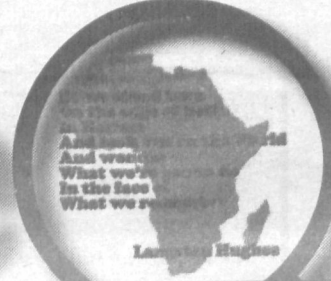



# The Paper

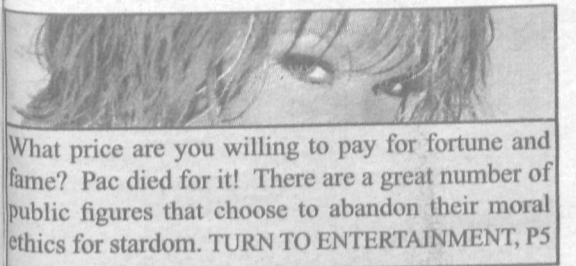


the Medium For People of African Descent  Vol. 59 No. 3

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

## CCNY ...and beyond

### FAME PRICE?



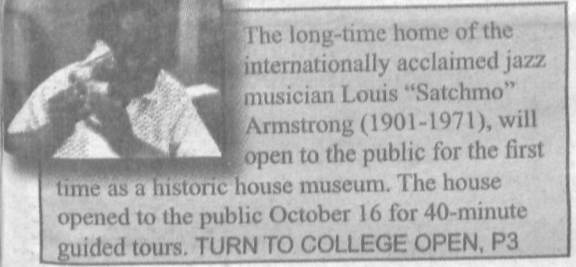
What price are you willing to pay for fortune and fame? Pac died for it! There are a great number of public figures that choose to abandon their moral ethics for stardom. TURN TO ENTERTAINMENT, P5

### Independence Day



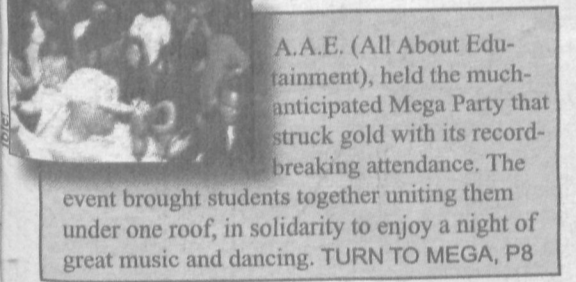
The United Nigerian Students Association turned out to celebrate their nation's independence from her former colonial master, Great Britain. Resk Q! TURN TO INDEPENDENCE, P3

### Queens College Opens Louis Armstrong's House as Museum



The long-time home of the internationally acclaimed jazz musician Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong (1901-1971), will open to the public for the first time as a historic house museum. The house opened to the public October 16 for 40-minute guided tours. TURN TO COLLEGE OPEN, P3

### MEGA TRIUMPH!



A.A.E. (All About Entertainment), held the much-anticipated Mega Party that struck gold with its record-breaking attendance. The event brought students together uniting them under one roof, in solidarity to enjoy a night of great music and dancing. TURN TO MEGA, P8

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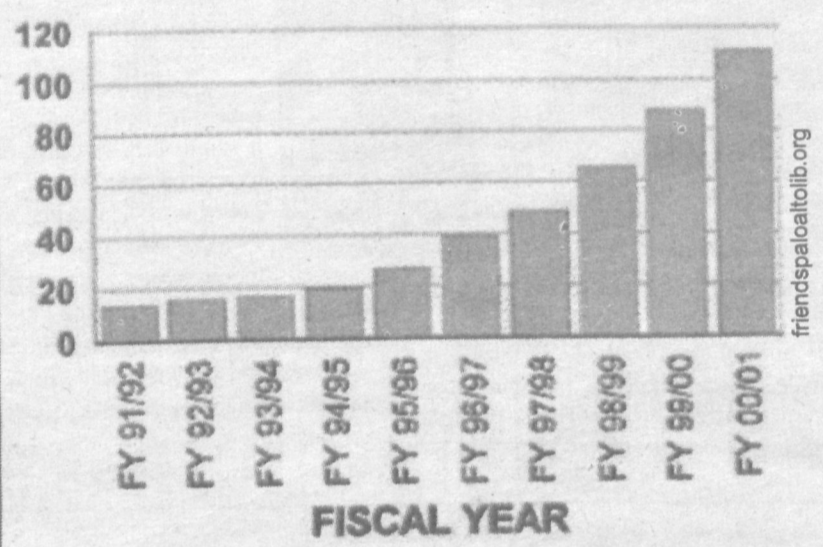
# Rising Book Costs Who's to blame?

By Kerry F.A. Hyre

In addition to the mouth-dropping tuition cost, students returned to City College bookstore this semester to face the age-old battle of unreasonably high book prices, switching of editions, and out of print books. Lashing out at the City College bookstore is typical of any student. Before we start the blaming game, let us first analyze the situation and then decide who is to blame.

Students are disturbed by the astronomical prices they are required to pay in recent semesters for various course books, especially books for science majors. Further, as El-Hadji Niang, a Political Science major student bemoans, "The amount of used books in the bookstore is limited."

According to Cliff Ewert



of Follet, the City College's bookstore supplier, the publishers and professors are to blame. Mr. Ewert says that two of the reasons why prices may be so high are that editions change eighteen to nineteen percent per year and that every three years a new book comes. TURN TO RISING COSTS, P2

# THE NEW USS GOVERNMENT FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE?

By RESK Q!



Outgoing USS chair Shamsul Haque congratulates the new USS Chair Agnes Abraham

Agnes M. Abraham the twice elected Medgar Evers College Student Government Association President was elected to be the new Chair of the University Student Senate (USS) of City University of New York (CUNY) on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2003. The USS was established in 1972 to serve and protect the interests of all CUNY students. This organization functions as the university student government to guarantee empowerment to all students by advocating access and excellence at CUNY. Ms. Abraham, currently pursuing a BA Degree in Public Administration has an unchallenged and

undisputed record of activism.

At the recent USS retreat attended in Glen Cove New York on August 22<sup>nd</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003, Ms. Abraham was recognized as an activist, an advocate and a leader. Her passionate speeches of advocacy were applauded repeatedly. Ms. Abraham used the leadership retreat to lay her campaigning grounds.

Before the end of the retreat, Ms. Abraham had put together a group to discuss some of the ongoing issues in the USS and CUNY. This group later became her slate, the only slate formed during the elections. The majority of student leaders belong to her slate.

Ms. Abraham's only opposition was Jonathan Rinaldi of City College of New York, nominated to run for two positions, the Chair of USS and the Vice President of Legislative affairs (USS), who lost getting only 2 votes. All the candidates on Ms. Abraham's slate won with 27 or more votes out of 32 possible votes.

Senator Jonathan Rinaldi who is known for his hard work and dedication was very disappointed "This is unfair, I lost big time" he whispered, as he disappeared in the room before the close of the elections.

The open ballot elections were conducted and directed by Linda W. Johnson of National Election Aid, American Arbitration Association, an outside election agency. Some students criticized the open ballot. "I felt under pressured to vote, I had to abstain," said one student leader. According to the departing chairperson of USS Shamsul Haque, the open ballot elections were due to a lawsuit against USS in the past.

