

The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Volume 2

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"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

BLACKS

IN PRISON

More black men in prison than in college, a domino effect that falls on the b0s of black America. Black American men are going to jail at an alarming rate, and the rest of black America is suffering both economically and culturally from it. The problem itself is eroding the power of the very people it affects.

Where does this problem start, and what is the thing that pushes the dominos over? According to a study by the Office of Civil Rights, (published in an article for Parenting Magazine, 1997) black males are three times more likely to be put in special education classes, and are falsely diagnosed as "mildly mentally disabled." The article goes on to say, that many times, these are children are put into these classes, because the teacher may believe them to be a "problem child", and disruptive to the class. Sacrificed for the majority, these young black boys aren't given the attention needed to discover what their problem may be. The article quotes six-grade teacher Patricia Thurman as saying, "If 4 out of 5 kids are always causing problems in your classes it's not fair to the remaining 20 students." Thurman continued,

"What else are you going to do? You can either be their teacher or their therapist. You can't be both."

A Justice policy Institute (JPI) study "Cellblocks or Classrooms? The Funding of Higher Education and Corrections and the Impact on African-American Men," states that funds for higher education increased by only 24%, while funding for prisons increased by 166%. At about the same time, approximately 791,600 black men went to prison, while only 603,000 went to college. When comedian/actor Bill Cosby compared the cost of going to Harvard, and housing someone in prison, he joked quite seriously, "Why not build a wall around Harvard?" Why be so greedy? The base cost of housing someone in Rikers Island prison, is approximately \$59,000 dollars per year. Why not build a wall around City College and send 7 people here?

Maybe the problem is that black men are disproportionately prosecuted for crimes. Thousands of young black men, seeking the American dream of success, but faced with a poor schooling system, often times, make poor choices, to go outside the law. Thousands of

white Americans men make the same choice, but they don't face the same consequence when caught. A Society report "Drug Arrest At The Millennium" states that in 1997, the average length of jail time black males were sentenced to for drug offenses was an average of three years longer than white Americans.

The dominos just keep on falling, and black culture suffers. A Young black man going to prison is so commonplace in the black community, that it has sadly become a subculture. In some sects, going to jail is seen as a rite of passage. A person coming home from prison is idolized as sort of a survivor, when they should be seen as a victim. The problem even stretches to music. Numerous R&B and Hip Hop songs like singer Akon's "Locked Up" with lyrics like "... freedom aint getting no closer, no matter how far I go..." have some reference to the hardships of prison life. According to the Justice Bureau, 12% of black men in their twenties and thirties were in prison in 2002, so sadly many black men can directly relate to this music.

The heaviest of dominos fall on black America's back, eroding black power. The

black male's ability to be heard is slipping away because of this epidemic of imprisonment. A Nation article "Prison Nation" says Federal funding should be sent to inner city areas in New York, where prison inmates originated from, is instead sent to the rural republican districts of the prison they are housed in, because the census counts them as residents. That means suffering school systems that already failed so many people will continue to fail others in the future. The power to be heard at the voting polls is demising as well. During the 2000 presidential race that "elected" George Bush, the report "Cellblock or Classmate" states that approximately 791,000 black men were in prison. That was 791,000 possible black voters lost from the black community.

Something must be done to put a stop to this. The black community needs to summons its remaining power, the protest needs to be brought back, endless letters and Emails need to be sent to congressmen and city official. There has to be another way. More prison over more schools isn't the answer.

By Arkie Johnson
Strongwriter808@hotmail.com

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COMMENTARY:

2000-2008

TICKET TO DISASTER

By Ernesto Johnson
ernestojohnson@yahoo.com

Many of us have witnessed an event that ended in a way that defies chance or expectation, similar to the jaw dropping moments provided by former Chicago Bull's star, Michael Jordan, or more startlingly, the hotly contested 2000 presidential election.

Today, these types of dramatic finales are still topping headlines in both sports and politics and supporters for the losing contenders felt disappointed by the unbelievable outcome of the events.

First, seemingly everyone counted the Boston Red Sox out of the play-offs against the Titanic-Yankee's.



