

THE PAPER

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.

CITY COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK IN HARLEM

Volume LII No. 5

A Medium For All People Of African Descent

March 24, 1997

BLACK WOMEN REMAINING FOCUSED



**I have plowed,
and planted,
and gathered into barns,
and no man could heed me!
And ain't I a woman?**

**I could work as much,
and eat as much as a man--
when I could get it--
and bare the lash as well!
And ain't I a woman?**

**I have borne thirteen
children,
and seen most of all sold off
to slavery,
and when I cried out with
my mother's grief,
none but Jesus heard me!
And ain't I a woman?**

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Editorial

Who Can You Trust?

BY TYCE A. BENNETT

What exactly is honesty? It has so many definitions, that one can get confused because there are so many opinions or concepts of what it means. According to people who quote the dictionary, honesty is about having principles, sincerity, having a good reputation and genuine. If we look at society and the history of humanity, we find that people are less than honest. This global outlook on honesty, although not the thoughts of everyone, has gotten humanity unwilling to trust each other. What exactly does this say about people and how they really feel about being honest.

When children are learning their values from their parents, they mimic everything. When I was a child, something happened that changed my idea of honesty.

I was sitting at the kitchen table during dinner, when the phone rang.

"If it's Christine tell her I'm not home, I don't want to talk to her," my mom said to my daddy.

"Hello Christine, Janice has not gotten home as of yet. I'll call you

when she gets in."

I sat there and watched my parents do exactly what they told me not to do. Of course I questioned them and the response I got was that to be less than honest must depend on the situation. They continued to explain that honesty has degrees and levels that can be applied to different situations.

Another example that I was given by my parents was when they bumped into someone they did not want to speak to, they would come up with some excuse to avoid a conversation.

These events gave me mixed messages on what to expect of myself as an adult. The seed of dishonesty was sown at that point without my parents knowing what they were passing on to their child. My parents, as well as many others including yours, were only fulfilling the human tradition of confusing honesty with situational exceptions.

As I really thought about life, I realized that honesty is so hard to come by. People bend honesty to fit situations, relationships and their own consciences.

If someone does not want to hurt someone else's feelings, they don't tell the complete truth. If someone has information that could change a life but they want it for themselves, they will not tell. Look at humanity, what examples has it given? Look at the bank that was supposed to disburse funds of a deceased wealthy owner in the early 1900's to less-than-privileged black families for medical coverage. Not only did the bank not comply with the wishes of the deceased, but it has drawn interest on the funds, initially \$600,000, that has been sitting in the bank for years, which now totals \$2 million plus. The bank claimed that it did not distribute the money because of changing segregation laws throughout history.

A political candidate was asked if she used drugs on national television and her response was "never." Journalists dug up information on her past, only to find out that she had been a drug user in her early stages of adulthood; she had lied outright. Her response to being caught was that she

Editorial, continued on page 3

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor

On behalf of the C.C.N.Y. Public Safety Department concerning article published 2/25/97, listed in Campus Affairs, titled Quick Thinking Averts Disaster In Science Lab, reported by Arlene Ortiz, it could be concluded a few facts may have been omitted which could cause concerns for your readers.

The Public Safety Department also commends Prof. Radel and his staff for the assistance they afforded us in the notification and orderly evacuation of students, staff and personnel on all floors of the immediately affected area. The readers may question exactly what role Public Safety have played in an emergency of this nature and I respond the same as our title which is Public Safety.

Bicycle Patrol Officers were dispatched to divert vehicle traffic away from Convent Ave. allowing emergency vehicles easy access to location. Other officers were posted at entrances and exits to the Science Building to

assist and direct emergency personnel and to prevent intrusion by unauthorized who could have suffered harm unknowing the immediate danger presently existing. Bicycle Patrol Officer M. Cooper and this reporter patrolled evacuated areas to assure offices and labs left open and exposed, containing that personnel as well as school property were not vandalized. Public Safety supervisors were present with F.D.N.Y., N.Y.P.D., Hazmat, D.E.P., OSHA and Chemistry Department personnel and assisted in the clearing and ventilation of the immediately affected area without any of the support equipment afforded the other responding emergency agencies.

Upon the all clear signal issued by emergency personnel, Bicycle Patrol Officer M. Cooper and this reporter assured the orderly and safe return of all occupants. We also thank the calm and reserve exhibited by all students, staff, and personnel affected by this emergency. The title Public Safety Officer clearly denotes the duty and

responsibility entrusted to each member of this department and was exhibited by responding officers who clearly acted with concern and compassion for the college community.

Respectfully,
Sgt. D.M. White
Bicycle Patrol Supervisor
Crime Prevention Officer

The Paper welcomes articles from contributing writers, reader responses, letters to the editor and faculty editorials. Due to space restrictions, however, *The Paper* reserves the right to edit and condense all letters and articles. All work *must* include name & telephone number, but requests for anonymity will be honored. All work *must* also be in by the deadline.

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THE PAPER

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Campus Affairs

Moses Outlines Plans To Improve CCNY's Image

BY ARLENE ORTIZ

As City College gets ready to celebrate 150 years of service to the world, President Yolanda Moses plans to join forces with students to fight against the latest round of budget cuts aimed at City College, and embark on an extensive public relations campaign to make the college more attractive to future students.

The governor's proposal to raise tuition and cut funding to TAP, would yield an expected loss of \$11 million for City College. President Moses has some strategies to help Pataki reconsider.

President Moses wants to "mobilize all the campus. That means everybody from my office to the grounds floor crew," in an effort to unite City College against the proposed budget cuts. She also would like to have students visit State Legislators. President Moses feels that it would be more pro-

ductive if the voices of students are heard instead of other faculty members, including herself. She states further, legislators, presidents of higher learning institutions and faculty members are the ones to always talk, and it would be a refreshing change to listen to the students; students telling their individual stories and the president of City College at their side will certainly have a positive impact on State Legislators.

President Moses would also like to start a "Legislators in Residence Program." A legislator will visit the campus and pursue an interest that he or she might have in a particular department, and will be able to see first hand the way it runs. The legislator will be able to speak in a classroom setting extensively, and explain the legislative process. The president feels this will be helpful so that when legislators return to their offices they

will remember City College and the work done here in an especially personal way.

According to President Moses, these strategies will help City College achieve its short-term and long-term goals to win the fight against budget cuts, and at the same time, win new friends and cultivate old friendships with government officials.

