

The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Vol. 126 No.1 Feb./March 2008

"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

Celebrating Black History Month

A Conversation With The First Black President of the US

By Easter Z. Wood

Barak Obama may be racking up the delegates and stunning the world as he becomes the first Black US Presidential candidate with a real shot at taking the prize, but there's another brother who's had a presidential pining and who has been making waves as the first African American commander in chief for more than 20 years.

Dennis Rahiim Watson is an actor/comedian/writer/director/producer, turned motivational speaker and CEO of the National Black Youth Leadership Council, who conceived of and began performing his one-man-show, *the First Black President of the United States*, in 1982. Since then he has earned many accolades including presidential citations and the declaration of "Dennis Watson day" by the Mayors of more than 100 cities including New York and Los Angeles, and he is eagerly anticipating a revival tour of the show which will commence in the spring.

Mr. Watson is a dynamic, energetic, informed and charismatic speaker who recently hosted "Black Love Day" here at City College and has spoken to and inspired thousands of college students across the country. On January

23, 2008, he spoke, in his usual upbeat and candid manner, with *The Paper*.

The Paper: Mr. Watson first I'd like to thank you for giving this time and taking some time



"Dennis Rahiim Watson addresses the International Crimestoppers Convention in Bermuda"

to share your thoughts with *The Paper* and the CCNY community. So let's just jump right in!

WATSON: It's an honor and delight for me to be back on the campus of the City College of New York. City College has been an instrumental part of my development since the 80s back with Finley Center with Dr. [Leonard] Jefferies, Dr.

[James] Smalls... and Dr. Bernard Harleston, the former president [of City College]. City College has been a hotbed of activism it's been one of the leading Universities going back to the Black Power days along with Columbia University so there was nothing that ever went on in New York City that City College didn't have a voice in... this was the grassroots campus back in the day - the heavyweights came here. This is the town where Malcolm X used to reign and Minister Farrakhan used to reign and John Henrik Clarke, [and where] the Apollo Theater [is] so Harlem is the Mecca of Black culture.

The Paper: Indeed! Now, let's talk about the First Black President of the United States.

WATSON: In 1982 I produced a one-man show called *the First Black President of the United States*, not thinking that a year later Jesse [Jackson] would decide to run. I performed it at the Harlem State Office Building back in 1982 and a year later was on the road with it and low and behold Jesse Jackson decided to run.

The Paper: What was the impetus for the show?

continued on page 7

commentary

Killing A Soundbite

By James Kroener

In her oft-quoted piece in *The New Yorker* in 1998, Toni Morrison cited years of murmuring and stated that Bill Clinton is "our first black President." This idea has always bothered me, and now that I hear it every time Bill Clinton is mentioned on CNN, I feel compelled to examine why I find it is so troublesome.

Here's what Morrison

says about African-American cultural identity: "Clinton displays almost every trope of blackness: single-parent household, born poor, working-class, saxophone-playing, McDonald's-and-junk-food-loving boy from Arkansas". Oh, are those the "tropes of blackness"? I hadn't heard. I'm not sure whether offering these biographical

continued on page 6

Hip-Hop Stroke Program

By Maurice Selby

On Monday February 11, the auditorium at P.S. 46 was filled with energy as the staff members of the National Stroke Association and Harlem Hospital teamed up with Hip-Hop legend Dougie Fresh to host a session of the Hip-Hop Stroke Program. The Honorable Charles Rangel and various television networks were also on hand to witness the action, as the program

has been receiving a lot of attention following the promising results observed by the group over the past two years. Fusing the rhythmical beats and slick lyrics of Hip-Hop with tips on how to recognize and prevent the occurrence of strokes, the National Stroke Association's (NSA) Hip-Hop Stroke Program is revolutionizing health education in the Harlem community. To start, the children are given

continued on page 2

In this Issue

Obama's Wave and the New York Role Reversal
page 3

CCNY Students Representing in Albany
page 4

Black Trailblazing Through the Literary Arts
page 7



To: Editor, The Paper
 From: Jessica Scholl, NYPIRG Project Coordinator
 Re: NYPIRG at City College: Fall '07 Recap, Spring Semester Opportunities
 Date: January 30, 2008

Dear CCNY Paper,

What is social justice? Does it encompass environmental and racial justice, human rights, and students rights? Is inaccessible financial aid unjust? Is it unjust when pollution negatively impacts low-income communities more than it does wealthier communities? Are students concerned about these issues? The answer to all these questions is YES! NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group, at City College has been taking action against these injustices for over 30 years. As the state's largest student-directed, nonpartisan, not-for-profit, public interest organization, we have successfully fought against tuition hikes and advocated for financial aid expansions. A public higher education system that is inaccessible to students from across the socio-economic spectrum is socially unjust. Protecting consumer rights, improving the environment, ensuring a more affordable and efficient mass transit system, and empowering voters; these actions are undeniably essential for a socially just future.