Illustration By Sean Kim

In there series, the Sox were down three games and losing the fourth and nearly final game, when suddenly, in an unprecedented fashion, the Red Sox's fortune changed and they staged a come from behind feat to topple the Yankee's. For an encore, the Sox followed with another three straight victories against the Yankees, in what many consider the greatest comeback in baseball history. What's more, the Red Sox took four straight wins against the St. Louis Cardinals to clinch the World Series, shattering their so-called hex.

Then eerily, nine days after Halloween, republican candidate George W. Bush staged an extraordinary victory over democratic hopeful, John Kerry.

After Kerry begun to win the support from top personalities like the Clintons, high profile entertainers like Bruce Springsteen and a host of others, Kerry seemed likely to win.

Leading up to the election, Kerry's momentum surged higher and higher as he closed in on the president's slight lead. Days

just before the election, the polls reported that Kerry and Bush were neck to neck.

It is hard to imagine that Bush's voters still supported him after the many mistakes, oversights and invention made up by him and his administrators

Just before the election, one of these oversights became public when the television news-program 60 Minutes dropped yet another Bush bombshell. 60 Minutes revealed that the U.S. military inexplicably lost 380 tons of munitions in Iraq, munitions that was right under their own noses.

In another report, 60 Minutes revealed that the U.S. military had not been providing soldiers with important supplies like bulletproof jeeps, walkie-talkies, and varied protective gear. As a result, this carelessness had unnecessarily compromised the safety of the troops.

60 Minutes also revealed that concerned family members and several other supporters had begun sending troops the supplies normally provided by the military. At their own expense, supporters sent linens, batteries, food, toiletries and other supplies. The military's neglect has outraged many people,

even those who initially supported the war. Relatives of fallen soldiers linked the death of their loved ones to these oversights. How can the war commanders stage a successful war when soldier are inadequately equipped?

These were just a few of the reasons Bush supporters should have been concerned in the days leading up to the election.

As the public became aware of these events, Bush's poll position dropped. Losing the debates to Kerry only minimally affected Bush's ranking but the president's frustration was obvious during the debates and he was criticized for loosing his composure. The debates were worthwhile because they provided a window for how incompetently the president handled his responsibilities. The documentary, Fahrenheit 9/11 tells a similar tale.

Days before the election, Kerry edged Bush out in several polls. On Election Day, Ohio and Florida were focal points of the

election. These two states were important for either party to win the election. After all the controversy that plagued the 2000 election, everyone was hawkish surveying these states.

Even with all the surveillance and lawyers overseeing the events, democrats in Ohio and Florida still experienced something unusual. Voters in heavily populated democratic districts and African-American communities experienced delays up to nine hour delays in certain voting areas and cries of voting obstruction came chiming in.

Some people support Bush's campaign promises to combat terrorism worldwide, stir America's economy and to mend our divide-but others hear his message as mere talk. They know Bush's track record and that's why they don't support him. They question his administration because they were wrong about the war in Iraq, they blundered Osama Bin Laden capture, their war strategy has been a recipe for disaster, and the economy has incurred the worst deficit in history. Worst of all, Americans have been misled.

In a nail biting conclusion, Bush upset Kerry by wining his second term of office, and that's got a whole bunch of folks bewildered; people who don't want to be further misled, opposed to war and people and believe in exercising diplomacy.

As Don King would say, "Only in America".

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ROOM1/118
1-212-650-5081
thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu

THE PAPER

CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
NAC RM. 1/118
138TTH ST. AND CONVENT AVE.
NEW YORK, NY 10031
TEL# (212) 650-5081
FAX# (212) 650-5022

