

The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Volume 7

November 2006

"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

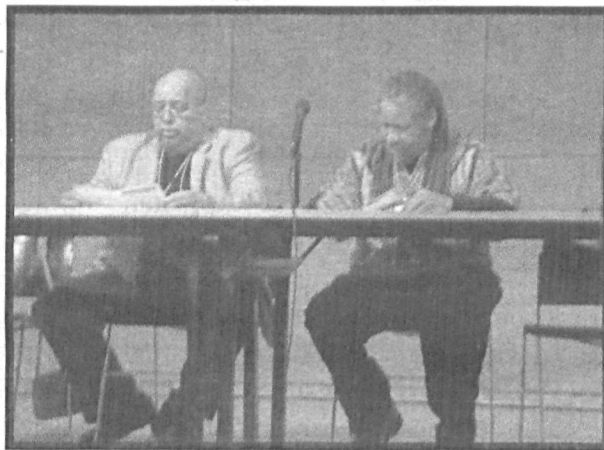
CCNY Represents at 5th Annual IRADAC/CAAN Conference

By Easter Z. Wood

On Friday, October 20, 2006, academicians representing many branches of CUNY gathered at the Graduate Center for the 5th Annual Inter-disciplinary Conference on Works in Progress on the African Diaspora sponsored by the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC) and the CUNY African American Network (CAAN). The day-long conference drew many prominent professors and students, both undergraduate and graduate, who are engaged in projects influenced by and affecting peoples of African descent; the conference has been held biennially since 1998 to showcase such work. The projects highlighted at the conference were as varied as the people presenting them with subjects ranging from African influences in art, to African/African American partnership in politics, to the AIDS epidemic to Afro-Hispanic influences in literature.

After words from IRADAC Director, James de Jongh, and CAAN President, Samuel E. Farrell, Dr. Deborah L. Vietze, Associate

Director of IRADAC, opened the conference with a rousing address entitled *Modern Racism: Scholarship and Contemporary Problems of Fairness*. In her presentation she highlighted the fact that racism has been an integral part of the African Diaspora experience and that although



James DeJongh, Director of IRADAC (left) and Samuel E. Farrell, Director of CAAN preparing their notes for their welcome address

"aversive racism," which denies that racism still exists and ignores obvious disparities between people, has replaced more overt racism, "we do have a fairness problem in the United States." and that we as African people need to come up with "renewed and reconfigured effort to address

modern racism."

Following Dr. Vietze's address, participants in the conference got to choose one of four concurrent panels to attend. The decision was certainly tough as each addressed an interesting and pertinent topic; one panel was entitled *Migrating Spirits* and featured Dr. Jill Humphries of Queens College and Drs. Leonard C. Lewis and Chudi Uwazurike, both of CCNY. Dr. Humphries addressed the issue of African immigrants to the US forming identity, while Dr. Lewis discussed the impact of Post 9/11 legislative policies, such as the PATRIOT Act, on Caribbean and African nations including an increase in deportation and criminal classification. Dr. Uwazurike was unable to attend the panel, but was slated to speak on the African Union, the Global Black Diaspora and the 5th stage of Pan-Africanism.

Following lunch the second set of panels commenced. CCNY students Rachel Pierre, Monica Roura and Maurice Selby were featured on a panel dedicated to undergraduate researchers. Pierre and Selby presented research findings on

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Another Innocent Facing the Chopping Block

By Lindsie Augustin

For nearly 24 years, Mumia Abu-Jamal, has been sitting on death row falsely accused of the 1981 murder of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. And now, in light of recent events, such as the execution of Stanley Tookie Williams this past December, Mumia's case has been put on the fast track for a decision in as little as six months.

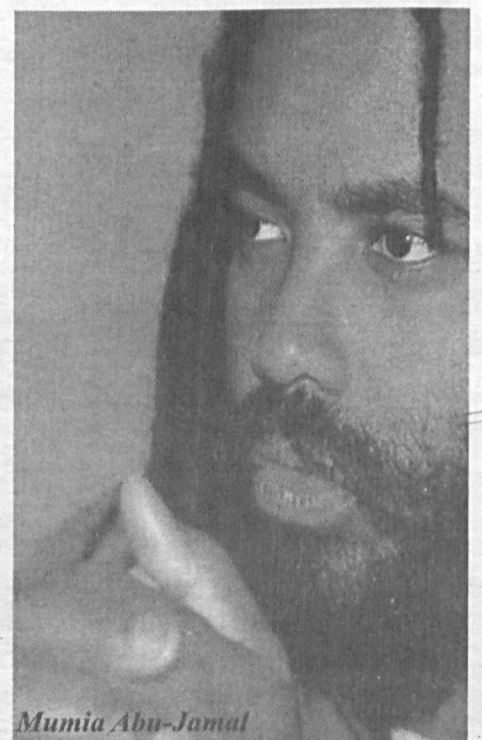
The battle to free Mumia has now reached a crucial point. Both prosecutors and Mumia have filed for an appeal to the 2001 decision made by Judge William Yohn, which overturned Mumia's death sentence, however upheld every other aspect of his conviction. Mumia has been denied the opportunity to introduce new evidence proving his innocence into the courts. Not to mention critical evidence such as the 2001 confession

of Arnold Beverly to Faulkner's murder, are being ignored by the courts. The more Mumia's case drags on, the more injustice is revealed.

Mumia is an innocent man forced into an unfortunate situation. The journalist and former Black Panther supporter has been a governmental target since the age of 15 years-old in Philadelphia. His political beliefs and controversial points of view have made Mumia the number one enemy of those who are in control of his fate. Even with the countless amounts of evidence such as the inadequate DNA and ballistic evidences from the original trial and the shabby testimony from unreliable "eyewitness" Mumia's freedom is still not guaranteed.

