white America to listen to him! I was struck by this comment, never having assumed this on my own. In fact, I have often used his name and his classification as a white male in discussions hoping to convince a white, black or brown person of the new subtle institutional racism we live among. In effect using a white mans name and viewpoints to validate my and many others experience. Our truth being told by him seemed to be more palatable to some.

The short essays within Between Barack and a Hard Place offer detailed explanation and extensive statistical data to present what is calling Racism 2.0, a brand of racism not obvious to the naked eye or the shallow thinker. (He also offers "what you should do" advice to his own white community.) Racism 2.0 is the form that most of this generation has grown up with, leaving us in the paradoxical position of rarely noticing it and when presented with the existence of it many are downright belligerent. That runs across all generations but sadly seems to have left most of us in an apathetic state that the elder generations did/do not suffer as much.

What drives me to discuss devastating consequences of race and whiteness in the U.S.A. and world at large? White supremacy in individuals and more intrusively institutions continue to dictate oppressive conditions for

black and brown people. It is the love of the underdog so to speak that continues to ignite fire in my belly to access the damage, express my findings and act on any plausible solutions. I'm still a Knicks fan (New York's basketball team for those who have chosen to ignore or forget them) so one can assume it is in my nature to remain loyal to the idea of winning even when losing has become the status quo. Hopefully you will seek out Tim Wise's work to discover his motivation and form your own.

What has been challenged by my hearing and reading Tim Wise as well as recent lectures from City College professors is the critique of my own community's contributions to this Racism 2.0. It has been made clear that when analyzed alongside the tangible injustices perpetuated by power structures in control of institutions (educational and judicial to name two) the 'mindsets' and daily practices I often criticize look irrelevant in the larger picture of racial oppression.

Truthfully, I question if I have been a participant in this Racism 2.0. Is my constant judging eye on the people I profess to have love and compassion for, who are clearly the sufferers my version of Racism 2.0? The second practice could be my insistence to be heard by touting the name and opinion of a white male, in order to validate the conditions that can be made apparent in other ways.

This is the thing about Racism 2.0, while even I have professed to not even have the power to participate in racism; Racism 2.0 analyzes racism in a way that proves all can be a part of its continuation.

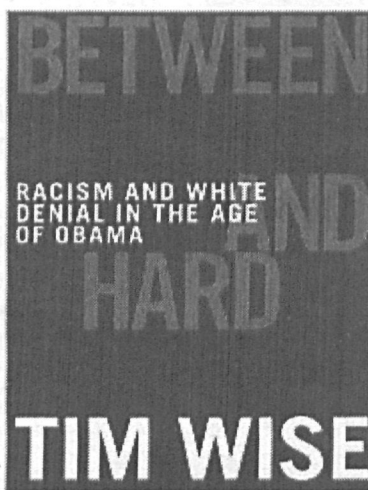


Photo from www.bn.com

AUTHORIZED USE OF THE N WORD!

By Taqiyya Haden

Authorized Use becomes more difficult for me to write as the word prevails in every day life. The sound of hearing it over and over has still failed to desensitize me to its sting. The discussion continues about why it is said by some, hated by others and what lies beneath the rhetoric of "I don't mean it like THAT," if any hidden meaning can really be found there.

I spend almost too much time researching and sharing the truth behind the origins of this word. A word I rarely utter, a word that aggravates me so much I can easily write about it every month. The definition I choose for this column was not easy to find and has never been presented by anyone that uses the word redundantly. If they had knowledge other than associating the word

with the Spanish word *negro* would people feel differently about it? How does that ongoing, often silent, agreement about the origin discount the pain associated with the word? Why because it has a benign meaning in a different language—another language that was forced onto people of color—does it no longer carry negative connotations?

In David Walkers Appeal of 1829, a must-read for all history students if not all students, he defined nigger then spelled *niger* in a footnote.

"Niger," is a word derived from the Latin, which was used by the old Romans, to designate inanimate beings, which were black; such as

soot, pot, wood, house, &c. Also, animals which they considered inferior to the human species, as a black horse, cow, hog, bird, dog, &c. The white Americans have applied this term to Africans, by way of reproach for our colour, to aggravate and heighten our miseries, because they have their feet on our throats."