EMAIL:
THEPAPER@CCNY.CUNY.EDU

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
ERNESTO JOHNSON

TREASURER:
ATIQU JOHNSON

SECRETARY:
MARSHA LEWIS

COPY EDITORS:
AMAKA OKOLI
MARSHA LEWIS
GENIESHA JONES

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:
DWAYNE BISHOP

ILLUSTRATOR:
DWAYNE BISHOP
SEAN KIM

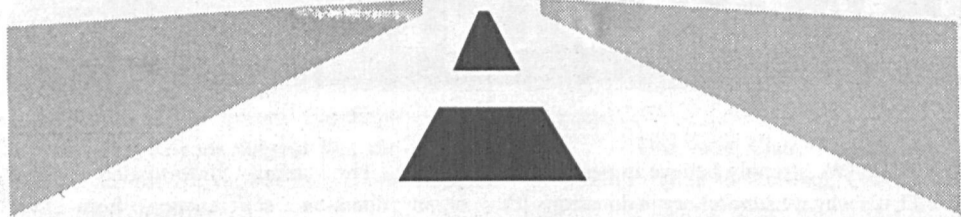
FASHION DESIGNER
KWASI KESSIE

STAFF WRITERS:
KWASI KESSIE
ARKIE JOHNSON
GREGORY SMILEY
NGE LEWIS
FABIA HINDS
DAMILOLA OJURONGBE
LOUIS MCDONALD
GENIESHA JONES
ORIN ABEL

FACULTY ADVISOR:
VALDON BATTICE

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Our Paths to God



Though thoroughly respectful of their own religion, many are ignorant toward other religions. This results in intolerance and small-mindedness. The death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has caused Israel to brace for possible unrest. The situation serves as a reminder of the great length we must take in respecting the religion of others. Today around the world the seeds of intolerance bred by ignorance has led to the death of millions. Educating oneself about other religions has the potential to end the religious turmoil plaguing the world.

Throughout history, religious conflicts have been a reoccurring theme. The Crusades during the Dark Ages, the reformation of the Catholicism during the Renaissance, the great migration of Muslims from India during the early 20th Century and most recently, the outbreak of religious war in Africa between Muslims and Christians. However, the most prevalent in our time is that of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. It has held the world's attention for the better part of the 20th Century and is determined to protrude into the 21st Century. It is the bout between Judaism and Islam for religious superiority. The war has ravaged

the Middle East nation sowing deeper seed of a cancerous hate. The need to resolve the epidemic is vastly becoming important and is sure to topple terrorism as our main issue. Furthermore, it has become commonplace for seeing the authority figures in the region pull charred bodies from another blast.

It appears that religious cohabitation results in utter chaos. If so what is to become of America with her various religious affiliations? The only way to prevent the problems plaguing the Middle East from ever taking root in the United States is by respecting the free will of others. Another religion does not mean opposition; it means a different path. Religious Conflicts have expended centuries of time and the lives of infinite individuals in order to disregard the religious affiliation of others. It can be seen that the City College of New York comprises of students with different religions. If the world is to change within our lifetime, it is our generation's responsibility to reduce and eliminate religious conflict. Regardless of your religion, take time to regard the free will of others. The peace of our world may depend on it.

By Orin Abel

3 Months & No Pay Check

By: Geniesha Jones

Thought about getting a job on campus? Well can you wait three months, maybe four, before receiving your first paycheck? If yes, then you're in the right place.

Now, there is nothing more aggravating than setting aside precious time to work for an institution, where while you are guaranteed a check, you have no guarantee of the day that you will be paid. Furthermore, I don't understand the practicality behind the failure of an employer to divulge to me the date on which I will receive my paycheck, but apparently many CCNY staff and student workers do because this is a lasting problem at the college.

This past summer I was employed as a student ambassador by the Finley Student Center (FSC) to aid the incoming freshmen by providing them with essential information for beginning the semester and to guide them to designated offices to ensure their enrollment at the college. I collaborated with at least twenty other students including CCNY staff to guarantee a successful week for the incoming students during the week of August 16th to August 20th. It is now the month of November, and it still remains to be seen when I will receive pay for my effort.

More than one of the students who I worked with this summer have shared that although it is admittedly infuriating and inconvenient not knowing when they will be paid, they can deal with it because they know that they will get paid eventually. However, I feel different about this (it's not good enough to know that my check will come someday) and so I made more than one attempts to rectify the problem.