The proposed budget cuts come at a time when City College is drawing close to its 150th year anniversary. President Moses has many plans to celebrate this monumental year which will hopefully boost enrollment, show the strengths City College possesses, and combat budget cuts by demonstrating that this university should not be the target of such attacks. A series of public relations campaigns have been scheduled, that will achieve the goals these goals. For example, subway advertisements will feature the

achievements of former graduates, and a commemorative 150th anniversary US Post Office post-card stamp with an artist's rendition of Shepard Hall in 1847, will be unveiled. Twenty million of these will be sold nationwide, starting May 7th.

Recently, there was an 8 page pull-out section in the *New York Daily News* featuring City College. It highlighted achievements of former graduates and other successes of City College students. The pull-out also included a congratulatory letter from President Clinton, on the college's upcoming anniversary. President Moses has officially invited President Clinton to officiate the commencement exercises for the Graduating Class of 1997. "He hasn't said no," said President Moses. □

It Doesn't Take Much To Study Abroad

BY MICHELLE NELSON

The Student Exchange Program at City College offers students a chance at a fascinating and intellectually stimulating experience abroad to countries such as Morocco, Italy, Spain, Africa, The Soviet Union and a host of other countries.

Many students, past and present, have taken advantage of this opportunity. Ms. Mary Ottoo, Program Director, says "some students leave here with a specific major and return with another." "When they return, they have shaped career ideas, they have visions, and to me, that is gratifying," she adds.

The criteria for a student to participate in this program is not stringent. An acceptable grade point average and a desire to participate is usually suffi-

cient. This gives the program great accessibility to those students who want to study abroad.

The procedures for enrollment are also quite simple. The process is centered around the students' aspirations, where he/she would like to go, the financial implications, and what CUNY and City College has to offer to suit their individual needs.

Financial support is given through scholarships, stipends, and financial aid awards. The tuition for the semester would be the same for a semester at City College. The school also has an agreement with airlines, which offer the students discount fares. An example of the cost of a trip for a semester is as follows: If a student chooses to study in Morocco, the entire package, room and board, airfare, tuition and

health coverage total \$3,095. The student receives money from financial aid. The total out of pocket expense would be approximately \$465.00.

The criteria for being eligible for these scholarships are sometimes just a matter of applying. As with most programs, "funding has been cut, but the program thus far has been able to survive," says Ottoo.

There are two types of exchange programs at the university: the CUNY Program, which offers a wide variety of places to study, and the City College Program, which is basically the same, but not as large. There are also paid summer interships at George Washington University in Washington D.C., for disciplines such as Print and Broadcast Media, Law, the Arts and more. Students receive room and

board and a stipend of \$2,100.

Approximately sixty students go through the program a year. According to Ottoo, "this is not so great a number when you compare it to other colleges." Ottoo also takes it upon herself to encourage students to take advantage of the opportunities the program has to offer. "Last semester, there was a fellowship of \$5000.00 being offered and only two students applied".

Ottoo boosts awareness and participation in the program by conducting informative presentations in freshman classes, and through posters circulated throughout the campus community. □

Editorial, continued from page 2

panicked when she was asked the question and responded with the first thing that came to her mind. I could think of many other examples of dishonesty, but why? Our society really does not know what honesty is.

Honesty and genuineness should be shared as long as it does not hurt other people's feelings. Modification of the truth is sometimes necessary in order to maintain a reputation that is based upon personal definitions of sincerity. These are the ideas that people really hold about the word honesty whether they want to believe it or not. What's being defined is dishonesty, although people call it honesty. The

proof is in the pudding and it is found deep in the recesses of humanity. The real secret of becoming honest is knowing that the world has many degrees of honesty. To be honest is to be completely without fault or fabrication of the truth and that attribute does not exist. So I still say *who can you trust?* □

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Community Affairs

Harlem Gets On Board The "Information Superhighway"



School Children Utilizing One Of The New Computer Labs.

BY ARLENE ORTIZ

City College played host to a two day Technology, Education and is desperately needed.

A w a r e n e s s Conference for H a r l e m (TEACHarlem) on February 20th and 21st. This launched the opening of two computer labs for the Harlem Community. The conference was held in the college's Aronow Theatre, and was sponsored by the Harlem Partnership Center.

"Remember this day, February 20, 1997 and where you were on this day" said Congressman Charles B. Rangel, a keynote speaker at the event, referring to the magnitude of what this conference means to New York City. He also regarded the event as being a major milestone for the Harlem community

Photo Credit: Bernard Hershenson

The conference comes at an opportune time. Three years away from a new century, and beating all odds in the preparation process when some said it could not be done. Another keynote speaker, Dennis Walcott, President of the New York Urban League, who is a supporter of this project said "We are moving away from a 'me' society and becoming a 'we' society."

This important conference is not only of importance to the Harlem community but means a lot to similar communities in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island as well. Many students attending City College, who live in these communities, will soon be able to see such technological opportunities in their own neighborhoods.

Funds for this project came in way of a \$500,000 grant donated to City College and Columbia University by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) organization. City College welcomed Columbia's participation, being that they too were a part of the Harlem Community.

The Harlem Community is one of the areas selected as an "empowerment zone" to lead the way for technological breakthroughs in inner-city environments. It will also become a model for other urban communities across America.

Organizers of the two-day conference succeeded in inviting community businesses, not-for-profit agencies and community residents to witness the beginning of this endeavor. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, AT&T, Nynex Technology Education Center, and Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce are just a few of many organizations that were willing to invest money in this project to get Harlem on the "information superhighway."

The first computer lab to be opened for the Harlem Community through the TEACHarlem Conference, was at the Minisink Multi-Purpose Community Center at 142nd Street and Malcolm X Boulevard, which opened in April of 1995. The lab opened with only 100 community residents but has since grown to 400 community residents, ranging from ages 5 to 80.

Computer classes are being offered free of charge to all Harlem residents and/or anyone who is interested in par-

ticipating. The Minisink Computer Lab offers classes on Introduction to the Internet, Wordprocessing, Windows@ 95, and how to use E-mail. There is also an educational support program which includes cyber-home-work tutorial for elementary-level students, as well as a higher education and college resource room for college bound residents. There is a Harlem on-line program which includes development for a community information network and a career development program for job development as well. The instructors for the Minisink Lab are volunteer students from City College and Columbia University.

The second computer lab opened for the Harlem Community, is located in the CCNY Multimedia Learning Center located in room 1/114 of the North Academic Center (NAC). In the Fall of 1995, \$30,000 was received from The Auxiliary Fund to upgrade the previous computer lab which formerly belonged to the Day Student Government (DSG). All new equipment was installed in the Summer of 1996 for this lab. Everything from new computers to ergonomically designed chairs totaling almost \$27,000 was purchased. The Multimedia Lab will train CCNY students in all technical aspects which will enable them to train community residents in the Minisink lab, and seven other labs that are expected to be opened throughout the Harlem area. Students who volunteer and go on to train in the Minisink lab and/or future computer labs may receive credits as an elective towards a degree.