NYPIRG provides countless services and resources so students know their rights and can effectively advocate for them. Some examples of our services here at CCNY include:

- Civics and skill development workshops
- Two internship programs (credit and service)
- Coordination of student involvement and representation regarding aforementioned issues
- Small Claims Court Action Center
- Resources on past and present public/student interest issues
- A Volunteer Certificate Program

Last semester, over a thousand CCNY students participated in NYPIRG events; be it registering to vote (643 students registered!), signing a letter supporting measures to fight global warming, conducting research, attending an event, or participating in one of the several other ways students can be active. With seventeen groups co-sponsoring NYPIRG's Darfur Refugee Exposure Session, we raised \$300 for the International Rescue Committee's efforts in Darfur! There is a tangible energy on this campus created by the overwhelming number of students eager to effect change. More than ever, youth in this country are being called upon to take action for a more sustainable future. NYPIRG has always provided the channel to effect change and this semester we will continue to mobilize the campus on issues important to students. During this monumental election year, we will be working stronger than ever to mobilize students to vote in order to ensure that our voice is heard. The fight for greater financial aid funding will heat up. Our efforts to stop global warming and improve recycling in New York State will continue strong. And, of course, NYPIRG students will take action on our Hunger and Homeless, Consumer Action and Mass Transit (Straphangers) campaigns. As always, we invite everyone to participate in these ongoing efforts.

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

Sincerely,
 Jessica Scholl
 CCNY NYPIRG Project Coordinator

continued from front page

Hip-Hop Stroke Program

a pop quiz on stroke and stroke prevention to gauge how much they know before the session begins. Over the course of the next three days, the children are educated on the essentials of stroke awareness, with specific emphasis on how to recognize someone having a stroke and how to dial 911. In addition to that, the group teaches children how simple lifestyle changes can reduce the risk of someone having a stroke in their lifetime. Everything from cartoons to fun activities and demonstrations are used in the program and at the conclusion of the final session, a short test is administered to see how much information the children have retained over the three day period. The NSA in conjunction with Harlem Hospital and volunteers from the community has been active with the program in Harlem since 2006 and has recently unveiled plans to expand to include schools in the outer boroughs as well.

"Hip-Hop Stroke is revolutionizing health education in our community," said Dr. Olajide Williams, a Neurologist at Harlem Hospital and Director of the Hip-Hop Stroke Program. "We're using a bottom up approach instead of the traditional top down mode of information exchange. We're educating the children, and they're educating their families. And it's working! We've got proof that it's working!"

In the past two years, there have been various instances in which children that participated in the program recognized someone having a stroke and called for emergency assistance via 911. Furthermore, in tests administered three and six months after initial visits to schools, the retention rates of the children averaged above 85 percent.

Harlem Hospital and the NSA are currently training volunteers to become Hip-Hop Stroke Educators. Upon completion of the program, the volunteers are encouraged to set up teams and set up partnerships with schools to educate students on stroke awareness. If you are interested, contact Maurice Selby at mselecty00@ccny.cuny.edu.

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

Easter Z. Wood

FACULTY ADVISOR

Professor Debra Kennedy

STAFF WRITERS

Jodie Alexander

Nicholas Chin

Naeema J. Muhammad

Julian Robinson

Farahly Saint-Louis

Maurice Selby

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dr. Lenora Fulani

James Kroener

Jessica Scholl

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.

Obama's Wave and the New York Role Reversal

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

Super Tuesday may not have decided the Democratic or Republican presidential nominations. But it did redraw the map of black politics in some significant ways.

Black voters throughout the country – and particularly throughout the South – embraced the “new politic” message of the Barack Obama campaign.

In Georgia, Obama polled 88% of the black vote, in Alabama 84%, in Arkansas 74%, in Tennessee 77%. In the northeast, Obama polled 82% of the black vote in New Jersey and 74% in Connecticut. The most notable exception to this pattern was New York where Obama polled 61% of the black vote, his lowest percentage of African American support in any February 5th state.

There are obvious explanations for this differential. New York is Hillary Clinton's home state (at least it became her home in 2000) and she and her husband (remember him? he's the new invisible man) are the state's most persuasive power brokers. Just as Obama won his home state Illinois handily (64 to 33), Hillary racked up a New York win (57 to 40) over Obama by a smaller but still convincing margin.

She also carried New York City, where the majority of the state's black population resides, with Obama nearly outpolling her in Brooklyn, one of the city's five boroughs and often the seat of black political insurgencies. Not surprisingly, Obama prevailed over Hillary in three congressional districts.

Brooklyn's 10th CD, represented by Congressman Ed Towns and 11th CD, represented by Congresswoman Yvette Clark, both of whom endorsed Clinton along with the 6th CD in Queens represented by another Hillary backer Congressman Greg Meeks. These districts yield a good number of delegates for Obama, and the anti-machine campaigns were led by a rising group of progressive black politicians –

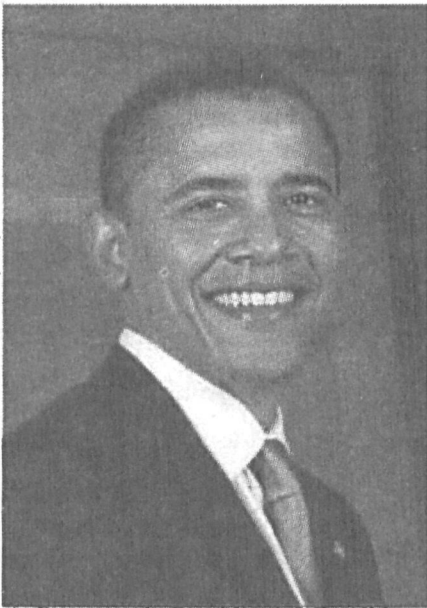
Councilman Charles Barron, State Senator Bill Perkins, State Senator Eric Adams and Assemblyman Karim Camara among them.