Agree or disagree with his definition of the term, I have no qualms authorizing his use of the term.

Important Dates to Remember

September

09/28/2009 NO CLASSES

(College Open)

09/29/2009 Monday Schedule

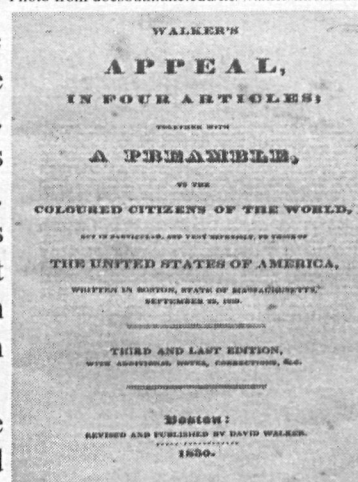
October

10/12/2009 College Closed

(Columbus Day)

10/14/2009 Monday Schedule

Photo from docsouth.unc.edu/nc/walker/title.html



David Walker's Appeal

Parenthood on The Hill...

Children and Education: Parents On The Move Up And The Children We Take With Us

By Olga Sanjurjo

As most parents know time management is a pillar around which we live. As soon as a child is born it seems as though a clock is set within us to which the rhythm of our lives becomes in tune. It can be the center of a great calm and amazing chaos. This sense of time adds to the challenge parents face as University students. For example, spending hours in a library studying is a luxury because we have life at home waiting for us; children to pick up from school, meals to prepare, quality time to spend and so on. It binds us to our families, and can be a vehicle for doing great things in small time or taking great time to do small things.

Currently, I am a Sciences and Africana Studies major, working in New York City health care. My son had just turned two when we began our joint adventure, me at The City College of New York and him at City College's Child Development Center. The experience we share is phenomenal, even though the first few days were difficult in terms of separating. The staff was supportive and genuinely concerned about our transition. Without high quality child care the prospects of studying were dismal and this program is exceptional, providing children with a learning environment that fosters self-awareness, cultural connections, and

community.

As there are more and more parent-students attending university, we depend on our support systems; family, neighbors, friends, daycare centers, schools. However, the simple act of having our children 'covered', as I like to say, doesn't indicate that we are on the same playing field as students without children in terms of the time we can put into our studies. As soon as I am done with my classes, I'm hauling it to pick up my son. When he finally gets to sleep at night, it gives me some time to study, but only if the laundry, dishes, and floors are clean and the clothes are ready for the following morning. In fact, whatever needs to get done for school, in my case anyway, be to get done in the school building, while my son is in child care and I have peace of mind.

Traveling with him to and from school has also been an adventure in itself. At one point we took two buses back and forth. Between carrying his stroller, my book bag containing my chemistry and pre-calculus text books, (weighing close to 35 pounds) and my son, at the end of the trip in either direction we were both exhausted. The buses were always packed and imagine the looks we got! I had a book bag, baby and stroller in one hand and metro card ready in the other. There is a social pressure on giving up a seat to an elder or mother and her baby or at least there used to be. One time the

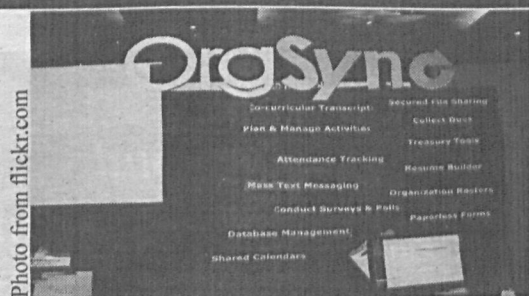
bus driver, a sister, actually stopped the bus and yelled, "I am not moving this bus until someone gives this woman a seat, can't you see she has a baby!" I still think about her with thanks.

But with all the challenges just in the day to day, being able to attend City College and have my child learn in a safe environment, makes everything worth it. I took a year off and in the interim, I worked and was graced with another son. My oldest never forgot his City College Child Care Center and is so happy to be back as I have returned to finish my studies. I am uniquely blessed that my youngest can be taken care of by my family.