It is now or never, for the public to come together and ensure that another innocent Black male is not sentenced to death. A number of websites as well as organizations have banned together to show their support

for Mumia. Supporters are hoping with enough public attention Mumia's case will receive the recognition needed to make sure justice is properly served this time around.



Mumia Abu-Jamal

The Black Agenda

By Orin Abel

In August 2006, the US Census Bureau released its annual bulletin, "Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2005". Among the findings the report found were that Blacks, yet again, held the lowest median income. On this premise the need for *the Black Agenda* arises. *The Black Agenda* refers to the plans of actions addressing such problems plaguing the Black community. Though, many may perceive it as an unnecessary movement in perpetuating the "R-card", it remains the hope for a better tomorrow. In the past such an agenda took on and championed civil rights. As a result, the wheels of progress kick started and then slowly cooled down. Correspondingly economic, educational and social disparities persist as startling realities today, despite forty years of continuous progress; hence, the need for the *Black Agenda*.

According to the US Census Bureau Black's median income of \$30,858 was considerably less, compared to Hispanics (\$35,967), Whites (\$50,784) and Asians (\$61,094). There were no changes in the median income among the races between 2004 and 2005. In addition the report found that the poverty rate among Blacks and Latinos also remained stagnant at 24.9% and 21.8% respectively compared to 8.3% for Whites and 11.1% for Asians. The US Census Bureau also reported that the uninsured rate among Blacks and Latinos remain unchanged at 19% and 37% respectively compared to 17.9% Asians and 11.3% for Whites. Likewise recent study released in October 24th, 2006 by Brown and Harvard medical schools found that Blacks receive substandard treatment by Medicare with relation to Diabetes, Cholesterol and Blood pressure. The report which is published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* states, "For each of four clinical measures – each a critical gauge of health care quality for people with

hypertension, diabetes and heart disease – more than 70 percent of the gap between blacks and whites was due to different outcomes for enrollees within the same health plan."

Moreover, the gross overrepresentation of Black men in prisons continues to blight our community. According to *U.S. Department of Justice statistics bulletin* issued in May 2006, 12% of Black men were imprisoned. The substantial number of which are in their low 20's and 30's. In comparison 3.7% of Hispanic men and 1.7% of White men are imprisoned. Similarly the incarceration rate of Black women is 2.5 times more than Hispanic women and 4 times higher than White women.

Adding to the barrage of obstacles is the substandard schooling available in many Black communities, which remains the only means of education for many. According to *the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, 35% of Black men and 42% of women graduate from college compared to 68% of White men and women. The study found that a higher risk of dropout correlates to "an inferior K-12 preparation." This rate is also greatly affected by the financial accessibility of Black students. In short, substandard schools in substandard neighborhoods continue to manufacture unproductive graduates.

Such issues shed light on the reality that complacency is detrimental to the Black community. Blacks should not be satisfied until they are not discriminated on the basis of their race. Such cycles of poverty, incarceration, substandard healthcare and education should show that the race is not yet won. Coming to the realization that Blacks must still work towards making Dr. King's dream a reality, relinquishes the individual from the grip of complacency that stagnates the *Black Agenda*. It is the responsibility of all men to address such issues in whatever way we can. It is our place to see that the Black Agenda and hence the struggle lives on.

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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!

CCNY Represents at 5th Annual IRADAC/CAAN Conference

Continued from front page

the dissemination of information about HIV/AIDS among college students (see *MAPS Presents AIDS Research at IRADAC/CAAN Conference*, page 7) while Roura spoke about the use of "Magical Realism" in Latino literature, specifically with reference to the novel *Like Water for Chocolate*.

The last set of panels for the day featured a rich selection of discussions, one of which underscored research conducted by CCNY Professors M.A. Samad-Matias and Dr. Herb Boyd. In her presentation, Matias addressed the issue of "new" African immigrants to the United States, many of whom are escaping war-torn situations and who face a greater cultural divide because many are non-English-speaking and or non-Christian and therefore face greater discrimination than previous immigrants. She stressed that corrupt interests benefit from the underdevelopment of Africa and the Caribbean, and that often those interests come in and excavate minerals and replace them with arms

in order to escalate pre-existing tensions, by forcing people to flee their countries. She asked the very poignant question: "are weapons a part of foreign aid?" Dr. Boyd closed out the discussion with a very interesting perspective on the primacy of Haiti in the discussion of the African Diaspora and the connection many prominent Blacks, including Langston Hughes, Katherine Dunham and Zora Neale Hurston, had with this island nation, which was the first in the Caribbean to obtain independence post slavery.

This 5th annual Conference proved very enlightening and provided not only pertinent information but networking opportunities for people doing research on the African Diaspora; the breadth of discussion that took place shows the many areas that are available for research on topics affecting people of African descent and also made clear how much more research there is to be done and, most importantly, the results of said research implemented in ways that positively affect our communities. For more information on IRADAC's past and upcoming events, visit their website [http://](http://web.gc.cuny.edu/iradac)

web.gc.cuny.edu/iradac.

ALL AFRICAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Transforming African Students Into
Revolutionary Organizers for
African Liberation

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"Brazilian"
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"Nigerian"

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Unity is Our Only Hope - Join Us!
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347.678.2951
Look Out for:
AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY - MAY 2007

BUDGETING YOUR COLLEGE EXPENSE

By Deborah D. Rivera

Being a college student means you have more responsibilities, one of them being money management. As a college student it is very important that you keep an eye on your expenses to avoid extra loans and possibly debt.