The Multimedia Learning Center is not at peak operating performance and will not be until August of 1998. There are plans to expand this lab to the typing room adjacent to the lab, where more computers will be installed.

The goals set at this conference were impressive and could require a rather lengthy process in realizing them. If City College, along with the Harlem Community can collectively come together to make a commitment to educate and train themselves in this fast-growing technology, there will be no limit as to how far they can go. □

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City Vibes

Interviews conducted by Kevin Turton and Photography by Phawn Butler

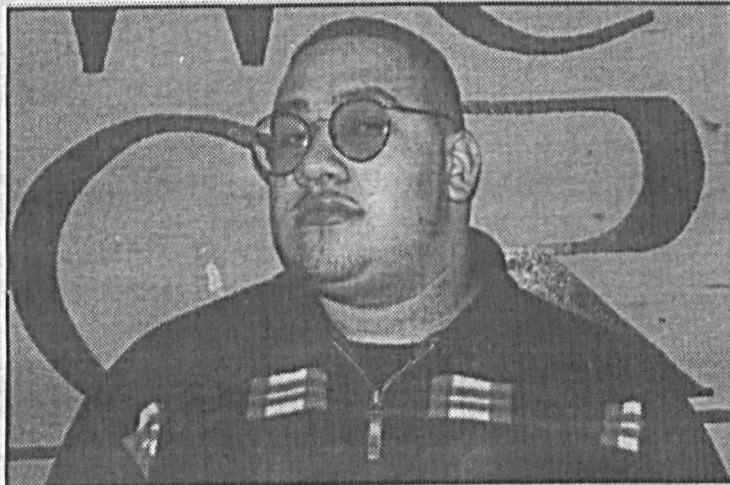
In light of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of rap stars Tupac "Makaveli" Shakur and Christopher "Notorious B.I.G." Wallace, what do you see for the future of America's Hip-Hop culture?



Regine Victor
WCCR DJ

"I think it looks very dim. It's really sad that they can't get along. They're all trying to entertain and we love them both; I liked "Biggie" more, though; [so] I'm kind of biased, but still I think his death was unnecessary.

With Tupac Shakur, I doubt that it was anybody from the East that killed him, I think it was one of his own. When they were battling, it wasn't real... People took it seriously and took matters into their own hands, and it's sad..."



Gabriel "Big Gabe" Velez
WCCR 'Hip-Hop' Director

" 'Hip-Hop', the culture itself, will survive. What "Biggie" and Tupac represented was the commercial aspect of the 'Hip-Hop' culture. It's sad that we lost two good, talented artists. I was never a Tupac fan, but I found it unnerving when he passed away. Ironically enough, I somewhat expected some complications to occur, due to the fact that up to the time of his demise, there were

things that were building up to it. However, with 'Biggie,' it came as a complete and utter surprise. 'Hip-Hop', however, will survive.

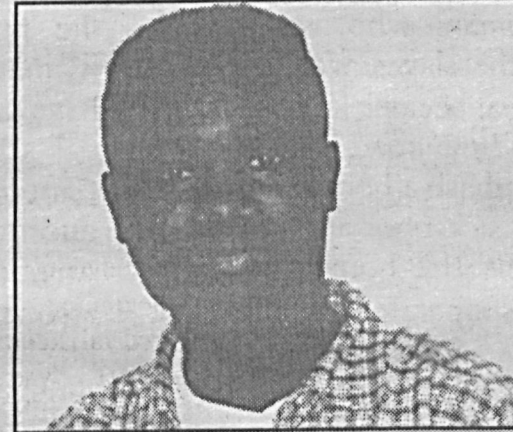
As far as the genre of 'Gangsta Rap,' I think that people should sit down and think about what they're writing before they put it on a track because they have to understand that there are a lot of 'knuckleheads' in this world that take things word-for-word and whose minds are impressionable, whether we like to believe it or not. You have to be somewhat careful. It used to be okay to say whatever you wanted to on the microphone...but nowadays it seems to have repercussions.

It's a sad thing but what can we say?...It's become like *Jerry MaGuire* —everybody wants to see the money, but nobody's thinking about the integrity and what it takes to stay around. 'LL Cool J,' 'Heavy D,' and 'Run DMC' have been around a long time, and you don't see them talking about shooting people...Things have changed...There is still party-driven music but the lyrics involved don't always reflect that...I'm very disappointed by what has happened."



Avalon Garcia
WCCR DJ

"The lyrics are just going to be as vulgar as always because they know that *that* makes the money and sells the records. *The Fugees* and others are sort of clean but that's their style. The rest are still going to do the same thing because it makes their money. It's all about the money. They don't care."



Harcourt "Professor" Fuller
WHCR DJ

" 'Biggie' was a very elegant rapper. I think that his death is very sad. It's going to put a dent into 'Hip-Hop,' but I don't think that his death is going to mark the decline of 'Hip-Hop' in any way.

You're gonna always have good rappers, as he was. People should take a look at what they're doing and their lyrical content and change. If you're always talking about guns and gangs and all that, then you know that it has a negative effect on everyone who listens to Rap music and R&B. For example, 'Snoop

Doggy Dogg' had canceled his concert, so I definitely think that rappers and people in the business should try to use Tupac's death and 'Biggie's' death as a wake-up call and to change what we play on the radio as well as the content of the lyrics.

'Biggie' was definitely up there — he was one of the best.

We as radio personalities and record company people have the power to direct the music. I refuse to play any songs that are violent or that advocate guns and drugs. If you listened to my show you would never hear that... If most radio stations and record companies took that approach, then naturally the rappers would have to adjust because no-one would be hearing their music, and if they produced that kind of music it wouldn't sell. Definitely the radio stations and record companies *could* change the music if they wanted to. I don't think that the artists have as much power in what the people hear as do the record companies and the radio stations. But definitely the artists should clean up their act because their music does affect people."