I share this for my sister's and brother's with children and to those students who study with us, perhaps this may serve as a small insight. Even when you don't see them we bring our children with us into every classroom while we focus and bust our asses to do well because we have to. There is no choice. There are increasing numbers of young people becoming parents and a University education should not be ruled out.

Education and parenthood are both gifts and I am grateful to have this University that is for people like me. I plan on fighting to keep it this way, and improve things otherwise there is no opportunity for people like me. And now-a-days, that's a lot of people. Keep moving forward.

OrgSync? The What, Why and How of OSLLD's New Wonder Program



By Maurice Selby

"OrgSync? What the heck is that? A common thought amongst the participants at this year's Student Leadership Retreat sponsored by the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development (OSLLD) and the Black Male Leadership and Mentoring Project (BMLMP). Scheduled as a two hour workshop during the retreat, OrgSync generated a great deal of curiosity, as students braced for the worse.

"I thought it was going to be another lengthy talk about the need for many student groups to collaborate with one another," said Troy Duncan, a representative of City's Football Club that attended the retreat. "It turned out to be more interesting than I thought. That software will make it easier to run clubs on campus."

The software introduced by Mr. Duncan

is none other than OrgSync, a program designed by student leaders for student leaders allowing clubs to track and manage everything from membership, to growth, to budgets and the new method OSLLD will be using to register clubs on campus for the 2009-2010 school year.

"We're very excited about what the program has to offer," said alumnus Olanso Gabbidon, Assistant Director of OSLLD and a former club President on campus. "This program [OrgSync] is going to revolutionize the way clubs operate at City College. Everything from registration to budget management will be handled via OrgSync and I think it is going to greatly increase the efficiency of many groups on campus."

Since October 2006, the program has been in use by over 100 colleges and universities in the United States. OrgSync's developers boast that it helps student-run groups by improving communication, increasing efficiency, and improving retention by keeping all members of a particular group informed and ensuring smooth transition when groups change leadership. In addition, administration is able to keep track of and registering clubs as they can easily see what clubs are active and inactive and can make sure they observe and abide by institutional codes and standards.

Club leaders are currently being briefed on the program during OSLLD's Club Orientation workshops currently being conducted throughout each week. In addition to being able to manage attendance and track finances, club leaders and general members of these groups will have access to many tools featured on the site including resume builders, calendars, links to networking sites, and access to other clubs to which one might belong. While clubs leaders will in fact register their clubs through the software and can begin using it to operate in the coming weeks, there are some features that will not be available to CCNY clubs at the present time. According to Olanso Gabbidon, clubs at CCNY will not being able to use the payment feature during this current school year as this is the first time CCNY will be using the program and must first make that everything works properly before allowing club leaders to use such advanced features.

"This is a test drive. We're going to see how things work out, and if all goes well, we'll start planning how we can go even further with the program and thus give club leaders more autonomy in managing their groups using the program. Everyone just has to remember, with autonomy, there must be accountability"- Olanso.

10 Things You Probably Didn't Know About Islam

By Maalik Abdul Rasheed

Wealth Activist

Blogger www.whyihatethejoneses.com

As many of you know, Ramadan began in August and continued on into September. For billions of Muslims around the world, this is a very significant month; a time to reflect, a time for change, and a time to take action. Many Muslims use this month as building block for proper spiritual development, in hopes of setting the proper tone for the future, God willing. There are many dimensions to Islam. Some of the dimensions of the day-to-day Muslim are obvious, while others are more hidden. Here is a bit of insight into the world of Islam. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you **10 Things you probably didn't know about Islam**. Enjoy!

1. *We wash up after we go to the bathroom.* Have you ever seen someone walking into the rest room with a water bottle and said to yourself, "Eww, that person is going to drink water in the bathroom?" Chances are they aren't refilling to get a drink but more likely they are going to "wash up" after they go to the bathroom. Why? As Muslims, we are required to be pure and clean for prayer. Keep in mind we pray five times a day. You are praying in front of Allah, so isn't it only right that every part of your mind, body, and soul be purified? I probably don't have to get into the details of how this is done, but with a bit of imagination I'm sure you can figure out how water is used to purify oneself after going to the bathroom.