TURN TO USS, P2

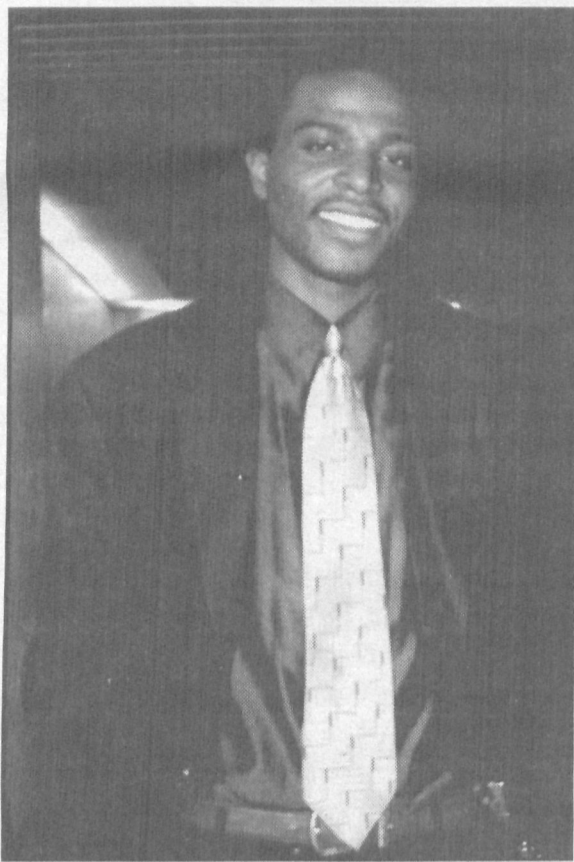
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by: Kerry Farias

**RESK Q, Editor in Chief**

School is back in session and I'm glad to see everyone getting used to the normal class routine; the hustle and bustle of registration, financial loans, overpriced text books, sleepless nights, and impossible deadlines. It might be a

audience. We want *The Paper*, with each month, to be more intriguing, informative and essential to your life. We're proud to recommit ourselves to excellent writing and to bringing new writers and various talent to "The Paper". We want

**BUILDING ON THE LEGACY!**

tough semester for some of us but I hope we can all make the best of it. It's a system where only the strongest survive.

I truly take it as an honor to be the Editor In Chief of *The Paper* the historical voice of the people of African decent in the City College of New York. As Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, former president of Ghana, stated, "All people of African descent, whether they live in North or South America, the Caribbean, or in any other part of the world are AFRICANS, and belong to the African Nation." It is very important we know that we are all from one Nation with one accord.

I hope to uphold the true legacy of *The Paper* and what it stands for. It is also my aim to build on the greatness of *the Paper's* past, making it much stronger and a more effective medium for a greater and wider

to become your voice and your favorite news source. We aim to compete against the other college trades or media's here at City but also to cooperate with them and stand together in unity.

**"Our ambition is boundless"**

With this new issue and the others up-comings you will find that we have incorporated some changes. It is my priority to publish articles that are factual and thoughtful. I anticipate that most articles will also come from our readers. Each issue is slated to have articles based on research and thoughtful analysis of what is happening at CCNY and CUNY and in the world around us.

I encourage submissions to *The Paper*. Better yet, I personally welcome you to contribute your talent. Get the hands on experience while we may take the most exciting ride. Together let's build on the history of *The Paper*.

I remain,  
Redeemer Amedzekor (RESK Q!),  
Editor In Chief, *The Paper*

**RISING COSTS  
WHO IS TO BLAME?**

Publishers, such as The McGraw Hill Cos., Inc., blame high pricing on the cost of producing new and updated books. Students concur that up-to-date information for some courses are relevant, but overall, they believe that the publishers change editions and abandon the older ones to force the students to buy the newer books.

Since the professors are the ones selecting the books for courses, publishers usually make calls to professors or roam school campuses, soliciting any professors they can get their clutches to promote anything from a new book to a new edition with added materials. Professor Haslip-Viera, one of the Latin-American professors here at City College says that he is constantly being bombarded with telephone calls from publishers trying to get him to use newer and more expensive books. He says that publishers will send professors "desk copy" books to get them hooked and encourage them to change books.

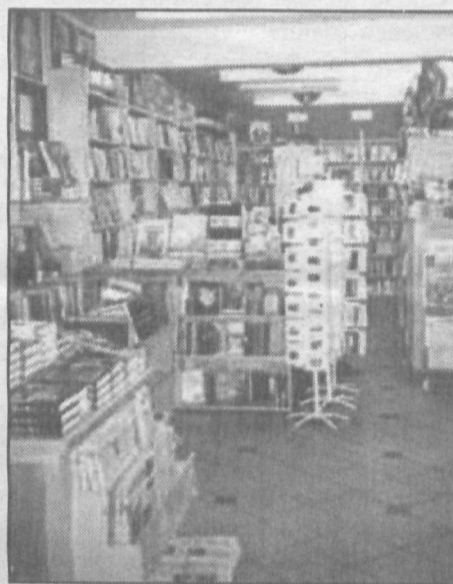
Publishers use a technique call "bundling" to justify the high costs of their books. Bundling is when the publishers wrap the books with CD-ROMs, flyers promising exclusive limited access to "must have" websites, study guide packages, and various other unrelated course materials which are sometimes interesting but often time irrelevant to the course requirements. To make matters worse for the students, bundle-packaged books cannot be

returned once the students unwrapped them.

Many professors sympathize with the students and will often switch to another book (which sometimes may not be the best source), or provide students with a buffet of outside materials to supplement their courses, eliminating the headache of costly books. After observing the steady increase of the required book for his Latin American and Caribbean Civilizations 10200 course, Professor Haslip-Viera decided, to the delight of the students, to change to a far less costly but still informative textbook.

Students who normally go early in the semester to the bookstore for first access to used books are frequently angry when they are faced with empty shelves. Ms. Eva M. Geoghegan, City College's bookstore manager, says that book supplies by publishers is due to national quantitative demands and if students do not return their books, they will not have enough books to go around. But students are hesitant to return their books because of the little or no money they get for books. Ms. Geoghegan defends the bookstore saying that there are certain conditions that need to be met in order for students to get back up to fifty percent of the original purchase price. If the bookstore has been notified by the professors (should be done as early as midterm time) that they intend to use the same textbooks the following semester, then students returning their books by the end of the current semester will get back fifty percent of the original price. The bookstore also buys back books from students based on the condition of the books and the supply and demand for the current edition.

The National Association of



depotbookstore

College Stores suggests that students can make smart decisions when buying books by buying used books when possible, and knowing the bookstore refund policy and deadlines. Ms. Geoghegan says that receipts are very important. They will take back unused books from students as long as they have their receipts and the books are in good condition. Students must also decide if they need bundle-packaged books or just the books because these packages are often time non-returnable once opened.

On a good note, students should not feel hopeless. There are several alternatives to buying new books. Students can go to various websites such as www.mail.com, www.half.com and www.Amazon.com for huge discount savings and book exchanges. But be careful when shopping online by not forgetting to calculate the shipping expenses with the total textbooks costs. Also, at City College, the Morales/Shakur Community and Student Center, Nac 3/201, has a book exchange program that is run solely by students. Unfortunately, the book exchange drive ended on September 15. However, feel free to call 212-650-5008 or thebookexchange@yahoo.com for further information. Good luck shopping, fellow students! **KH**

**The Paper**

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**THE NEW USS  
BETTER OR FOR WORSE?**



USS members in voting session

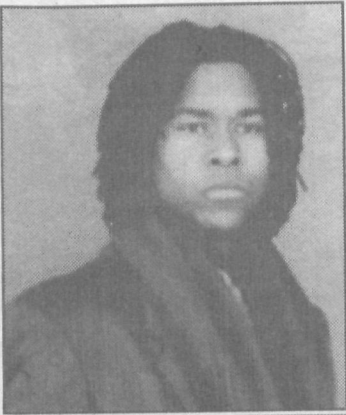
As the new chair, Ms. Abraham officially started her duty on November 1st 2003, the question raised is "New USS government, is this for the better or the worse?"

