

The Paper

So we stand here
On the edge of hell
In Harlem
And look out on the World
And wonder
What we're gonna do
In the face of
What we remember

Langston Hughes

VOLUME 56 No. 3

A MEDIUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

APRIL/MAY 2000

CITY COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Students Elect New Undergraduate Student President

By **Sulaiman Laguda**

The atmosphere was at the same time calm and tense at 9:00pm on Thursday, April 13, 2000 at the NAC rotunda in front of the Library. A handful of students members of faculty, campus security and student government leaders were present. The polls had just closed and the votes for the City College 2000 Undergraduate Student Government elections was being counted.

After what seemed almost an eternity, the results came in. Everyone was quiet as outgoing student ombudsperson Robert Daniels announced the results. There were mild celebrations as he began with the results for the senatorial positions. The whoops of joy became louder as the elected vice presidents were named, then there was a call for quiet as the results for USG president was called.

A total of 903 students

voted for the students running for position of USG president; 360 for Rafael Dominguez of the Unity slate and 543 for Jason Compton from City 2000. Shouts of joy were revived as members of the City 2000 slate hugged and congratulated the new president of the City

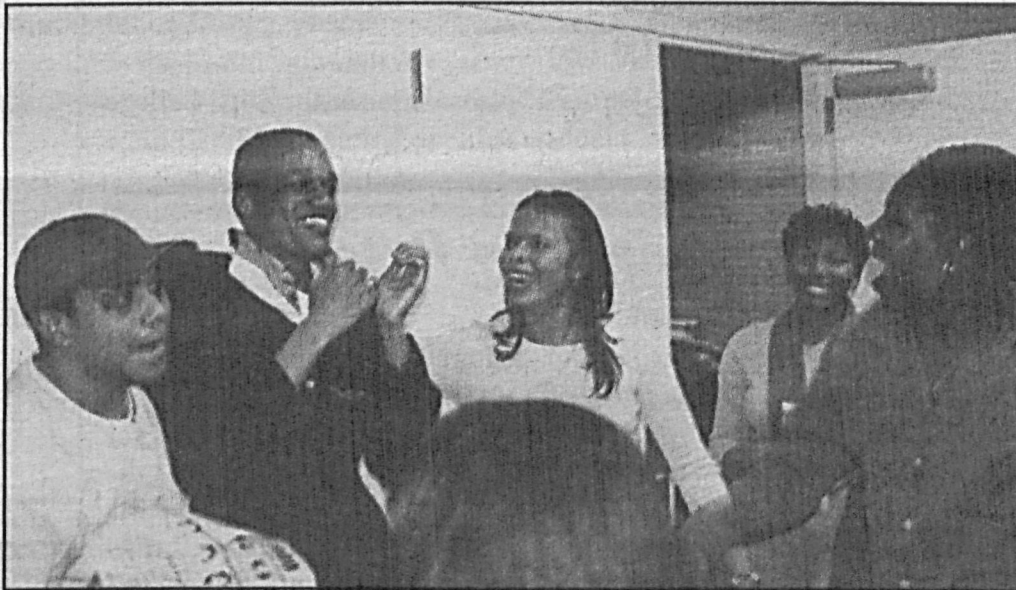
over," Jason Compton said as members of the his party emptied bottles of water on him in celebration of his victory. The new USG Vice President of Campus Affairs Daphne Leville thanked all students who participated in the elections. "We (CITY 2000) stuck

made the right choice and we will definitely fight for our students."

The voter turnout however while fulfilling the minimum requirements to hold the elections legal, was not very encouraging. A total of 1,037 students (12 per cent of the student body) participated in the elections, compared to 1,358 participating students last year. One student who ran on an independent slate believed most students who did vote were friends, or "friends of friends" of people running for office. "It is very dissappointing the way things turned out. It shows how much the City College student body cares about what goes on around them."

In any case, *The Paper* congratulates all elected officials, whether new or return-

ing and hope they will follow through with their commitments to students as promised.



Members of City 2000 Congratulate the new College USG president

College Undergraduate student government. "I'm just so happy its

together and it showed in the end," she said. "City College students

Perseverance Pays For SEEK Senatorial Candidate

While the USG presidential candidates received the most attention during the election period, there were other quiet, but no less significant battles being fought for the available senatorial positions.