I visited the FSC to inquire about the date when I would be paid on more than one occasions but there was never an answer except, *I have no idea or you have to ask Wendy (Wendy Thornton), and she is not in.* In addition, I visited the Office of Student Affairs to make my complaint to Kevin Tucker. He was very helpful and empathetic because he remembered when he first began his career at the college and had to wait three months before he received his first paycheck. To appease me, he offered to approve me for a loan from the college until I received my check, but he did not offer a proposal for mending this unending problem that appears to be the legacy of the college – he dismissed it as a “CUNY thing.”

Now, I don't know what the problem is (for this delay in receiving my check) and I don't care. I don't even care if it's a “CUNY thing,” but I care that it is a City College problem and the college needs to do something about it. As I see it, this is the real world, and in the real world people make plans and create deadlines. In addition, when a person fails to do what is required at a given deadline, people get angry; this is the reason why I fail to grasp the notion that an institution could consistently fail to create deadlines. Not only that, but I am thunderstruck and amazed that people, students in particular, could be so passive when it comes to demanding to know when they will be paid and to receive their check on that given day.

ms_geniesha@yahoo.com

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SAYING GOODBYE TO ODB

By: Cheryl Williams



Whether you knew him as Dirt McGirt, Big Baby Jesus, Osirus or Old Dirty, the rapper, well-known for his long rap sheet is now dead. Ol' Dirty Bastard, whose real name was Russell

Tyrone Jones, unexpectedly passed away last week. Jones was at the Wu-Tang's studio, 36 records LLC on West 34th Street on Saturday when he collapsed at approximately 4:35 P.M. He was later pronounced dead at 5:04pm. Even though it is understood that he had been complaining of chest pain during the day, the exact cause of death is still unknown. The rapper would have been 36 on the following Monday.

ODB may have lived a short life but he definitely occupied his time during his days on earth. He was first introduced to the Hip Hop game as a member of the legendary rap group, the Wu-Tang Clan. Jones as well as other band members such as Method Man and Raekwon moved on to launch successful solo careers. His first Album entitled, “The 36 Chambers,” contained a number of hits songs such as “Shimmy Shimmy Ya” and “Brooklyn Zoo.” These records as well as many others, helped to solidify Jones as a talented and artistic rapper, well capable of standing on his own. Aside from his music career, he also knows the role of fatherhood well. Jones lives on through each one of his thirteen children.

Jones was currently signed to Roca Fella Records. Many have been awaiting the release of his new album. It is said that he recently recorded a number of new tracks with Snoop Doggy Dog and Pharell of the Neptunes. His fans will now have to lookout for his final album. ODB's crazy antics, unpredictability and enigmatic nature will be greatly missed.

A LOW DOWN DIRTY SHAME

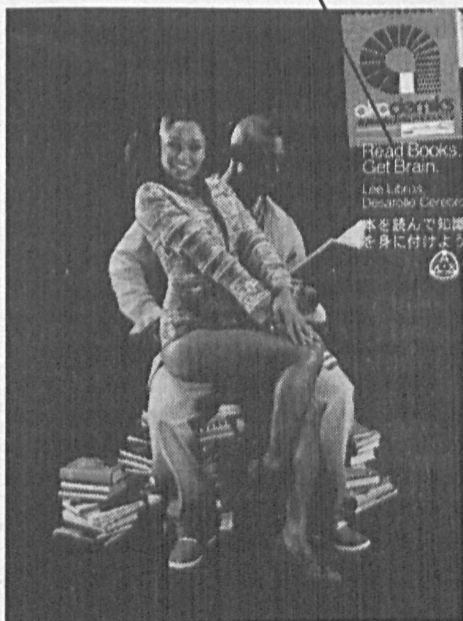
READ BOOKS, GET BRAIN

Sexist. Pitiful. Conniving. Childish. Perpetual. These demeaning words still do an injustice to the consummate disgust I currently feel for Akademiks, a new clothing line, and its founders. What irks me about these advertisements, and the people responsible for them, is the denigrating portrayal of females and education.

The fact that this advertisement has a mixed message is indisputable. If you didn't know, “getting brain” is slang for receiving oral sex. Also, if one is trying to promote education, why overshadow it with a half naked lady. And then there's the confession by Anthony Harrison, the ad's designer. He said that the company knew beforehand that “Get Brain” and “Getting a Blowjob” is the same thing!

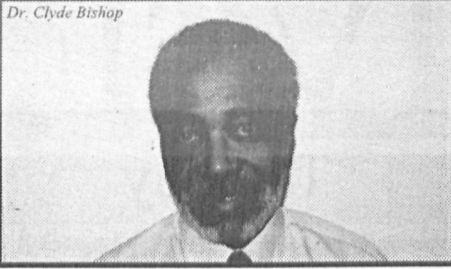
After being informed of the ad's negative connotation, the MTA began removing it from its buses, yet Akademiks posters in train stations remain untouched. Akademiks advertisements can also be found in magazines, such as *Vibe*.

Women should be in an uproar because it's a slap in the face, and men should be furious because their mother, sister, or wife has just been slapped.



DIPLOMATS

Dr. Clyde Bishop



By Atiq Johnson

Imagine. Imagine becoming a diplomat for the United States of America. Imagine a career overseas; one that guarantees a daily challenge; helps you serve your country; and give you invaluable experience in international affairs. Now imagine one of City College's very own alumni cutting out a slice of that "pie-in-the-sky" prospect, just for you.

The beneficent alumnus is none other than Colin Powell, former Secretary of State. After noticing that minorities were underrepresented in Foreign Service, Powell began a program called Diplomats in Residence (DIR). DIR commits itself to such tasks as educating minority students about the Foreign Service, encouraging them to join, and preparing them for the written exam. DIR also help students apply for State Department summer internships. Previously, seven CCNY students acquired internships through the program. This year six students applied for internships; in fact, one student will be interning in the U.S. embassy in China for the Spring '05 semester. The deadline for applying ended on November 1.

The Diplomats in Residence is now training students for the Foreign Service Entrance Exam. There will be several writing workshops. The exam is slated for the first week of April. One only has to be a U.S. citizen and be 21 or older to apply. After passing the written exam, the Foreign Service conducts all day interviews with students, who will be notified immediately of the outcome.

Currently, there are 16 DIR's in various universities nationwide. This is CCNY's third year in the program, hosting Dr. Clyde Bishop, the present Diplomat in Residence, who represents the entire Northeastern region, including Yale, Columbia, and Harvard University.

To learn more about being a Foreign Service Officer, contact Dr. Bishop. He is located in the NAC building, Rm. 6/140, ext. 5243, email: cbishop@ccny.cuny.edu.

LIVE ON!

By Michele Henry

The senior class has developed an integrated marketing campaign entitled "Live On!" What is their message? Get educated, and give life by donating organs upon one's death so that someone else can live. In accordance with their efforts, the group wants to ensure that as many people as possible sign a donor card that can be included in the national database.

Approached last spring by the Greater New York Coalition on Organ Donation (GNYCOD) to create awareness about the importance of organ donation, the Media and Communication Arts (MCA) Department Chair, Lynn Appelbaum, recognized that her MCA senior workshop class would be prepared to handle the task.

According to Jasmine Brito, a senior class member of the City College of New York

(CCNY), "We strongly believe in passing life on. That's why we support organ donation. It's our goal to increase the donor's registry on our college campus and throughout our shared community."

The LIVE ON! campaign will kick off mid-November, with events and promotions scheduled through December 9th. It will be implemented on the City College campus located at 135th Street and Convent Avenue, and in the local Harlem community of District 9.

LIVE ON! has become a cohesive plan thanks not only to the senior class of the MCA workshop class who call themselves Lyfe Communications, but also to Professor Susan Hogan, Professor Raleigh Mayer and Professor Appelbaum.

For more information about organ donation, see anyone from Lyfe Communications during the campaign (they'll be wearing easily identifiable T-Shirts), or visit the site at: www.liveon.info.

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Was It All Hype?

By Kwasi Kessie

The election is finally over, and President George Bush has been re-elected for his second and final term in office. Once again, only a few key states decided the result of the election. Florida, as in the previous election, and Ohio helped push George W. Bush to win his re-election. But what role did the youth vote play in this election? Many young voters felt that they would have had an impact on this year's election. And why wouldn't they think so? Nationally publicized campaigns such as P. Diddy's "Vote or Die!" posters were everywhere. There were also T-shirts that quickly became trendy political fashion statements. This campaign targeted groups between the ages of 18 and 29. Alongside P. Diddy, many other celebrities were also involved in a citizen-change initiative for young people to get out and vote. Among the most vocal of this

group were 50 cent, Paris Hilton, and Jamie Foxx. These celebrities were seen proudly rocking the "Vote or Die!" T-shirts in ads. Hip-Hop mogul Russell Simmons also had a campaign along with the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network to encourage first-timers to vote. But according to the Associated Press, the stars' effort only garnered 17% of the youths vote. That voter turnout is approximately the same as in the 2000 election. Jamaal Tabon, a sophomore, forward from the CCNY Beavers men's basketball team stated that "P. Diddy lied to me. My vote didn't count." Unfortunately, the youths were not the deciding factor in this election. But hopefully future elections will be as important as the swing states have been in the last two elections. Voting is one step in the right direction, but young people can also get involved in their own communities by contact-

ing their district councilman and stating their concerns. Individuals can also start a petition to request changes in their community. Although there was not that significant a change in the percentage of voters in the 2000 and 2004 elections amongst voters that were between the ages of 18 and 29, this election is a beginning. Voting has finally been made to be cool, and when celebrities and major networks such as MTV and BET endorse a project, young people take notice. These campaigns raised awareness about voting among young voters. The hope is for this trend to become much more than just a fad. Possibly in the future, candidates will have to address the issues facing young Americans today. After all, we are the future of this country.

FOREIGN STUDENTS: HOW MANY WILL STAY THE COURSE

By: Damilola Ojurongbe

Did you ever stop to wonder why so many people leave their home countries to study abroad? For some, the school system in their country is either failing, or their course of interest is not offered. Some have political reasons, and of course there are those who just wanted to get away and make a new life.

It is not easy for foreign students to come to this country, however. When foreigners apply for student visas, they have to prove that they can pay for all four or five years of their tuition expense. Moreover, on admission, the tuition of an international student is usually - if not always - double what a resident or US citizen will pay. In CCNY for example, international students pay \$360 per credit, and for a full time student foreign student to take 12 credits, that is more than twice what US citizens or residents pay.

When international students are given visas, they are allowed into US soil as non-immigrants, which according to the Internal Revenue System (IRS) is an alien who has been granted the right by the United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) to reside temporarily in the US. In addition, immigrants with the F-1 status are only allowed to work on campus for 20 hours a week during the academic year and 40 hours a week during summer and other vacations. Only certain students may be allowed to work off campus with permission from the USCIS or the foreign student advisor on their campus.

In addition to all of this, internships are hardly available to international students. With the F-1 status, they are only eligible for unpaid internships with non-profit companies, volunteer internships with a non-profit organi-

zations, or curricular Practical Training which must be an integral part of the students curricular program.

After graduating international students are allowed 60 days after completing all requirements for their program of study to either leave the United States, begin a new study program with a new I-20 form, or apply to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to receive work authorization for up to 12 months through the Optional Practical Training, after which they could be deported.

Additionally, the graduate student fees are on average twice as much as what a resident student will pay. For example, in Ohio State University international/non-resident students pay an excess of \$20,000 in tuition alone. In CCNY the cost per credit for international graduate students is almost twice as

much what a US citizen will pay.

It is no wonder that CNN reported that the drop in foreign graduate students was raising alarms. The report said that a number of universities were taking matters into their own hands by stepping efforts to provide technical help for foreign students.

According to the Council of Graduate Schools and Director of Research and Policy Analysis, Heath Brown, "If we took them out of the system, we would not be at the same point we are now in many of our endeavors-scientific endeavors and economic growth." He says that over time the numbers will come back up even though there are a lot of things working against it.