2. *We believe in Jesus.* Contrary to popular belief, Muslims believe in Isa (Jesus). As a matter of fact you cannot be a true believing Muslim if you don't believe in Jesus as a prophet of Allah (SWT). He is one of the most well respected prophets and is mentioned many times in the Quran. As Muslims, we believe he is a prophet, and like Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings Upon Him) was responsible for delivering the word of Allah via the Quran, Isa delivered the word of Allah via the Injeel. (the original Bible)

3. *Most Muslims are not of Arab Descent.* The bulk of the Muslims (roughly 52%) are actually in the South, South East, North, and Central Asia including China. Comprising approximately 50% of the entire Muslim population. Indonesia, which has the largest population of Muslims in any one area with a whooping 200 million Muslims! A close second and third, is Pakistan (167 million Muslims) and India (156 million). About

17% of all Muslims are of Arab descent.

4. *34% of Muslims in the United States of America are of African Descent (African American and African.)* Although the total number of Muslims in the U.S. varies from year to year, many staticians put the number somewhere between 5 to 7 million Muslims total where 30% are African American and about 4% are native Africans.

5. *The majority of African Americans Muslims are not affiliated with NOI.* Being African American myself, I get this question a lot. "Are you from the Nation of Islam?" Is every green plant with a stem part of the basil family? If you can't answer this question, then I will answer it for you: No. That doesn't mean that there aren't African Americans who are still members of the NOI, just not the majority of us are.

6. *We are not interested in interest.* For Muslims, participating in making money off of money is completely prohibited. It's actually a grave sin. I'm not going to get into all the details but adding money on top of already existing loan is akin to thievery in Islam. Profit is not prohibited, but interest is. In most forms of business, all transactions have to have a shared profit. Why? The risk is balanced on each person who is taking part in a business transaction. Handling business in this manner protects both business partners.

7. *Jihad and Allahu Akbar* Uh oh, did someone say «Jihad» and «Allahu Akbar»? Unfortunately the media has misconstrued the true meaning «Jihad» and «Allahu Akbar.» Many people associate it with code words for terrorist. Jihad is the Arabic word for struggle, a good Muslim friend of mine has the name Jihad. For Muslims, Jihad is to struggle to do just and righteous things for the sake of Allah. This dedication to do what is required of you as a Muslim is our Jihad. Allahu Akbar means God is Great. Not "Let's kill people" or "let's blow ourselves up." During any 1 of our 5 daily prayers, "Allahu Akbar" is mentioned about a dozen times. It is very commonly spoken in Islam and merely reinforces the greatness and beauty of God.

8. *Drinking alcohol is strictly prohibited.* Not only is alcohol prohibited, but any substance that intoxicates or distorts the mind. This would include weed, cocaine, pc, herione, crystal meth or any substance that can be abused to the point where your mind and judgement is clouded or compromised.

9. *My ribs are touching.* Yes if you ask any

Muslim, their ribs are definitely touching this month. Once a year, Muslims fast for one month, known as Ramadan, we fast from sunrise to sunset. We are allowed a meal (suhoor) before the morning prayer (Fajr), then we break our fast with a meal (fator) at sunset after the evening prayer (Maghrib.) During this month, Muslims reflect on the greatness of God, ways that we can improve ourselves within the guidelines of Islam, and do our best to carry out good deeds that will positively benefit society. It's a time to reflect on the poor and sometimes forgotten souls of society, which we should do all the time. Keep in mind there are hundreds of millions of people around the world who are not as fortunate as ourselves. Most of us have the at least the basic comforts of food, clothing, and shelter and it is our duty as Muslims to help those who need assistance and guidance. At least 80% of the world live on less than \$10 dollars a day!

10. *We get up before the roosters.* As I said earlier Muslims pay 5 times a day. One of the prayers is known as the morning prayer, Fajr. Fajr is to be prayed before the light of sunrise hits the sky. I'll be honest, it's not an easy prayer to catch, but when you do, the feeling is amazing. My day actually starts off better whenever I make Fajr on time. I'm actually utilizing this Ramadan to be better at catching Fajr on time, Inshallah (God willing.) Ramadan Kareem brothers and sisters.