After the close of the elections Ms. Shamsul Haque gave his last remarks. "Being chairperson is one best and the greatest challenge. October 27th 2003 marks the beginning of my extra co-curricular activities," he stated. He thanked his administration for the great assistance in getting jobs done during his one year term and encouraged the newly elected chair and his administration to do a better job and uphold the mission of USS. Mr. Haque stated that one of his primary goals was to make USS visible, which he has accomplished by visiting all campuses.

Shamsul Haque gave the elected chair Agnes Abraham the opportunity to speak in acceptance of the new position of chairperson of the Senate. Ms. Abraham thanked the senators in attendance and briefly laid her platform which includes reinstating a USS office in Albany. **RQ**



# Statement of Intentions



C. N. Ible, Ombudsperson

It is the intent of the Ombudsperson's office to provide a network of qualified students orientated to the procedures of administrative policy verses student rights, through prescribed techniques and strategies. By holding the position of Student Ombudsperson of the City College of New York, I will focus on the duties as prescribed by the elected Ombudsperson's mandate.

The word Equity seems to denote a vested interest in governance. Goodwill by students when it relates to the rights and entitlements of administrative control can never denote equity or parity. I will uphold the main roles as student ombudsperson:

1. Arbitrate on behalf of student affairs.
2. Mediate and give balance to grievances of protesting students
3. Negotiate the appreciable differences of two or more opposing parties recommending redress to satisfy the cause of effect of contention. The reality of the ombudsperson is to coordinate the tremendous task of review and resolution, to form Ad hoc cadres with the selection of persons from each student club as representative for equity.

To ensure the key to the success of the scope of the ombudsperson, I am establishing two (2) Ad hoc

committees so this office can fulfill its duties stipulated by its governance.

Before advocacy can begin, there must be a concerted effort to evaluate the relevancy of contention by each complaint

## "We are the Student's Champion"

meant to deter mine redress. Being that social issues must be balanced on the diversity of ethnic, religious and cultural difference of CUNY's student body. The only real equity and justice, is prevention. The **Critical Issues Review Committee** (Ad hoc) will be able to review and critique administrative procedures before they confirmed and mandated as rules and regulations. While many Administrative procedures affect and effect many students adversely, tracking trends and scopes will allow this community to develop a profile for the office of the student ombudsperson. With the said profiles, the committee will be enabled to assess each situation individually and in relation to past procedures and solutions.

Regarding ways and means, Outlook = Outreach. How students perceive their rights and entitlements has been a result of hype and promotions. By publicly informing the student

body and the community of their rights and entitlements in relation to the city, state, and university mandates, they will be armed with correct data and information collected by the Critical Issues Review Committee on which they (students) may base their resolve. With the creation of a **Public Relation Committee** (Ad hoc) student's will be kept up to date on the everchanging mandates that states their rights and entitlements.

We are the student's champions. As their first line of defense and outlet to voice their opinions in favor or against members of the City College of New York, it is my offices goal to also work very closely with student government, the Media Board, and the Student Services Corporation to insure they are in compliance with the rules and regulations mandated by each respected governance for the betterment of all. **CI**

**BECOME A CHAMPION for the people, contact: The Office of the Ombudsperson; 138th Street and Convent Ave. R1/106; NYC 10031; Phone: 212.650.8179 Fax: 212.650.6479 Email: ombuds@ccny.cuny.edu**

**JOIN IN OUR STRUGGLE!**



(FILE)

## Armstrong's Museum

Louis Armstrong's House is open to the public for the first time as a historic house museum as of Wednesday, October 15, 2003. The home of the internationally acclaimed jazz musician Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong (1901-1971), a National Historic Landmark and a New York City landmark, underwent restoration. The house was given to the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) in 1986. The Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation gave the house to and arranged for Queens College to administer the house under a long-term license agreement. **QC**

# Poetry Corner



I AM

In midnight

I for too long have been disdained and degraded.  
I was born to know pain and sorrow in life,  
I feel pain before pleasure,  
I cry without fears.

In midnight and 3 a.m. settings,  
I kissed your lips and caressed you with my tongue,  
tracing each pattern of the curves and winding paths of your neck with delicate concentration,  
exploring each hill and slope with mounting interest.

I am a gracious presence without, glowing and radiant soul within, intellectual, tantalizing, beautiful and voluptuous,  
I come in all makes and models.

In dusky hours and twilight skies I touched and explored you with my fingertips and palms, cascading to the bridge between your chest and your thighs with deliberate intent, committing to memory each place, with budding curiosity.

I am a magnificent queen infinite and eternal, advocating myself to others.  
I wipe tears away rolling down your cheeks with the mere affections of my words.

At the onset of dawn and break of day, I watched you as you slept, filling my eyes with the essence of you as you inhaled and exhaled beauty in living dreams and cast realities colored with tranquility and ease as I slowly drank in the sight of you, only to tease my insatiable thirst.

I confuse your mind just being, I am your everything, your world. I am the color of all that is fierce, I am hated because of my skin.

When I think of you, I am arrested with yearning and desire to reach places the eyes and hands can't see or touch with unyielding determination to connect and truly identify with the elements of you with limitless and infinite aptitude...

I am feared because potential power hibernates within. I am strong!

By: Darline Barbier

### I Refuse

I refuse to get caught up again, in this never ending cycle. You're not going to have me going around in circles having my mind full... Of what if's, perhaps, maybe's, and hopes Anticipation's, temptations, fein'ing for your touch like it's dope. I refuse to let my friends tell me "I told you so, he's no good, cares for self, so what are you still sticking around for?" I ask myself the same question What is it about you that has me second guessing What I feel, seem to know, things you tell me, things you don't Adds all up to the conclusion, that I'm just here for your amusement And if that's all you see in me, call when convenient just to see, If I'll come over-Honestly... I refuse to be your midnight treat.

By: Jasmine Brito (Chalant)

# Nigerian Independence Day

By Kelechi Onwuchekwa

On Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the United Nigerian Students Association turned out in the Rotunda on the campus of City College of New York to celebrate their nation's independence from her former colonial master, Great Britain. The actual day of independence was October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1960 when the legislature first convened in Lagos (Nigeria's largest city) as a sovereign rather than one under the control of the British Crown. Nigeria's independence is usually celebrated here on the previous day or on the day of best convenience, like September 27<sup>th</sup> this year when the parade near the Nigerian Consulate took place.

The CCNY celebration was lively: there was music, lots of food, lots of dancing, and many people. Those who came got to see some of the club members dressed up in their traditional regalia and representing their country well.

The whole scene characterized the diversity of Nigeria itself. The food came from some of Nigeria's major ethnic cultures, particularly Igbo,

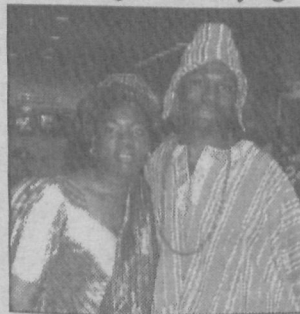


Members of the Nigerian Students Association gather for a celebration of independence.

Hausa-Fulani, and Yoruba (which are just three of at least 200 other ethnicities in the country!). So were the dresses - very colorful and full-length dresses made in a variety of fabrics and styles, such as agbadas and jumpas for men, and bubas and kabas for women. The music was just as varied, with many singers, such as Sunny Ade, Fela Kuti, and others, heard over the loudspeakers. Many came to this event, both with and without Nigerian lineage, and danced to these tunes with enjoyment. Finally there was the flag, the green-white-green representing agriculture (green), unity and peace (white), which served as a reminder of what the event was about and a symbol of the nation which the club and its members represented.

The symbolism of the independence celebration was greater than the event itself.