One student who overcame many odds to acquire one of the SEEK senatorial positions was Chinese native Fu Qiang Deng.

By **Sulaiman Laguda**

Born in Canton China, Fu Qiang came to America in October 1995 with his parents and attended Seward High School in Manhattan where he received numerous awards, including the NYC Merit Scholarship and the acceptance to the National Student Honor

Society. What makes Fu Qiang's achievement commendable is the fact that while running as an independent candidate, he was the only senatorial candidate who bothered to show up for the pre election debate held on April 6. As a result of his campaigning, as well as his good personality, he had the most voted, 39, of all students running

for the position of SEEK senator.

When asked why he chose to run for the position of Senator for the SEEK department, Fu Qiang, who is a math tutor at the SEEK tutorial center in Harris 010 said he wants to help improve the quality of service received by SEEK students.

Continued on page 3

ACSSorority's Clothing and Can Food Drive For The Homeless
Currently Collecting at NAC Rotunda, in front of the Library

Look For The *Purple* Box!

2000 NYSP AT CCNY

More than 300 neighborhood youngsters, ages 10 to 16, will gather at the City College campus this summer for the 2000 National Youth Sports Program (NYSP), which will run from June 27th to August 1st.

The program, which will offer a variety of recreational and educational activities during the five-week session, will be headed by Gary Smith, CCNY's Assistant Athletic director. This is his tenth year as Director of the NYSP at CCNY. "It's very beneficial for children in the Harlem community to get involved in a summer program of this type," said Smith. "Our program, with its combined sports and educational activities, is one of the best offerings around."

The NYSP is under the joint sponsorship of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the

Federal Office of Community Services and City College. Offered free of charge, program activities will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Since its inception in 1969, over 11,000 youths have participated in the NYSP at City College. Each day youngsters participate in various team sports, including swimming and basketball. Other activities include instructional tennis, volleyball, martial arts and dance instruction.

The NYSP also features an educational component, where youngsters will receive information in such areas as personal health, nutrition, alcohol and drug abuse prevention, and career and higher educational opportunities. A day trip to Bear Mountain, T-shirts, breakfasts and hot lunches will also be provided to all participants. Breakfasts and hot lunch-

es will be offered daily to all NYSP participants through the collective efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Metropolitan Food Service, Inc.

Each boy and girl must receive a medical examination in order to register for the program. Recreational facilities include CCNY's Nat Holman Gymnasium, swimming facilities, tennis courts and the North Academic Center (NAC). In addition, City College will contribute a substantial amount of institutional services to the program. Registration materials are now available in Room 20 of City College's Robert E. Marshak Science Building, 138th Street and Convent Avenue. Space is limited, so registration will be completed on a first-come, first-served basis.

For further information, please contact the City College Athletic Office at 212 650-8228

Memoirs of the Winter Leadership Retreat

By Sayfullah Hafizah El

On January 28 through the 30, the City College Undergraduate Student Government hosted its second Annual Winter Leadership Retreat. Organizations present included WCCR radio station, SAME TV, Salsa-Mambo, the Photography Club, The Ombudsperson, and a select number of college administrators traveled to the Catskills for what was to be a Leadership Retreat. Vice President of Student Affairs, Thomas Morales, Associate Deans of Student Affairs Paul Bob, Dean and Fred Kogut, Oscar Darryl Butler, Gabriela Gomez, Events Coordinator; Wendy Thornton, Director of Co-Curricular Life;

Assistant Director of Co-Curricular Life Jerry Rosa and Harry Mars, and Director of Financial Aid for SEEK Orlando Lopez were the bulk of administrators who attended the Winter Leadership Retreat. The Leadership Retreat is financed by the Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation, which gives money to student organizations, clubs and departments every year. These monies come from profits earned from the college vending machines, the bookstore and the cafeteria, in other words, out of the pockets of City College students. \$14,000 of this money was given to Undergraduate Student Government for the Winter Leadership Retreat.