In contrast, all of New York's black members of congress backed Hillary and helped produce her highest percentage of the black vote anywhere in the country – 37%. In Harlem, the seat of the black establishment, represented by Congressman Charles Rangel, Hillary beat Obama by 7½ points. Rev. Al Sharpton remained neutral, managing to avoid getting caught in the crossfire between the insurgent and establishment camps.

In many respects the New York story could be cast as a simple one – man vs. machine – where the man, Barack Obama and his visionary campaign was outpolled by an entrenched and powerful urban political machine with deep roots in Harlem. It would be that simple story but for the fact that the recent history of black politics in New York City includes a massive and unexpected uprising against the clubhouse by black voters.

In 2005, 47% of black voters rejected the Democratic Party mayoral candidate and voted for an Independent/Republican Mike Bloomberg instead. This outpouring against politics-as-usual and for nonpartisan political change briefly put New York in the national vanguard of a black electoral revolution. But on Super Tuesday, the roles were reversed. On February 5th, the Clinton machine fought back hard, making sure the Obama wave which swept the black South was dissipated before it hit the Empire State. Hillary repressed Obama's share of the black vote to well below the national average, making New York the rearguard of the larger sea change. The Brooklyn and Queens insurgencies kept the movement for black political independence alive, while the most resounding call for “turn the page” black politics came from everywhere else in the country.

There was another



Democratic Presidential Candidate Barack Obama

“trend within the trend” which I, as an independent, not a Democrat (I couldn't vote on February 5th because New York is a closed primary state) noted with interest. That is the emergence of a discernible constituency – the black independent.

Exit polling picked up this trend for the first time on Super Tuesday.

And here are what some of the numbers show. In Massachusetts 33% of black voters who cast ballots in the Democratic primary self-identified as independents. In Missouri it was 18%.

In Connecticut the number was 22%, in California 14%, in New Jersey 13%, in Tennessee 17%. Among black independents, the support for Obama appears to have been astronomical. For example, in Georgia, where 12% of all African American voters in the Democratic primary were independents, 97% of those cast ballots for Obama.

From here, the presidential race moves on to hand-to-hand combat between Obama and Clinton for delegates. Meanwhile, new black political voices are emerging, searching for a new paradigm, new partnerships and a new way of doing politics.

Biographical: Dr. Lenora Fulani is America's leading black political independent. Based in New York, where she has been a key figure in the insurgent and independent scene, Dr. Fulani is also a developmental psychologist and innovator in the field of supplemental education.

Native Harlemitte Opens First Quiznos in Harlem

Provided By Robert Stevens

A native Harlemitte, Robert Stevens opened the first Quiznos in Harlem, located at 2530 Frederick Douglass Blvd. (135th Street & 8th Ave). He poignantly had a soft grand opening on Father's Day weekend 2006. He plans to open a second location in soon., and more to follow.

It has long been a dream of the entrepreneur, event planner and former media sales support and revenue planner to open a business in Harlem and help the community by providing jobs, a quality product and good service. Stevens grew up in Taft Houses Projects, attended local schools including Brooklyn Technical High School, before attending Hampton University in Virginia. Tired of limited options of quality food in the community, one day while having lunch at a Quiznos in midtown he decided to start looking into opening a Quiznos in Harlem. Four years later his dream came true. He currently employs up to 20 neighborhood people ranging from 16 to 50 years of age.

“Support from the neighborhood has been phenomenal” says Stevens. “I was a little worried about maintaining the corporate brand of Quiznos while staying true to the neighborhood. Some people really appreciate my efforts and staff, especially since where we are located there are fewer options for quick quality food than I initially realized.”

When asked about any other motivating factors to opening his business, Stevens wanted to show that black business, although thought to be rare, can begin and survive in Harlem. Young people need to see there are so many other options other than sports and music, especially in this age of the *bling* and the over commercialism of hip hop. In regards to the changes, gentrification or taking over of Harlem Stevens says “People are always saying THEY need to put a store like that in Harlem...THEY are taking over Harlem.” If WE want OUR culture to survive, WE have to keep the culture alive. We have to open businesses, buy the brownstones, and support each other. Too many people are waiting for the super grant, reparations, the politicians and government to step in. Then WE get mad at other races and creeds when they come into New York, especially Harlem, and collectively live, buy from and support one another. This results in their economic wealth, and survival of their families and ways of life for generations. Something Stevens feels blacks should be, and more importantly could be doing more of.

“Right now, I'm just starting something I hope will become big, an empire possibly.” says Stevens. Something he hopes to provide economic support for him, his family and friends for generations. I do not know how successful I will be, but I do know when it is all said and done, good or bad, I can say I tried to show economic development, black business and more is possible in this day and age. I hope others use my modest beginning as inspiration to take a few chances and risks and make their dreams come true.