THE PAPER EXTENDS ITS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF TUPAC "MAKAVELI" SHAKUR AND CHRISTOPHER "THE NOTORIOUS B.I.G." WALLACE

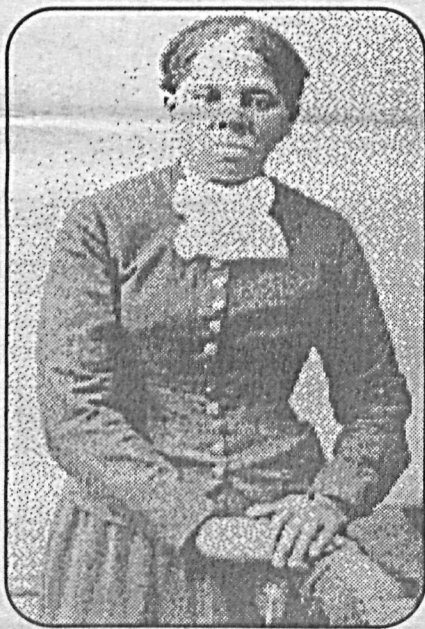
PACESETTERS...

Leading By Example



Constance Baker Motley became the first African-American woman to be appointed to the United States District Court as a federal judge in 1966. Motley, who was a courtroom legal strategist of the civil rights movement, worked for twenty years with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. In 1964, Motley became the only woman elected to the New York Senate, and in 1965

became the first woman Manhattan Borough President. Motley began serving as Judge of the Southern District of New York, in 1982, and maintained that position for the next four years, until 1986 when she assumed senior judge status.



Harriet Tubman, after escaping to freedom from slavery, worked as a dishwasher, cook, and cleaning woman, and used the money she earned to make over nineteen trips to the south to free over three hundred slaves. Tubman, who was called "Moses" by the slaves, was the conductor on what became known as the "Underground Railroad." She later helped to establish a home in Auburn, New York for sick, poor, and homeless black people. The home still exists today and is operated by the local Harriet Tubman Society.



Alice Walker, after becoming high school valedictorian in 1961, attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. While at Spelman, Walker became involved with Civil Rights demonstrations, and later became an active participant in the Movement after she moved to New York.

In 1972, Walker assumed a teaching position at Wellesley College, where she initiated one of the first Women's Studies courses in the nation. Through these courses, she introduced her students to African-American women writers such as Zora Neale Hurston.

In addition to Walker's Pulitzer Prize-Winning *The Color Purple*, 1982, her works include *In Search of Our Mother's Garden*, 1983, and her epic novel, *The Temple of My Familiar*.

Marian Anderson

pioneered to become the first African-American soloist to sing at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City in 1955. Anderson, who was acclaimed one of the greatest contraltos of her time, destroyed racial barriers in classical music. Her autobiography, *My Lord, What a Morning* was published in 1956.

Anderson also sang at the Presidential Inauguration of John F. Kennedy in 1961. Before her death in 1993, Marian Anderson was awarded 24 honorary degrees by institutions of higher learning, as well as a host of medals from various countries.



M a y a Angelou

was San Francisco's first black woman music conductor and the first black woman to have an original screenplay, *Georgia*, produced in 1971. Angelou was also the first black woman director in Hollywood and has written,

produced, and directed productions for stage, film, and television. Angelou was also nominated for an Emmy Award for her performance in *Roots*.

During a five-year stay in Africa, Angelou became the editor of *The Arab Observer*, the only English-language news weekly in the Middle East, and later taught in Ghana.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, an account of Angelou's life, and the first of a five-volume autobiography, describes her rape as a young child, the violent death of her attacker, and her subsequent refusal to speak for five years.

In 1993, Angelou wrote and delivered "On The Pulse Of Morning" at the Presidential Inauguration of William Jefferson Clinton.

"For each of us as women, there is a dark place within, where hidden and growing, our true spirit rises..."

Audre Lorde, Essayist

AND ROLE MODELS

CCNY Women Offer Lessons In Living



Remember The Importance Of "The Family"

Latrella Thornton
CCNY Child Development Center, Director

"...I would tell young black women that they need to, as they struggle to move themselves to their successes that they see in their future, ...see their male counterpart, because without the male, we have no family, without any family, we cannot raise the children, [and] without any children, we have no future...I believe we have to get back to [the] family; and family means mother and father together, not separate...We can't seek after the 'big bucks' and lose our children, but that's what's happening. We have to say no to the culture that tells us that we must seek the dollar and leave our children some place else...We must reshape the family ties again, so that our children can grow up and know that family is very important; It was always important for us...Family is a major, major piece in who we are as a people, and that will take us forward."

Set No Limits

Lillian Brown
Associate Dean Of Academic Standards

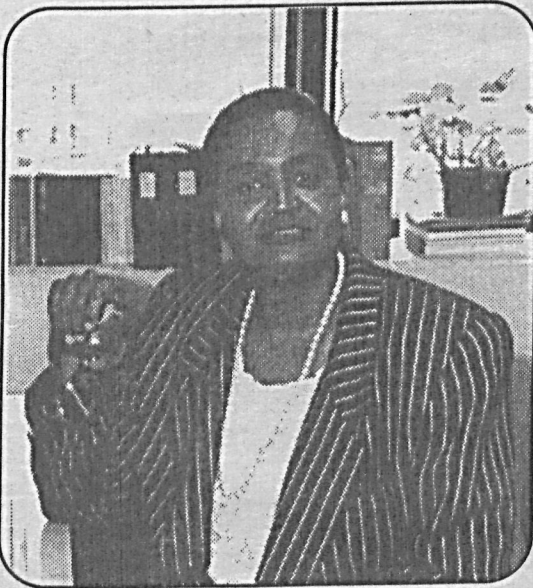
"This is a very good time to be a woman. There are lots of opportunities for women today, that of course were not there when I started. I think the choices and the options are great, and I think it's important that women not limit themselves; that they make every effort to explore what's out there. ...I think it's critical that we [black women] make every effort to reach out there and grab rings that we could not even fathom a few years ago."



Explore Your Identity

Professor Joyce Conoly-Simmons
Office of Academic Advising, Senior Academic Coordinator

"My experience has been — when people feel good about themselves, they really can make other people feel good about them as well. And what I really encourage young black women to do, is to really get to know themselves. To really get into who they are, and what they are about. Know what their interests are, what makes them happy, [and] what kind of experiences they want out of life, so that they'll go after those things. And when they go after those things, and can find comfort in the things that make them happy, then everybody wants to be around them. People can feel your excitement about yourself. When you're confident and feel good about yourself, other people want to be around...I really would encourage young black women to go as far in school as they can...It's important for them to have a sense of direction, a sense of purpose, so that they can go exactly towards what it is they are looking for..."



Stay Focused

Wendy Thornton
Director of Co-Curricular Life

"Strive for what you want — persevere...You should never be dependent on someone else, unless it's necessary, but you have to make sure that you're out there building your own life...People have different dreams, but you have to persevere...Perseverance is extremely important. You can't let anything get you down."



"We the black women of today, must accept the full weight of a legacy wrought in blood by our mothers in chains...as heirs to a tradition of supreme perseverance and heroic resistance..."
Angela Davis, Activist

Features

The Hand That Rocks The Cradle...

BY E.D. HARRIS

"All the things I learned about becoming a man and the rights of passage, as it were, I learned from a woman," said Kenneth E. Hale, Ed.D. Listening to the youngest son of the woman affectionately known as "Mother Hale", one can become captivated by the candid portrait painted by a son of the mother he deemed a very simple person, and at the same time, a hero.

After the death of her father, "Mother Hale," born Clara McBride in 1905, learned strength and independence from her own mother, who became a single parent. She later married Thomas Hale, and moved from her birthplace of Philadelphia, to New York. Clara Hale worked as a domestic cleaner, while her husband worked and attended classes at City College. Six months after graduating, Thomas Hale died, and suddenly Clara Hale, who had limited skills and could not afford college, like her own mother, became a single parent of three.

Kenneth Hale did not have the privilege of knowing his father, as did his older brother and sister. But, he says, "I feel immensely privileged to have a mom who didn't have to rely on a man to raise a son. In that sense, I



Mother Hale with baby.

Because of the hardships that she encountered, Clara Hale became extremely influential in developing her children's perception of what their futures and roles in life were to be. "It's not easy to give a kid a dream and be persistent in pursuing that dream," Kenneth said, "and her dream for all her kids was that we go to college because education was the way." Clara Hale was unable to fulfill her own dreams of pursuing higher education, and so her children became aware of the expectation and the dream that they do so.

Clara Hale began to supplement that dream with exposure. She was a devout Christian and heavily involved with her church, which recruited foreign students as part of a program known as "Crossroads Africa." She was a sociable person, and so she

took it upon herself to invite these foreign students to her home for dinner. By extending her house and hospitality to these students, her own children became enriched by their exposure to different languages, cultures, and people at the dinner table. Clara Hale enabled her children, in this way, to be more socially-conscious. "She would often times give us the responsibility of entertaining these folk...and that was the way we developed social skills, says Kenneth. This was only one of many ways in which children became an inherent part of the Hale household.

Clara Hale began caring for foster children after the death of her husband, in order to provide for, and stay at home with her own children. Kenneth says that by doing so, his mother was able to keep the family intact. In addition to the foster children, she also looked after neighborhood children. Taking in kids was something she always did. She would feed them dinner, make sure they got everything they needed, and got their homework started. But, as her son recollects jokingly, "you always got a good meal, and that was the bottom line." He says, "if you know anything about the day care modality, particularly private

day care, meals are not necessarily part of the package, but that was one of the things that mom did." Caring for children was something that came naturally for Clara Hale, but at the age of sixty-five, she was ready to retire. Although she was unaware of it, her mission to care for children was not yet over. Her daughter, Lorraine, having seen a drugged woman, with a newborn baby, immediately sent the woman and child to her mother. "When we got the notion that there were a lot of kids out there, whose parents were strung out on drugs, and that they didn't have any proper care and attention, prior to and after their birth, mother was surprised," says Kenneth. "We lived in the pit of Harlem all of our lives and we were poor all of our lives. We knew poverty up close and personal, but we didn't know drugs and we didn't know alcoholism because it was a drug-free environment inside of our house."

Kenneth's brother and sister had already attended graduate school when he was just beginning; all of them fulfilled their mother's dream. At that point her children came to her with the idea about caring for drug-addicted

Hale, continued on page 10

Hale, continued on page 10

Hale, continued on page 10

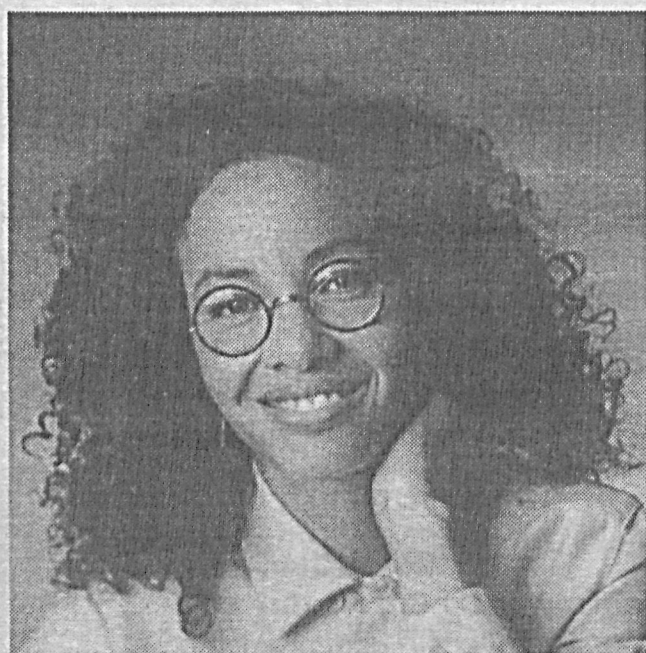
A Woman Of Essence

BY KAMEELA ABDUL-MAAJID

Creativity, dedication and love for her work, is what has brought Linda Villarosa to her present position as executive editor of *Essence* magazine. New York City was her destination after graduating from journalism school at the University of Colorado. She cites her love of reading and writing as reasons why she pursued a career in journalism.

As a freelance writer in her earlier years in New York, Villarosa contributed to many national publications including, *Glamour*, *Mademoiselle*, *Ms.*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Working Woman* and many others including *Essence*. She also lectured at a number of universities, including Harvard, where she spent a year involved in a fellowship with its School of Public Health.

As former Senior Editor for Health, Villarosa was able to venture into an area that for many years has been a lifestyle for her. She tries to eat healthy by avoiding red meat, drinking large amounts of water and eating lots of fruits and vegetables. In addition,



Linda Villarosa, Executive Editor, Essence Magazine

Villarosa works out approximately four times a week, and is an avid soccer and basketball player. "One's emotional health is extremely important," she says. "I try to remove anyone around me that causes stress. The better care I take of myself the better I am as a person." Her belief in proper health care, both physical and mental,

are found in her best-selling book *Body & Soul: The Black Women's Guide to Physical Health and Emotional Well-being*, published by Harper Collins. *Body & Soul* focuses on many issues that affect women of color; from alcoholism to obesity. In-depth facts, along with answers to common questions, are found here. At the end of each chapter she lists many organizations where

help may be found for various problems, or simply for further information. Her most recent work is *Finding Our Way: Teen Girls' Survival Guide*. This is geared towards teenage girls facing problems such as, peer pressure, birthcontrol, low self-esteem and sexuality.

Villarosa has fought against the

odds to become one of the most influential African-American women in her field. As a writer she believes there are a lot more opportunities available now as opposed to when she started. It is however, more competitive. "Being aggressive, going out there and pitching ideas, are some of things that have been beneficial to my success," says Villarosa. "I urge those starting out now to practice their craft believe in themselves — push. Give magazines and newspapers good reasons why you should be allowed to write an article for them." As a black woman she believes that regardless of sexuality, gender or race, one is always faced with something that you have to break through, therefore you must go in with determination and an open mind. □

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Health Issues

The Tradition

BY C.R. BRADLEY

For Fauziya Kasinga it ended ten months ago. Ms. Kasinga fled her native land Togo at age 17 to avoid the rite of female genital mutilation (FGM) and an arranged marriage to a man three times her age.

On December 17, 1994, Kasinga arrived in the United States and bravely reported to immigration officials at Newark International Airport, that she was not in possession of a legal passport. Kasinga was immediately detained.

Following two years of imprisonment and continued legal battles the Immigration Board of Appeals ruled in favor of Kasinga on May 21, 1996— noting that FGM was a reason to grant asylum on the basis of “discriminatory cultural practices.” “Kasinga, however, was truly an exception. For millions of young girls and women worldwide, the terror of FGM continues.

Female genital mutilation ranges from circumcision (the cutting of the “hood” of the clitoris), to excision and infibulation. The latter is the most severe because in addition to cutting the clitoris, the labia majora is removed using a razor, a knife or a pair of scissors. The outer area is then sewn

together, leaving a small hole (usually the size of a pencil) for menstrual discharge and urine. The operation is rarely a success, with those victims who manage to survive the procedure reporting a lifetime of physical and psychological pain.

Yelm Tamrat, an Ethiopian woman, was infibulated at the age of four. “What really hurt me is that my mother told me I had polio,” said Tamrat. Tamrat continues to experience excruciating pain and is unable to use her right leg. It was not until her older sister and activist, Mimi Ramsey, who currently lives in San Jose, California confronted their mother a few years ago, that the truth was confirmed.

Ms. Tamrat, unfortunately, is not alone. It is estimated that 128 million women and girls have undergone female genital mutilation worldwide. In Sierra Leone 1,600 young girls were recently subjected to FGM in one day, according to a spokesperson at the Foundation For

Women’s Health in California Yet the rate of incident does not decrease on this side of the globe.

In February *The Seattle Times* reported that Harborview Medical

Center (in Seattle) was considering performing FGM at the request of its Somali community. This, despite the American Medical Associations’ branding the practice a form of child abuse and eleven months after President Clinton signed the HR-3091 bill which will make the procedure unlawful in the United States.

The Somali community noted however, that FGM is a cultural practice; one that they intend to honor. Should the Somalis perform the procedure themselves, they could endanger the lives of their children since many girls in their home country do not survive FGM. Therefore, it would be safer for the girls to undergo the procedure in a hospital facility. Tamrat spearheaded a successful letter-writing campaign against making the practice acceptable within the medical community. Tamrat noted that the influential Somali community had also consulted lawyers in Washington State and former Senator Pat Schroeder’s office before approaching Harborview Medical Center.

Schroeder’s bill which was signed into law on April 26, 1996, will not take effect until March 29, 1997. “

Some legislators were concerned

because of the wording of the bill which describes FGM as a partial or full removal of the clitoris,” said Jennifer Lockwood, a Legislative Representative at Women’s Policy Inc. in Washington D.C. Lockwood also said that the Somali community only wanted the girls’ clitoris to be cut, to possibly make their proposal legal.

Tina Mankowski, Community Relations Director at Harborview Medical Center maintained that the procedure under review was thought to be an alternative to FGM. Nevertheless, after careful consideration and legal advice received from the State Attorney General’s Office in Washington, Harborview came to a decision. “We have basically decided not to go forward,” said Mankowski. “However, if we can participate in an educational program or come up with some alternatives for the community, we would be willing to work with them.”

While the legalities of the practice may continue to be challenged, young girls are still at risk in the United States and throughout the world. □

REMEMBER THE WARNING

Knock!
Knock!
Knock!

What the hell is this
Tell me my brother and sis
Death calling Tupac, now Biggie
Blood flowing-ignorantly
It’s mind-boggling
I say “Slow-down love”
When does the blood stop
Please, let’s chill and stop killing

Now “who the hell is this”
Tell me my brother and sis
Making these crimes, come alive
Brothers shot down in drive-bys
Sisters crying
Mothers sighing
Cause young fathers are dying

Do you know who’s this
Making us go amiss
Tell me my brother and sis?

“Nah,” they’re my people, “Nah”
They couldn’t disrespect
Nor disconnect a brother from another
So carelessly lessening our whole race
Such a cruel disgrace
Why must our brothers fall from grace?

Tell me, what you think we dying for?
Is it the Rolaxes or the Benzes?
Let me not forget the Lexuses
Meanwhile there are no witnesses

Damn! Why must we kill each other so?
Damn! Why must we die from other brother’s blows?

So self-destructive
We must learn to trust in us
Heal ourselves from self-damnation
In order to build this strong African Nation.

BY “SOLEIDAD” & “CRISTOFARI”

Arts & Entertainment

Love Jones Opens The Blinds

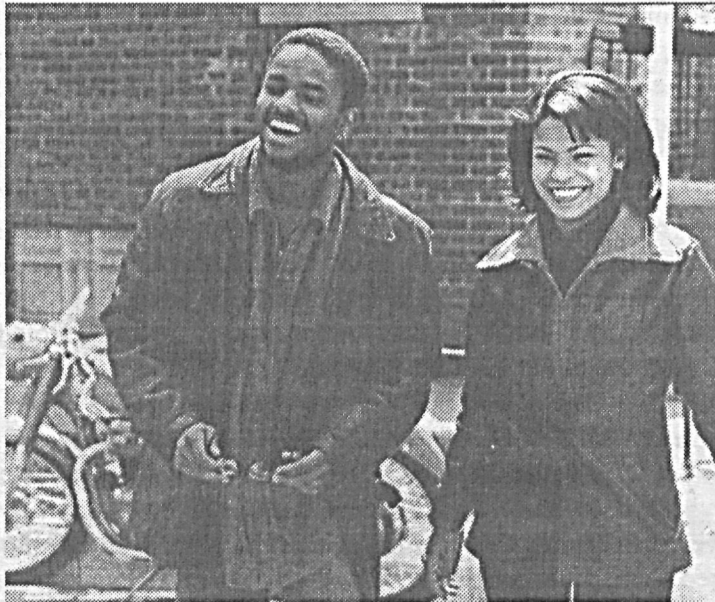
BY LA-JUNE MCPHERSON

Third time's the charm; This seems to be the theory being tested by Nina Mosley (Nia Long) and Darius Lovehall (Larenz Tate), in New Line Cinema's latest movie release *Love Jones*.