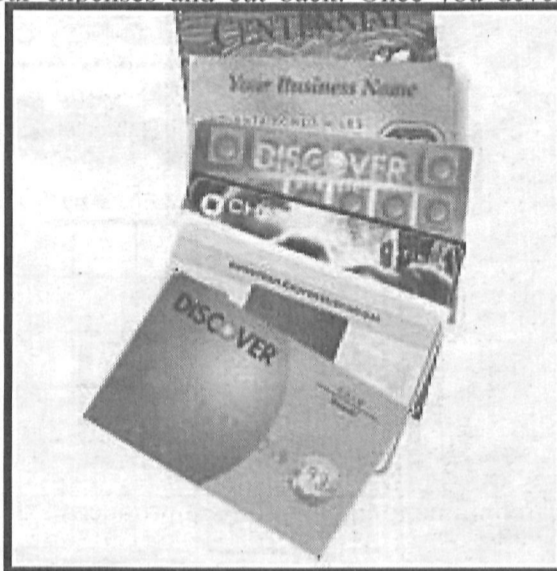
First you will need to Set Up Your Budget, which means that you must figure out how much money you have coming in and what's going out. In order for your budget to work these figures must balance out or your incoming exceeds your outgoing and you have extra income which you can save. Break up the year into months and create a monthly budget, since most bills are due on a monthly basis.

Second, Figure Out What You Have, once you have a budget schedule, decide how much money you can depend on monthly. Add up all sources of income for the year: such as scholarships, student loans, job wages, work-study earnings, parental assistance, etc. Then divide the total amount of your wages by the number of months that you're in school, if you will use this money to maintain yourself during the summer, and then divide the sum by 12. The end result is how much money you're allotted to spend each month. Make sure to take into account when the money will be coming in, for example don't spend your extra scholarship or grant money before you have received it.

Third, Figure Out What You Need, now add up your monthly expenses. This is a bit more difficult since you have to estimate what you're going to spend in most cases. It's easier to start of with your biggest expenses, such as tuition and the cost of housing. If you're paying your tuition monthly, divide the tuition by the number of months in that semester to spread out the cost. Now factor in what you think you will have to

pay for textbooks and the rest of your supplies. While the price ranges it usually averages to about \$300-\$400. Next you will have to add in the cost of living, such as food, toiletries, car expenses, laundry, travel expenses, going out with friends, utilities, shopping, etc. You will need to estimate this until you can figure out how much you usually spend.

Now that you have figured out your income and your expense, check to see if your income covers all your expenses. If you're spending more than you're making, you need to review your expenses and cut back. Once you develop



your budget you will be able to decide whether or not you can afford to eat out every night or go shopping for the latest trends.

More Budgeting Tips

- Keep record of your expenses for a minimum of six months while you're setting up your budget. It'll give you a good sense of how much you are spending on all kinds of living and entertainment costs that can be hard to estimate.
- When big expenses hit that overwhelm

your monthly income, find out if you can split up your payments and spread them out over several months. For example, some schools will allow you to set up tuition payment plan so you aren't responsible for the whole lump sum at once.

- Resist the temptation to 'solve' budgeting problems with credit cards. If you choose to use them, credit cards should only be used for expenses you know you can pay back immediately. The interest you'll accrue on your expenses is typically much higher than the interest you'd pay on a student loan.

Keep on top of your budget and you'll not only keep your balance sheet in the black throughout college. You'll also develop valuable money management skills that can help you after graduation as well.

ATTENTION PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Have your child or sibling's pictures in an upcoming children's book, "Sunday to Sunday"

Looking for children ages 3 to 12 years old
Simply send a color passport size photo with the child's name and address on the back to:

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

DON'T FORGET THE SMILES

"Sunday to Sunday" author, Pat Nurse has also published her novel "Carnival Woman" which has received countless positive reviews.

Remembering the Panthers

By Lindsie Augustin

This past October, marked the 40th anniversary of the revolutionary Black Panther Party. The group, which originated in Oakland California, was formed by Bobby Seale and Huey Newton on October 22, 1966 as a way to educate young African Americans about their history and the a future they had to fight for in order to secure.

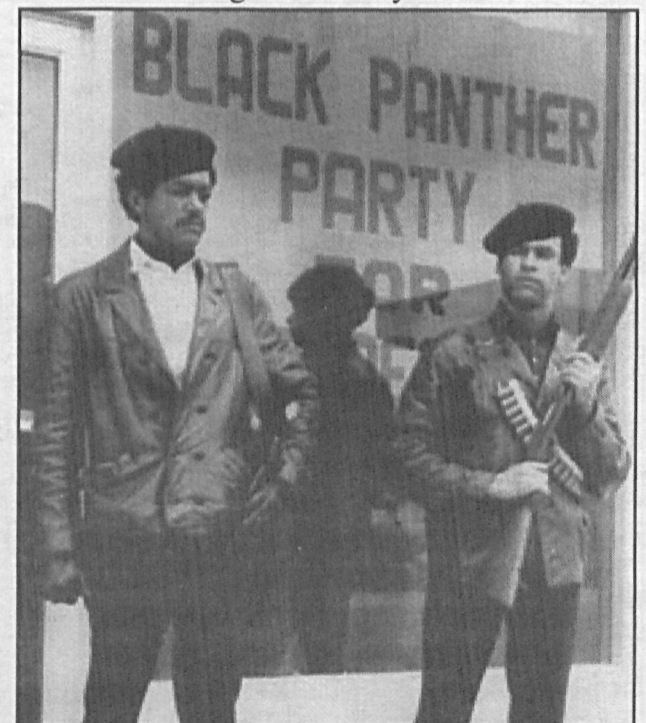
The Panthers are commonly remembered for wearing black leather jackets, berets and their most controversial accessory, their legal weapons not to mention their various gun fights with the police which left several officers as well as Panthers dead, however during their days of popularity the party as a whole accomplished so much more. They ran numerous breakfast programs for children, established free health clinics, assisted in testing for sickle cell anemia, as well as arranged security escorts for the elderly. At the height of the Black Panthers Party, just several months after the death of Martin

Luther King Jr. the party had 5,000 members in 49 chapters and branches throughout the United States.