The club is serving as an example of the unity that is needed to make the Federal Republic of Nigeria one of the greatest African nations. The display and respect of the republic's many ethnicities and cultures shown on the day of the club's food sale will go a long way towards making this happen. In this way, those from other parts of the world, especially here in the United States, will see that Nigeria has a lot to offer. They will see a nation that, despite its problems, still has the ability to pull together and be prominent in the world, politically, economically, and socially. Nigeria got its independence from Great Britain through the unified voice of its many peoples, and it is going to take its place in the world as a great nation in the same way. That is what the club, and its celebration of Nigerian Independence Day, represents. **KO**



RESKO



# Students InStyle

# MEET the new EXECUTIVES



Miranda, Treasurer of F.I.C



Alison, president of F.I.C.



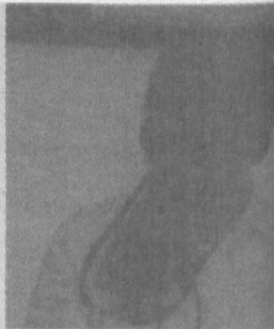
Jasmine, VP of AAE



Denice, Publicist of AAE.



**Agnes Abraham** current president of Medger Evers College, Majoring in Public Administration. Elected USS Chair.



**Lydia C. Obasi** the current president of Lehman College, majoring in Political Science. Elected Vice-chair for senior college Affairs of USS.



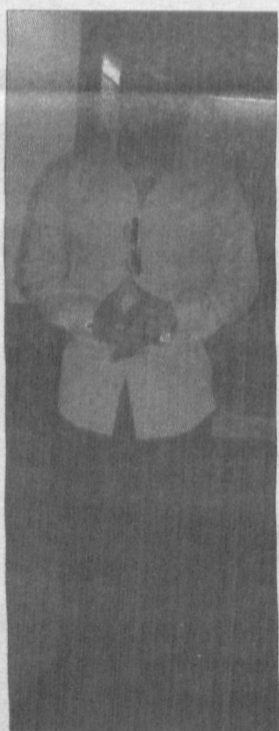
**Stephanie Donoso**, the Vice President of College of Staten Island, majoring in Political Science. Elected Vice Chair of Evening and Part-time affairs.



**Jean-Daniel Dorfeuille** a graduate student of the City College, pursuing a master's degree in International .Elected Vice President of Legislative Affairs of The Graduate Student Council of USS.



Tracey, President of Ghanain Students



Shegzy, UNSA member



Bruce, President of AAE-Graduate



**Donald Passantino** a Queens College representative for USS. Twice elected Vice Chair of Disabled Student Affairs



**Saim Montakim** the newly elected Vice Chair of Community Affairs stated his platform to work on creating of USS Legal Funds.

## CUNY Student Government



Lev Svirindov, USG Pres, CCNY



Jose Garcia Student President, Hostos College, BX



Okefe Ayigbe, Student Pres., Brooklyn College



Alison Valentine, Student President, City Tech, NY



Winston Chow, President, BMCC.



Andre Lindsay, Senator, John Jay College



Erylin Serra, Senate President, Hostos College, BX



Jonathan Rinaldi, Vice President, CCNY



**Ashfaq Hai Shuvo**, the Undergraduate USS representative from York College. Elected Vice President of Fiscal Affairs of USS.



**Lauren Fasano**, English major from the City College of New York. Elected vice chair of Legislative Affairs.

**Jody Ann Graham**, USS representative from Bernard Baruch College Elected Vice Chair for International Affairs.

photos by: RESK Q!



ENTERTAINMENT

FAME PRICE?

By: Atiq Johnson

“One thing we all adore,  
Something worth dying for,  
Nothing but pain,  
Stuck in this game,  
Searching for fortune and fame.”

This chorus was sung on the “Fame” track on Tupac Shakur’s posthumous *Better Dayz* album. Include the mellow and jazzy beat with Pac’s intimate vocals, and behold that rhythmic head shake that only your instinct could make. “Fame” is the type of song that you can sit joyously in front of a mirror, and lyric-by-lyric witness eyes water and redden. You will grasp the sincerity embedded each lyric; you will feel the weight and might of his words. Is it not because you genuinely heard his true voice permeating through the cracks of his broken heart? I heard the same. And what I saw is what he provided – a receipt from selling his soul. In the latter days of his life he repeatedly acknowledged and reluctantly accepted it. I am a huge Tupac fan and basically listened to and read everything involving him. He sold his soul during the *All Eyez On Me* era; unfortunately, his body did not live to see *Better Dayz*.

What price are you willing to pay for fortune and fame? Pac died for it! There are a great number of public figures that choose to abandon their moral ethics for stardom. By public figures I am talking about actors/actresses, athletes, political/community leaders, rappers and singers. I believe, it is worthy to note that nearly

every public figure have once or consistently made actions that is adverse to their personal beliefs, either to satisfy their constituents and fans, or for acceptance in a desired group. There are different degrees of selling-out”. Tupac was a panther that chose to run with hyenas, an association with an inevitable fate. Surely a

**There are different degrees of “selling-out.”**

should not worry about suffering the same fate due to the different climates of their roles in the entertainment industry. She is more like a fruit fly attracted to the deceitful aroma of a Venus flytrap. A circumstance that is less noticeable and much less threatening than the pack of dogs. Meaning, one was obvious and in your face, whereas the other is less subtle and perhaps less significant in the eyes of the world. Nonetheless, what they abandoned is synonymous – a fact to be remembered while reading the proceeding examples.

I became aware of Ms. Berry’s dangerous path when I read her *Swordfish* interview. There were only five words that caught my attention. When asked by the interviewer, if she revealed some of her sexuality, she replied: Yeah, I did. I’ve never explored that part of myself on-screen before. For so many years, I’ve said no, no, no [to nudity]. A lot of it was not being comfortable with myself and being afraid and wondering what people would think. Finally, over the past couple of years I’ve sort of shed all those worries and that did me good. Imagine that, “it did her good”. And I concur. Her topless scene worked wonders on her career. Since then she starred in *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*, *Die Another Day*, *Monsters Ball*, and is starring in a horror flick this fall. So now she has an Oscar and notable films

under her belt – who knew the only thing she had to do was loosen it. The fact is that since she went topless, her career skyrocketed; a fact that she openly admits. But, by implication, it also means that her career is advancing because of her willingness to go nude, and not her acting skills. How can she be content knowing that her career success rides on whom she is willing to ride? That question applies to most female entertainers.

Lil’ Kim is a paradox - a thuggish Oreo. She wishes to be white, or at least beautiful by their standards. However, conflict arises because her fans and carriers of her reputation are primarily black. Amazingly, due to her tight rhymes, she has been able to appease her black fans, proving her authenticity through her lyrics; and she has been able to appeal and entice white America. The latter became a reality only after she cosmetically expressed her disgusting disdain for her African roots. Lil’ Kim has been able to attract both audiences; however, one day soon she will be forced to choose a side. I believe one cannot stand in the middle forever. I also believe, one cannot do wrong, in order to do right.

I am talking about Michelle Williams, a member of the singing group, *Destiny’s Child*. Her first solo album, *Heart to Yours* is currently in stores. Her music is gospel. Michelle’s album was widely applauded. I feel, even though her music is honestly good, it is still valueless, a contradiction. Her shouts and praises to the Lord is hypocrisy because most of *Destiny’s Child*’s songs and wardrobe go against the teachings of Christianity. But I do understand her reasoning for it. I am reminded of what the rapper David Banner once said in an interview. It is very hard to rap about righteous things because sex and violence is what sells. He said he dropped “Like a Pimp” single first to attract an audience, but most the other songs on his album are less derogatory and more conscious. As I



top left: Lil’ Kim; top right: TuPac Shakur; below, Halle Berry; bottom left, Clarence Thomas

previously stated, I understand and sympathize with their limited choices, but one cannot go both left and right at the same time.