*Are You Proud
of Where You Come From?*

*Well then...
Submit Your Own Ten!*

*Email The Paper with Ten Things
We Didn't Know About Where You
Come From*

*All submissions should be emailed to
Thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu*

An Imperialist Thorn Splits Iraq's Sects

By Sam Kimball

“Sectarian violence”: A term thrown around freely by the United States media in recent news to describe terrifying car-bombs, suicide-bombings, and shooting attacks on occupying American troops in Iraq, as well as on Iraqis themselves by their countrymen. What does this term mean, exactly? It's used so often in newspaper articles and TV reports on the deep divide that continues to stir up horrible violence in Iraq that the phrase must have a heavy meaning. But what is it?

First, let's examine the two sects in this conflict. Sunni and Shi'a are the primary denominations in Islam. The Sunni are by far the majority in the Islamic world, comprising an estimated 85% of all Muslims. Shiites comprise much of the rest of the world's Muslim population; however they hold the majority in Iran and Iraq. Significant populations also exist in Lebanon, Syria, and elsewhere.

So what's the difference? The divide dates back to the death of the Prophet Muhammad in the year 632 AD, owing not so much to religious principles—indeed, both Sunni and Shi'a hold equally high esteem for the Prophet Muhammad, the Holy Qur'an, and the core values of Islam—but to leadership succession. Sunnis deem themselves followers of the custom and tradition (Arabic *sunnah*) of the Prophet. While the Sunni believe that the first four caliphs, leaders of the Muslim community, were “rightly guided”, Shi'a are those who believe that the Prophet's son-in-law, fourth caliph Ali ibn Abi Talib, was chosen by Muhammad as his immediate successor. Shi'a philosophy holds that it is an injustice that Ali was not the first caliph, and holds his three predecessors as illegitimate. This division set the stage for centuries of oppression and strife in the Muslim world.

Iraq itself has not been a war zone since Islam's division, though U.S. media allows many to assume this, to justify the U.S. military presence in Iraq as a pretended peacemaker. Indeed, it has historically been a land of religious diversity. My family doctor in upstate New York once corrected me when I asked if he is Lebanese Christian. He grinned slowly at the question, green eyes burning behind his olive skin, and said “No no, I'm *Iraqi Jew*,” He went on to tell me of the heyday of religious diversity in Iraq, his family's long history in the country, and how some of the handful of Jews left in Iraq are in fact his cousins. The United States has done a wonderful job of exploiting classic divide-and-rule tactics to keep a tight economic and political grip on the country, while keeping inter-sect violence roiling, so it can act like a peacekeeper.

The United States has also continued to push for *more* presence, *more* force in Iraq,

trying to make the case that a troop “surge” in Iraq will quell sectarian violence. This strategy has proved disastrous, both for young American soldiers, and the Iraqi combatants fighting their country's occupation, as well as the innocent civilians caught in the middle. “Operation Together Forward” is one of these “surge” tactics, launched in 2006 as a joint American/Iraqi Army project to suppress sectarian violence in Baghdad. Six months after the operation began, insurgent attacks jumped by 26%! The attack on religious militias eliminated what served as a tool for stability. They do have mobster tendencies, but very often they play a role in Iraqi society vital to maintaining order: they arrest and punish common criminals, direct traffic, and arbitrate disagreements between local citizens. When American forces and their Iraqi Army sidekicks swagger into an area, as they did in vast Shi'a slums of East Baghdad, they cut it off with checkpoints, thus forcing Shi'a militias underground. As a result, devastating car bombings by Sunni *jihadists* spring up like lethal weeds throughout the neighborhood.