While there are many individuals who would've preferred to view the Panthers as yet another Black militant organization, whose main concern was carrying big guns and stirring up altercations with authority; remaining former members are working hard to bring a new image to the misunderstood Black Panthers. "Our legacy is one of social-change activism that was probably one of the most profound grassroots anti-institutionalized racism messages," said Bobby Seale co-founder of the Panthers. The Panthers provided a much needed link between African Americans and their civil rights in the 1960s. "We did things in the community and organized successful programs – It wasn't just about guns and hating white folks," said Seale.

Now 40 years after the Panthers began their mission, Seale and other members have reunited once again in the streets of Oakland to reflect on the advancement of Black power and what their experiences has done to assist in

progression of African Americans. Members are optimistic this reunion; will provide the youth with the inspiration needed to become more active in securing the life they're so found of.



L-R: Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, founders of Black Panther Party, 1967

Nunez Academic Report

Vector
 A company named Vector is looking for students to work part-time for a base pay of \$14.50. The job offers flexible schedules. No experience needed but some conditions apply. Call for more information. (212)532-1502

<p>Champion Learning Center Earn extra income and make your own schedule. All you have to do is tutor students on a 1-on-1 P/T basis in their home. To apply, email your resume to Champion@gmail.com. In the email subject, do not forget to type "flyer 910"</p>	<p>Federal Work Study Students The History & Philosophy Departments are looking for students who are interested in working in a nice environment. For more information visit NAC 5/144 and ask for Ms. Hubbard or Mrs. Pickens.</p>
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Naral Pro-Choice NY
 Naral Pro-Choice NY is searching for a campus representative to organize activities that defend reproductive freedom. The commitment, qualifications, and activities are extensive but seem worthwhile. For more information contact Debbie Johnson at 212-343-0114 ext.33.

<p>Immigrants' Center at CCNY Enter the Visa lottery and become a permanent resident. The requirements are the following: you must be able to adjust status to permanent resident; you must be over 18 years old; and you must be a high school graduate from the US or an eligible country. Visit the Immigration Center for more information. NAC 1/206. Deadline is December 3, 2006.</p>	<p>International Studies Become one the few students to visit and study in Morocco. Visit room 6/141-located in the NAC building- before January 6, 2007 for more information.</p>
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Rosenberg Humphrey Program
 Public Policy internships are available in Washington DC and NYC. DC internships are fully funded with housing and a \$2100 stipend. NYC internships only have a stipend. It lasts for 8-10 weeks and placements are tailored to meet the students' policy interests. Deadline is on November 16, 2006. For more information call 212-650-6809.

MOVIES ON OUR MIND

G	P	Y	M	F	A	M	T	H	M	C	X	T	S	G	
N	A	N	A	M	F	Y	A	D	O	R	L	R	N	Y	BABY BOY
I	I	A	N	D	A	O	R	R	B	G	E	I	G	O	BAD COMPANY
N	D	P	O	R	E	V	T	X	E	H	H	K	Q	B	BOYZ N THE HOOD
R	I	M	N	U	G	A	C	I	T	T	N	U	B	Y	COACH CARTER
A	N	O	F	K	O	B	O	O	T	K	C	A	F	B	DO THE RIGHT THING
E	F	C	I	X	Q	U	R	H	E	E	H	A	L	A	FOUR BROTHERS
L	U	D	R	Y	C	B	G	Y	R	X	S	B	I	B	HIGH LEARNING
H	L	A	E	Q	R	I	Y	A	B	Y	S	R	Y	Z	MAN ON FIRE
G	L	B	V	U	R	X	S	P	L	M	T	F	I	X	MO BETTER
I	W	P	O	E	T	I	C	J	U	S	T	I	C	E	BLUES
H	S	F	H	I	J	H	N	X	E	W	I	A	X	T	PAID IN FULL
E	O	T	V	P	E	E	D	T	S	I	A	W	H	Z	POETIC JUSTICE
S	O	P	D	O	O	H	E	H	T	N	Z	Y	O	B	RAY
D	C	O	A	C	H	C	A	R	T	E	R	K	R	B	SET IT OFF
															WAIST DEEP

Supernokun

Fill in every 3x3 box with numbers 1 - 9

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Answer to Sept-Oct Issue

EVENTS @ CITY

THE ARTISTRY OF DOMINICAN CARNIVAL: A MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION

Date: 9/11 - 11/10
 Time: -----
 Tel: 212-650-7170
 Address: 160 Convent Ave/ NAC building 5/301
 Admission: Free

An exhibit of costumes and masks, THE ARTISTRY OF DOMINICAN CARNIVAL is a collaborative effort to promote the heritage of carnival in various Dominican communities.

Morris Raphael Cohen: The Golden Age of Philosophy at CCNY, 1908-1938

Date: 9/13 - 11/22
 Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm
 Tel: 212-650-7609
 Address: 160 Convent Ave/ Morris R. Cohen Library
 Admission: Free

This exhibit celebrates the life and achievements of Morris Raphael Cohen, who taught at the College between 1902 and 1938. Highlights of these years are illustrated by photos from the City College Archives collection.

BA RECITAL

Date: 11/15
 Time: 3:00pm - 4:00pm
 Tel: 212-650-5411
 Address: 138th Street & Convent Ave/ Shepard Hall Room 95
 Admission: Free

Student John Romey, double bass, will perform unaccompanied works by J. S. Bach and Francois Rabbath.

WHY ARE SO MANY WOMEN ACCEPTING ISLAM?

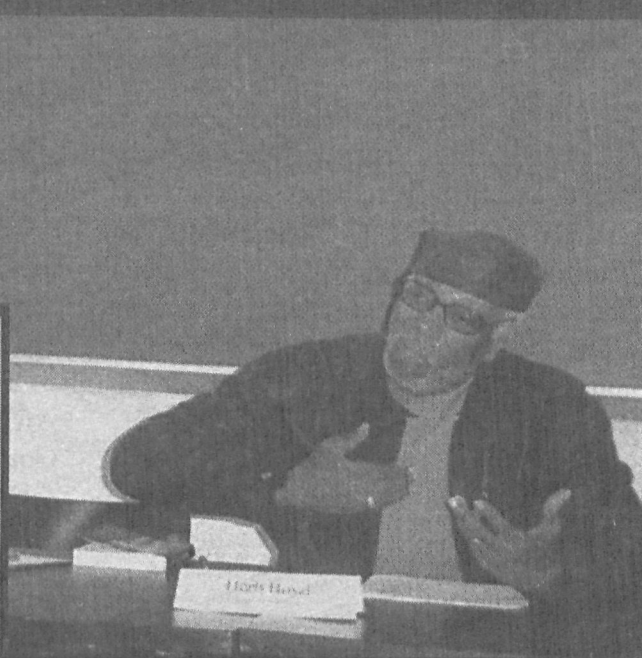
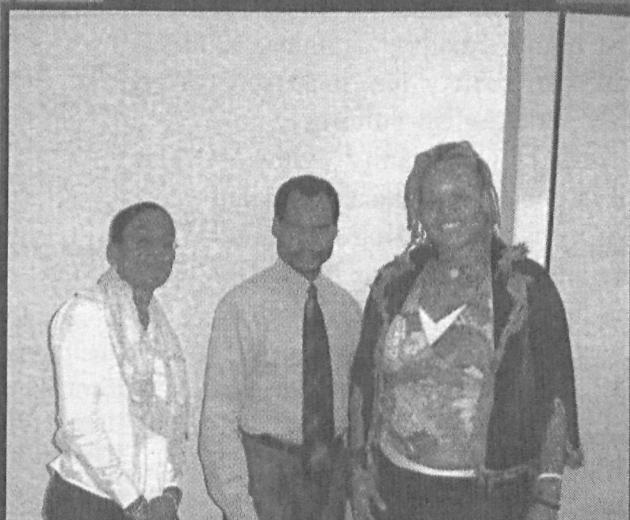
Date: 11/16
 Time: 12:00pm - 2:00pm
 Tel: 212-650-7000 ext. 23171
 Address: 160 Convent Ave/ NAC building/ Aronow Theatre

By Abu Muhammad Al-Maghribee, and hosted by the CCNY Muslim Students Organization.

INSURANCE HEALTH FAIR

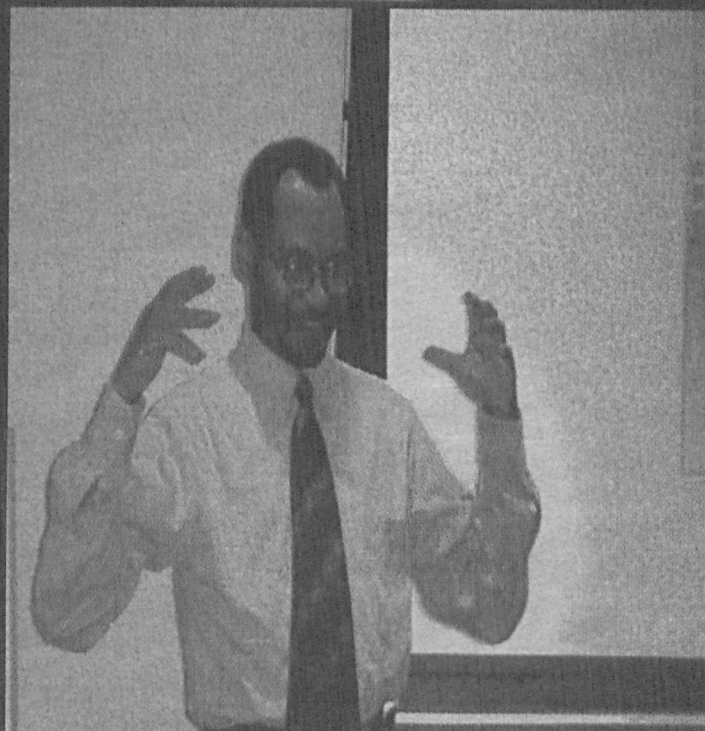
Date: 11/16
 Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm
 Tel: 212-650-8222
 Address: 160 Convent Ave/ NAC Rotunda
 Admission: Free

Information on Health Insurance Plans for CCNY students.