It is my opinion that too many political leaders and community activist sell-out for fame and fortune; whether the fortune is a multi-million dollar lawsuit settlement from a police brutality case, or fame from your face being on the 10 o’clock news every night. If selling-out was flesh and bones, then Clarence Thomas’s face will grace its head. The most obvious example of him selling-out is his stance on affirmative action. Justice Thomas has been able to attend the College of the Holy Cross because of their minority program. Justice Thomas has been able to attend Yale Law School because of it minority program. So why does he, so passionately, oppose affirmative action, when he himself benefited from it? Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr. is another person that allowed the sight of fortune and fame to blind him from his objectives. Mr. Jackson was with Dr. King

Jr. when he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. It is said that Jesse Jackson returned home the day after, and during a speech that same day, he showed his audience a bloody sweater. He told his audience that he held Dr. King in his arms until he died. Others present in the motel vehemently attacked Jackson’s statement. Reverend Abernathy claims he was the last person to hold Dr. King, and Mr. Jackson was nowhere to be found. Whether Reverend Jackson was lying or not, in other instances, he proved his willingness to abandon what he preach for fortune and fame. It is worthy to not that I have a lot of respect, for each person I named. I just believe, analogous it might be, that these public figures lead the pack in an ant trail. If one goes astray, everybody behind also is lost. Perhaps, what I am trying to say is that public figures should stay on course, because they have followers rallied behind them. Fortune and fame is artificial if it was reached utilizing principles not within you! **AJ**



IRADAC present **The Spirit of Carnival The Michael Britto Collection**

by Ernesto Johnson

The Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean will inaugurate the gallery in its new facility at The City College with Michael Brito’s photographic collection entitled *The Spirit of Carnival*. The exhibition, which was created specifically for IRADAC, vividly captures the essence of the annual weeklong spectacle of Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago (also known as T&T). This compelling exhibition of photographs provides a window on the excitement and cultural components of T&T Carnival for masqueraders and revelers alike. The exhibition has been mounted in the Institute’s new multipurpose gallery in Room 5/201-202 of the North Academic Center of The City College, located at Convent Avenue and 138<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City. Gallery hours are Monday 10-1, Tuesday 12-3, Thursday 11-1, Friday 11-3 and by appointment.

For many New Yorkers, the spectacle of the West Indian Day Parade held in Brooklyn is the closest they’ll ever come to experiencing the breathtaking celebration of Carnival, the mother of all Caribbean Carnivals, held each year in Trinidad and Tobago. The photos displayed in this exhibit capture the liveliness and beauty of T&T’s landscape and people. Though the New York West Indian Day Parade and the T&T Carnival are similar in theme, Britto prefers T&T’s because its weeklong celebration is surpassingly more exciting. The New York version is an assemblage of various Caribbean islands held only for one day by comparison. Photographer Michael Britto has found the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival “so amazing”, that it compelled him to take photographs and showcase its splendor.

Britto’s images, most notably his feature photograph of a red-feathered masquerader, take you

right into the multifaceted heart of the Trinidadian Carnival. They intrigue, educate and dazzle while drawing viewers into the celebration. Britto captures the beauty of the island, the customs, the adventure and lure, and most notably, the vivid chromatics of the masqueraders’ eye-catching costumes. “Color is such a significant aspect with the celebration” he says, “because it commands and electrifies.”

Michael Britto, who studied fine art photography and received his Bachelor of Arts (BFA) from the Rhode Island School of Design, brings over twenty years of photographic experience to his subject. His other work includes portraits of artists such as Michael Jackson, Wilt Chamberlain, Tony Brown, Bill Cosby Salt-n-Peppa, Chubb Rock and scores other. His collection of Carnival images dates to back to 1989 when he first visited T&T. Since then, Britto has taken hundreds of pictures on premium

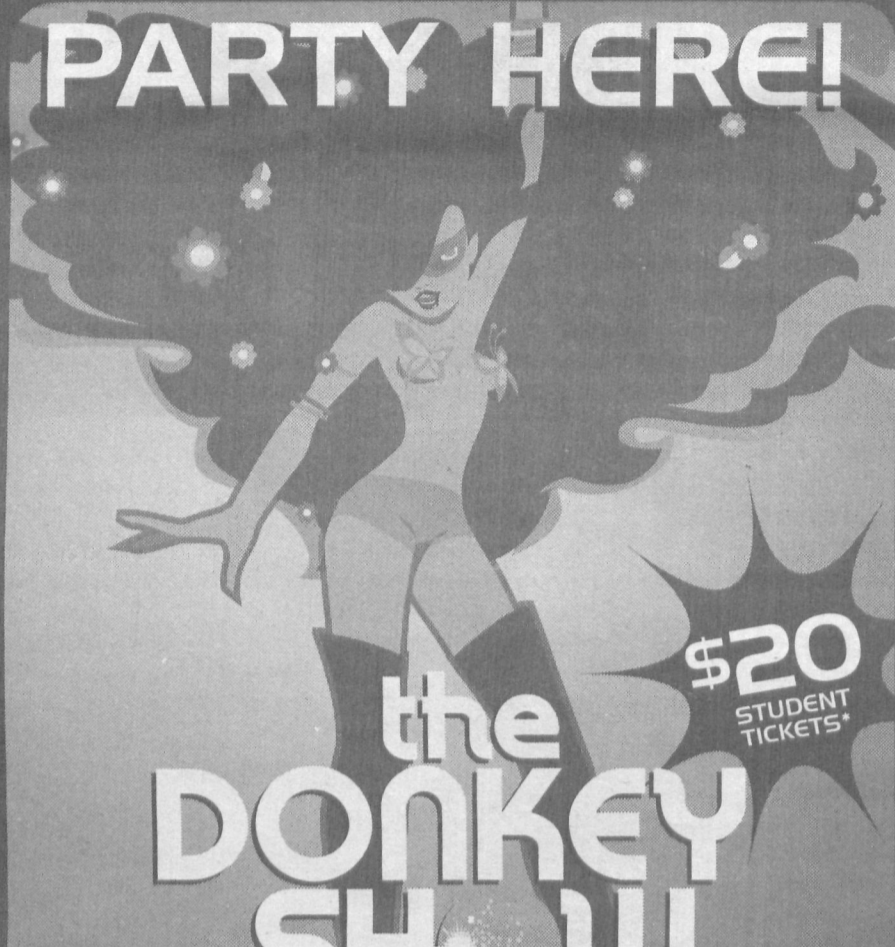
Ciba-chrome film to perfectly capture the radiance of Carnival. The exhibit is a selection of his personal favorites.

Each semester, IRADAC offers its multipurpose facility at The City College as a non-traditional venue to showcase arts works which reflect the diverse cultures of African Diaspora peoples. Past exhibitions have featured “Space, Time and Object: Black Abstractionists”; “The Circle Comes Around: Recent Art from the Dominican Republic”; “Life in a Day of Black Los Angeles”; “Engendering/ Modification: Traditional African Art”; “Dr. Ademola Olugebefola: Caribbean Roots in American Soil: Vintage and Recent Prints.” Although created specifically for IRADAC, “The Spirit of Carnival” was unveiled, with the Institute’s agreement, at the Brooklyn Public Library to coincide with the annual West Indian Day Parade. **EJ**

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(Chinese Kung Fu)  
Wed. 19 Nov. 2003, From 6:00 - 9:00 PM R1/211  
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AAE Presents...  
**TALK THE TRUTH**  
A Talk Show about real life issues:  
Topic of discussion: Sex & Abortion, Right or Wrong.  
20 Nov. 2003, NAC Rotunda 12:15 PM - 2:00 PM