On January 28th, stu-

dents and administrators, enthralled with the prospect of a pleasant and educative weekend, boarded two buses for Swan Lake Resort in the Catskills, Upstate New York, USG President Rafael Dominguez and non-USG member Roni Mahmudur followed in a rented Ford Explorer. The trip seemed to be doomed from the start. En route to the retreat, after a twenty-minute ride, one of the buses broke down. Forty minutes later, another bus arrived and the journey continued. Upon arrival at the Swan Lake Resort, the participants were told that the dining room would close in forty-five minutes.

According to Mr. Mars,

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THE PAPER

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College Announcements

CCNY STUDENT VIVIAN KA WINS FULBRIGHT AWARD

Vivian See Ki Ka, a student in City College's Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education/CUNY Medical School, has won a Fulbright Fellowship for Study Abroad. Beginning in February, 2001 she will spend a year at the University of Western Sydney at Macarthur, Australia, where she will study and conduct research on the concepts and theory of Chinese medicine.

Ms. Ka is the second CCNY undergraduate ever to win a prestigious Fulbright award, joining Vera

Grant, who graduated in 1995. Last summer she was one of nine Sophie Davis School students who served as Mack Lipkin Fellows at the University of Western Sydney at Macarthur. There she conducted research on the toxicity of 10 Chinese herbs to be compiled into an international database. She has also published an article on the integration of Western and Chinese medicine and on the use of Chinese medicine by the Chinese homebound elderly in New York City in *The Journal of Long Term Home Health Care*.

She said she eventually hopes to be able to "integrate

Chinese and Western Medicine, probably by using Chinese medicine for prevention and Western medicine for more acute diseases."

CONFERENCE BOOSTS MINORITY SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS

On Friday, April 14, 2000 City College hosted students, mentors, and research scholars at a conference, as part of the New York City Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation's (NYC LSAMP) mission to increase the number of underrepresented groups in science and engineering careers. The Third

Annual Urban University Conference-Pathways to Success was held in CCNY's Great Hall, Shepard Hall. Some of the issues addressed included:

Highlighting projects by LSAMP Research Scholars, through a poster session;

Providing information on the Alliance's innovative programs aimed at encouraging minority students to pursue careers in science and engineering;

Since the program began in 1992, CUNY's minority undergraduate enrollment and bachelor's degrees awarded in these fields have increased 60 percent.

Preventing alcohol and other drug-related birth defects

Toni drank beer throughout her pregnancy. Now in recovery from alcoholism, Toni is proud of her three years of sobriety. But she said, "If I could apologize to just one person in my life, it would be to my daughter. Anna has fetal alcohol syndrome because of the drinking I did when I was pregnant with her."

Each year in May the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) sponsors Alcohol and Other Drug-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week (May 14-20). Not coincidentally the week begins with Mother's Day as an attempt to bring more attention to fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), the leading and most preventable cause of mental retardation. NCADD estimates that 4,000 to 12,000 babies are born each year with FAS and many thousands

more with the somewhat less disabling fetal alcohol effect (FAE). Heavy drinking during pregnancy causes FAS. Physical symptoms of FAS include growth retardation, dysfunction to the central nervous system, and facial abnormalities. Cognitive and other effects can include developmental delays, intellectual impairment, behavior problems, and difficulty with coordination, attention, memory, learning, impulse control, problem solving, speech, and hearing. Children with FAE display some but not all of the symptoms associated with FAS.

Despite public education campaigns that have included warnings about not using alcohol during pregnancy, women continue to use alcohol, illicit drugs, and nicotine. A 1996 study of pregnant women by the National Institute on

Drug Abuse found that 19 percent (757,000) reported drinking, 20 percent (820,000) smoked cigarettes, and more than 5 percent (221,000) used an illicit drug at least once during pregnancy.

The amount of damage caused by maternal alcohol use depends on the timing and amount of alcohol consumed. Women who drink heavily (an average of five drinks per day) can have babies who have withdrawal problems, abnormal reflexes, sleeping, and other problems. Those who drink less (one to two drinks daily) and those who smoke during pregnancy are likely to have babies with low birth weight.

Sasha summarized what she feels is the best approach to alcohol and other drug use for women of childbearing age:

* If you are pregnant or planning a

pregnancy, don't drink.

* If you have been drinking and find out you are pregnant, stop drinking.

* If you find that you can't stop drinking, seek treatment.

More information about FAS is available through NCADD (1-800-622-2255) and Hazelden (1-888-535-9485).