Views from the IRADAC/CAAN Conference

(Clockwise from top left) Dr. Vietze gives her opening address on the "new face" of racism; Dr. Humphries, Dr. Lewis & Easter Z. Wood pose for a photo op; Dr. Herb Boyd gets animated as he talks about Haiti; S.M. Samad-Matias asks "are weapons a part of foreign aid?"; Dr. Lewis discusses the affects of post-9/11 legislation on Diaspora communities; Maurice Selby & Rachel Pierre present their HIV/AIDS findings; Monica Raura explains "Magical Realism"



Prison Life for Jamaican Gays

By Teshaka Bond

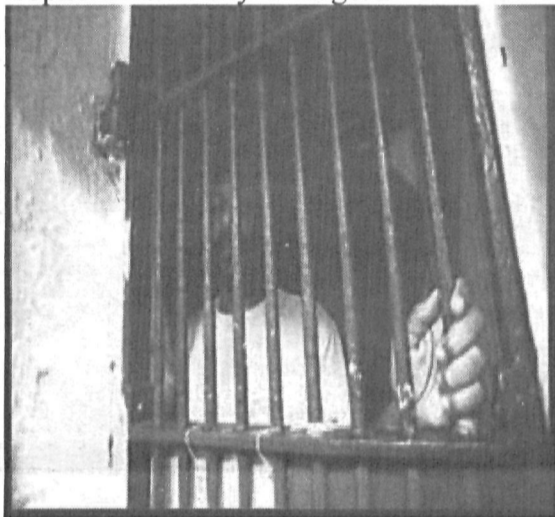
Jamaica is well recognized for its hatred toward the gay community. It has a reputation amongst all Caribbean islands for banning male homosexuality. "It's a culture that's compulsively homophobic," said Michael Linden, a Jesuit priest in Kingston who has worked at two prisons. "The population is so insecure about many of its common mating practices and gender roles, that homosexuality just ends up being an unfortunate target".

At the General Penitentiary and St. Catherine District Prison, in Spanish Town, from August 20th to 23rd, there were killings amongst heterosexual inmates and homosexual inmates. Inmates at the two prisons went on a rampage killing 16 men who were singled out as homosexuals. These victims were burned, beaten and stabbed to death and approximately another 40 males were beaten.

From August 19th to 21st, the guards were on a wildcat strike to protest against Colonel John Prescod, Jamaica's Commissioner of Corrections. Prescod had a plan to combat AIDS, which is an increasing problem in Jamaican jails. Condoms were to be given out to inmates and warders. The warders protested outside the gates of the jails and before doing so,

unlocked cells; causing inmates to run wild attacking homosexual inmates. The warders did eventually come back to work and things settled down at St. Catherine prison; however attacks still continued at the General Penitentiary.

Why is the Jamaican culture so much against homosexuality? Jamaican students of Jamaican society feel because of West African and English cultures who have a God-fearing Christianity view. Others feel it is because Jamaican boys are taken care of by woman during childhood while fathers are absent in their lives. "Jamaican beliefs are built around Christianity, when Jah was here walking the earth, yes he had 12 disciples but he never slept with any of them. Jah made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve", said Andre Brisset, a sophomore at City College.



BEFORE YOU DECLARE YOUR MAJOR....

By Deborah D. Rivera

Some students come to college knowing what they will study for the next four years, while others still haven't figured out what they want to do tomorrow. By your junior year of college it is inevitable that you must declare your major. So how do you decide what your major should be and what does your major actually mean?

Before you decide on a major you should decide what a major means to you. Will your major train you for a career? It is a path to personal accomplishment? When

"Good judgment comes from experience, and experience - well, that comes from poor judgment." - A.A. Milne

deciding what your major means to you, you should take two things into account. First, a career related major can make the process of finding a job easier, but it can minimize your intellectual development, so be sure to take electives outside of your major. Secondly, choosing a major that is un-related to your career goals means that you will have work hard toward your career outside of the

classroom, so be sure to research your career early and participate in plenty of internships to gain experience and develop the connections you will need in the future.

Ascertain the majors that interest you early; learn about the pre-requisites and the requirements that come with declaring that major. Refer to the school bulletin and speak to an academic advisor for that major. When taking electives, take the pre-requisites for the prospective major, not only will it help you get a feel of the major but it will help you in fulfilling your elective requirements. Focus on the classes that you enjoy and the ones you don't enjoy. If you don't like studying that topic and it's dreadful, then you probably shouldn't major in it.

Be prepared to alter and re-examine your choices and don't worry about changing your major. Most students go through two or three majors before deciding on the one that suits them best.

A Letter from NYPIRG

Hello City College students and faculty! I hope that everyone is having a productive and successful semester thus far. My name is Jason Alleyne, and I am the NYPIRG Project Coordinator here at C.C.N.Y. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), we are the state's largest student directed voter empowerment, students' rights, environmental protection group and government reform organization with 21 chapters across the state. NYPIRG aims to instill in students the practical skills and tools needed to be politically and socially active on their college campuses. We also firmly believe in the concept of cooperation in advancing our mission, as we consistently work with campus and community groups on our local and statewide campaigns.

Last year, NYPIRG at City College was an integral component of many of the organization's key projects, including the Consumer Action, Higher Education, and Straphangers projects. For the Playground Safety Campaign, interns and students in the C.C.N.Y chapter surveyed ten local Harlem playgrounds in order to assess the risk these areas posed to the neighborhood children. Their findings were included in the statewide report, *How Safe are Our Playgrounds?*. A news conference at Columbus Playground was organized to release the report and was extensively covered by local television and radio stations.

This semester, thus far, NYPIRG has continued to establish itself as one of the premier student organization here at CCNY. With over 20 volunteers, the CCNY chapter of NYPIRG boasts one of the largest core groups out of the 21 NYPIRG chapters throughout the state. Recently, our members just completed work on our environmental campaign, specifically focusing on the issue of mercury pollution in New York State. Currently, mercury pollution in New York State causes over 600 thousand birth defects, which range from learning disabilities to birth deformities. Under the guidance of Tanawat Luekr-u-suke and Amanda Sylvia, both of whom are CCNY freshmen and NYPIRG Project leaders, we garnered over 300 signatures from City College students in support of an improved New York State mercury bill that would cut mercury emissions by 90% by the year 2010.

Although the semester is coming to a close, NYPIRG is still busy planning a plethora of events to benefit CCNY students and New York State residents as a whole. Most important of these events is our Hunger Banquet to raise awareness about homelessness and hunger domestically and abroad. This elegant night of dining and festivities will be co sponsored by Oxfam and will be open to all CCNY students and outside guest for the price of four dollars. The Banquet will take place on Thursday, December 7th at 5:00pm, and will be held in the faculty dining room.