GSA PRESENTS..  
AFRICAN AWARENESS DAY!  
A NITE OF OF HISTORY!  
A NITE OF FASHION! A NITE OF CULTURE!  
DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2003. TIME: 7PM-11PM  
VENUE: ARONOW THEATER (CITY COLLEGE, NY)

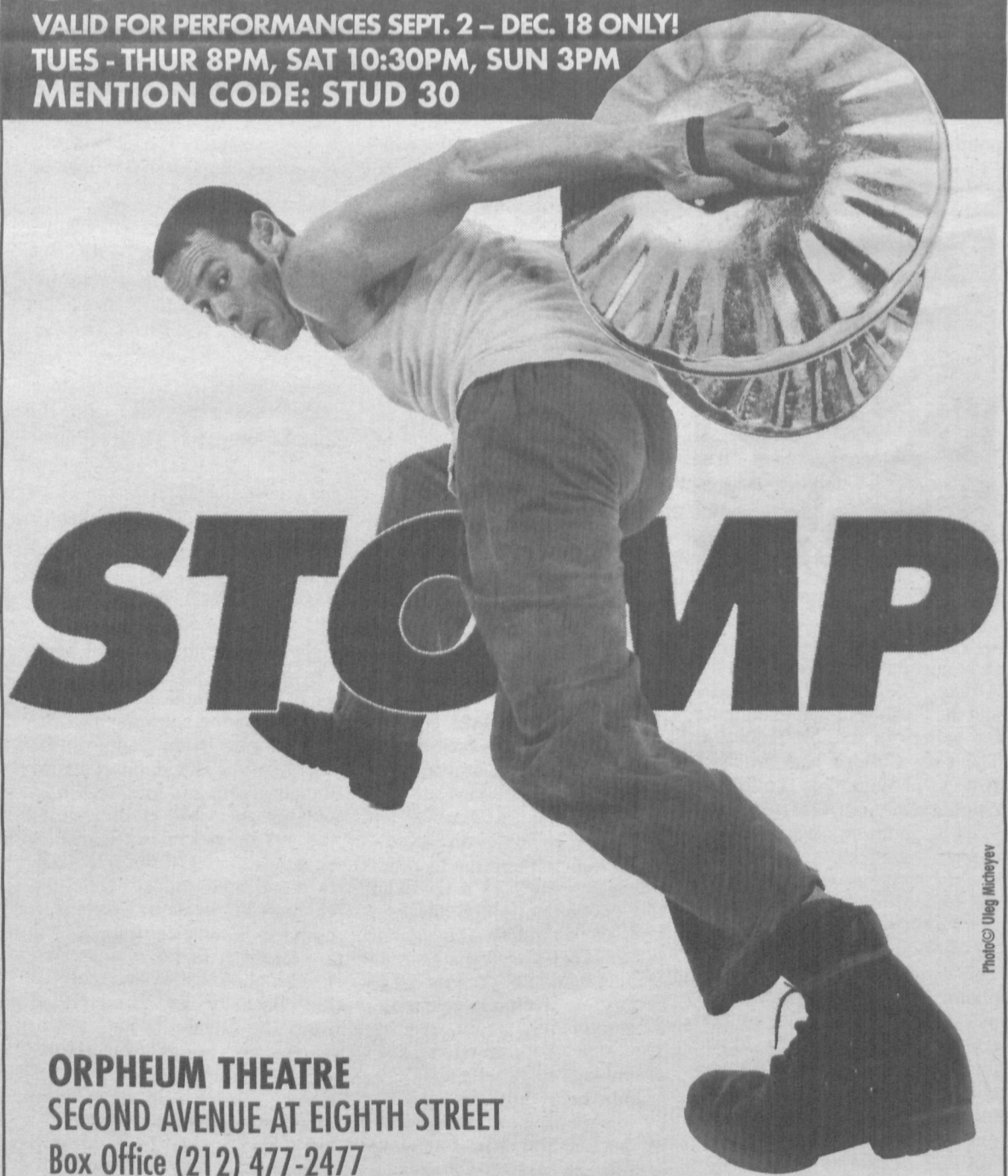
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Photo © Uleg Michayev



**You wanted the power...now you've got it, make it count.**

*An open letter to the Undergrad Student Government*

Dear USG,

There are a few issues that should be kept in mind as we begin 2003-2004 academic year. Many of you have years of experience in positions designed to give one voice to the student body. However we (the students) are ever shifting and demanding, often unheard and unadvised. Student clubs and organizations give identities to any college campus, but to be effective they should work together under the umbrella of the student government, or alternatively without one until such representation is achieved...In other words, the day has passed when catch phrases, scant campaigning and boyish charm will substitute for a comprehensive platform and a clear statement of goals.

Students need a conduit to administration, to express our myriad identities, purposes and visions for the future of our institution. As our representatives, it is incumbent upon you to produce on our behalf or risk obscurity. Student clubs are a vital part of the college experience and among other things we require funding to have significant outreach to the community that many of us serve. This requires that we build inroads to each other, not just symbolic alliances. Student government is an engine that should produce for the City College population, not just those individuals or cliques poised and groomed to play well with others. If your desire is to make an impact in the year ahead, offer us your ears, not more lip service. As a governing body, you are in fact servants who traffic in the money that facilitates such transformation. You

have access to dollars that could ignite the long-dampened embers of political action and accountability on campus.

City College does not exist in a vacuum. It resides in the bosom of one of the most historically rich and politically charged centers of the universe. Each club represents some proponent of our shared desire to be united. Embrace us all and the perspectives we represent. We are Political Science and Physics Majors, artisans, media majors, engineers, architects, pre-med, pre-law, but we are all pre-reality. Students exist in an abstract world, where reality is shaped by the choices we make but much more profoundly by the choices we do not make.

As a member of Sankofa I have witnessed the seeds of social conscience attempt to take roots in many pockets of the campus. I have heard the voices of women and men who are not as much interested in the right to party as the right to obtain impartial and objective consideration when the funding cycle begins. It is essential that we strike a balance between our social sensibility and our social conscience so, pardon me if my words are pointed but I have seen your design and are not impressed.

I implore you this year to focus on the legacy you will leave behind. To communicate with clubs to ensure that our voices will be heard when the socials are over and our common benefactors survive our terms in office. Take seriously the concerns of student clubs and their relation to the power you possess because there are citizens of the college community that would rather have real authority more than political camaraderie.

Tamara Toles.

**We Protest Against Columbus Day**

On Monday, October 13, sixteen of us--students, faculty, and staff--came to CCNY to protest its closing in observance of Columbus Day. We do not believe that we should be honoring a man who initiated the European assault and near-extinction of the indigenous peoples of the New World. We realize that this is a day on which Italian-Americans celebrate their ethnic pride, but perhaps they could select another figure in whose name a holiday would be more appropriately held.

We gathered in the NAC plaza, formed a circle, and shared our thoughts on various colonial conquests, as well as Native American philosophies, which call for a deep respect for nature.

This was the ninth straight year that we held the Columbus Day Non-Observance. Every year we hold it on Columbus Day at 11 AM. We hope that, if City College closes again, our event will be bigger than ever. All students, faculty, and staff are cordially invited to attend.

Bill Crain  
Professor of Psychology  
The City College

**Send your concerns and opinions to the Editor at: [thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu) Subject: To the editor**

**HOROSCOPE:**

**Aries**

March 21-April 19  
Convert others to your way of thinking. The stars smile on mergers and acquisitions. If the law of the jungle prevails, there's no question that you'd rather eat than be eaten.

**Taurus**

April 20-May 20  
Hosts and diplomats make amazing recoveries. Nobody but Taurus has to know that plans have gone awry. Present a smooth, shiny surface so that others will see whatever reflection they choose.

**Gemini**

May 21-June 21  
Change your perspective--it's easier than you think. With so many elements in motion, you can always catch a ride with something that's going your way. Your sense of humor should return by the end of today.