This kind of turning on militias that were once U.S. allies has resulted in lost lives. According to independent reporter Dahr Jamail in his blog *Mideast Dispatches*, the US set up the 100,000-man Sunni militia Sahwa (“Awakening”) militia to both repress attacks against American forces, and to battle al-Qaeda in Iraq. Sahwa has been successful: violence steadily declined since their deployment. Unfortunately, the May '09 arrests of Sahwa leaders and subsequent attempts to kill or capture Sahwa militiamen and officers resulted in a spike in violence against American forces, not to mention Iraqi civilians. Because Sahwa was built up so strongly by the US, Prime Minister Malaki's Shi'a-dominated central government saw the militia as a threat. They began to arrest and kill Sahwa members, as well as end payments to Sahwa militiamen working at security posts around Baghdad, **payments the U.S. began, at \$300 per month per fighter**. The militiamen abandoned their posts to find work as cab drivers or construction workers in order to feed their families. Without the security Sahwa provided, car attacks within the Green Zone of Baghdad jumped. Fourteen US soldiers were killed in May alone, bringing the overall total of American deaths at that time just short of 4,300.

As I write this, reports are coming in through the New York Times of two bombs that exploded near a Shi'a mosque on Saturday, September the 12th. Another bomb inside a Qur'an was found and defused near a Shi'a shrine. Despair reigns in Baghdad. “*We are all going to die*,” Haydar Jasim, a college student, said near the twin bombings. “*They will kill us all — if not today, they will tomorrow.*”

The thorn of imperialism has wedged

itself between friends and neighbors in Iraq, and splintered the country along religious lines where there was once peace and unity. Since the beginning of the Iraq War, Iraq's Christians have been dislocated outside the country in large numbers, and only a handful of Jews remain. Sunni and Shi'a families believing, essentially, only in different rightful heirs to Islam's prophet, once living as peaceful neighbors, have taken up arms against each other, their anger and hopelessness whipped up by U.S.-backed sectarian death squads. The U.S. is taking a play out of imperial Belgium's book, fomenting sectarian strife as they did with the Hutu and Tutsi tribes, a strategy that set the stage for the Rwandan genocide. In Iraq, the U.S. is keeping the country feeble with inter-sect violence and power struggles. The United States campaign to establish a firm and dominating presence in the Middle East in order to control oil and natural gas resources is helped, as they are killing two birds with one stone, so to speak. Keeping the country fragmented makes nationalist unity against American occupation a distant dream, while keeping sectarian tensions high allows the United States to justify remaining in Iraq indefinitely as a benevolent peacekeeper, creating a very real American military colony. So, if someone tells you “*We've got to keep them from killing each other over there*,” tell them that neighbors don't spontaneously turn on neighbors, and people blow themselves up only when crushed with the maddening darkness of oppression—American oppression.

Attention
Students, Clubs,
And Local Businesses

Come Advertise With

The Paper

Email, Call, or
Stop By The Office

Thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu
212-650-5029
NAC1/118

Looking Forward To
Doing Business With You!

EVENTS @ CITY

Opening Doors: Contemporary African American
Academic Surgeons

Saturday 8-1-09 to Wednesday 10-28-09

Cohen Library Atrium 2nd Floor

URL <http://www1.ccny.cuny.edu/library/>

Dean Stanford A. Roman:
Pioneer of Modern Medical Education
Thursday 9-24-09

5:30pm - 7:30pm

URL <http://www1.ccny.cuny.edu/library>

FLAHOOLEY

Thursday 10-1-09 to Sunday 10-4-09

7:00pm

ADMISSION \$10 and \$20

URL <http://www.harlemrepertorytheatre.org/>

Planning for Law School:
Opportunities and Resources

Thursday 10-1-09

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Please RSVP by September 24, 2009,

Tel: 212-650-5246 or nperez@ccny.cuny.edu.

URL <http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/skadden>

Book Talk Lecture Series: Vincent Boudreau

Monday 10-5-09

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Watch it on your own computer at www.totalwebcasting.com/live/ccny.

Click on "Upcoming Events" and choose
"Book Talk Series."

URL <http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/cwe>

Book Talk Lecture Series: Oscar Hijuelos

Monday, 11-2-09

6:00pm - 8:00pm

25 Broadway, 7th Floor

212-925-6625

URL <http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/cwe>

For More Events And Complete Descriptions
Check The City College Website
www1.ccny.cuny.edu

Attention Students

The Paper

Is Looking for Dedicated Writers who are
interested in becoming a member of The Paper.

All majors are welcomed!
All positions are available!

Come visit us or email
NAC 1/118

Thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu

