

The Paper



Medium For People Of African Descent
Volume 128 - Issue Number 3
November 2009

Rundown of Election Night 2009

By Lindsie Augustin

In a historic bid for a third term in office, incumbent Michael Bloomberg defeated former New York City Comptroller and Democratic candidate William "Bill" Thompson in the 2009 mayoral election. Despite spending at a rate of nearly \$15,000.00 per hour during his campaign, and making this the most expensive self-financed campaigns in history, while out spending his opponent by \$93million; Bloomberg's win was a very narrow victory of 51 to 46 percent.

Though the polls suggested Bloomberg was in the lead throughout the mayoral race - many were opposed to the



photos from www.iuamnewilliams.com & http://www.silive.com/news
Mayoral Candidates William Thompson and Michael Bloomberg

manner in which he went about seeking an extra time in office. He pushed past the City Council and changed term-limit laws, an issue his opponent Thompson focused on and mentioned frequently throughout his campaign.

As it stands now, Bloomberg is the fourth mayor in New York to be elected to a third term, following the likes of



John C Liu

Fiorello La Guardia (1941), Robert Wagner (1961), and Edward Koch (1985). While seeking his third term in office, the billionaire claimed the city would benefit and needed his financial expertise to get through this current economic meltdown. However, one may wonder what message Bloomberg's campaign was sending

out to the general public as he frivolously spent an obscene amount of money on his re-election for a less than mediocre result. Even while running under both the Republican and Independent ballots Bloomberg only managed to win by five percent against Thompson.

In his acceptance speech Tuesday night Bloomberg stated "I'm committed to working twice as hard in the next four years as I did in the past eight." Now, with the job market as bleak as it is today and as more and more families continue to struggle to live in New York; the question remains, will Bloomberg's next four years in office mean the end to the middle and

continued on page 2

CUNY Coalition for Students with Disability's 3rd Annual Leadership Retreat

By Amalia Torrentes

The CUNY Coalition for Students with Disability (CCSD) successfully held its third Annual Retreat, "Leadership Training" October 9-11 at the Hudson Valley Resort. The retreat had over twenty-five attendees, representing 15 CUNY campuses. It was organized by the Executive Board of CCSD, Chair Christy Nightingale - John Jay College, Vice Chair Aquina Nolan - Medgar Evers, Treasurer Greg Bradford - Brooklyn College and Secretary Luis Gutierrez -



Attendees at the CCSD Retreat

Hunter College. The retreat was organized in conjunction with CUNY Office of Student Affairs (COSA) and was made possible by the Queens College Committee for Disabled Students, CUNY LEADS and the University State Senate. The retreat included workshops that covered everything from team work, brainstorming for club efforts and lobbying.

Presentations included prominent speakers such as Dominic Carter and Christopher Rosa, CUNY Dean of Student Affairs. The retreat also offered sessions where students were able

continued on page 9

Puerto Rico: A People's Struggle on the Forefront

By Olga Sanjurjo

One million Puerto Rican workers participated in a national strike on October 17, 2009. This strike was a response to Pro-Statehood Governor Luis Fortuño's massive layoff of nearly 17,000 workers, which follows a series of layoffs last spring that totaled nearly 8,000 workers. The national strike was organized by, 'Todo Puerto Rico Por Puerto Rico,' a coalition of unions, professional, religious, community, civic and other civil society organizations.

Participants in the San Juan metropolitan area numbered into the hundreds of thousands who converged

continued on page 5



Protestors

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Painful Cuts Due Paterson Says
page 3

The LeeCez Why Thompson Lost
page 4

What is Good Hair?
page 6

Fashion: The Column
page 8

Parenthood on the Hill Child Development Center
page 11

(Re)Introducing Anthropology at CCNY
page 13

Homeless Shelters: The Price of Profit
page 15

Editorial

I am Who I am and I am You

By Lindsie Augustin

We've all come across them in our day to day travels and for the most part it is always easier to shake your head and/or ignore their eccentric behavior. They are those natural leaders in the group projects; they always have a plan, a place to be, and a suggestion to be heard. Their meticulous planning and scheduling and constant desire to voice their opinions, makes life a lot easier for those around them – who hold no qualms about following a leader like them. They are the Alpha females and males in your circle – and they can also be your downfall.

There is a genuine desire for individuals as a whole to fit in and be a part of something. However, there is also a fear of being isolated by everyone that plagues many and in some cases drives them to some extreme form of inclusion. They become overbearing and invite themselves into conversation and places that they are not the least bit wanted. While I will not name any names or describe any situations to single anyone out, these types of

people have infiltrated my circle and it has become imperative for me to speak out.

At some point their “helpful” suggestions would have been much appreciated, unfortunately at this time it is far from it. *The Paper* has always served as a hub of support for those who had something to say and no place to say it. It continues to be a family environment where all who share that communal sense of belonging are welcome. The flags hanging on the wall of our office are there not to promote separatism but are there as a way for you to identify with us and to further illustrate that you belong here as much as the next person. So when an individual invites themselves into this space of communal vibes and does not have that same mindset, they are fundamentally threatening everything that *The Paper* stands for and are disrespecting all the people who have worked so very hard to start this paper and keep it going for the 40 plus years it has been around.

I have on many occasions urged a sense of unity not only on The City College campus but at *The Paper* as well. *The Paper*

and its staff are as diverse the students who walk these grounds and what we cover in these pages are the things that students are thinking about. If there has ever been a situation where one has not been pleased with what they've read, there has always been an opportunity to express how they felt with their own article. The door of communication has always been open, so I am baffled that some feel the need to force their way into a place that is nothing if not welcoming.

The Paper has been a part of my college life since that day I entered City College of and when I leave this December and embark on life after CCNY, it will still be with me. I can only hope that *The Paper* has had a lasting impression on The City College campus as it has had on me; and in the event that one of those individuals attempts to jeopardize what *The Paper* stands for and the work we do, you must stand up against them and all their eccentricity and put those individuals in their place. After all, we do what we do for you because we are you and you are us.

The Paper

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

Phone: 212-650-5029

Fax: 212-650-5022

Email: thepaper@ccny.cuny.eduWebsite: www.ccnythepaper.com**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Lindsie Augustin

MANAGING EDITOR

Taqiyya Haden

BUSINESS MANAGER

Olga Sanjurjo

COPY EDITORS

Dean James

Samantha Waugh

CONTRIBUTING COPY EDITOR

Dr. Adrienne Petty

FACULTY ADVISOR

Professor Herb Boyd

Professor Debra Kennedy

STAFF WRITERS

Jodie Alexander

Jeff Delices

Ashleigh Fitzwilliam

Sherita Gayle

Courtney James

Sam Kimball

Marc W. Polite

Adele Scott

Sparkle Sterling

Krystal Temple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Cacsmy Brutus

William Crain

Dane Ruffin

Scott Silverman

Amalia Torrentes

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editor:

CCNY has changed the admission process for the coming Spring semester, and the change is very unfair. It robs many applicants of the chance to complete the admissions process.

Ordinarily, the admissions process (as set by the CUNY Board of Trustees) is this. Applicants who have met CCNY's high school grade requirements and other standards must also pass three skills tests. Applicants can receive exemptions from the skills tests on the basis of SAT or Regents scores.

But for the Spring term, CCNY decided to cut this process short. Applicants who haven't received the exemptions are not permitted to take any of the skills tests. CUNY's research data suggest that this change will disproportionately hurt students of color.

According to CCNY's provost, CUNY Central has approved this change.

The CCNY administration says it decided to deny students the opportunity to take the skills tests because it wants to lower our growing enrollment, which is taxing our resources. But The College should look for other ways--and fair ways--of addressing the enrollment problem.

I hope people will speak out against what our college has done.

William Crain
Professor of Psychology

Ext. 5650

continued from front page

Rundown of Election Night 2009

working class population in the city?

In other political news Democrat John C. Liu was elected as the city's first Asian-American into citywide office as the new Comptroller, defeating Republican Joe Mendola, 76 to 19 percent. Democrat Bill de Blasio was elected as New York City's Ombudsman winning by 77 percent of the vote against Republican Alex Zablocki. And for the first time in 12 years a Republican has been elected as Governor of New Jersey. Former US Attorney Christopher “Chris” Christie defeated Governor Jon Corzine in an extremely tight race of 49 to 45 percent. Corzine is just the third New Jersey governor in 60 years not to be re-elected to office after serving a single term.

THE PAPER**Wants to Hear from YOU!!**

Articles and letters to the Editors are welcomed and can be submitted to *The Paper* for consideration.

OUR MISSION

For over forty years *The Paper* has served as a medium through which students, faculty and members of the local community can communicate. As a publication for people of African descent, *The Paper* focuses on pertinent issues facing the Black and Latino community as well as issues that are of relevance to people of all races and ethnicities. In addition, this publication is a valuable resource for CCNY students and faculty for information on everything from scholarships to job opportunities. With increased membership and support from the student body, *The Paper* will continue to serve CCNY and the surrounding community.

Painful Cuts Due, Paterson Says

By Herb Boyd

With an unusual sternness, Gov. David Paterson announced Friday, October 30th that the state must address a \$10 billion budget deficit over the next two years. This action, he said, would effectively deal with \$3.2 billion in the current fiscal year and \$6.8 billion in the following fiscal year.

"The fiscal challenge we must address is clear and undeniable," the governor explained. *"Revenues have continued to plummet below already conservative projections and immediate action is needed to restore the fiscal integrity of our state budget. Delaying the tough choices we must inevitably make will do nothing besides make those choices more difficult."*

A few days ago, Paterson proposed a two-year, \$5 billion Deficit Reduction Plan, which

included \$3 billion in current-year savings. The state financial plan assumes the implementation of approximately \$200 million in additional current year gap-closing actions, bringing the overall amount of potential midyear savings that the governor has put forward to \$3.2 billion.

Included in the governor's cuts are the New York schools, hospitals, nursing homes, social service organizations, environmental programs and a host of other municipalities that can expect the scalpel.

Paterson said the cuts are painful, "but it is the only way to keep this state afloat."

The governor's \$5 billion Deficit Reduction Plan should take care of half of the problem, but that would still leave a considerable gap to be filled. Paterson has proposed

a spending cap as a possible suture, though it may not meet with the approval of a number of his Democratic colleagues.

Others have suggested using some of the \$24.6 billion in stimulus

money promised to the state.

"Fortunately, we didn't spend all of the stimulus money," said State Sen. Antoine Thompson (D-Buffalo).

"There's growing debate to how much money is still available, and whether or not people can agree

to use more stimulus money in the budget."

Below is a portion of the pain:

- \$480 million in midyear cuts to school districts



Governor David Paterson

Photo from alshamsic.wordpress.com/catsen/david-paterson/

statewide. Paterson said higher income districts will be harder hit by the cuts than lower-income districts.

- \$287 million in cuts to Medicaid
- \$184 million in cuts to other health care and mental hygiene programs
- \$28 million in cuts to social services
- \$67 million in cuts in funding for municipalities
- \$125 million in cuts to transportation programs
- \$62 million in cuts to higher education

Fortunately, the governor's plan includes no tax increases and no layoffs to the state workforce.

In the coming days, the Assembly and the Senate will deliberate and weigh the cuts, and they will have to approve these actions before they become realities.

Originally published in the Amsterdam News

November 5- November 11, 2009

El Museo Del Barrio Reopens & Celebrates 40th Anniversary



By Olga Sanjurjo

El Museo Del Barrio, the iconic people's museum, re-opened its doors to the public on Saturday, October 17th to the sounds of Bomba, Plena, Boricua Fusion and Spanish Harlem Salsa. An unimaginable crowd waited in line to sing, dance, eat and view the art exhibits- including a historical array of art by Diego Rivera, Raphael Soyer, Langston Hughes, and many others.

A workshop entitled, 'Que Bonita Bandera,' meaning - What a Beautiful Flag - allowed children and parents to create their own flags. In the museum's theatre, El Teatro, storytellers read children tales of Puerto Rico and Nuyoricans. The delicious fair of Latino cuisine complete with empana-

das, flan and cafe con leche, is now available in their renovated cafe.

The history of El Museo is tied to the history of El Barrio. As Puerto Ricans emigrated from the island, a large portion concentrated in this area of Harlem. They made it their own and often joined with African Americans in social justice movements, as struggles against discrimination and police brutality defined an era.

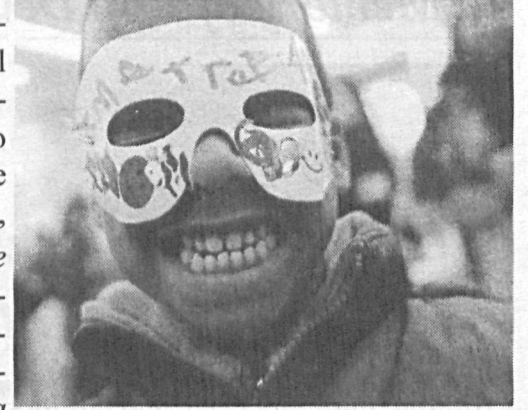
Entering the 1960's, Puerto Ricans and African Americans made up the majority of students in NYC public schools. Parents, community leaders, activists and local artists began to advocate for a change in school curriculum

and for a cultural space. As a result, artist and educator Raphael Montañez Ortiz founded El Museo del Barrio dedicating it to the Puerto Rican Diaspora in the



United States, stating; *"The cultural disenfranchisement I experience as a Puerto Rican has prompted me to seek a practical alternative to the orthodox museum which fails to meet my needs for an authentic ethnic experience."* Ralph Ortiz, *"Culture and the People," Art in America, May-June 1971, 27*

Although, El Museo was not in its 104th Street locale until 1977, it served the community from classrooms, brownstones, even a mobile art exhibit on a bus in the interim. As a result, Puerto



Rican, African American, Latin American, and Caribbean artists have had a space and the community has had access.

El Museo's art, staff and volunteers represent the African American, Puerto Rican, and Mexican the community. For the opening, many members of the community brought their entire family to celebrate the Museum's history and trajectory as one that was developed by and for El Barrio. El Museo is very accessible in that the admission is a suggested donation and the Art Galleries and Cafe are open from Wednesday to Sunday, 11am to 6 pm. El Museo del Barrio is located at 1230 Fifth avenue (at 104th street), accessible by bus or train.

Photos courtesy of Carucha L. Meuse/clmvisuals.com

TheLee Cez: Why Thompson Lost

By Jeff Delices
www.theleecez.com

I am 100% sure if I had a \$100 million I could be Mayor of *the city that never sleeps*. Mayor Michael broke his 2005 campaign record of \$75 million and outspent former Comptroller William Thompson Jr. 336 to 1. The richest man in New York City also secured endorsements from newspapers, politicians, not-for-profit, and church ministers. With all that money and support, I find it interesting that Bloomberg only won by 5%, with large numbers of people voting against Bloomberg. Could Thompson have won if he received more support from the Democratic Party or if he made an effort to reach out to lower class and young voters over focusing on the white middle class?

Bloomberg and Thompson spent the majority of their campaign bickering over term limits and the defunct Board of Education, while ignoring the gentrification of

lower-class neighborhoods or the increased price of . . . everything in New York. It was disappointing to hear Thompson acknowledge the Westside of Manhattan as a neighborhood he would "look into" concerning rezoning over Harlem and his old neighborhood of Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn. Thompson's campaign choose to avoid issues concerning the people and focus on an irreversible issue. As the underdog, it was Thompson's job to attack the problem concerning, not just the middle class, but also the lower class.

The outcome of the election proved Bloomberg endorsers may have been easily bought, but not the people. Now, if Thompson, like President Obama, had made an effort to attract young voters as well as some of the first time voters from the Presidential election, there is a possibility he would be Mayor of New York. Thompson made such an issue of Bloomberg going behind the people's back, yet he did little to reach the people

Bloomberg was affecting; 6-7 million people did not vote in the Mayoral election. Of course, some people may not be able to vote or registered to vote, but you know what I mean—more than a third of New York did not make a decision. In addition, based on the polls, Bloomberg was not a favorite and only won because not enough people cared to vote.

If Thompson had won he would have become the second African American Mayor in N.Y.C. history. It would have been interesting to see the reaction of New York to having a Black Mayor and Governor at the same time. On the other hand, as a lower class African in America, I did not see Bill Thompson changing the problem in New York's so-called ghetto, rather carrying on the ideals of Dictator Michael Bloomberg. I hadn't heard Thompson discuss plans to

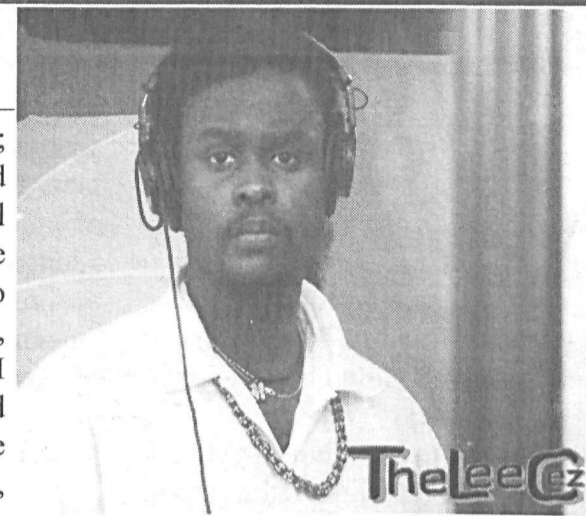


Photo provided by Jeff Delices

change New York or why he was a better candidate. Moreover, his campaign focused on the middle class white New Yorkers over the people of New York.

Without an actual endorsement from President Obama or much support from his party, Bill Thompson managed to lose respectively to Bloomberg. Now, if Thompson had reached out to the youth, the lower class, the hip-hop artist as well as community, we would have been referring to him as Mayor Thompson instead of former Comptroller Thompson.

In Memory of Roy DeCarava



Professor Roy Rudolph DeCarava
Photographer
December 9, 1919 - October 27, 2009

Anyone who has even taken a basic photo course learns to avoid excessive shadows and blurriness in their photographs. But Roy DeCarava intentionally captured the blurs and shadows that so many tried to avoid and, in the process, created acclaimed masterpieces. DeCarava was a world renowned photographer and distinguished professor of Art at Hunter College best known for his sensitive images of jazz musicians and everyday life in Harlem. He died late last month on October 27, at the age of 89. In 2006, President George Bush awarded him the prestigious National Medal of Arts. He also was the first African American photographer to win a Guggenheim Fellowship. His life and approach to art can serve as an inspiration to all who find beauty and fulfillment in the unexpected. The Paper and the citizens of Harlem encourage you to learn more about this amazing man that captured our lives and shared his best with us all.



Whether U know who these people are or not, does not matter. What matters is they once sat in the same seats you now sit in. They were all involved in student clubs and organizations at CCNY that taught them leadership and social skills that helped them excel in their careers.

Its All About U!
Office of Student Life and Leadership Development

continued from front page

Puerto Rico: A People's Struggle on the Forefront

and successfully closed Plaza de Las Americas, the largest shopping center in the Caribbean. The majority of public schools closed because students and staff also participated. Throughout the island students, teachers, and members of the clergy participated in rallies and civil disobedience. There were a total of one million protestors, the largest in the island's history – one fourth of the entire population of the island.

All this comes as a result of a new law that Governor Luis Fortuño implemented in March 2009 as an economic recovery plan, "Fiscal State of Emergency Law 7," or as it is known in Puerto Rico - La Ley 7. Essentially, it is a neo-liberal response to the economic crisis that attacks the most vulnerable members of the populace. The Law 7 details the suspension of collective bargaining in the public sector, deregulation and privatization of municipal works as well as massive budget cuts to basic programs.

This has many in Puerto Rico and abroad criticizing the law's main goal - the layoff of over 30,000 workers. Many question why the government is not using the funds received from the stimulus package (ARRA)

enacted by U.S. Congress (some \$5 billion) to protect existing jobs, as has been done in other states.

The results are an unprecedented number of unemployed people bringing Puerto Rico to a 20% unemployment rate as well as a stark increase in police brutality as the governor has criminalized protestors, threatening to charge

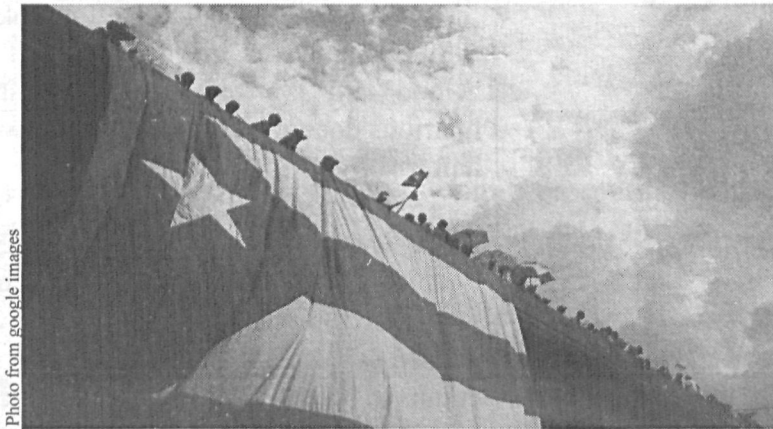


Photo from google images

them with terrorism.

This serves to worsen the current economic crisis with the reduction of productivity, particularly in the public sector. The jobs targeted in these massive layoffs are teachers, social workers, healthcare workers, and public employees. The question of the Ley 7 constitutionality is currently being investigated since it violates the statute in the Constitution of Puerto Rico which

prohibits the passage of laws that impair contracts.

One has to question what the governor's motives in these massive layoffs are. He is the first governor affiliated with the U.S. Republican Party in over 4 decades and blames the deficit in Puerto Rico to "big government." The Fortuño government solution is massive layoffs and privatization

of government services and infrastructure. However, compared to U.S. state governments of the same size, the Puerto Rican municipal workforce is average.

It is Puerto Rico's colonial reality that had brought on a deep recession for the last several years, of which this recent economic crises has only made worse. For decades the Puerto Rican government has maintained the island as a low tax, cheap labor

haven for U.S. based corporations to exploit workers while making record profits. Overall job growth has been stagnant since Puerto Ricans lack self-determination, particularly in trade relations outside the U.S. sphere of control.

An analysis of Puerto Rico's economy found in the article, "The Economy of Puerto Rico" states: "*Puerto Rico's own tax code is replete with provisions that benefit special business interests at the expense of the general welfare.*" (Susan M. Collins, Barry P. Bosworth, and Miguel A. Soto-Class)

The Puerto Rican workers are forcing the government to acknowledge its inability to resolve the long term economic problems as they are the result of its colonial economy. Puerto Ricans, on the island and abroad, are working to enact meaningful change that will save jobs and create economic stability. As Governor Fortuño's policies, become more unpopular the worker's movement is gaining the support of every sector of the island and drawing international attention.

Cancer Walk of October 18th 2009

By Cacsmy B.
A Survivor

The last cancer walk of the year and as a cancer survivor, (bone and lung) I was determined to walk the 6 miles, rain, storm or earthquake.

What took two weeks of preparation came down to one cold, rainy and windy day. I got up two hours late, but that did not stop me. I forgot to charge my camera, but that did not stop me. I did not have enough battery life on my phone to get in touch with other walkers, but that did not stop me.

Head held high, I walked the streets of Brooklyn to catch the 3 train. Uptown I went, then got off once I heard "This is 72nd street the next stop will be 96th street." My sister was walking next to me but she was not walking with me; she was walking for school credit, I

on the other hand was walking not only because I had been a victim of cancer but I had seen so many lose their battle against cancer. I was walking for HOPE.

Thousands of people came to the walk; kids, adults, women, men, youngsters and elders. After I headed to the "survivors tent" to collect a survivor shirt

and a pink ribbon I was ready to embark on a painful yet rewarding walk. 6 miles, 1 hour and 14 minutes later it was over, my wrists were hurting from holding my crutches, my ears and fingers were numb from the cold and I was hungry, but I was happy.

Happy that I am a three year cancer survivor, happy to have met some nice New Yorkers, happy and grateful for the great job volunteers were doing.

Thanks to those who were a part of the walk and those who donated for the cause.

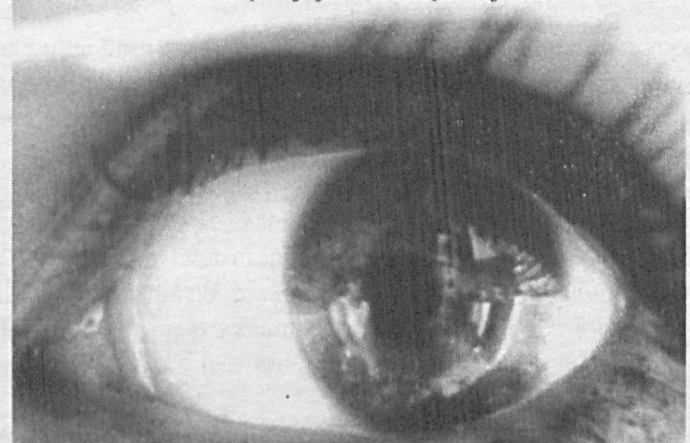
Photo from onechildourvillage.org



SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DEC 4, 2009

PROMETHEAN

The Official Literary Magazine of the City College of New York



Submit to PROMETHEAN now!

Literature
Fiction
Nonfiction
Poetry
Plays

Artwork
Collage, Drawing
Painting, Print
Graphic Design
Photography

PROMETHEAN is looking for literary and art submissions for the Spring 2010 issue. Students, alumni, faculty, and staff of CCNY may submit up to 5 poems, a prose piece up to 5,000 words, or up to 5 pieces of art. Please e-mail all submissions in either .doc, .rtf, or .pdf format (art pieces should be black and white and no more than 5MB each) to promethean@ccny.cuny.edu. Subject of emails should be "submission: (type of submission)." Also include your name, school status, address, and phone number in your email.

For more information please visit us in **MAC 6/522**,
or e-mail us at promethean@ccny.cuny.edu



NEWS RELEASE

For more information:

Local: Scott Silverman, 508-344-6030

Statewide: Fran Clark, 646-408-3735

**STUDENTS TO LEGISLATORS:
REJECT THE GOVERNOR'S CUTS TO CUNY**

CCNY Students Battered After Another Round of Cuts

New York—Wearing bandages symbolizing the injury done to students by Governor Paterson's latest round of cuts to CUNY and financial aid, CCNY students today urged the legislature to fight to restore funding for higher education. The demonstrators were joined by dozens of students who placed calls to Assemblymember Wright and Senator Perkins.

"No more cuts!" said Senior Psychology major Hager Salem, as she waved a Band Aid shaped sign and helped her fellow students make calls. "Students are still feeling the pain of last year's cuts and tuition hike. Cutting financial aid in this climate is too cruel. We may never recover from this new assault."

The governor's latest proposals include plans to reduce Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) aid by \$120 per student, cut funding for opportunity programs, and cut CUNY community colleges by \$10 million (\$260 per student). These hits come on top of last week's proposal from the governor to cut \$53 million from CUNY senior colleges. NYPIRG warned that the governor's plans will hurt the poorest students most, and lead to further increases in class sizes, fewer course offerings, elimination of certain majors, or even another unfair tuition hike.

Last year, CUNY lost \$95 million in budget cuts. This year, most of the \$600 tuition hike is being used fill the budget gap, rather than stitch up last year's cuts to CUNY. It's too soon to know exactly how the Legislature will react, but it's clear that last year's cuts have wounded students.

"Classes are already overcrowded and students are graduating late because courses aren't available," said Indhira Sepulveda, Junior Political Science Major, with her arm in a sling. "I can't imagine how bad it could get if the Legislature doesn't help us undo this cut."

NYPIRG called on the legislature to roll back the cuts when they return to address the state's \$3 billion deficit. Instead of inflicting permanent injury on students, they urged Perkins and Wright to push for a budget deficit reduction plan that protects students from another unfair tuition hike, safeguards financial aid, and upholds the quality of public higher education.

NYPIRG's higher education project leader and Junior Political Science major Johnny Huang, helped organize the call-in blitz/demonstration. "I've never seen so many students come together on one particular issue, and we are not backing down."

* Spanish and Arabic speakers available for interviews.



Photos courtesy of Scott Silverman

What is Good Hair?

By Krystal Temple

"Don't drink. Don't smoke. Don't get pregnant ... and don't get your daughter a kiddie perm!" This isn't exactly the type of advice Chris Rock thought he would need to give to his daughters when they grow up, however due to the wave of 'creamy crack' he may have to explain this to his daughters. Chris Rock's latest movie, "Good Hair," is an extremely informative and hilarious documentary about Black women's hair.

In case you're confused, 'creamy crack' is a term used to refer to a perm; the type of chemical perm Black women use to straighten their hair. The term 'creamy crack' is used sarcastically, because once a woman begins to perm her hair, she usually never stops, and therefore it seems as if her hair is addicted. According to Professor Berry in Chris Rock's documentary, the sodium chloride in perm is a very dangerous chemical. In his documentary, Chris Rock sarcastically says "don't get your daughter a kiddie perm" because stores sell kiddie perm to make people assume that the perm is okay to use on children. However, the kiddie perms contain the same sodium chloride chemical.

"Good Hair" digs up the cultural situation behind perms and weaves. Some Black women wear weaves and perm their hair, to be accepted in society, despite the physical pain and financial costs. However, the problem is not limited to Black women. White women also wear weaves, and even some men get perms. In Chris Rock's documentary, Ice T speaks about how it was cool to go to school with his permed hair in rollers. He describes the bigger the rollers were, the longer your hair was, and therefore the *better* it was. Sadly, in Chris Rock's documentary, when he visited Santa Monica High school in California, the Black students thought that Black people with natural hair would be less likely to get a job than Black people with relaxed or permed hair.

Therefore, we must ask ourselves questions such as: Why is natural hair perceived as unprofessional and unacceptable in professional settings? Why is longer, straighter hair considered to be *better*? Is it better to have curlier, softer hair than coarse, thick hair? Why should we assimilate to society's portrait and perm our hair? The authors of Hair Story: Untangling the Roots of Black Hair in America, Ayana Byrd and Lori Tharps, gave their opinion on this

continued on page 12

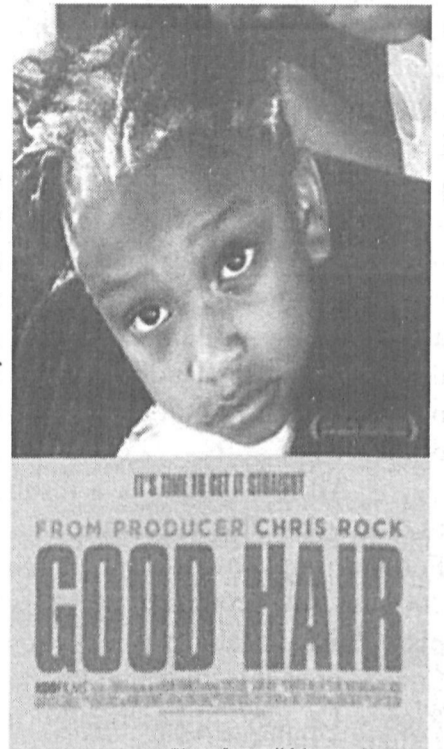


Photo from wildaboutmovies.com

Cornel West ~ Living and Loving Out Loud- A Review

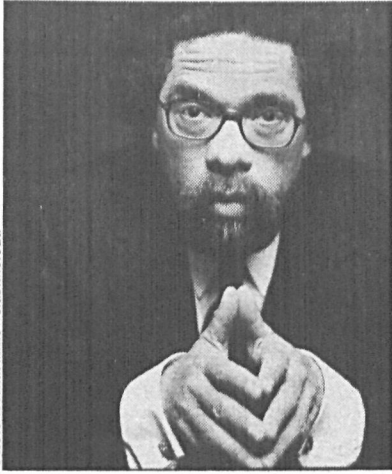


Photo from masunews.asiate.edu

By Marc W. Polite

Public intellectual, philosopher, writer, and activist Cornel West is the author of several books about the various aspects of American culture. Well known for delving into complex issues ranging from race to religion, politics, and popular culture, Dr. West has never been an individual to shy away from speaking truth to power. *Race Matters*, the now arguably a classic, provided an in depth analysis of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots. While the list of topics he touches on reach far and

wide, the life he led prior to being a world renowned professor was not one of them. *Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud, A Memoir*, fills in much of this background.

This latest book differs from his past work, as the focus is directed inward. *Living and Loving Out Loud* is the story of Dr. West's upbringing, coming of age, and personal struggles throughout his life journey. Critically looking at one's experiences is no easy undertaking, and the manner in which he does this is refreshing. Instead of being evasive about his mishaps, he honestly puts forth the events of his life in a tone that is free of self-aggrandizement.

Cornel West describes himself as, "a bluesman in the life of the mind, and a jazzman in the world of ideas." In discussing his love for music, he recounts his personal favorites, the range of which encompasses nearly every genre of 20th century music. Be it Jazz, Blues, or Hip-Hop, West expresses his insight on the inner workings of the genre. It is

admirable how he can explain at length the elements of popular music, and see the value in an art form that many intellectuals regard as debased and transitory.

Of particular note is Dr. West's outlook on hip-hop and its origins. He notes, "*Music education was drastically cut in neighborhood schools. Poor kids couldn't get their hands on instruments. So self-invented artists—like Grandmaster Flash, Afrika Bambaataa, and Kool Herc—invented instruments of their own.*" In talking about the origin of music he takes into account the reality the conditions arose from. To paraphrase, this genre of music literally made something out of nothing, a point missed by most pundits and critics of rap music.

Also central to Dr. West's life is his belief in God. From his upbringing in the church of his youth, to the time that he taught at Union Theological Seminary right here in Harlem, up to the present day, he describes himself as a devout Baptist. It is a large

part of his worldview; while many intellectuals may pride themselves on their lack of belief, he grounds himself in his Christian outlook, especially when he speaks of the necessity of dealing with urban and rural poverty.

Living and Loving Out Loud is a worthy read. When learning about the life of an accomplished public figure, there are always lessons to be learned. As someone who is familiar with the work of Dr. West, I must also add that this book is written in a very conversational tone, unlike *Democracy Matters*, for example. Not limited to chronicling his own life, Dr. West also mentions books that were influential in his personal development. If one wanted to, you could compile a bibliography of the materials mentioned, and it would keep you reading for months! More importantly, what one takes away from this book is the idea that as long as we live, whether we be famous or obscure, well off or always for want, we are all works in progress.

Men

Response to May Swenson's "Women"

Men should be sturdy rocks
Rocks that uplift the family
A fortress!
In which a Woman may find a haven
The rock that moves to the beat
Beat of her

Her drum

Her beat
They should be like the stallion
Power beneath their hooves
Rough and Rugged!
Unlike any painted rocking horse
Proudest thing to beat the land
Men should be the pedestal on which I step on,
you step on,
family step on.

Uplift !!

Man, let me Woman claim that pedestal
Sweet and crisp as the morning breeze

Blowing!

Knowledge and experience through generations
Royalty – destined to possess the land
I Woman praise ye
Man don't forget to

Praise Me!

I bring forth generations
I made Man
Sweet lipped, Wide hiped, Smiling and Joyful has set you in
motion

EXPRESSIONS

A Woman's (Black) Life

Born Black die Black(er)

Educated, under paid that's my life.
Statement

Women, Mother, a child and so much
more I can't bother to even try and
fit it on this on

one

Line.

My lips speaks (volumes); as big as they
are

My eyes have seen what your mind can't
process

My thighs have welcomed Kings and
Queens into this world

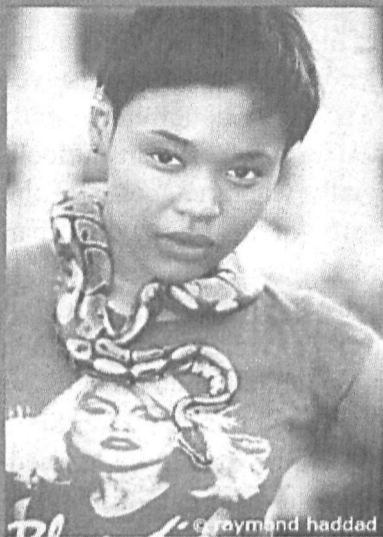
So I've (come to) realize that I am me
And who am I you begin to ask, am I
right?

Just an Educated, under
paid

individual that helped to

Make

AMERICA come TOGETHER



By Sparkle Sterling

**"I like my money
right where I can see it,
hanging in my closet!"**

—Sarah Jessica Parker

Hey City College! This is Sparkle Sterling A.K.A The Fashion Python, coming to you straight from the fashion-filled streets of New York! Now you're probably wondering why I've chosen The Fashion Python as my pen name and the answer is pretty simple. I like to approach fashion the same way pythons eat their prey. See, their prey is swallowed completely whole, no pieces are spit out or tossed aside and it may take anywhere from several days to many weeks to fully digest. I myself like to believe that if you are going to love fashion, you must appreciate it *whole*-heartedly and respect it as a *whole*. And like the python, it takes me several days or even weeks to digest how much money I just spent.

Personally, I like to take fashion risks and step outside of the box. That is what I want to encourage and convey to all of you readers. This may be my first year at The City College of New York but I've been involved in fashion my whole life. I've attended and appeared in fashion shows and campaigns since I was 4! So I know a lil suntin' suntin'.

They say this is going to be one of our snowiest winters. Bundling up is a must, but that doesn't mean you can't look fly. Have fun this winter! Just because its cold doesn't mean you have to wear black. Yes, earth tones are very compatible with all wardrobes but adding in touches and splashes of color doesn't

Fashion: The Column

Fun, Eclectic and Useful Tips From the Fashion Python

hurt, either. Choosing grey instead of black, and burgundy instead of brown is a start. And if you're going to wear "All black everything"

(Cop Blueprint 3), don't shy away from textures. Furs, leathers, feathers, pleats, tweed, piping, wools, and embroidery are all in this season, very easy to obtain and not hard to convert into one's closet. Ladies and gents, don't be afraid to clash. Too much of one color is boring and in some cases tacky. Mix it up! It's not hard either. Fashionistas, if you are going to wear stockings anyway, why not wear lace ones or multi-prints? It's fun and just as warm. Fashionistos, throw in a red scarf

a dirt cheap pair! Beacon's Closet in Brooklyn not only sells top selling designer jeans but buys them as well. So if you run low on cash (which a lot of college students do, myself included) and have some designer duds you can live without, go there and get cash and/or store credit and buy some more. Gabay's Outlet is where you can find OD deals on "fashion-hound faves" like Yves Saint Laurent, Marc Jacobs, and Chanel. The occasional Blahnik and Jimmy Choo will pop up! Get there fast! Join the mailing list, trust me!

Men, want to wear Gucci this winter without running your pockets? Go to Filene's Basement

they are brutal), Steve by Steve Madden (known for remaking designer shoes and selling them for half the price, using real materials), Marshalls (discounted designer everything), and Payless. I know how hard it is to be seen shopping there but hear me out! Payless has a number of designers pitching in and designing really cute shoes for them and selling them for too-good-to-be-true prices. Trust, if the shoes fits, wear it girl! The winner of *Project Runway*, Christian Siriano, designed this amazing line of shoes there this Fall! Yes, these were sold at Payless! \$25-\$45

Men, Daffy's in Soho has great sales and incredible shoes like Oxford's and True Religion boots for really good prices. Better hurry! Oh and if you have a huge foot, they have sizes up to 16! "G'on 'head bigfoot witcha bad self!" You may also go to Topman in Soho. I've gotten complaints that shopping there when you are heterosexual can be a little uncomfortable. That's natural, but don't miss out on sexy shoes because of that. The employees are marvelous and will help you get your shoes in no time at all, besides, the shoes are hot! And if it helps, bring a girl with you. Stop being such a punk, lol! Well, that's all for now. Until next time.

For more Fashion tips, questions, and locations email moi at Sparkle.sterling@yahoo.com or Tweet me @sparklesterling or Facebook me lol. Feel free to ask me questions when you see me around. TTFN (tata for now)

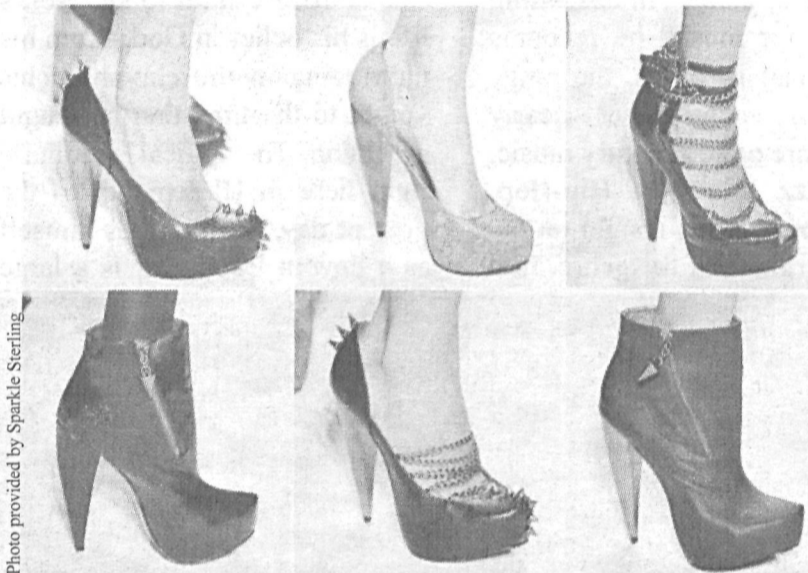


Photo provided by Sparkle Sterling

as opposed to the traditional black scarf.

Want to know what one of the best things about living in New York is? You don't have to spend tons of money to wear the latest designer get-ups!

Women, be on the lookout for Targets' ad campaigns. Here's why: some of the world's most prominent and renowned designers are putting lines in Target. These pieces are well-made and, not to mention, HOT! Even celebrities like Jessica Alba and Kate Bosworth have been seen sporting the looks. You can easily pair an Anna Sui for Target tee with a pair of your own designer jeans and you are good to go! If you don't already have a pair of designer jeans or you want another pair, don't fret! You can take a trip to a number of vintage stores and walk out with

in Union Square where you can get Gucci tees, bubble jackets, and the works without having to spend as much money as you would in Soho. I bought my little cousin a hot Gucci tee shirt from there for 60 bucks! Shh... Also, go to Century 21: they have designer everything from suits, jeans, slacks and shoes for you guys. Have fun!

Last but certainly not least, SHOES! Women of course: Topshop has magic on their shoe racks but let's face it they are NOT cheap (Unless you are a Simmons or a Trump in which case price doesn't concern you!). The last pair of boots I bought from there set me back \$300 so now I can't go shopping again until Halloween. Lol

So if you want cute shoes for a bargain, stick to places like David Z's (but watch out for the commission hungry employees,

Beacon's Closet
92 5th avenue
brooklyn, ny 11217
718.230.1630

www.beaconscloset.com

Gabay's Outlet
225 First Avenue (between 13th
and 14th) NYC, NY 10003
212-254-3180

contactus@gabaysoutlet.com
www.gabaysoutlet.com

Topshop/Topman
478 Broadway
New York, NY 10013
(212) 966-9555

www.topshop.com

continued from front page

CUNY Coalition for Students with Disability's 3rd Annual Leadership Retreat

to network and socialize with each other.

The first day included a workshop on teamwork by Charmaine Worthy, workshop on Legislative Campaign Goals by Steven Klienberg and a wonderful Halloween Bash! Under the direction of Steven Kliegnberg students worked together to write an effective testimony at a state and federal hearing. Students would later give their testimony before a live panel.

Students learned facts that would help them position themselves as to receive support in their lobbying efforts. Students got some hands on training by participating in a mock lobbying activity before the COSA. The night concluded with a formal dinner, honors and awards ceremony and a CCSD Night in Vegas.

The third day started with a presentation by Dean Rosa about the history of CCSD and ADA, and concluded with an inspirational and encouraging message by Dominic Carter.

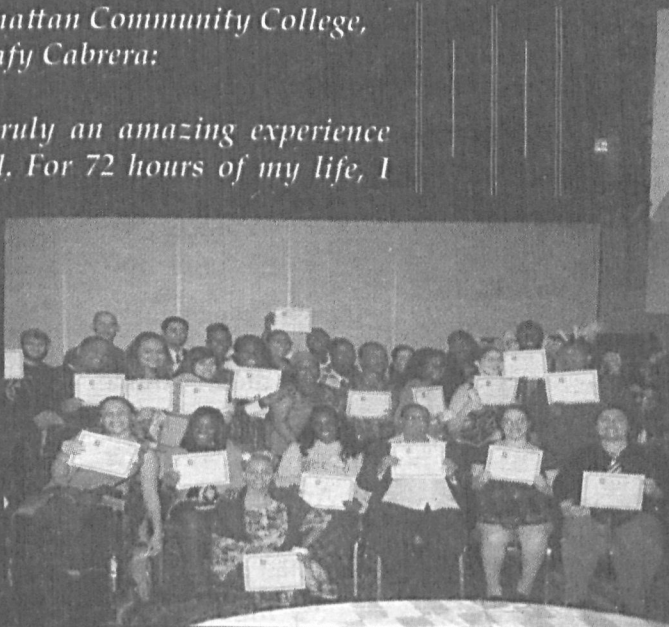
Students walked away empowered and renewed as CUNY activist and advocates for students with disabilities. For more information about the CCSD please visit them on www.cunycoalition.org.

Reflections from Students Who Participated in the Retreat

From the Borough of Manhattan Community College, student, Rafy Cabrera:

The CCSD retreat was truly an amazing experience for me as an individual. For 72 hours of my life, I exchanged ideas with people I could relate to, people I can call my own, people labeled with the word disability who were indeed far from it.

Amongst us—thirty of the most amazing people I'll probably ever meet in my life— there was a crisp and certain air that would make even the most Goliath of men come to their knees, an air of aplomb tenacity that would bring Gods themselves to kneel if need be. I was no longer the only one in the world that felt my life was like glass. If cooled too fast, glass succumbs imperfections but given time to travel down a conveyor belt to reach room temperature it becomes flawless, and we, in our own right, had each become flawless.



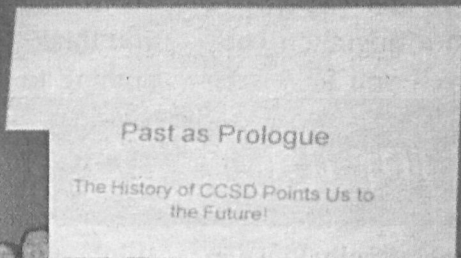
From the Borough of Manhattan Community College student, Donald Rankin:

What is an outsider and what does it mean to be an outsider? I have always been an outsider and I never understood what it meant to be an outsider—until the weekend of October 9th, 2009. I was blessed to go on a retreat that was being held by the CUNY CCSD which helps students who have a form of disability. This is where I found out

what it means to be an outsider. During this trip, I met some of the greatest people I know will be good friends for the rest of my life. At this retreat I learned elements to what it takes to be a leader. It was spending down time with others and learning from personal experiences of being

seen as "dis-abled" that was more valuable. I've realized an outsider is one that can see the bigger picture from above, as if standing on the Earth looking at all levels of existence. It is us that have the ability, to transform and keep life accessible for all.

My time with the CCSD is one I will never forget. We're all a part of a world that has problems, but it is up to us to make it as livable as possible and the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities is on its way to doing just that.



From The City College of New York's own Caesmy Brutus:

Being at the CCSD leadership training only proved right a quote I have been seeing in the accessibility office at CCNY, "having a disability is D-ability to inspire and dream and to follow what your heart desires." All of us had much more in common than just being disabled. Through several fun and educational workshops, I realized that most if not all CCSD students had set goals for themselves and have confidence that they can achieve these goals despite the many obstacles they have and will encounter in life.

It only took a weekend for me to adopt CCSD as a new family. Being part of this family means; being treated with fairness, have people who support me and most importantly share ideas with people who understand my struggles and willing to help me move forward.

Photos courtesy of Amalia Torrentes and Staff

Taqiyya Talks Truth on What You AIN'T Seen Yet

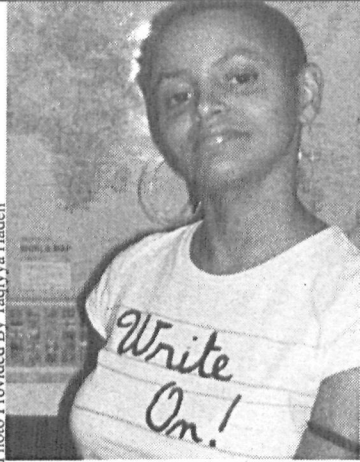


Photo Provided By Taqiyya Haden

"If you think you've seen progress over the past eight years, I got news for you: You ain't seen nothin' yet," Bloomberg accepting a 3rd term as King oops Mayor of New York City.

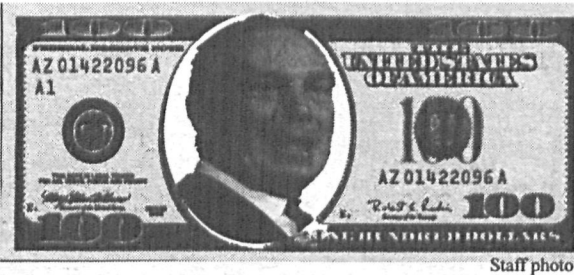
If a Black politician stood in front of an audience and used "ain't" in an acceptance speech, Rush Limbaugh and cronies would jump all over them and their use of what would then be called "Ebonics." But money talks! So it was left up to me to jump on Money Bags Mayor and let it be known what he really means by this. Rumor has it that Cash Rules Everything around Me, but fortunately cash does not

rule me!

As I discussed his winning statements with a comrade on Amsterdam on our way to The One Stop Patty Shop, she started in on a joke that spoke to the heart of our condition. Similar to comedians poking fun at the most hurtful of circumstances she said, *"You think your neighborhoods gentrified now, you ain't seen nothing yet!"* And we just kept going from there all the way up to 145th street we laughed at what is painful to both of us and so many others.

You think your rent is high now, well you ain't seen nothin' yet.

You think your building is cold now, well you ain't seen nothin' yet! You think your buses and train fare is high now, well you ain't seen nothin' yet! You think toll fees are high now, well you ain't seen nothin' yet! If you think you seen a migration back down south, well you ain't seen



Staff photo

nothin' yet! Worst of all, you think you seen police brutality now?!

This is progress for him but what about you and your no child left behind. Did you know that New York City has a cap on charter schools, but not his power? You think your classroom is crowded now? The child being taught to take tests is probably not learning what it takes for her to be a self made millionaire and mayor!

For someone to spend a record amount on campaigning and win

by such a small margin, in a very low voter turnout s p e a k s volumes. We all know too well that votes

were bought and surely some just didn't bother to show up thinking the other guy had no chance up against the almighty dollar. And speaking of a dollar is anyone still bragging that he is paid only a dollar a year, well take a look at how much money he has made while in office. If you think his increased value has nothing to do with the co opting

of your neighborhood, you really ain't seen nothin' yet.

Some were seduced by Bloomberg photos riding on the train looking like a regular guy and talking to the "little people" and for some reasons others who have absolutely no capital were reeled in by his being rich. Something I never understood, you respect someone who is rich while they are doing the best they can to earn more and create a bigger financial divide between you and them. In other words you say, "He is independently wealthy" like that is a character trait to be admired so all I can say is "and you are still dead broke."

Some of my own friends went in to vote independent, in my opinion a waste of a vote and perhaps therein lies some of that 5% margin. Well after learning how much of the Black and Latino population in New York did not vote for Bloomberg I want to tell our current Mayor, you think people of color got politically charged with President Obama, well you ain't seen nothin' yet! Enjoy your last term.

Are you doing "A" Work for an "A" Grade?

By Courtney James

As a junior at CCNY, I have decided to make a mid-year resolution for myself. I made a promise that I would go over and beyond to secure that my GPA doesn't drop below its current B average. I must say it is surely a difficult task. Ever since my high school days, my teachers and older family members tried to drill into me the importance of time management and even though I believe I have gotten better at managing my time and setting up my priorities, it is still a very tricky thing to succeed at. Speaking to other students in college, I noticed they go through the same fiasco at varying times in their college career. *"There rarely seems to be a balance in my time management and workload,"* Janelba Perez told me while conversing about the topic. She is also a student at CCNY and finds that her skill in

time management usually kicks in during the middle of the semester. *"That is usually the time when I stop pulling out my hair of getting my assignments perfected because in the end I say it only makes sense to try my best to a certain point."*

To a certain point? Surprisingly, Ms. Perez was one of many students who I heard mention this phrase—*"to a certain point."* Students I spoke to discovered over time that completing assignments with a limited amount of effort helped them to complete all of their assignments more successfully. So where is the balance? The balance in work ethic and time management, that is. Then these testimonies reminded me of a personal incident I recently went through.

During this past summer, I had the privilege to intern at Yale University as a student counselor and a Resident Assistant for high school students in a program called Junior Statesman of America.

While focusing on my duties as a counselor, I got to know a few students who didn't show an interest in the program but said they would take it as a form of experience. Out of these few high school students, one young man stuck out to me. He was very articulate when it came to doing his speeches, but I saw so much potential in him that he would refuse to use and while speaking to him he simply stated a very powerful theory of his.

"I have tried my best in many projects for school," he told me one evening when I was instructed by my director to give him a listening ear and to take notes on his case, *"and at the end of a week's worth of stress; my work would always come back to me with the typical C average stamped in its margin,"* This young man did not seem to believe there was a way to get a justified grade anymore. Then he went on to explain his theory.

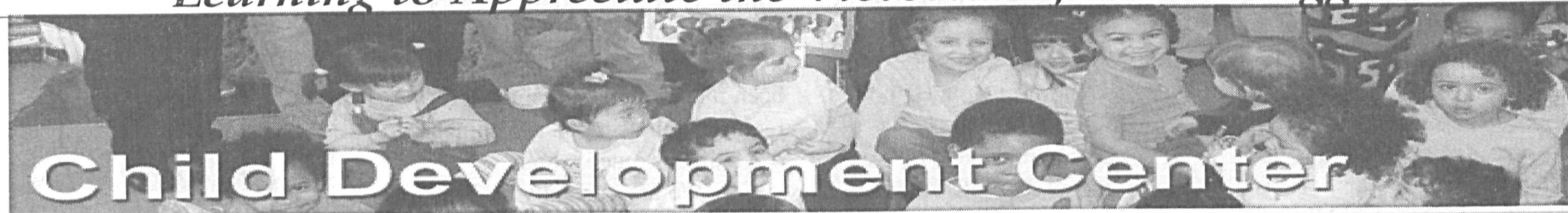
"Therefore, why should I put in A+ work to come out with only a C average when I can just push myself to a certain point to get the grade I know I'll deserve; that being the C," he stated. This young man—whose name I will keep anonymous—matched those of the college students I spoke to and once again the phrase *"to a certain point"* would re-surface showing that there was indeed an imbalance in work ethic and the management of one's time.

As with the college students I spoke to, they just did not like the situations they were put into. *"I find myself spending so much time on one assignment and such a short amount of time on another,"* Bern'dette Edwards told me. *"But it's always confusing when I get back the grades. The one I did not put as much effort into gets a much higher grade than the one I pulled my hair out for."* Towards the end

continued on page 12

The City College Child Development Center

Learning to Appreciate the Victories of Past Struggles



By Olga Sanjurjo

I met LaTrella Thornton, director of the City College New York Child Development Center, over two years ago when I was looking for child care for my son. I had little information about the program, except that it was located in the Schiff House on 133rd Street and Convent Avenue. I imagined that we would be on a long waiting list so I gave myself a year head start, thinking he would have to be 3 years old before admission. Upon opening the door, the quiet looking house, a remnant of older times on the Hill, was bathed in color, light and art work. Pictures of Dr. Martin Luther King, Lakota families, Ancient Egyptian kings and queens adorned the walls of wide open classrooms.

That spring day, LaTrella greeted me with her smile and asked my son's age, when I told her he would be two years old, she simply said, "I'll take him." I was ecstatic and even told her I imagined waiting for a year to have him enter the program. Soon my son and I began our journey and because of this amazing program, wonderful staff and LaTrella's leadership. I present this conversation so that the entire CCNY community can appreciate this program, the services it provides and the struggle that made it possible.

The City College Child Development Center opened its doors in 1977, to the children of City College students. It was a victory of a student movement that began in the 1960's at City College and a greater national education movement that demanded child care for university students. Geraldine Price, the first director, along with faculty and students from the CCNY School of Education were able to realize this demand to provide a safe, cooperative and holistic environment for children ages 2 to 5.

In fact, every college of

the City University now has child care for college students, as a result of this struggle. Funding for this program is required and the original founders established the Council of Child Care Directors; who work to advocate every year in Albany to make sure that monies are set aside in the New York State budget to keep our campus centers open and viable.

Child care on college campuses was revolutionary as it allowed the greater community access to a university education.

Women who otherwise would never dream of a university education had this possibility open. LaTrella explained that with open admissions, remediation programs and child care, the face of the university drastically changed to include many women of color, who in greater

numbers attended college and obtained their degrees. Many have gone into teaching, the sciences, medicine and public service. Some of their children, The City College babies, have returned as university students themselves, grateful for the early education they received at CCNY.

In fact, so many women and men with children attended the college that the Childcare Center had a waiting list. However, with the steady attacks on Open Admissions, remediation courses, loss of CCNY Nursing Program and welfare reform, many were affected, specifically poor/working class women of color. The enactment of new welfare laws in 1996 forced individuals to work for their benefits and continuing their university education was no longer viable. As a result attendance at the child care center had also begun to decline.

The Center works within

the philosophy that early childcare needs to reflect the child's home and community. This establishes a premise that when the child is reflected as a whole, they in turn learn to be respectful of themselves and others. The ancestral wall in the family room reflects the children as global citizens; as African, Native American, Asian, European and Caribbean faces of history look back at them. LaTrella emphasized that those faces that reflect the children allows them to project themselves into the future,



LaTrella Thornton Director of Child Development Center

to connect with elders, and respect the differences of all ethnicities and cultures. This is important considering that City College is one of the most ethnically diverse colleges in the nation.

Most schools stress historical figures, who do not reflect the children and who historically acted against their ancestors. This is purposefully the opposite, rather than photos of George Washington or Thomas Jefferson - both slave owners - the children have pictures of Queen Nefertiti, Malcolm X, Don Pedro Albizu Campos, Rosa Parks and other relevant figures.

The Center contains four open classrooms: Woodworking/Block building, Family/Dramatic Play, Creative Arts, and Math & Science. Children explore the materials through play and language arts, socialization, mathematics, and scientific inquiry are emphasized throughout the day by teachers with two directed activities in each class room everyday.

The entire program is mixed age, meaning that two and three year olds work and play side by side with four and five year olds. LaTrella explained that this allows the older children to reinforce their sense of self worth as they are able

to help the younger children; in turn the younger children have friends close to their age to look up to. There are several school trips to local farms, neighborhood walks, and museums, which provide opportunities for the children to bring outside experiences into the school: nature, art, science and the Harlem community itself.

The Center also provides internship and volunteer opportunities in field work to CCNY students and is a federal work study site. Master degree candidates participating in the CUNY CAP program are also mentored at the Center and provide innovative educational approaches to the children.

In concluding our discussion, I asked LaTrella if she could give a message to the City College community, she expressed the following, "Children are our future, what happens to young children, the manner in which adults treat them will determine the planets future because these young children's emotional state, their social skill, cognitive skill, their physical skill all come together to make an adult. Children learn many things in the formative years, you don't learn to be two when you are twenty, you learn to be two when you are two. So if you want children to grow up to be productive human beings, you must allow them to be the children they are going to be. I would like to invite members of the college community to come to the center to see some of the planet's future."

Attention
Students, Clubs,
And Local Businesses
Come Advertise With

The Paper

Email, Call, or
Stop By The Office

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

HIV/AIDS ...A Pandemic!

By Ashleigh Fitzwilliam

American society and popular culture is drenched in sex and drugs. Sex in particular has always been and forever will be the hot topic among the young and middle-aged audiences. The media plasters television screens, computer desktops and magazine/newspaper stands with images of sex. Modern culture reiterates that "sex sells." However, the same passions and energies exhausted on promoting sex are in no way comparable to that of safe-sex advocacy and HIV/AIDS awareness. The global HIV/AIDS "amnesia" needs to be cured promptly.

The important question is how? For starters, it is most imperative to acknowledge HIV/AIDS in its entirety, considering all races, ethnicities, social and economic demographics, impacted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Let us no longer deem HIV/AIDS as simply an epidemic; it is a pandemic, stretching far beyond the equatorial boundaries of the Earth. It is a global problem, and therefore the global community must wage war against it. The Center for Disease Control reports, accounting for the United States alone, indicates that the estimated total of cases among Black people living with AIDS in 2007 was 426,003. Staggering! Keep in mind ladies and gentlemen; this number only

accounts for reported AIDS cases, which is a misleading fraction of the total number of people living with AIDS who have not been included in the annual CDC reports. Quite simply, the number of victims is much larger.

We are currently in 2009, and these numbers have not decreased, rather the opposite is occurring- AIDS cases are gradually increasing each year. So, what can you deduce from this exponential trend? Is there a problem with our HIV/AIDS campaign?

The callous fact is that there are holes in our campaigning initiatives. Preaching abstinence has proven counter-productive in our attempt to eliminate

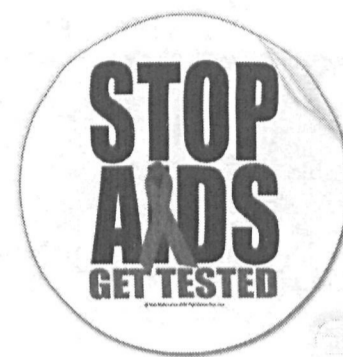


Photo from <http://www.zazzle.com/>

HIV/AIDS proliferation. First, instituting proper sex education proves essential. Second, providing all people with access to healthcare is vital. Third, the vast public needs to take charge of their individual health and well being. Self-responsibility and accountability should be the primary and modern focus.

continued from page 6

What is Good Hair?

subject on *The Tyra Show*. "Good hair was not a beauty term; it was a survival term that came out of slavery." According to Byrd and Tharps, if a slave had hair that was more loosely curled, they would receive more privileges than the average slave. "We're not talking about slaves walking around saying 'I'm cute'. It was slaves walking around saying, 'If I have this hair I might have a chance at a better chance at life and survival.'" According to Byrd and Tharps, these concepts remained and we were never "un-brainwashed." "So, part of the problem is that ... people don't understand the history of our hair, and that's why we wrote the book, so that people understood - where the pain comes from with... the way our hair looks and what it meant to us in terms of survival."

Black people need to embrace the beauty of their natural hair. Disturbingly enough, in Chris Rock's documentary, a little girl said that Black people are supposed to get a perm. On *The Tyra Show*, Tyra asked a group of Black children what kind of hair they don't want to have, and they all pointed to an afro. This is sad because these children are learning self hate at such a young age. These children should be pointing at the afro to say "I have that hair" and "it's beautiful," instead of pointing at it in a negative way.

According to Chris Rock's documentary, and *The Tyra Show*, Black people buy 80 % of hair products in America. The hair business

is a big business, and according to Al Sharpton, the Black influence in this business is lessening. In the United States approximately 60% of hair care products are sold by Koreans. Black people spend so much on hair and hair products, and many don't ever stop to wonder where this hair comes from. According to Chris Rock's documentary, the biggest exploitative product in India is hair. In a process called "tonsure," many people in India sacrifice their hair for religious purposes, but now that hair is taken and sold for profit. Although this documentary is very comical, its purpose has a more serious tone. Chris Rock's daughter came home one day and said "Daddy, how come I don't have good hair?" We must realize that there is a problem in society that must be addressed. When Black people's hair becomes described as *bad*, and Black children cannot be comfortable with their natural hair, there's a problem. Black is beautiful, and Black women shouldn't be afraid to wear their natural hair. Black women should NOT have to feel as if their hair won't be accepted at interviews if it is natural. Byrd and Tharps were correct when they said that this brainwashing from the past never completely disappeared. However, it is up to us the new generation to make the term "good hair" apply to every race and every kind of hair. We need to embrace our roots now, and address this problem today and not tomorrow.

continued from page 10

Are you doing "A" Work

of our conversation, I shared the theory the young man gave me during the summer and in haste, she seemed to agree with the matter. "Of course there may be outside factors that work out why people get graded the way they do, and why they put in certain amounts of work for varying assignments," she stated, "but that theory seems to ice over my worries." I asked her to elaborate and all she could say was "yeah, why shouldn't I put in equivalent effort for an equivalent grade".

Now here's where it gets tricky. What is considered A+ work versus C+ work? How does one foreshadow what grade they will get by how much work ethic they put into their assignment? Amber Vinson—a student at City Tech—told me in humor "Well the only way I see that working is if you wanted to get either a grade good enough to get you a passing mark out of school, or if you were really striving to get a perfect A+." Therefore, is there any way for us as students to work out what grade we will get based on our work ethic, and time management? To the young man I mentored, he did see a way to rule out an equivalent grade based on our work ethic. However, I didn't find this wise to do since he was in fact, one of our struggling students. In his case, he was beginning to fit into Ms. Vinson's statement in which he was striving for a mediocre grade that would hand him just enough credits to make it out of high school and as I find more and more students believing in this theory, I also find it ludicrous to practice.

Everything in life is, in my opinion, seen as a domino effect. If students begin to go after this theory of only doing a certain amount of work for a certain grade, then there's no telling how our next generation will look. Blue collar jobs will probably be seen as careers and slowly the way man thinks will decrease in potential over time. As shown in the Junior Statesman Program, interventions for students were religiously created to allow students to try their best throughout the whole program. I know that these interventions take place in high schools too but what about college students. There is—as many say—no more hand-holding when it comes times for college, but there should always be some kind of retrospect that goes into doing work and pulling out the grades deserved. As far as the confusion goes with students getting better grades on assignments they didn't put as much work into, that may just be a reflection on the professor's grading rubric.

(Re)Introducing Anthropology at CCNY

By Dane Ruffin
President of the
Anthropology Club

"Anthropology is the most liberating of all the sciences."

-Grace de Laguna

Anthropology is the study of human beings across geographic space and through all time. It seeks to produce useful generalizations about humanity and to achieve the most thorough understanding of human diversity. Anthropology does this through four fundamental fields of inquiry: cultural, archaeological, physical (biological), and linguistic. As you can infer from its very definition, the array of topics covered by anthropology is vast. Some of the topics covered in recent semesters include: the cultural context of important social movements of the 20th century in a course taught by Professor Keith Joseph; the archaeological discovery of 'Seneca Village' a predominately African-American village that existed in an area which is now Central Park, in a course taught by Professor Diana Wall; the relationship between genetics, culture and lactase deficiency in a course taught by Professor Diane Sank; and the sociolinguistic practice of 'code-switching' among

African or Mexican Americans, in a course taught by our Department Chair Professor Arthur K. Spears.

All human beings are amateur anthropologists to a degree, but in today's globalizing world, the need for an increasing depth in our understanding of each other is arguably more pertinent than it has ever been. Consequently, we have seen the number of anthropology majors at City College rise dramatically in recent years, as Barbara Johnson, the secretary of the Anthropology Department, has informed me. Barbara Johnson has helped to foster a supportive environment for students majoring in anthropology with a space that is welcoming and conducive to study and discussion.

The Anthropology Club formed a few semesters ago, so that Anthropology students could meet each other outside the classroom and learn from one another. All anthropology majors are encouraged to participate. The group meets regularly on Thursdays during club hours at the Anthropology student center in room NAC 7/111. Usually we watch a documentary film on an anthropologically relevant topic. However, the room is usually available Mondays through Thursdays from 9-5 and Fridays from 9-2. It is used by anthropology students, majors, minors, or

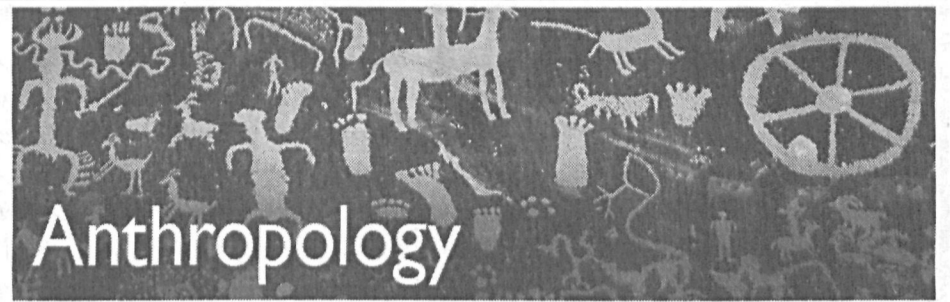


Photo from www1.cuny.cuny.edu

those just taking a course, for individual study or small study groups. There is a chalkboard, a mini refrigerator, and a shelf with books and periodicals. We hope to have a computer and microwave in there soon, and any readers with the means to help us out would be greatly appreciated. In the future, we are planning trips to museums, lectures at other universities, and quite possibly an archaeological dig.

The three-fold purpose of this article is: to encourage majors to participate in the club, to raise the profile of the club and department among the CCNY community, and to encourage students to consider anthropology as a major. To this point, the former president of our club and excellent student of anthropology Glenn Rampersaud related the story behind his decision to major in Anthropology: "It is curious how plans change and how things work out. I applied to City College because I knew that City College possessed a very good engineering school and science department. I

wanted to be a computer engineer and was ultimately accepted into the Engineering School. The first time I met my advisor he suggested that I take Anthropology 101 as an elective. I asked him, what is Anthropology? Why should I take Anthropology? His response was that you have to take a social science course and that I might as well take Anthropology, as it is interesting. Well at this point I still had no clue what Anthropology was. The Anthropology 101 course I took was taught by Professor Diane Sank and based on what she taught, what we read, and the documentaries shown in class; I became very interested in Anthropology. Since then, I find that in all the Anthropology classes that I have attended I have always learnt something new. After taking 3 classes with Professor Sank I decided to major in Anthropology. The scope and depth of Anthropology is breath taking and that appealed to me most. There is always something to learn in Anthropology."

Extreme Wealth and Poverty and the Virtue of Enough

By Adele Scott

On Saturday October 17, I attended a conference at St. Johns University entitled Extreme Wealth and Poverty and the Virtue of Enough. Roped in to going by my own interest in the theme of "enough," I thought about what it meant. Why is there such a tremendous gap between the rich and the poor in America? When does one man simply have enough?

Guest representatives attending the conference included three UN Ambassadors from Senegal, Slovenia and the Philippines. Despite past economic hardships in these countries, they have shown great progress in supporting their people and try hard to banish poverty, something I believe

America can learn from. Senegal puts 40% of its national spending into education. How much of our national spending goes into militaristic purposes? 55%! What an incredibly different situation our country could be in if more tax dollars were spent on human resources.

Ambassador Davide from the Philippines described our economic status efficiently when he stated:

"Capitalism does not translate into democracy and democracy does not translate into heaven. Do we move forward as in evolution with the survival of the fittest, or wait and help the have-nots catch up?" What is our government's duty to the American people if so many are living in poverty? Why

do we put so much of our energy into the military? Professor Gina Calabrese from St. John's University mentioned several statistics that surprised me. In 2006, in just the 5 boroughs, 300,000 people filed consumer debts. She also mentioned that neighborhoods of color were targeted most for refinance loans.

Towards the end of the discussion a woman stood up and asked the representative speakers to address the role of military spending. She felt that such spending supported violence, rape and environmental waste. "Where do we find the policy of 'enough' in military spending?" she questioned. Though harsh, her words hold a

bitter truth. I don't believe our country can afford to allot copious amounts of money to war and economic progress.

Having 'enough' implies obtaining an adequate or acceptable amount of something needed. In America today, what is it we need enough of? When do we as a country draw the line and realize that the gap between rich and poor must be eliminated. Why do millionaires and billionaires get richer as others go hungry or can't afford proper housing? We need to turn our thoughts towards home, reverse the concept of "progress" and take a look at the people within our nation. When will our government put more spending into affordable homes, education and our environment? What is enough for our country? What is enough for you?

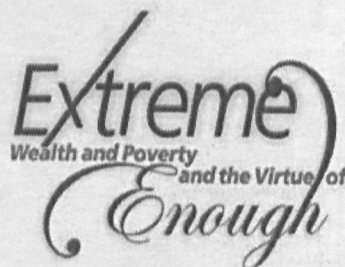


Photo from www.stjohns.edu/campus/queens

AUTHORIZED USE OF THE N WORD!

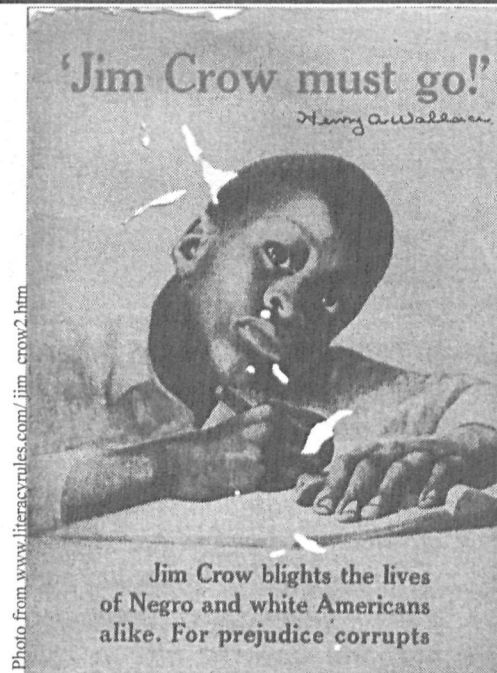


Photo from www.literacyrules.com/jim_crow2.htm

By Taqiyya Haden

Here my Jim Crow education assumed quite a different form. It was no longer brutally cruel, but subtly

cruel. Here I learned to lie, to steal, to dissemble. I learned to play that dual role which every Negro must play if he wants to eat and live.

For example, it was almost impossible to get a book to read. It was assumed that after a Negro had imbibed what scanty schooling the state furnished he had no further need for books. I was always borrowing books from men on the job. One day I mustered enough courage to ask one of the men to let me get books from the library in his name. Surprisingly, he consented. I cannot help but think that he consented because he was a Roman Catholic and felt a vague sympathy for Negroes, being himself an object of hatred. Armed with a library card, I obtained books in the following manner: I would write a note to

the librarian, saying: "Please let this nigger boy have the following books." I would then sign it with the white man's name.

The Ethics of Living Jim Crow:
An Autobiographical Sketch
Richard Wright

As someone who loves the library and is in the habit of having a stack of books on loan this passage almost brought tears to my eyes. I could not imagine having to degrade myself in order to enter and take books from the library which served as my second home for many years.

It is bad enough in the academic world that you often have to refrain yourself or at minimum rephrase yourself in order to not step on the toes of those that grade you. I feel extremely blessed and fortunate to

have come into existence post Jim Crow and am thankful to those warriors like Richard Wright who did what he could to arm himself intellectually.

I will admit I take for granted the luxury of owning hundreds of books even though I don't have time to read most of them. I love books and reading; at minimum I think of my enslaved ancestors hiding by a candle with a book, caught by an angry slaver that burns their eyes for daring to read. Would I be willing to risk my eyesight and even my life to satisfy my hunger for words on a page? I am blessed to not have that decision so instead I decide to appreciate the walls of books available to me and insist on reading as much as possible as often as possible.

Keeping Feet Fabulous

By Samantha Waugh

With colder temperatures and harsh weather fast approaching, it becomes easy to neglect the feet we once beautifully adorned during the Summer months. Boots and sneakers replace sandals and slingbacks and gone are the biweekly pedicure appointments. Although Autumn and Winter months do not permit the showcase of feet, it remains important to keep them soft and supple when they are covered, in order to avoid the dreaded scaly 'winter' foot when they finally come out of hibernation.

Both you and your pedicurist dread those pedicures at the end of spring. Don't let the Fall and Winter months become an excuse for neglecting your feet. Spare yourself the embarrassment and discomfort! Here are some simple and thrifty ways to maintain silky smooth and presentable feet during "off months."

1. Moisturize daily using a good quality crème.

Splurge: L'Occitane Shea Butter Foot Cream \$26.00
Save: Burt's Bees Coconut Foot Crème \$9.00



You can apply these moisturizers daily to keep feet soft and prevent skin scaling or cracked heels. By placing your cream of choice near your nightstand, it can become an easy part of your nightly routine. If either of these creams seem expensive, any lotions you have can go a long way. Even a cheap tube of Vaseline can do the trick!



2. Keep a clean cut.

It's important to remember to routinely keep the nails cut short for a clean look and to prevent ingrown nails. Invest in a dollar store nail clipper and file.

3. Wear clean socks or stockings and change them daily.

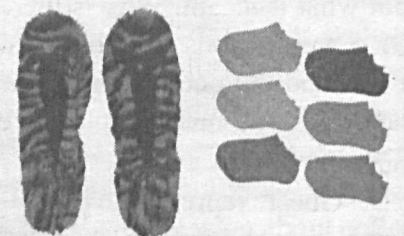
Prevent fungal infections by maintaining good hygiene. Remember to wear socks with sneakers or boots to prevent smelly feet. It's also important to wear socks or slippers at home when we are most tempted to be bare. Protecting your feet from the elements will do you a lot of good in the long run.

Feel pampered in these

Soft Fuzz Zebra slippers from Forever21 \$3.50

Or keep it practical yet colorful in

Forever21's Fab Ankle Socks Set of 6 \$5.50



Photos from www.skincare.com, www.1.macys.com/product, www.forever21.com/product, & www.superstock.com

Homeless Shelters: The Price of Profit

By Sam Kimball

Originally meant for this article to be an account of how the economic collapse of the past year has affected those we already call "down and out." However, I have come to realize that there's been very little change to their way of life. As one man I spoke with said, "We didn't have anything in the first place, so there wasn't much to lose." Speaking with people about where they slept every night without a home to call their own opened my eyes to another story. This is the story of New York City housing for the homeless.

Meet John Steward. Standing tall in a puffy black jacket, he simply raised an eyebrow nonchalantly when I grabbed him at a Starbucks on Broadway and 115th to ask for an interview. This wasn't his first time being interviewed, or the first time he's been written about. John has been the focus of several Columbia research projects, and even a documentary film. He told the story of moving in and out of prison for a number of years, and getting involved with drugs, and has been homeless and living on the streets for nineteen years. "Drugs got me on the streets in the first place" he said. Yet, when asked why he hadn't managed to get off the streets in nineteen years, he responded directly, looking at me through spectacles: "I cleaned up my act a long time ago. There was a while back then when I seriously tried to get off the

streets, but then I really saw what the inside of the city homeless system looked like, and I wasn't going to go through that. It was worse than being on the streets."

Indeed, the corruption is such that even the alternative of being without a warm bed sounds better. The crux of what makes the New York City shelters a "sham," as John called it, is that they make it maddeningly hard for homeless to get back into permanent housing, so that they can stay in business. Shelters do make jobs for the staff who work there, after all. To corroborate his point, an NBC New York story from this past May reports that city officials began charging rent to working families living in homeless shelters this spring. The policy is based on a law from 1997 that began requirements for rent payments from families with any income at all in the homeless shelter system, which could drag in as much as 50% of the income of minimum wage workers who are trying to save enough money to get their families into an apartment. It begs the questions: why is the law only being enforced now? Those in shelters covered by the new rule say that they will not be able to get out of the shelter losing so much of their income.

Single room occupancy shelters or SRO's as they're known, were the focal point of some of John's worst experiences in the shelter system. John said, "The shelters make \$500-\$1000 a month in city subsidizing per month, per room!" That is to say,

the city pays that amount to the SRO's to maintain each room and occupant. In buildings as small as brownstone houses that have been converted to SRO's, where each floor may have up to fifteen rooms, the SRO's are bringing in a lot of money. John explained that a loan shark works undercover in each of these shelters. Thus, someone staying in an SRO suffering from a drug addiction and looking for a way to pay for the addiction may find ready loans from the loan shark, who will illegally demand 50-100% interest upon repayment. Since many SRO occupants have no such means to pay back a loan, much less the interest, and are unable to buy food or basic clothing, the borrower can enter long term debt to the loan shark. John said loan sharks are "everywhere in the single room occupancy shelters", and it should be assumed that their presence is allowed in the shelters as a means of profit-making for the shelters themselves. As John put it, "everybody gets paid."

So John doesn't even bother with the shelters anymore. "Yea I got myself a spot though," he said wearily while sipping a coffee I bought him. "I'm up in the Amtrak tunnel by Riverside Drive. Been there fourteen years."

City and national politicians alike display great energy creating 'homelessness reduction strategies' and pointing to improvements in

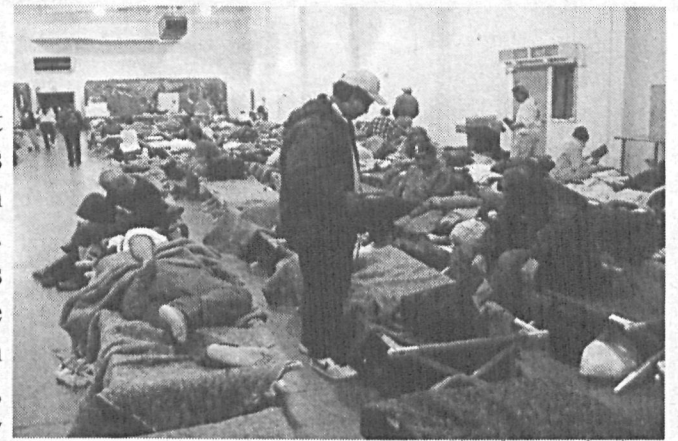


Photo from www.famvin.org

shelter conditions. However, we should not allow ourselves to be distracted from the real issue: as of the fiscal year that ended this summer, 120,000 fellow New Yorkers, 9,000 whole families among them, resorted to homeless shelters, an all-time high. They are exposed to violence, theft, and drugs, and the minimal income of some is taken, leaving them trapped within the shelter system.

All of us, particularly students, need to be aware of the hypocrisies of the wealthiest country on the planet's spending billions of dollars in taxpayer money to prop up failed banks and finance two military occupations, yet will not provide quality housing for those within its borders. The for-profit system has worked its way into supposedly profit-free systems like homeless shelter, and the corruption is abysmal. We need to uproot this profit system, and unapologetically declare quality housing a right for all.

This is only one face and few words among many thousands living without shelters on New York's streets. John is not the only one we too passively refer to as "New York City's homeless."

Don't Walk By...Back Again!

By Adele Scott

For several weekends in January and February of this year, a group of organizations and young people banded together and walked the streets of Manhattan to perform a service to the homeless. Their aim was to help city dwellers who could not find shelter get into various housing programs around the city. The goals included providing affordable housing and entering those in need to rehabilitation centers. The efforts of the walk were a great success and the sponsors of the program have designed a web site where individuals interested in volunteering can contribute to this worthy cause. If you would like to help the homeless men and women of our city find a suitable housing alternative and hot meals this coming January, please visit <http://www.vimeo.com/1875062>.

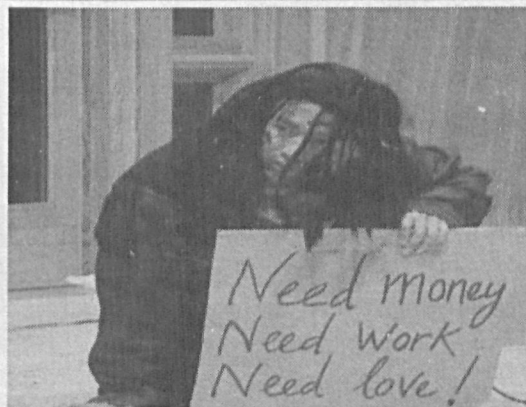


Photo from google images

SAF FT UG \$49.35...		HUH???	
CASH	66	\$2,504.35	
TOTAL AMOUNT		\$2,504.35	ANY FINANCIAL AID ON BILL IS ESTIMATED
SAF FT UG		04	\$49.35
SPEC./APPL. FEE			\$40.00
TOTAL CHARGES		\$2,504.35	
LESS AMT/AK APPLIED		\$2,504.35	
			\$0.00

You've already paid \$49.35 for the service. Why aren't you using it?

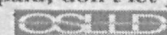
Come find out how The Office of Student Life and Leadership Development can help you.

Thursday, 11/12/09
NAC Ballroom

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Games. Music. Free Food. Friends. Fun. Prizes.

You've already paid, don't let your money fade.



EVENTS @ CITY

Event **Undergraduate Open House**
 Date Saturday, November 14
 Time 10:00am - 1:30pm
 Address Shepard Hall/ The Great Hall
 Admissions Free

Event **Suicide Prevention Awareness**
 Date Wednesday, November 18
 Time 11:00am - 2:00pm
 Address NAC Rotunda
 Admissions Free

Event **The Great Smoke Out**
 Date Thursday, November 19
 Time 11:00am - 2:30pm
 Address NAC Rotunda
 Admissions Free

Event **Parent Workshop**
 Date Thursday, November 19
 Time 5:00pm
 Address Child Development Center
 (Behind Aaron Davis Theatre)
 Admissions Free

Event **HIV Screening**
 Date Tuesday, November 24
 Time 11:00am - 2:00pm
 Address NAC Ballroom
 Admissions Free

"IRRESISTIBLE!
*A sure fire crowd pleaser
 with a rock'n'roll heart."*

-The New York Times



STOMP

THE INTERNATIONAL PERCUSSION SENSATION

ORPHEUM THEATRE, Second Avenue at 8th Street
 Box Office (212) 477-2477 Ticketmaster (212) 307-4100
 Groups 1-800-677-1164 www.stomponline.com



Starring **DIANA DEGARMO**
 from Broadway's *Hairspray* and
AMERICAN IDOL beginning August 14!

WINNER! BEST NEW MUSICAL

Outer Critics Circle - Off-Broadway



NEW JERSEY'S FIRST SUPERHERO
THE TOXICAVENGER
 MUSICAL

EASILY
 1,000
 LAUGHS!

TELECHARGE.COM:212-239-6200 THETOXICAVENGERMUSICAL.COM
 NEW WORLD STAGES, 340 W 50TH ST (BTWN 8TH AND 9TH AVES)

EVENTS Around CUNY

Event **Kaplan Educational Foundation Workshops**
 Date November 11, 2009
 Time 2:00pm
 Address Borough of Manhattan Community College
 199 Chambers Street Room: s757
 Telephone 212.707.5300
 URL <http://www.KaplanEdFoundation.org/KLP/FAQ>
 Admissions Free

Event **Human Rights in the New World Order**
 Date November 11, 2009
 Time 2:00pm - 4:00pm
 Address Graduate Center 365 Fifth Avenue Room: 9205
 Telephone 212-817-8670
 URL <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/dept/POLIT/pages/program.htm>
 Admissions Free

Event **18th Annual David R. Kessler Lecture Ties That Bind: Familial Homophobia and Its Consequences**
 Date November 12, 2009
 Time 6:30pm - 8:30pm
 Address Graduate Center 365 Fifth Avenue Room:
 Proshansky Auditorium
 Telephone 212-817-1955
 URL <http://www.clags.org>
 Admissions Free

Event **CUNYfirst Town Hall Meeting**
 Date November 17, 2009
 Time 10:00am - 12:00pm
 Address College of Staten Island 2800 Victory Boulevard Room:
 Williamson Theatre
 Telephone 718.982.2400
 Admissions Free