Stevens is a proud brother of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (where he was initiated into the Gamm Epsilon Chapter in the Spring of 1990, while at Hampton University), and currently serves as the basileus (president) of the Nu Omicron Chapter in New York. In addition, he is also currently an active member of the New York Hampton Alumni Club and the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce.

CHECK OUT AD ON PAGE 8

CCNY STUDENTS UP IN ALBANY REPRESENTING!

By Farahly Saint-Louis

HOTEP everyone! My name is Farahly Saint-Louis and I am currently representing CCNY in the New York State Session Assistants Program in the Senate, and I am enjoying every moment of it! I am working with Senator Velmanette Montgomery – who represents the 18th District in Brooklyn, New York, including primarily Bedford Stuyvesant as well as Ocean Hill, Prospect Heights, Clinton Hill and other areas – and her staff. Senator Montgomery is the ranking minority member of the Senate's Social Services committee and she is a very delightful individual and great to work with. She is a very concerned Senator who serves on the Crime Victims, Crime and Corrections, Education, Social Services, and Health committees, to name a few. She continues to serve her constituents productively and plans, this election year to serve for her twenty first year.

The program I am participating in offers students twelve college credits and a generous stipend. Academically, the program requires students to fulfill assignments that will lead to the creation of legislation that will be used as debate material during our Mock Legislative Session, to be held in April. In addition to the academics, the program also allows students to get first hand experience in the office and see legislative ideas develop and the process of drafting a bill and introducing it into the House. Among other duties, we read constituent mail as well as keep track of the legislation that our respective Senator is for, against, and planning to put out soon. We are also required to go to the Senate Chamber every week for session – which is where legislators in both houses introduce, vote for or against bills – sit in on committee meetings, budget hearings, conduct meetings with Lobbyists and constituents, and go to weekly forums presented by the program. My focuses are Crime and Correction and Education, and this very hands-on experience will help influence the bill I am proposing, which focuses on Education between grades K-12. I plan on suggesting a change in Social Studies by including African history prior to the colonial period and maybe give young Africans more confidence and looking at a brighter tomorrow knowing they were brilliant thinker and philosophers before being held captive as slaves.

Another program for the NYS Session Assistant is on the Assembly side. Students Bobby Akumah and Shaniqua Lyles, two graduating seniors, were selected to participate on behalf CCNY. Their program not only requires them to work closely with an Assembly member, but also endure an intense, graduate-like, academic schedule. Their weekly schedule consists of quizzes, heavy reading material, a 15-20 page final paper, as well as their Mock Session where they pick a bill of their respective Assembly member to debate on.

Bobby Akumah, a four year dedicated CCNY athlete and Captain of the CCNY Men's Soccer team is working with Anthony S. Seminerio of the 38th district of Queens, NY. Seminerio is the Chair of the Majority Program Committee and has been serving his district for 30 years. "I joined this program to have experience under my belt before I graduate from college. It is a good networking agent and although there is an intense academic component I think grad school will be a breeze. It also looks really good on your resume." Bobby explained when asked what benefits he felt he would gain from the program. His final paper focuses on legalizing medical marijuana and he plans on continuing his studies in business.

Law-School-bound Shaniqua Lyles is currently working with Assemblywoman Ellen Young of District 22 of Flushing Queens. This is the members second term in office and to name a few she serves on aging,

housing and economic development committees. Ms. Lyles office duties, as do Bobby's, consists of writing memo for bills, requesting co-sponsors and preparing her final paper)which she plans to focus on Corrections and penal law. When asked what she expects of the program she responds "I expect this program will give me experience no other job can do and it opens the door for a usually closed legislative process. Even if I don't get a position after this I got the inside perspective."

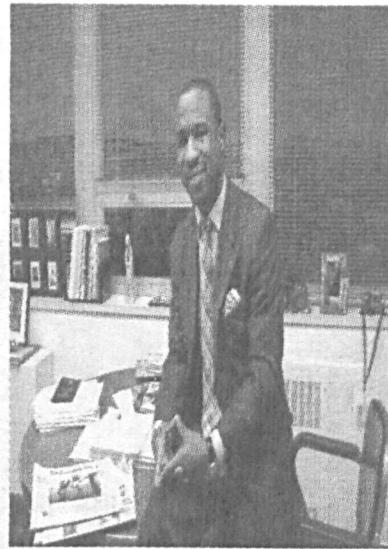
"If it wasn't for Jessica Scholl, I wouldn't be here," Karen Ford, an intern with New York Public Interest Research Group, said about her internship in Albany. Ms. Ford gives thanks to Ms. Scholl, Director of the NYPIRG chapter at CCNY, for informing her of the opportunity and recommending her for the program. Ford is participating in a third type of program offered to students through NYPIRG, an organization that lobbies on behalf of students, with focus on higher educational, environmental and consumer protection issues. Karen is writing a research paper focusing on Public Health, specifically, Childhood Lead Poisoning. She advocates for primary

prevention and wants children to be screened before getting the disease that she says "can lead brain damage, IQ deficiency, or even death depending on how much lead is induced" and which "has a greater affect on African American and Latino, low income, communities." Ford found out about her internship in a workshop at a conference that NYPIRG was having for all chapters and all campuses. "I receive exposure by seeing things behind the scenes, being taught how to form a press release, writing an editors letter, and a bill memo." She is advised by Prof. Vincent Boudreau, Chairman of the Political Science Department, and reports her paper's progress to him. After graduating in fall 2008, Ford plans to attend law school and become a lawyer but if that does not work out she says she would love to teach at the high school level, "I come from a family of teachers."

Gregory O. Smiley, a 2006 graduate of CCNY, was part of the New York State Session Internship in 2007. He worked for Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow who is also the Chairman of Racing & Waging. Mr. Smiley has since been hired by the CUNY Governmental Relations Office in Albany. He is one of only four lobbyists meeting with legislative members in both the Assembly and Senate on issues concerning the schools within the CUNY system. His office does not lobby on any particular issues but Mr. Smiley has been working with the Black

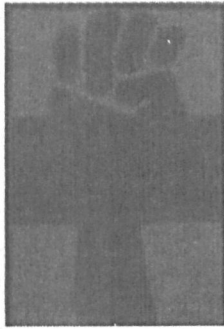
Male Initiative, a program established by President Edison O. Jackson of Medgar Evers College, in hopes of achieving an increase in the school to college rate, and increased graduation rate and decreased incarceration rate, more access and opportunity, and greater exposure to a variety of career choices for the young Black male population. CUNY Chancellor, Matthew Goldstein, took President Jackson's idea and ran with it resulting in the expansion of the program throughout the entire CUNY system in 2004. When asked what he feels about the program, Smiley responded, "I think it's a wonderful prospect and President Edison O. Jackson intended to increase enrollment and retention within his school a minority populated college, and what it continues to stand for is a wonderful thing."

The programs mentioned above are but a few of those available for CCNY students to take advantage of, and I, for one, am proud to see my African brothers and sisters making strides within the government and so-called "White America" – I encourage all of my brothers and sisters out there to follow suit and get that crucial experience under your belts while working toward making a positive difference. Happy Black (African) History Month! Umoja!



Clockwise: Farahly Saint-Louis, Gregory O. Smiley, Shaniqua Lyles, Bobby Akumah

Expressions



Endorsement

The man whose face you sport on your shirt

Has a legacy society has twisted and bent.

He saw injustice and devoted his work
Improving the lives for people of
African Descent.

He demanded to be given his human
right,

But they say he wanted guns and
violence;

He no longer wanted his people
oppressed by whites,
Who wanted to keep them all silent.

But he stood on streets like One-
Twenty-Fifth

Speaking to crowds who were tired of
the wait

He told them all they needed to get a
grip

And join together against the axis of
hate!

To some, his life is only worth a glimpse
But even death will never kill our
shining prince.

(In memory of El-Hajj Malik Shabazz
aka Malcolm X)

--
Naeema J. Muhammad

Events @ City

Event *FREE RAPID HIV TESTING FOR CCNY STUDENTS*
Date Thu, Feb 28
Time 11:00 AM— 02:00 PM
Address 160 Convent Ave/ Convent Avenue outside NAC
Telephone 212.650.8222
Description Free & Confidential Harlem Hospital Mobile Clinic; Rapid HIV Testing with preliminary results available in 20 minutes. Revised recommendation of the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) is to make HIV testing a part of routine medical screenings for all patients between the ages of 13 and 64. The CDC estimates that more than 250,000 people (or about 25% of the people who have HIV) in the US have HIV but don't know it. New York is especially vulnerable when it comes to HIV and AIDS. It is the state with the largest number of AIDS cases in the US.

Admission Free

Event *CAPTIVE BODIES & CO-OPTED VOICES: THE EVOLUTION OF AN ARGENTINE LITERARY TRADITION*

Date Thu, Feb 28
Time 12:30 PM— 01:30 PM
Address NAC/ Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures 5/223, Conference Room
Telephone 212.650.6381
Description A lecture by CCNY Professor Carlos Riobó (in English)
Admission free
URL http://www.ccnycuny.edu/foreignlang_lit/

Event *WHEN THE LEVEES BROKE - PART III*
Date Fri, Feb 29
Time 05:00 PM
Address 25 Broadway, 7th Floor Btwn Morris & Greenwich St./ Auditorium
Telephone 212.925.6625
Description Screening of the final part of Spike Lee's 2006 film that examines the U.S. government's role and its response to Hurricane Katrina. Black History Month-film screening
Admission Free
URL ccny.cuny.edu/cwe

For more events check out www1.ccnycuny.edu

COLLEGE WIDE CAREER FAIR

Thursday March 6, 2008

The Great Hall, Shepard Hall

Time: 12pm - 4pm

All Undergraduates, Graduate, Doctoral Students and Recent Alumni are Urged to Take Advantage of This Excellent Opportunity to Explore Employment and Internship Opportunities with Leading Organizations.

If you don't have a resume, come to the Career Center to pick up samples or inquire about our Resume Writing Workshops.