Nina Mosley (Long), a struggling photographer, and Darius Lovehall (Tate), who has recently quit his job, show us that in spite of the everyday problems in life, love is still to be found, when we least expect or desire it.

Love Jones takes us on a rather interesting journey through the lives of this young African-American couple, who get involved in an amusing courtship sequence that seems to baffle them both. They both appear to have strong feelings for each other, but when it comes down to the real deal, they both coolly let their friends know "it ain't no love thing."

This film takes a well-needed



Darius (Larenz Tate) and Nina (Nia Long) enjoy a moment of laughter in the romantic comedy, *Love Jones*

Photo Credit: Michael P. Weinstein / New Line Cinema

detour from what we normally see in films about young African-American men and women. Instead of the usual "shoot-em-up" 'gangsta' flicks, we are able to see a side of Black America

director Theodore Witcher, uses a local hang-out spot of the couple, "The Sanctuary," as the backdrop for showcasing this creative form of expression. At "The Sanctuary," the locals

that we've never seen before on the 'big-screen'.

The movie zeros in on the black poetry scene; An otherwise small detail of African-American culture, that is, if you take the usual portrayals of Black America by Hollywood as fact.

Writer and

relax and listen to performers recite with ease, poetry which was oftentimes set to the rhythmic beating of drums. This was also the site of Nina and Darius' first meeting, where he wowed and also embarrassed her with a rather sexy rendition of a piece he titled "Blues for Nina." She later makes an impression on him, in more ways than one, by letting him know that there are topics he could use for poetry recital other than sex, as she flirtatiously pens the word "love" on his hand.

This genre of African-American film was long overdue. Thankfully, Witcher, as he puts it, had "the right material, [at the] right time, [at the] right studio." We can now only hope that the rest of "Hollywood" follows Witcher's lead and explore the other aspects of Black America that are so often overlooked. □

Hale, continued from page 8

babies. "She didn't know anything about drug addicts," her son explains, "and to enter into a completely different and difficult aspect of child care, child care for children who had been severely damaged, was to take on a task of heroic proportions."

"Clara Hale, saw an immense need, and just went about trying to meet that need," said her son. We often see [a need], and we trip over it, or we jump over it, or we go around it, because it seems insurmountable, but his mother, as he explains, saw something that she could do in her backyard, in her community, and with no resources, limited skills, and no information, Clara Hale started all over again...at the age of sixty-five. At that point in her life she had earned enough money to settle down. Her children had gone through college, and were on their own. "It was like starting a business," Kenneth said, "and the key to starting a good business is getting good people to work for you." But questions on how to advertise, where to get funding because there was no money, and most importantly where all of this business would take place, were encountered. Soon the decision to begin the operation in the apartment, that is now known as "Hale House," was made.

Kenneth Hale says, "it was extremely difficult for an uneducated, unskilled, for the most part, woman to carve out a life for her three kids with no father, relying totally on the Lord and the Church." Then to begin another life and career at an age where you

normally retire was probably the greatest struggle Clara Hale had to face, in addition to, at one point, losing city funding.

When asked what his fondest memory of his mother was, Kenneth Hale smiles, and says, "There are so many." But he recalled two times, he had seen his mother cry. "I had never seen her cry. I was thirteen or fourteen. She was in her room crying, but she never really wanted to lay her burdens on her children. And so I started crying because I didn't understand what was happening. She said, 'I never realized how fearful I could get about making certain, you kids, got through all this stuff. 'Earlier in that day she saw some cops...beat up on this young boy. They were chasing him, and beat him right in front of her. She just had these feelings that she just had to release. She said, 'I'm just so fearful that all we try to do, and all the praying that I'm doing, and something like this might happen to you'."

The second time, where Kenneth recalls his mother crying was the day he decided to accept Christ into his life. He was often dragged to church kicking and screaming, but said, "the Lord fell on me this day. I just got up and testified." But he says his mother was looking at him and the emotions, that over came her, caused her to break down and say, "I've been praying for thirty years, and I was saying, Lord, are you hearing me, are you listening to me. I'm your good and faithful servant...remember me? And now, you've touched this boy, that was really touch-

ing to me."

Dr. Lorraine Hale, who now carries on the work of her mother, said that one of the highlights of her life was "When I went to see her one day, and ran up to her bedroom. There she was sitting in a chair with a woman bigger than she was on her lap. I was dumbfounded. I...stood in the doorway and then I left. And later on when I saw her, the first thing she said to me was, 'I thought I taught you how to knock?' And I sort of laughed about it. But she said, 'You know, Lorraine, many of our parents are as needy as the children.' All she needed was for me to hug her."


In 1992, Clara "Mother" Hale died. Her son recalls when she was dying, and he remembers one of the last conversations with her. He says, "I was sitting with her one night, and she told me, 'I know you guys are worried, and you've got all these contraptions around me trying to keep me going, but everything is okay. I've made my peace, I've done all I can do here, and I'm ready to go...so you need to let me go.' She had my hand, and squeezed my hand in such a way, and said, 'Believe me, believe me.' A week or so later, she went home."

Today Hale House lives on, caring for the needs of drug-addicted and AIDS babies, aiding women to become drug-free so that they can

reclaim their children, and helping to reunite and repair the broken families that are victims of drugs use and AIDS.

Clara Hale may not have been fortunate enough to fulfill her own dreams of pursuing higher education, but her three children have done so. She exemplified and embodied the essence of a woman, who, despite countless odds, achieved a life for herself, her children, and countless others.