In our mission for a better New York, NYPIRG is always looking for new volunteers who share our commitment to social change and activism. If you are interested in volunteering with us here at City College, or if you have any questions, please call us at 212- 650-5047 and ask for Jason. You can also e-mail us at jalleyne@nypirg.org or stop by the office, which is located in NAC 1/120.

I wish all of you a successful completion of the semester!!

Jason Alleyne
NYPIRG Project Coordinator@ CCNY
Phone: (212)-650-5047
E-mail: Jalleyne@nypirg.org
Office: NAC 1/120

MAPS Presents AIDS Research at IRADAC/CAAN Conference

By Maurice Selby

At this moment, there are more than 24 million people infected with the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in Africa, and another 2.7 million cases will be diagnosed by the end of this year. Here in the United States the statistics are no better as Blacks and other people of African descent account for more than 50% of the HIV/AIDS cases in the country, with young people from ages 13 to 25 suffering the most. It was for this reason that the undergraduate research conducted by the Minority Association of Pre-health Students (MAPS) was presented at this year's Interdisciplinary Conference on Work In Progress at CUNY on The African Diaspora.

The event was hosted by The Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC) in conjunction with The CUNY African American Network (CAAN) at the Graduate Center in Midtown on Friday October 20. In addition to various other projects presented at the conference, members of MAPS presented a study that focused on the ways in which students

acquire information on HIV/AIDS and the role of the mainstream media in the acquisition of this information. "We had to look at this from a different angle," said Rachel Pierre, the current President of MAPS. "Everyone talks about the fact that this information (on AIDS prevention) is out there, but no one has really checked out why some people are not receiving this information."

Moderated by Ms. Angelique Harris, a Ph.D. Candidate at the Graduate center, the study was presented to members of several CUNY colleges and other schools outside of the system via a PowerPoint presentation by Rachel Pierre and Maurice Selby. At the conclusion of the presentation, a question and answer session was conducted and members of the audience suggested ways in which the study could be carried on further.

Prior to actually conducting the study, former MAPS president and founder Christian Bijoux along with Treasurer Shakira Stewart suggested that one of three things could possibly account for people's (particularly students) lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS in the United States: 1) either this information is not readily available to the general public. 2) the information is available but unreliable. 3) the information

out there pertaining to HIV/AIDS is available and people just don't heed it.

The study, presented at the conference by Rachel Pierre and Maurice Selby, primarily focused on college students knowledge of HIV/AIDS and MAPS members concluded that while information on HIV/AIDS is available and reliable, many people tend to ignore it and as a result put themselves at greater risk of acquiring the disease. The results indicate that females generally have a better working knowledge of HIV/AIDS and believe that the media is reliable in presenting this information to the public. Males on the other hand, seem to know less about the disease and view the media as being unreliable in presenting this information to the public. This led the MAPS team to conclude that those that while people have access to reliable and credible information regarding AIDS; many students are just not paying attention to it.

"We've found that many students just aren't getting this vital information," said Christian Bijoux. "We're not finished, this is just the beginning. We have a lot of work to do and only a short period of time to do it in."

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT

By Julia Pierre-Louis

Are you aware of the great variety of minority student clubs available here on campus? There is the CCNY Salsa Mambo Club, Pakistanis at City College, Bangladesh Students Association, United Nigerian Student Association, Women in Islam, Ghanaian Students Association, and the Caribbean Students Association, to name a few. These clubs focus on assisting students on strengthening communication skills, assembling people of a common heritage or educational interest, or help you further express yourself by way of dance.

I had the opportunity to speak with representatives from three clubs to get a better idea of their purpose and what goes on during meetings. My first visit was to a meeting of the Dominican Students Association, where I spoke with the club's e-mail coordinator Pedro Castro. According to Pedro, the club's mission is to shed light on the rich culture of the Dominican Republic as well as Latino culture in general. Through political discussion, gathering of members, and dance, this club hopes to carry out their purpose. While the Dominican Student Association is about the Latino culture, Pedro felt the need to stress students of all races are welcomed to participate.

I had the pleasure of watching the members practice their sexy Latin dance moves for an upcoming dance show celebrating Latin Heritage Month. Following the reactive instruction of dance choreographer Raul Dipre, the members delivered a passionate, sensual performance. Be sure to look out for future Dominican Students Association dance presentations and workshops demonstrating different Hispanic dances including *bachata* and *merengue*.

My second visit was with Frantz Carty, president of the step dance team H.A.V.I.C.² (Hottest Arrangement of Versatility in City College). The step team has performed their production, "Steppaholics", at out-of-state-colleges and on local stages. H.A.V.I.C.² has also performed on BET'S 106 and Park during 'Wild Out Wednesdays'.

H.A.V.I.C.² wants the world to recognize stepping as an art form of dancing and not just a dance students do to attract attention. It might be unknown that stepping has deep roots in African dance. According to vice president, Anthony Cannonier, "I want stepping to become a main stream source of entertainment."

My last visit was with the Middle Eastern Music and Dance Club, where I met with Irina Akulenko, vice president of the club. The club has been here at City College for three years. Although mostly composed of women, the club is open to all. Irina, a professional teacher, conducts this club free of charge as a way "to carry on the gift of dancing." She also wants to "provide a reflection of the true people of this

culture" and put aside the negative label placed upon people from this area. Middle Eastern Dance incorporates musical roots of Egypt, Afghanistan, Turkey, etc. Dance is indeed a big part of this culture and the club provides a taste of a different art world. Irina encourages you to join this club because there is no specific age, gender, or body type for this dance.