It is strongly recommended that you also attend our Interviewing Workshops before attending the fair.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Amber Charter School | IBM | US Patent and Trademark |
| American Solutions | Civilian Complaint Review Board | US Geological Society |
| Bookjobs.com | Hachette Books | New York City ACS |
| Career Nation | Earth Tech, Inc. | Peace Corps |
| Loehinos Services, Inc. | RTTS | Miami-Dade County Public Schools |
| NYC Dept. of Corrections | Target | Judau Contracting |
| Champion Learning Center | Time Warner Cable | STV Incorporated |
| Connecticut Department of Transportation | Transit Transit News Magazine | New York Child Resource Center |
| CUNY NOAA Crest Center | Unilever | New York Police Department |
| Dormitory Authority for the State of New York | Vadicoft | Prutechok Service |
| Medical Staffing Services, Inc. | New York Life, Ocean Financial Group | New York State Office of General Services, Design and Construction Group |
| NYC School Construction Authority | Howard County School District 3 | Social Security Administration |
| Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens, Inc. | NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection | YAI |
| CUNY Institute for Software Design & Dev | Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center | CUNY Physician Assistant Program |
| Qaisa Children Services | Northwestern Mutual Financial | MTA NYC Transit |
| Kaplan Test Prep | MTA, Metro North | Yonkers School District |
| Geico | Matt.Ho, Bridge Financial Group | US Environmental Protection Agency |
| Path 101 | Verizon | Peace Corps |
| Walgreens | | |
| Visiting Neighbors | | |

Bring plenty of copies of your resume. Business attire required. ENTER OUR RAFFLE THE DAY OF THE FAIR!!

For more information, please come to The Career Center NAC 1/116

**For immediate release:**

Monday, February 11, 2008

For more information:

Jessica Scholl : 401-742-1341

HOUSE PASSES HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION***NYPIRG HAILS PROVISION THAT WOULD HELP KEEP TEXTBOOKS AFFORDABLE***

NY, NY—The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation on Thursday that would help rein in the cost of textbooks, increase Pell grants, and stop anti-consumer practices in the student loan industry.

The College Opportunity and Affordability Act, which would renew the Higher Education Act (HEA) — a federal law that governs most financial aid and higher education policy — would also expand certain student loan forgiveness plans and provide for the creation of a “watch list” of colleges that increase their tuition too quickly. Students working with NYPIRG at City College see a lot to be excited about in the bill but they were especially pleased to see Congress take action about the high cost of textbooks.

“Textbook prices are out of control,” said Amanda Silvia, a second year math major, working with NYPIRG’s Higher Education Project. “Publishers are releasing new editions too often and they’re driving up the cost of books by bundling them with CD-ROMS, DVDs or workbooks that a lot of professors don’t even use.”

The bill takes on textbook prices in a number of ways. It requires publishers to disclose more information about textbooks to faculty, including the price of the books, substantial changes from previous editions, and whether supplemental material is available in any other format. It also requires publishers to offer unbundled alternatives to textbooks that come shrink-wrapped with additional materials. Additionally, it encourages colleges and universities to provide book lists with ISBN numbers to students before the beginning of term. The Senate’s version of the bill did not include these textbook provisions when it passed last July, but it did include the watch list, Pell increases and expanded loan forgiveness programs, among other measures.

While the House and Senate are ironing out the differences between the two bills, City College students will be making their voices heard to make sure the textbooks provisions make it into the final bill.

“The bill will help ensure publishers issue less expensive versions of textbooks, make it easier for faculty to compare prices when they assign books, and give students more time to shop around for cheap books,” said Ayala. “Congress should help students out by making textbooks more affordable.”

continued from front page

Killing A Soundbite

details as evidence of his “blackness” is more offensive in terms of stereotyping African-Americans, or as an affront to our ability to analyze what we read.

Morrison has been given a “pass” on this quote and, maybe, that’s warranted. She is, after all, a Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning African-American writer. She’s not a politician or a journalist — she is an artist whose medium is words. But it still strikes me as an incredibly reductive analysis of both President Clinton, and of African-American heritage. And because she said it, she has given license to every media outlet in the country to use this turn-of-phrase at their whims. And they do. I suppose that’s not the worst thing that could ever happen, but let’s not forget the way that many conservative white people perceive Bill Clinton: as a philandering weed smoker and a pathological liar. Maybe that’s why I cringe every time I hear a white pundit call Bill Clinton “Black”.

Part of what Morrison was getting at in making the comparison (as pointed out recently by Elizabeth Alexander on Salon.com) was the way that forces aligned to persecute and prosecute President Clinton. As Alexander puts it “[Morrison] questioned the pitch of Starr-fueled hysteria” and likened the presumption of Clinton’s guilt to the presumption of guilt that has been attached to countless African-Americans in legal proceedings throughout American history.

This part of the metaphor has largely been ignored in media discussions of Clinton’s “Blackness”. I didn’t comprehend this aspect until it was highlighted in a friend’s blog the other day. But I don’t think that it takes away from my point. Here, Morrison suggests victimhood. While I recognize that African-Americans have been made victims countless times through the misuse of the American legal system, I don’t see victimhood as one of the hallmarks of “Blackness”.

And, as we saw in the nineties and are seeing today, President William Jefferson Clinton is many things, but a victim is not one of them. No one (save perhaps Kenneth Starr) is more acutely aware of that fact than Senator Barack Obama.