Alive & Free is a chemical health column provided by Hazelden, a nonprofit agency based in Center City, Minn., that offers a wide range of information and services relating to addiction and recovery. For more resources on substance abuse, call Hazelden at 1-888-535-9485 or check its web site at www.hazelden.org.

Seek Candidate

Continued from first page

Some of his plans include increasing SEEK student awareness of the tutorial center and its functions. In addition, he spoke of the need to improve the computer services at the center and to help in recruiting more students to tutor at the center.

Some of his other plans include implementing separate workshops for English speaking and writing skills as well as note taking workshops in conjunction with the writing Center for SEEK

students who would benefit and encouraging and maintaining interaction between SEEK students and their senators.

"I am impressed with his energy," said Ms. Jeanette Adams, Director of the SEEK Tutorial Center. "I admire his willingness to share his knowledge and talent with other SEEK students. We are happy to have him as a member of our tutorial staff." Mr. Deng has a lot to offer



Fu Qiang Deng with SEEK Tutorial Program Director Jeanette Adams

SEEK students, as well as the general college community; we hope all students will allow him to play an active part in the student council.

Be a Part of the CCNY Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen takes place once a month at the NAC loading deck 138th and Amsterdam

Next Soup Kitchens are scheduled for May 19

Help Serve Your Community!!

For more information, contact Robert Daniels at 212 650-8179/8186

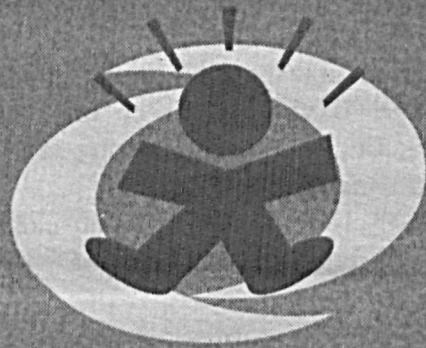
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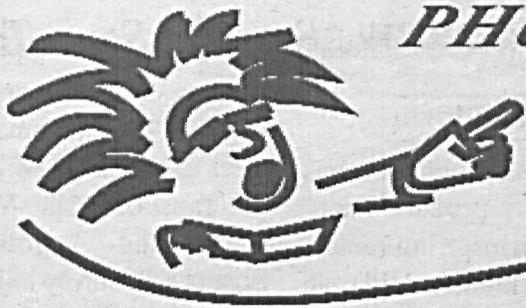


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PHULL PHLEDGE PHLOETICS

UNWILLING MARTYRS!

*Two cops found dead!
Their Lifeless bodies did
not even have heads.*

*For they paid the price
For taking another Black
Mans life.*

*The Daily News read:
"Terror to the Boys in Blue
Final Call read:*

"Justice has finally been served"

CIVILIZATION AND ORDER HAS BEEN LOST!

*I don't know, how for when cops kill
It's us minorities who pay the cost.*

*The officers take an oath to "serve and protect"
But in our neighborhoods they "kill and neglect."*

*What is this system they call justice?
Or is it more like Just Us!*

- Kenneth Williams -

GAMELESS

*am like
The child
That reacts
To the purity
Of your beauty.
Putting aside all
Procedure and regulations,
Mindless to the surface
Gift wrappings
And neat
Falsettos,
I thrust
Myself
At the
Blinding
Trinkets
Shinning
Immeasurably so.*

- Joseph Regis -

MAYBE...

(How Many Bullets Will It Take?)

*42 shots would have indicated to that jury in Albany that 42 bullets was
a bit excessive and something else must really be going on.*

*42 shots would have been covered like Columbine on CNN, ABC, CBS,
and NBC, and Diallo would have been on the cover of Newsweek and
Time magazines.*

*42 shots would have made President Clinton take a break from cam-
paigning from state to state to state more than the obvious.*

*42 shots would have ripped down the walls of City Hall and sent
Gulianni running to Albany, blood dripping from his Yankee hat.*

*42 shots would have sent the same colored man that murdered another
colored man the next day to Howard Safir's house instead.*

*42 shots would have gotten 42 colored cops to spray pride colored
graffiti all over the blue wall.*

*42 shots would have gotten the Hip-Hop community to produce 42
Street Soldiers and not just talk about what went wrong on the radio.*

*42 shots would have had us singing slave spirituals on the E train, the 2
and 3 train, the 5 and 6 train, the D and F train.*

42 shots somehow would have turned 42 leaders into 42 Al Sharptons.

*42 shots somehow would have turned Al Sharpton into Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr.*

*42 shots would have inspired the birth of a Malcolm, Garvey, Parks,
Bethune, Truth, Tubman, Douglas, Hughes, Robinson, Atticks, Wright,
Dunbar, Ali, Turner, Dorismond.*

*42 shots would have had us protesting regardless of "tired from work,"
"can't afford to lose my job," or "don't want my grade point average to
fall, got studying to do, ya know, I really wish this rally came on the
weekend,"*

*42 shots would have gotten revolution out of revolutionary poetry,
protest out of prayers, progress out of protest.*

*42 shots would have closed New York City down, and 42 shots would
have had four million people of all colors standing in front of the White
House holding hands, singing "We Shall Overcome," demanding
justice, but*

*Amadou Diallo
standing in the vestibule
wallet in one hand
dreams in the other
was only shot at
forty-one times
and change ain't come yet.*

-Kahlil Almustafa -

**The Instructional Media
Division of the City College Libraries
Presents**

A Film Preview Coffee Hour

May 8	Begins	Length
Mitosis/Meiosi	12:05pm	26mins
Understanding codependency	12:36pm	24 mins
Teens, Sex & STI's	1:10pm	60 mins
May 9		
Marijuana: Gateway Drug	12:10pm	20mins
I Ain't Drunk. . .I'm Just Drinkin'	12:40	53 mins
May 10		
The Industrial Revolution	12:10pm	44 mins
Great Religions of the World	1:24pm	33mins
May 11		
Get on the Internet	12:05pm	36mins
How to design Your Own Website	12:46pm	28mins
Internet In the Classroom	1:19pm	47 mins

All shows an NAC 5/220

**Seating is limited. For more information call
212 650-5480**

Album Review Samite: Stars To Share

By Hakeem Olowu

The African continent has long been known to produce musicians who produce inspiring music. *Stars to Share* (Windham Hill), an album by Samite (pronounced Sah-mee-tay) is no exception. Samite, who was born in Uganda, moved to Ithaca, New York in 1987, where he currently resides.

Stars to Share, his fourth album since he immigrated to the United States is a pleasure to listen to. Though most of the tracks on the album have English titles, all are sung in Samite's native Luganda tongue. His hymn-like melodies, however communicate something that's intimate on the deepest emotional level and beyond any language barrier.