Clara Hale possessed a wealth of attributes, among them being: mother, father, grandmother, foster mother, child advocate, courageous, comforter, independent, role model, pioneer, African-American, woman; The portrait is Mother Hale. □



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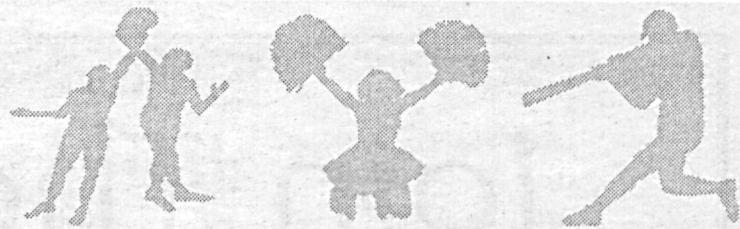
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SPORTS TALK



TEARS OF JOY

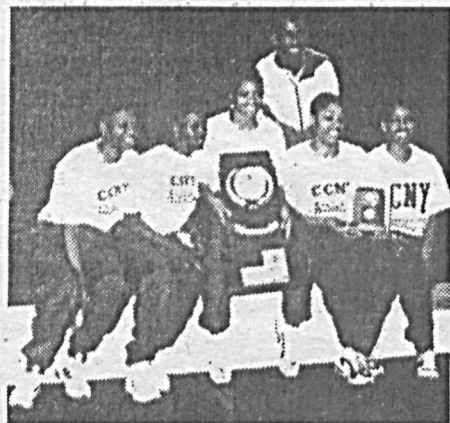
BY ABIMAEL VEGA

The male expression of emotion has often been seen as a rarity in life. But when it does take over it is very hard to control. This was the case for the City College track coach Errol Anderson, as proud tears of joy flowed from his eyes after the performance of CCNY's women's track team in the NCAA Division III Championships, held at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh from March 7th-8th.

For a man who admits to being strict with his athletes in order to get the best out of them and to show how much he believes in them, Coach Anderson's sudden show of emotion was totally out of character. It all resulted from the performance of Jacqueline Hunter, Robyn McCarthy, Keisha Latty and Susan Claytor.

Hunter (a Division III All-American in the 400-meter) and McCarthy posted first and second place finishes respectively, in the 400-meter dash. Hunter set a national record with a time of :56.07 and McCarthy a personal best of :56.42.

"When Jackie (Hunter) and I were



Members of CCNY's Women's Track Team with Coach Errol Anderson.

running the last 200 (of the 400m) it was just a big gap, and at that point in time he [Coach Anderson] knew that we had it," said McCarthy. "He expected Jackie to win and he expected me to be right there, but he didn't know how close. He said, 'don't do worse than third,' and to run my personal best...it just brought tears to his eyes."

Latty's second place finish in the 800-meter, with a personal best of 2:15.33, also had a heart-warming effect on the coach. "He basically said to me that the way I ran the trials the

day before wasn't too good [because I wasn't into it mentally] and he wasn't sure how I'd do in the finals the next day," said Latty. "He wasn't sure what would happen. When I came in second, he didn't quite expect it."

"No one expected Keisha to finish second, but she was determined Saturday morning and said this was what she was going to do," said Coach Anderson of Latty's performance.

Coming into the championship meet, CCNY felt very confident in their chances in the 4x400-meter relay. Susan Claytor, who runs the third leg, knew her performance was very critical for the teams success.

"To me the 4x400 is like a car that runs on four tires," said Claytor. "Last year I was the spare tire in the trunk, but this year I am needed to make the car run. So I'm glad my timing improved and I was there to help out." And help she did, as she combined with Hunter, McCarthy and Latty to finish with a time of 3:50.97.

In finishing first and second in the 400-meter, second in the 800-meter, and first in the 4x400-meter relay, the

CCNY women racked up a total of 36 points overall. They placed second in the entire country in team scoring to Christopher-Newport of Virginia. "It was kind of a surprise with that one," said Hunter. "I knew we might finish maybe in the top three or four, but when we finished second, that was something else...I was so proud."

Coach Anderson was also very proud of the girl's accomplishments. "It meant a lot to me...that the young ladies attained their goals. I know how hard they have it, to get up on a daily basis from 4:30-5:00 in the morning to make practice at 7:00," said the coach. "And after dealing with me for an hour and a half to two hours, to go to classes after that, it is very stressful. And for it being so stressful, it is a joy to see that with all the troubles in your life, not only with school and home, that they're strong enough to still do this and I'm happy for that."

As far as Coach Anderson is concerned, this performance solidifies CCNY as being one of the top track and field programs in the country. □

The Paper Congratulates The CCNY Women's Track Team On Their Stellar Performance At The NCAA Division III Championships

This Month In Black History.....

- 1 Ralph Ellison, author of *The Invisible Man*, was born (1914-1994).
- 2 Congress declared the importation of slaves into US jurisdiction illegal as of the new year (1807).
- 3 Thomas Jennings became the first Black American to receive a patent (1821).
- 4 J. Ernest Wilkins was named undersecretary of labor by President Eisenhower, (1954).
- 5 Crispus Attucks died at the Boston Massacre (1723-1770).
- 6 The Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision was made (1857).
- 7 Estevanico (Esteban) de Dorantes, native of Azamor, Morocco, set out to explore what is now the southwestern part of the US (1539).
- 8 The General Assembly passed the first act forbidding the importation of black

- slaves (it was suspended by the governor the next day) (1774).
- 9 Clifton Wharton was sworn in as ambassador to Norway (1961).
- 10 Harriet Tubman, affectionately called "Moses," who freed over 300 slaves by way of the "Underground Railroad," died (1913).
- 11 Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun," opened at the Barrymore Theatre in New York (1959)
- 12 Benjamin Banneker, with Charles L'Enfant, was commissioned to lay out Washington in the District of Columbia (1791).
- 13 Fannie Lou Hamer, freedom fighter, died (1977).
- 14 Quincy Jones, composer and musician, was born (1933).

- 15 John Lee, first Black commissioned officer in the US Navy is assigned duty (1947).
- 16 *Freedom's Journal*, the first Black newspaper, published by John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish, was founded (1827).
- 17 Nat "King" Cole, singer, was born (1919).
- 18 Gabriel de la Concepcion Valdes, poet, was born (1809).
- 19 Jan Matzeliger invented the first machine to manufacture an entire shoe (1883).
- 20 Allan Rohan Crite, a painter, was born (1910).
- 21 The Selma Freedom March, was held (1965).
- 22 Alonzo Pietro, explorer, set sail with Columbus.
- 23 Marcus Mosiah Garvey arrives in America from Jamaica (1916).

- 24 Canada allowed blacks the right to vote (1837).
- 25 Aretha Franklin, singer, was born (1942).
- 26 William Hastie, first black federal judge, was appointed (1937).
- 27 Arthur Mitchell, dancer and choreographer, was born (1938).
- 28 "The Rens," the first black professional basketball team, became the first black team on record to win a professional world's championship (1939).
- 29 Pearl Bailey, entertainer, was born (1918).
- 30 America's 15th amendment allowed blacks the right to vote (1870).
- 31 Mundy Petersen, of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, became the first black person to vote as a result of the adoption of the 15th amendment (1870).