I’ll come back to the Senator in a moment, but I would like to point out here that Morrison is also suggesting an indomitable spirit which lines up pretty well with all that I know about Clinton and African-Americans. Still, it’s a slippery slope.

As Hillary Clinton’s chief rival for the Democratic nomination, and as the African-American who’s come the closest to becoming president, it was only a matter of time before Senator Obama was confronted with Morrison’s ubiquitous quote and asked to comment. CNN’s Joe Johns took it a step further in the January 21st Democratic debate and asked the Senator “Do you think Bill Clinton was our first black president?”

Naturally there wasn’t much that could be said intelligently. Obama wisely replied that Bill Clinton had “an enormous affinity with the African-American community.” But then he went off on a tangent about southerners who grew up during segregation and ended by cracking a joke about needing to observe Bill Clinton dance to “determine whether he was a brother.”

Nervous laughter filled the room. And that’s about the level of discourse that this quote consistently brings us back to. A bad joke about how white people can’t dance, or about how black people eat at McDonalds. That’s why I think we’d be best served to let this idea go, catchy as it may be.

Got
Questions?
We'll get the
answers!

Introducing a
new column
The Corner

Submit your questions to:
thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu

ATTENTION CLUBS!

Advertise with
The Paper

Contact us!
thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu

Blacks Trailblazing Through the Literary Arts Against All Odds

By Naeema J. Muhammad

Africans who were brought to the United States via The Middle Passage were declared three-fifths of a person by law. Looked at as property more than human beings, rights that we unconsciously take for granted today such as reading and writing were not awarded to them. It was thought that the so-called "Negro" was dumb and incapable of anything except labor. So naturally, it blew whites in Massachusetts out of the water in 1773 that an African slave by the name of Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784) was able to learn the English language well enough to produce highly-praised poems.

Although a well-known writer in both England and the United States, Wheatley was still rejected by her society and lived out her short life serving others. With the racists attitudes in the U.S. the question lingered: how would black writers make it in the world of literary arts?

After the American Civil War (1863-1865) where slavery was abolished, many hoped that blacks would be accepted as intellectual as whites. And so came Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906) a writer since the age of six and born to former slaves. Dunbar wrote numerous poems, essays, short stories and plays and rose to fame with the publication of his second book of poetry in 1895, *Minors and Majors*. As a respectable

writer, it still did not exclude him from racism; with limited job choices for blacks at that time, Dunbar worked as an elevator operator. Even as a nationally recognized writer, his society could not see past the color of his skin.

The golden era for many black writers came during the 1920's. Many of them resided in Harlem, coining the name for this particular period, The Harlem Renaissance. The Harlem Renaissance was largely a literary movement where Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960), Countee Cullen (1903-1946), Claude McKay (1889-1948), Nella Larsen (1891-1964) and Langston Hughes (1902-1967) achieved literary recognition. Their poetry, short stories and novels voiced the struggles of being a person of color in America. This was something that had not really been explored in the arts before. Although Wheatley had set a precedent, she mostly wrote about Christianity and only made a reference to herself as a slave once.

Fast-forwarding to the Black Arts Movement beginning in the 1960's, people of color were beginning to challenge the laws that kept them as second-class citizens more openly. It was a time of race riots, the Vietnam War and assassinations of one leader after the other and where the power of words had never been stronger. Loudly and proudly, poets like Audre Lorde (1934-1992), Amiri Baracka (b. 1934) and

Gill Scott Heron (b. 1949) began to express the plight of blacks in America bluntly. It was a time where people were looking in the mirror defining who they were going to be. The movement called for the right to be who they were as people of African decent, without the side of prejudice.

Today, we can find work by any number of black writers in anyone's hands, regardless of their ethnic background. The names Maya Angelou, Ralph Ellison, Sonia Sanchez, Richard Wright, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Etheridge Knight, Nikki Giovanni and others mention earlier have become household names. The idea of a person of color who is able to write about who they are is no longer far-fetched. But as a writer or a philanthropic of the literary arts, appreciation for the journey that has been taken so that we can enjoy *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *Invisible Man* is something we cannot forget. We owe much respect to those who were told they could not and proceeded to do the unthinkable.

ATTENTION Students!

Come -n- Join

The Paper

email us @

thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu

or Visit NAC/118

A Conversation With
The First Black President of the US

WATSON: The First Black President for me was an opportunity to prove to myself ...in this highly competitive city called New York where Black men and Black women on a regular basis come from all over the world wanting to be somebody wanting to be – back in the day – the next Sidney Poitier, the next Richard Prior and the competition was tough and rough. In order to prove to myself that I had the skills and the craft to make this happen, what better vehicle to launch [my] career than the First Black President of the United States which is a simulated press conference [complete] with secret service [and] hail to the chief playing in the background. [There is a] 30 minute brief statement about whatever the topical issues of the day, and 45 minutes of questions from the audience: "Mr. president what is your position on Affirmative Action?", "Mr. President, what is your view on abortion?", "What are you going to do vis à vis the economy?"...all of these classic issues. [I] don't know what the audience is going to ask, so [I] really have to be on top of your game... and if [I'm] able to pull it off, that's it [my] career is ready to roll because it says [a lot about me], particularly as a Black male. Everyone knows that we're genius when it comes to acting, singing, dancing – that's a part of the whole African Diaspora it's all genetic – but the ability to speak, for an hour non-stop without notes...