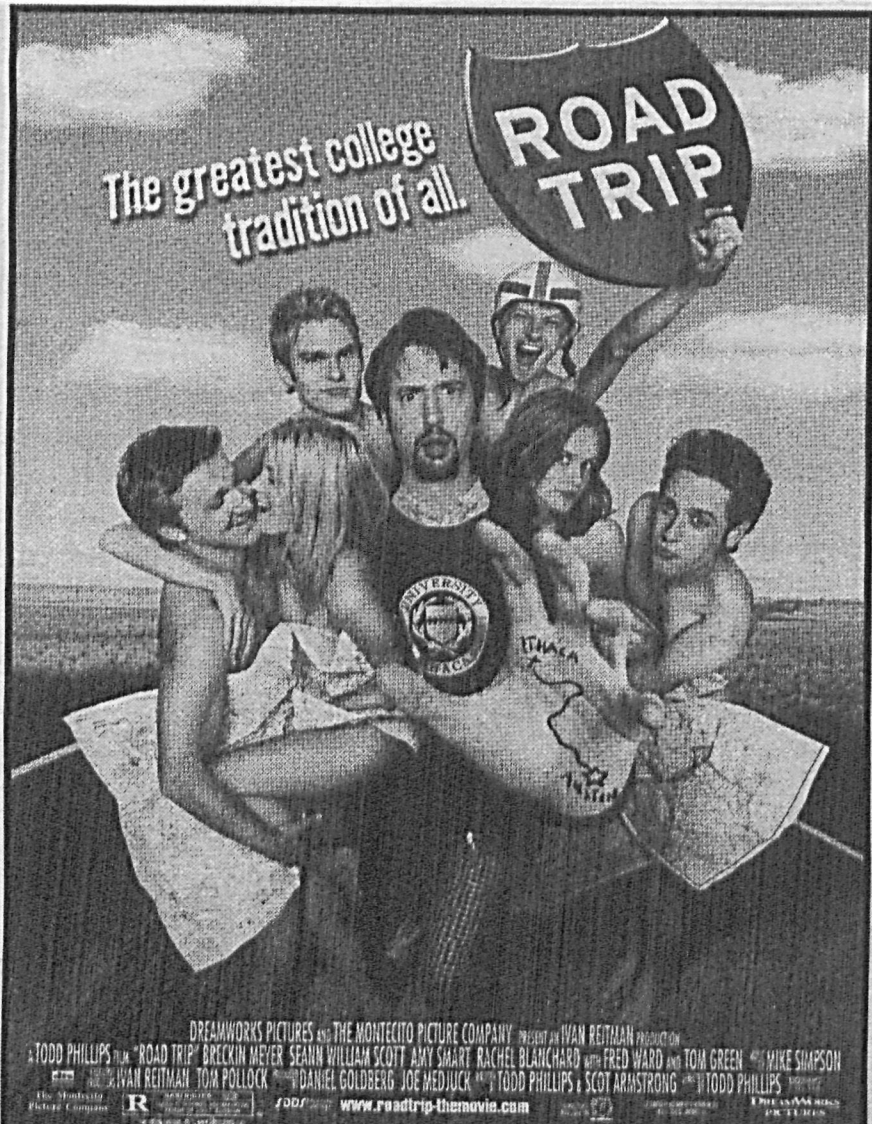
The album blends traditional African instruments such as the *kalimba* (thumb piano), *litungu*, (seven-stringed Kenyan lyre), wood flutes, and other native instruments with western instruments to create smooth sounds that are sure to calm the mind and soul.

Serious fans of Central

African Soukous or West African Highlife or Juju music may not be used to this kind of mellow music, but fans of Cape Verde's Cesaria Evora and Angola's Waldemar Bastos will surely enjoy the hypnotic tunes in Samite's music. If you like slow music with mellow African rhythms, *Stars to share* is definitely an album to check out.



Samite



OPENS MAY 19 IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE

Summer Is Just Around The Corner, time to hit the gym . . .

**At the CCNY Fitness Center (Newly Renovated)
on the 3rd Floor of the Wingate Building.**

*For more information, call Dr. Kevin Abdur-Rahman, Director of
Athletics and Recreation at (212)650-7556*

Sankofa Roots

What is the origin of the Washington Monument?
Who is the founder of African Heritage Month?
Who is Lucy?



If you look like this when trying to answer these questions come see what Sankofa Roots is about!

Thursday's @ 12pm (during club hours)
Room NAC 4/130

Volleyball Team Wins 2000 CUNY Athletic Conference

The City College men's varsity volleyball team won the 2000 City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) / Sprint PCS Men's Volleyball Championship with a five-game win over Lehman College on April 5th. The match was played at The Apex on the Lehman College campus.

Top seeded City won this year's CUNY crown with a 15-4, 9-15, 15-3, 10-15, 15-8, performance over a fine Lehman team, which suffered its first, home-court loss of the year with the defeat. For City College, the win established a 17-4 record and marked the first time City has won the CUNY Tournament championship since 1997.

"It was the best CUNY final I've ever seen," said the Lightning coach Junior Garcia. "They are the two best teams and it was an even match," added the second-year coach.

Freshman middle hitter Owen Niles, a 6-3 native of Barbados and resident of Brooklyn, led The Beavers with 35 kills, 15 digs and 8 solo blocks to earn CUNY Tournament Most Valuable Player honors. Niles, who was also the Conference's Player of the Year in 2000, gathered five kills in the fifth and deciding game.

Niles' outstanding 17-kill, 8-block showing over New York City Tech. in the CUNY Tournament's semifinal round (also on 4/5/00) led City to a 16-14, 15-5, 15-12 win and a chance for the 2000 CUNY title. Lehman (21-12) topped last season's champion Hunter College in the other semifinal (8-15, 16-14, 15-8, 17-15).