"Shoes off! Spread out so you feel comfortable enough to move without hitting your neighbor. Let's get started" began the session. As I looked around the ballroom, the members seemed so relaxed and graceful. Irina has succeeded in creating a peaceful atmosphere filled with the unique sounds of the Middle East.

While I have only included a small portion of the minority student clubs on Campus; more information is available at the Help Desk or through the school website under 'Student Life'. I urge you to take a look at the mission statements of several clubs. You might find a club that shares some of the same goals as you. These clubs are all open to new members from differently cultural and educational backgrounds. Do yourself a favor, take a look.

The Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC)

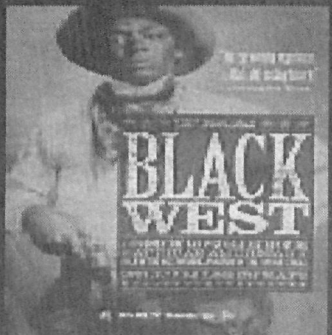
Presents:

A Lecture Series with Author William Loren Katz

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the publication of the Black West, IRADAC will host three inaugural lectures featuring author William Loren Katz. Mr. Katz explores the history of African American men and women on the early frontier. Each lecture highlights a different experience in Black frontier life. Katz will reveal little-known aspects of our past and distant myth. The new edition of the famous classic, "Black West" has glorious new photographs—many never before seen—as well as a revised and expanded text.

Lecture Dates:

- September 12, 2006
Black Indians: A Hidden Heritage
Room C 201 - C 202
- October 10, 2006
Black Women Pioneers, Black Migrations West & Black Frontier Towns
Room 9204 - 9205
- December 7, 2006
Buffalo Soldiers, Black Cowboys, Sheriffs & Outlaws
The Segal Theatre



The CUNY Graduate Center
885 Fifth Avenue
Between 34th & 35th Streets
New York, NY 10016

Time:
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Free w/ CUNY I.D.
\$10 Public

To Reserve a Seat Call:
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THE BLACK WEST LECTURE SERIES

Commentary

Beating the Bad Breath Blues

By Maurice Selby

Finding a polite and politically correct way to tell someone that their breath is hot, potent, and utterly nauseating can present a huge challenge to even the most congenial and forthright person. In extremes cases, relationships have ended, friendships dissolved, and potential hookups and chances for coitus interaction totally wrecked. It happens all the time: the supremely confident, macho-man hits on the all too shy and permissive girl that doesn't want to offend the knucklehead by informing him that he has burger breath. Well ladies and gentleman, the solution is here at last, just pull them to the side and let em' have it. Politely, of course, we don't want to ruffle any feathers.

Unless one suffers from chronic Halitosis - a condition involving the digestive system that could cause one to have bad breath (and for those of you that do, there is a medication for this) there is absolutely no excuse for walking around making everyone sick with rancid, disarming, fart smelling, bacteria infested, wholly repulsive, mind numbing, smile removing, stomach churning, sweat inducing, nose-hair singeing dragon-breath. Those people that I like to call "close talkers" are the biggest offenders. These are the people that like to get really close (right within your three to five foot radius of personal space) and pronounce each syllable with a rush of "tainted" air that seems to be attuned to seeking and bombarding the sensors in your brain responsible for

detecting scents. It sucks, it really does, and the fact that many close talkers are very nice and probably some of the best people the world has to offer makes it very difficult to say this. You know what you ate, smoked, or drank, and you know that certain things are particularly more effective at "tainting" your breath than others. So be more courteous and have a mint, stand further away when carrying on conversations, cover your mouth, carry a toothbrush, or to go to the extreme, keep your mouth shut! It really is that simple.

I'm not perfect, and there have been times where I ate or drank something that I knew might lead me to emit peculiar odors when speaking, and do you know what I did, I shut the hell up. The only time I'd open my mouth was to ask for a piece of gum (while covering my mouth), and if I couldn't find someone to give me a piece, I'd go and buy a brand new pack from the bookstore and eat two pieces to ensure the death of the

stinky scourge in my mouth. It's not that hard, we all just have to be a little more conscious of this. It really is that simple. I tell my family, friends, and colleagues that if they ever suspect me of having "tainted" breath, they should pull me off to the side and tell me so. After all, that is what friends are for. I would never let a friend leave me without informing him or her that a certain stench permeates their mouth. What if they left me to go and flirt with someone they were interested in, I wouldn't be a good friend if I let them go and embarrass themselves, right? It's a matter of courtesy, that's all.



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It's that time again CCNY....

....Speak and be heard!
In

CCNY's 2nd Coffee House
Poetry Slam
Contest

Deadline to submit your
information is *Thursday,*
November 30th 2006

Event Date: Thursday, December 7th 2006
Time 12:30 pm - 2:00pm (Student Lounge)

Please email us at finley@ccny.cuny.edu or
visit us in NAC 1/210.

Sponsored by: Carheem Cooke-Coleman (CCNY Student), Finley Student Center, IRADAC,
WHCR & Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority Inc.

CCNY

Sports Round- Up

UPCOMING GAMES

(All games subject to change)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

11/18	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/19	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/20	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/21	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/22	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/23	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/24	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/25	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/26	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/27	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/28	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/29	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/30	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

11/18	Swathmore	TBA	(A)
11/19	Tournament	TBA	(A)
11/21	Swathmore	TBA	(A)
11/22	Tournament	TBA	(A)
11/23	Rutgers	7:00pm	(H)
11/24	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/25	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/26	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/27	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/28	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/29	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)
11/30	St. John's	7:00pm	(H)

WOMEN'S FENCING

11/12	Vassar	10:00am	(A)
12/1	Hunter	3:00pm	(A)