**Cancer**

June 22-July 22  
Showy precautions are almost as good as actual prevention. Gather your resources and make a list of who gets what. For those that had any doubt, it should be clear where Cancer's loyalties lie.

**Leo**

July 23-August 22  
A display of ego gives way to an exercise in justice. Find a new spin for what's already been said before. After a rough start, this week will be almost as good as the last one and in some ways maybe better.

**Virgo**

August 23-September 22  
Restlessness feels less inspirational than before. You still feel like taking a chance although you're not quite so sure of your success. It's comforting to know that you have somewhere else to

turn.

**Libra**

September 23-October 22  
The morning mood of your workplace isn't the best indicator for how the day will go. Be true to your ideals. An unpopular position gains merit with an exhausting hour.

**Scorpio**

October 23 - November 21  
Your immunity doesn't last into the new week, but you're still very hard to catch. If caught, play a clean game instead of fighting dirty. You take pity on those that fail to see the situation's humor.

**Sagittarius**

November 22-December 21  
Clear vision explodes from a confusing jumble. A misplaced item turns up just about where you expected it to be. Good news is worth sharing. Come out of your shell to spread the word.

**Capricorn**

December 22-January 19  
You like to build, but you'll never box yourself in. Keep one foot in the abstract-- absolutes are always subject to change over there. Anyone that would call you a liar has yet to grasp your subtleties.

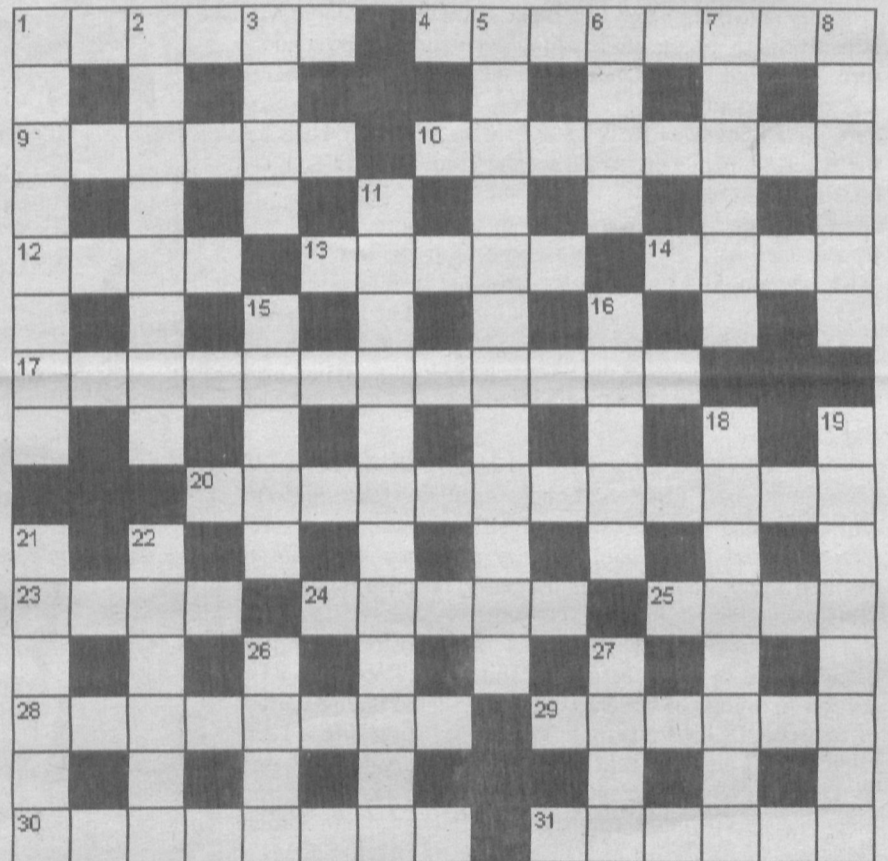
**Aquarius**

January 20-February 18  
Take another look at a forgotten or overdue piece of work. A shift in cosmic currents fills your brain with fresh ideas. Forget about being finished on time -- now you're really getting started.

**Pisces**

February 19-March 20  
Pisces was just getting used to all of the attention, but his or her audience is fickle. You can play this game, too. Exercise your freedom of choice. Support many while committing to none.

**Solve & Win**



**Across**

- 1 He acts wrongly and passes exams unfairly (6)
- 4 Unusually hot, stormy and exhausting (8)
- 9 Plowed a mowed field (6)
- 10 Boy admits disappearance of small dictionary (8)
- 12 Where lies our responsibility (4)
- 13 Wood spirit (5)
- 14 It is thought to be almost perfect (4)
- 17 They won't get tight if stripped (4,3,5)
- 20 The aim of equal education? (7,5)
- 23 Old coin; about a pound (4)
- 24 Footwear about right for the beach (5)
- 25 The case for a little more tuition (4)
- 28 It suggests it may be undone in error (8)
- 29 Hilda is upset about a bloomer (6)
- 30 He will add barrels to his stocks (8)
- 31 Chase gives us pure diversion (6)

**Down**

- 1 Sort of sentence in a workers' settlement (8)
- 2 It's clear the girl has a cute wiggle (8)
- 3 Blow up and down (4)
- 5 There may be little that's plain here (5,7)
- 6 Ill-considered breakout (4)
- 7 Not all snug and appreciative of the country (6)
- 8 Call attention to 24-hour period of prosperity (6)
- 11 Gave spot cash? (4,2,3,3)
- 15 Share a hole (5)
- 16 Join the staff (5)
- 18 Crack a salt nut for a frustrated king (8)
- 19 Guess I'm in property (8)
- 21 Hearing is difficult (6)
- 22 Sound criterion for a weapon (6)
- 26 It may be used to describe days at school (4)
- 27 But a change will be forbidden (4)

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# The Paper

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## AAE MEGA PARTY TRIUMPH

by: Ashley Smith

Friday, September 19, CCNY organization A.A.E. (All About Edu-tainment), held the much-anticipated Mega Party that struck gold with its record-breaking attendance. Despite the forecasted dangerous winds of hurricane Isabel, more than 700 students arrived, and an estimated 267 actually got in. A.A.E. promoted the event by airing a group of commercials on the campus radio station, WCCR "The One" and handing out flyers all over campus. Also, students couldn't escape the huge and elaborate Mega Party sign posted on the lower level of the NAC building hanging by the escalators. The motivation for the party was to bring the student body together, and to inform them on student life. "Usually students just go to the class and then go home. Our objective is to get the students involved and use the school's resources, like USG (Undergraduate Student Government), and other organizations," explained Redeemer Amedzekor, very well known as Resk Q, President of A.A.E., "we use the entertainment part to attract the students, and then we educate them."

The event was held in the ballroom, which was transformed into a club atmosphere with the low lights, a V.I.P. section, and two deejays spinning on four turntables. The diversity of the music was not limited. The D Js' played Hip-Hop, R&B, Reggae and the seductive sounds of Salsa. The dancing throughout the party was non-stop, "The music was great, this was one of the best parties I've been to," said one student.

AAE's organizers served non-alcoholic beverages throughout the night although another false account circulated that alcohol was served. Organizers assured school administrators and security that they were not to blame for any alcohol inside the party, because they hadn't served any.