"Owen came in here and adjusted his game to both his teammates and the collegiate style of play," said City College's first-year coach and CUNY Coach of the

Year Robert Pichardo. "He has worked hard this season, I'm very proud of his performance."

"It feels great to be honored," said Niles. "I was a little tired after the match against City Tech., but we all hung in there and things went our way."

Senior hitter Ryan McLean, a Bronx resident and 1999 CUNY

ran off five straight points.

For the season, things also went well for teammates Welmer Magoto, a sophomore, setter out of Queens N.Y. and Alejandro Romero, an outside hitter and Queens resident. Both were named CUNY Conference regular-season All-Stars.

Romero, who was a freshman the last time City won the CUNY Tournament (1997), said: "It's different this time around. In 1997, I was a freshman and now I'm the team's captain. We have great new players and I'm very happy for everyone," said the senior and Queens resident.

Despite a fine season (.810 winning percentage), City College's all-time best winning percentage for men's volleyball occurred in 1997 when The Beavers established a .941 winning percentage, with a 16 and 1 mark. The City College men's volleyball team is in its tenth season.



Members of the CUNY Volleyball team

All-Tourney selection, was also an instrumental figure for City College in the fifth-game closer. McLean got four kills during a City College stretch when The Beavers

Support Your College Teams!

Memoirs of the Winter Leadership Retreat

Continued on page 2

the accommodations left a lot to be desired. "The Food was inedible, the service incorrigible, and the conference rooms were freezing," he added. For three days, students had to cope with cold rooms, inedible food, and substandard service. Some students witnessed various staff members of the hotel refolding soiled towels and placing them in their bathrooms.

Mr. Mars also emphasized that he learned later on that "the resort only reopened weeks prior and the staff was newly hired and poorly trained," indicating that Mr. Dominguez did not verify the living standards of the resort before booking. WCCR General Manager Rashidah White and SAME TV Vice-President Juanita Rozzell, in addition to other participants spoke to the management. Co owner Mrs. Gallo, with Mr. Gallo responded to complaints, by screaming in a drunken stupor that "they could get the f--- out, give me their keys, I

don't need their money." Dr. Gallo also mocked the complaints saying, "Wow, you've spent a whopping \$200.00 per person," in response to the complaints of substandard service. Throughout these discussions, which lasted through most of Saturday, USG President Rafael Dominguez was nowhere to be found. Sources say Mr. Dominguez drove his rented car to a fast food restaurant, where he bought food for his friends. According to an unnamed official, he later tried to imply that he purchased food for many people on the trip. Our source stated that this was false that only a select few were driven to the fast food restaurant.

"A lot of the blame goes to the agent." Mr. Mars said, commenting on the conditions of the facility, placed blame on the agents themselves. Yet Senate Majority Leader Pauline Pabon emphasized the fact that the retreat was poorly organized. "There was an exclusive committee, comprised of a few friends, who planned the entire

retreat; interesting since it was \$14,000 of student money." Similarly an unnamed source concurred with Pabon: "People were suffering. Had Rafael used his executive cabinet to plan this retreat, people would not have suffered."

Apart from the living and eating conditions, the content of the retreat was poorly planned. According to various Executives, who rather remain anonymous, most USG executives were not even aware that they were to sit on discussion panels. One administrator who was to sit on a panel whispered to a student that he had no idea of what he was required to do. According to certain executives, the retreat was thrown together at the last moment, which explains the conditions under which the Winter Leadership Retreat was conducted. On Sunday morning, a disturbed and upset USG President Dominguez stressed that the Retreat was a success and that certain persons were simply complain-

ing. "I brought you up here!" Mr. Dominguez stated. Dominguez' statements were complemented by the fact that most administrators were leaving early.

On February 25, 2000, Chief Financial Officer of USG Jason Compton, along with members of the Finance Committee rejected a request from Mr. Dominguez that non-USG official, Roni Mahmudur, be reimbursed for renting a Ford Explorer for the trip. Mr. Dominguez was requesting \$208.62 of student activity fees to reimburse himself and his pal. In the memo rejecting Dominguez request, Mr. Compton stated, "Administrators as well as others in attendance noticed the misuse of student activity fees."