The Paper: Answer questions off the cuff...

WATSON: Got it! Right! That's something that the hip-hop community cannot do... no matter how much knowledge they got, they're operating on the kindergarten level because it's like "yo, you see what I'm saying? Yo Mr. Rapper"...

The Paper: Welllll I would dispute that a little. There are certain artists, but I definitely feel what you're saying, the majority particularly nowadays that hip-hop has taken the turn that it has. But back in the time that you wrote the show, I think you would have been able to find more [intelligent hip hop] artists

WATSON: Right, you'd find it but I'm talking about contemporary stuff...when I hit the stage as the FBP I'm [following a tradition], I'm stepping up with Malcolm in my mind, Marcus Garvey, Paul Robeson, Adam Clayton Powell, Elijah Mohammed – all these great speakers, orators – Friderick Douglass. And also in my mind I've got the Temptations, the Four Tops, Earth Wind and Fire, Smokey Robinson, The Dells, Blue Magic, The Delphonics, The Motown Stuff from the 60s talking to our people.

The Paper: Of course I have to ask the First Black President – what you think about Barack Obama's candidacy?

WATSON: Barack is a messenger from God himself! Barack, as Oprah Winfrey said, is "the one." Why? Because the world – all around the planet I've been throughout Africa all throughout the Caribbean I've been traveling for the last 20 years – the world's definition of the Black man [is quite negative]. The Black [American] man has the worst image across the planet [and] whatever they see on BET or MTV [is what many people around the world] want to be. It's about the "booty" it's about the "bling bling" it's about the "hoochie mamas", it's about all that nonsense. It's about misogyny, it's about "niggas," it's about motherf-ckers, b-tches and hoes it's about

all that negative stuff. So when you go to Haiti, what are they saying? When you go to Puerto Rico, when you go to Senegal, when you go to South Africa they're imitating [those negative aspects]. Barack says to the Black man "clean up your image, look like the Nation of Islam, look like Malcolm, talk like Malcolm...make young children want to be like... you." He says to the world that "I'm somebody's son" – that looking good feeling good...is a message to the world that the Black man is ready now in the year 2008 to be a major player on the world stage like Kofi Anan, like Colin Powell. [He shows] that we can step on out and do what Minister Farrakhan and Jesse Jackson have been doing for the last 40-50 years: trying to get the world to pay attention to the Black man's intellectual genius. But the world can't pay attention to us if we're thugs, if we're pimps, if we're players – they say "y'all are in kindergarten." And that was my initial point... so if we've got problems as Black folks in America: teen pregnancy, unemployment, gentrification, lack of assets, retention, lack of funding, lack of theaters, lack of banks, lack of economic development...

The Paper: Access to higher education...

WATSON: Yes Higher Education. When you want a problem solved you're not going to call on DMX or 50 Cent or Lil' Kim or Foxy Brown for their opinion...you have to look to people like Barack Obama...

Read the full interview on www.CCNYThePaper.com

You may contact Dennis Rahiim Watson at First.BlackPres@yahoo.com

QUIZNOS[®] CATERS



Prices subject to change and vary by location. *Ask store for Box Lunch prices.

©2008 QIP Holder LLC. All rights reserved. "Quiznos" and related marks are property of QIP Holder LLC. FRITO LAY, FRITO LAY logo, LAY'S and LAY'S logo are trademarks used by Frito-Lay, Inc. © 2008 FRITO-LAY North America, Inc.

QE0606-CATERINGMENU

Sports parties, office gatherings, birthdays, graduation celebrations, neighborhood picnics, family reunions, you name it... Quiznos[®] makes a good time even better.

\$10 OFF

A Large Party Pack

Valid through 12/31/08

This original coupon must be surrendered when ordering. Limit on coupon per person per visit. May not be combined with any other offer or coupon. Taxes not included. No cash value (unless prohibited by law, then cash value is \$.005). Value of promotional item(s) varies by location. No substitutions. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited. Valid at listed location only.



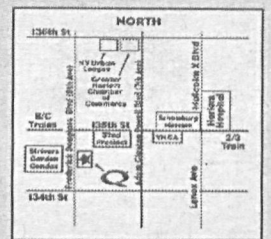
FREE

Small Sub Combo

When you place a catering order of \$50 or more

Valid through 12/31/08

This original coupon must be surrendered when ordering. Limit on coupon per person per visit. May not be combined with any other offer or coupon. Taxes not included. No cash value (unless prohibited by law, then cash value is \$.005). Value of promotional item(s) varies by location. No substitutions. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited. Valid at listed location only.



**2530 Frederick Douglass Blvd. (8th Ave.)
New York, NY 10030
P: 212 926-QUIZ (7849)
F: 212 926 7855**

ATTENTION CCNY STUDENTS:

Delivery/flyer distribution in the City College area, Prep/ Sandwich maker positions available

*Business and Marketing majors welcome
(Possibility to receive work study credit)
All shifts available*

Email resumes to HarlemQuiznos@aol.com