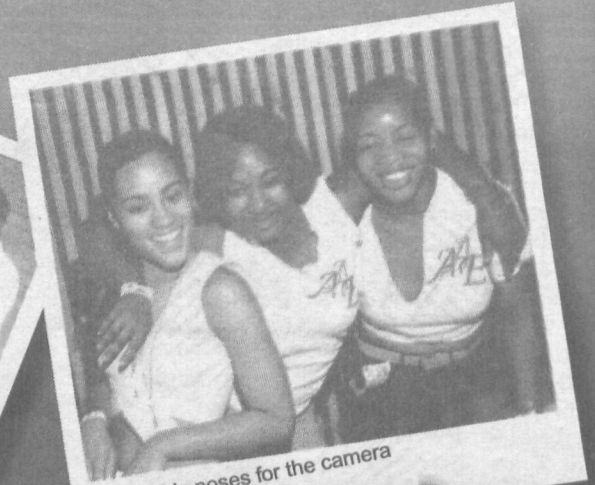
The room's décor consisted of a colorful array of balloons that covered the ceiling and dance floor. The V.I.P. section (a lounge of couches) accommodated the executives of the school's organizations. The guests of the Mega Party ranged from the President of CCNY, Gregory H. Williams, to Director of Co-curricular Activities, Wendy Thorton. Organizations behind the event were Undergraduate Student Government, (USG) National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Ghanaian Student Association (GSA), The PAPER, and WCCR "The One" who all made an appearance. To increase student involvement in school organizations and up-coming events, a contact table was devised at the front of the party's entrance. Unfortunately not everyone got in, like those who traveled all the way from the Bronx, and parts of Brooklyn. Due to the increasing crowd, Security became overwhelmed and shut the party down at 11:30 P.M., instead of its designated time. Needless to say, AAE's organizers were displeased by the seemingly premature actions taken upon by security. AAE's President, Resk Q stated, "I wish security communicated with us more effectively before any action was taken." Security's over protective nature could have been due to the incident in 1991, where Puff Daddy held a concert in the school's gymnasium that ended in a deadly stampede. Luckily, this event didn't have any reported incident of student misconduct.

There was no question, however, that the Mega Party was a great success. The numbers and extreme gratitude of the all the participants was proof to it. The event brought students together uniting them under one roof, in solidarity to enjoy a night of great music and dancing. "After the Puff Daddy incident, CCNY wanted nothing to do with entertainment, but we just wanted the school to believe in us and show that this party would be nothing like the others," said Resk Q. With the massive turn out, and absence of hostility, the school's organizations now have the confidence to hold even more spectacular events, and even take on bigger venues. However, enhancing better communication with security must be done to accomplish this feat.

That night, AAE along with other supporters, brought the entire campus together with great success and promises to continue it's mission in enriching student lives through edu-tainment. **AS**



President Gregory Williams (Center) & some of the executives of AAE posing



AAE girls poses for the camera



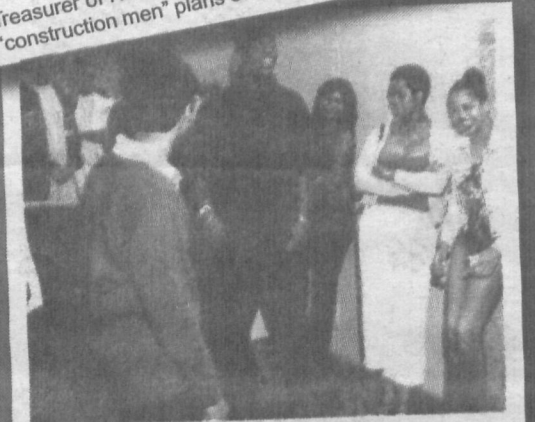
Diversify student crowded the party while they have a good time coming together



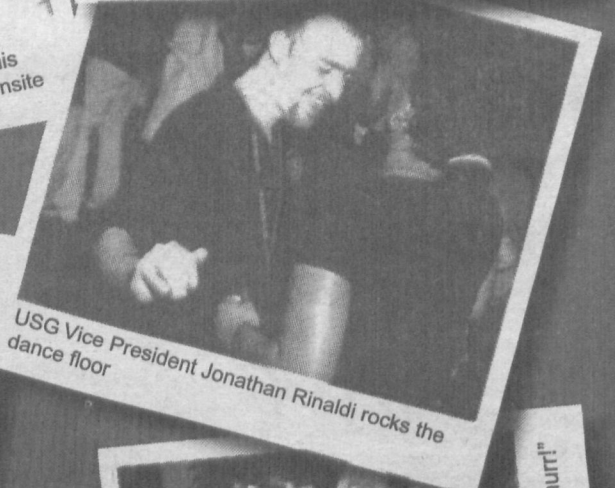
Treasurer of NSBE, Jermaine and the "construction men" plans out a move on the ladies



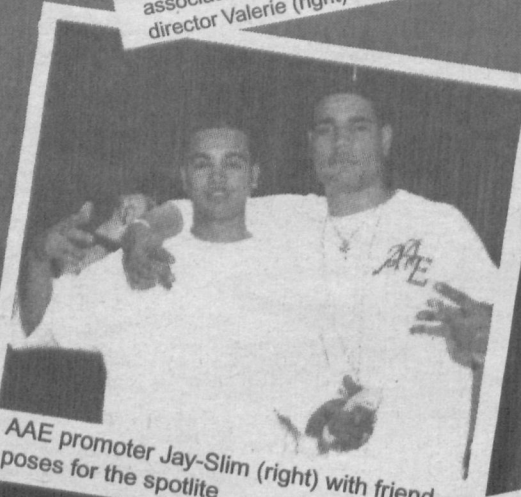
AAE founder/CEO, RESK Q (center) with his associate executives Vp Jasmine (left) & onsite director Valerie (right)



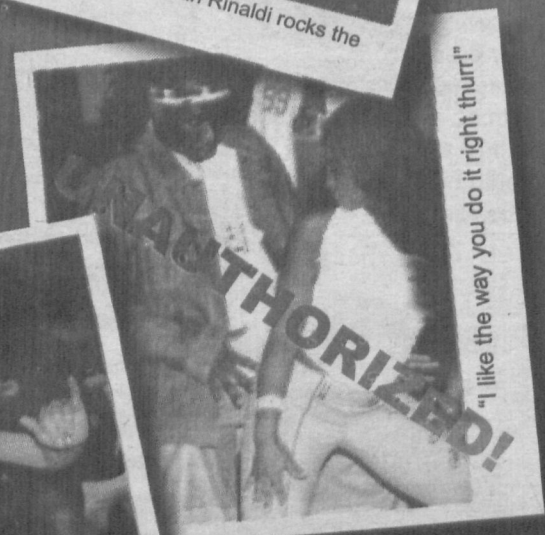
Students wait patiently in line to join the party crowd



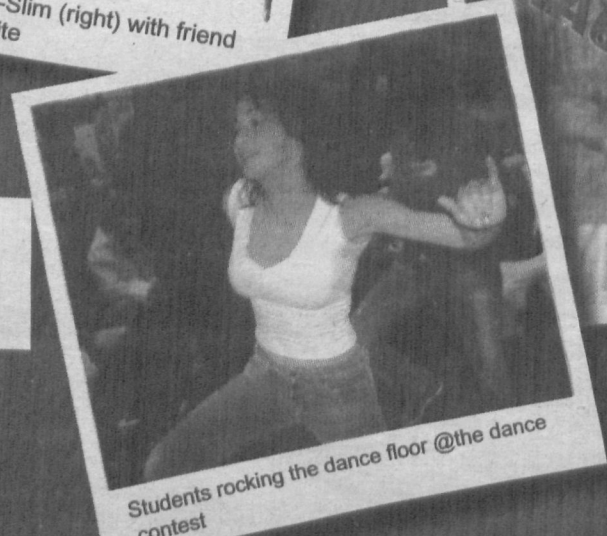
USG Vice President Jonathan Rinaldi rocks the dance floor



AAE promoter Jay-Slim (right) with friend poses for the spotlight



"I like the way you do it right thurr!"



Students rocking the dance floor @the dance contest

photos by: RESK Q!