The Winter Leadership Retreat left many participants with an upset stomach, a disturbed mind, and a queasy feeling about \$14,000 of student fees. Hopefully, the next Leadership Retreat will not yield similar results.

Undergraduate Student Government Election 2000 Results

Executive Positions

Name	Position	Slate
Jason Compton	President	City 2000
Hanna E. Seifu Teferra	Executive VP	City 2000
Elvin Christian	Treasurer	City 2000
Daphney Leveille	Campus Affairs VP	City 2000
Nichele Nivens	Acad. Affairs VP	City 2000
Eleny Romanos	Univ. Affairs VP	City 2000
Rudy Diaz	Comm. Affairs VP	City 2000
Kilsis Saint-Hilaire	Eve. Affairs VP	City 2000
Sayfullah H. El	Ombudsperson	City 2000

Senatorial Positions

Name	Department	Slate
Aimee D. Baptiste	Architecture	City 2000
Kamala S. Grey	Architecture	City 2000
Marco A. Williamson	Architecture	City 2000
Sherley Abraham	Bio-Med	City 2000
Lincoln Ajoku	Bio-Med	City 2000
Christina Flores	Bio-Med	City 2000
Chinwe T. Erike	Bio-Med	Independent
Soul M. Cheung	Liberal Arts	City 2000
Adiance Correa	Liberal Arts	City 2000
Phong K. Nguyen	Liberal Arts	City 2000
Sayury Ortiz	Liberal Arts	City 2000
Yaritza Pizarro	Liberal Arts	City 2000
Yasmin Raphael	Liberal Arts	City 2000
Braina Irizarry	Liberal Arts	Unity
Jessica Reyes	Liberal Arts	Unity
Edgar Santana	Liberal Arts	Unity
Michael Luciano	Education	Independent
Aditya Arya	Engineering	City 2000
Jose Fernandez	Engineering	City 2000
Bonaya Mudda	Engineering	City 2000
Alexander Ortiz	Engineering	City 2000
Denny Pichardo	Engineering	City 2000
Elaine Polanco	Engineering	Unity
Harlow Graciano	SEEK	City 2000
Ebonnie Robinson	SEEK	City 2000
Keila Taveras	SEEK	City 2000
Jessica Melendez	SEEK	City 2000
Fu Qiang Deng	SEEK	Independent

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON STATE HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET

Overall good news for students, although cap on TAP not lifted entirely.

Legislative leaders in New York State have reached an apparent agreement on funding for most of next year's higher education programs. The biggest winner was the Tuition Assistance Program, which received an overall increase in funding of \$78.8 million.

"Relative to the past half-decade, including other years with large budget surpluses, this is great news for students!" said Dave Palmer, NYPIRG's Higher Education Campaign Coordinator.

"My only major criticism is that they not fully eliminate the 90% cap on TAP to help the neediest students." Alex Vasquez, Project Coordinator at City College said, "Once again we have shown what students are capable of doing, but only when we organize and believe in ourselves."

The additions to TAP include the following:

- The cap on TAP awards has been increased to now covering 95% of tuition from 90%.
- An increase in income eligibility criteria from \$50,000 to 80,000.
- An increase in the maximum TAP award from \$4,125 to \$5000 and an increase in the minimum award from \$250 to \$500.
- The measure that automatically cuts TAP award by \$200 for juniors and seniors has been changed

to a lesser \$100 cut.

The other big winner was childcare at SUNY and CUNY. The legislature agreed to a restoration of Governor Pataki's proposed cuts with substantial increase on top of that. According to legislative leaders, other budget items include a restoration of opportunity

programs to 1994 levels and a restoration of Bundy Aid of \$3 million.

As of this afternoon, funding for full-time faculty was still undetermined.

NYPIRG praised the legislature for the increased funding for higher education, especially Assemblyman Edward C. Sullivan, Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee Kenneth LaValle, Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee. The agreed upon additions will help make college more affordable to students and their families in New York State. NYPIRG will continue the struggle next year to secure even more funding to help provide students with an affordable, accessible, quality higher education.

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is a not-for-profit, non-partisan research and advocacy organization, established, directed and supported by New York State college and University students. For more information, contact Alex Vasquez at (212)650-5047, or stop by NAC 1/116.

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