No matter how hard it gets, some foreign students insist that they are here to stay.

Caribbean American Voters turn out in Record Numbers

By: Kareem Douglas

As many as 80 percent of the Caribbean American communities turned out to vote in this year's presidential election on November 2nd in record and unprecedented numbers. Reports suggest that the numbers exceeded the 105 million people who voted in the 2000 election.

In New York alone there were 435,000 new voters, and from that figure, officials estimated that more than 60 percent had Caribbean connections.

Long lines and vast crowds were the characteristics of many centers around the country. Foster Dublin, president of the Caribbean for Kerry campaign, was miles away from New Jersey campaigning in Ohio, and was out of breath when *The Gleaner* caught up with her. "The voter turnout is up about 15-20 percent in the Caribbean communities," she said.

Dublin spearheaded the group, "Caribbean for Kerry", as a political endeavor to mobilize Caribbean Americans to vote. The

group's personnel were drawn from Jamaica, Grenada, Haiti, Trinidad, Barbados, St. Kitts, Belize, Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Guyana.

One voter, Claire Roberts, reached the polling station in Flushing, Queens, at 8:00 a.m. and said the center was crowded. She was given her voting number, and was told to go three blocks away to cast her vote. She was determined to vote, so walked to the next center. In Brooklyn, another voter said that she arrived at the designated center at 10 a.m. and waited for more than two hours before she could to vote. "It's the first time I ever see anything like this," she said, adding that she has been living in the U.S. since the 1980's.

Gerri Peterkin, president of the Caribbean American Democratic Club in Florida, was ecstatic about the voter turnout in Broward County, Florida. "The black Caribbean voters turned out in record numbers. We got them out," he said.

What is there to be learned from the events now occurring on the African Continent? It must be recognized too, that Africa, its people, its present and its future, are of vital concern to everyone, no matter how far removed geographically. In the past, American has too often been content to remain relatively unconcerned about events in Africa, too ready to stand on the sidelines of African history as a disinterested observer. This policy will not serve today, and the attitude which the American Government now adopt towards Africa indicates that they too realize that a new Africa has emerged on the world scene. As a result, however, Americans have been uninformed about us, our people, our problems...

H.I.M Haile Selassie I
Addressing American Committee on Africa.
September 16, 1960

CHALLENGE TO THIS GENERATION OF AFRICANS

By Miamah J. Richards

As an African from Liberia, who family repatriated to the US after our first civil war in 1980, witnessing over two decades of civil and national unrest lead to the destruction of our lives, families and country. However, never shied away from my culture, people, values or history. Recognizing as an African, we emerged from the cradle of civilization, where we gave birth to the rest of the world and the first civilizations, kingdoms and empires emerged. Within these same twenty past years of my living in the US, I have witnessed countless other African nations like Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Angola, Rwanda, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia and more face civil wars and destabilization and knowing there are countless others who are dying, starving, raped, scared and devastated. Nonetheless, in the same breath we've witnessed the fall of Apartheid and South Africa's first and second elections; the coalescing of African States to redefine their purpose through the new African Union. As well as the creation of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to deal with Liberia and other civil wars and security problems in West Africa. We have witness democracies popup and old dictatorships cease. There is hope for those of us forcible separated from our countries and living in lands other than our own and making them homes. This has given us the opportunity to live, grow, develop, be educated and gain great skills and opportunity that enhance our lives and hopefully one day is beneficial to our respective countries and Africa.

Contemporary Africa is plagued with complex problems ranging from excessive poverty, the AIDS pandemic, civil wars, lack of peace and security, economic dependency on the Western powers, technological and infrastructural deficiencies and the mass exodus of Africa's best and brightest minds.

Yet Africans continue everyday to struggle to restore her greatness, prosperity, power, and rightful place among the world's nations. It is an uphill challenge most Africans realize. We still have the opportunity to rejuvenate our continent.

Up until a couple of years ago I blamed most things that went wrong in Africa on the US and European powers. Now I'm not saying they have not had a hand in the diminished state we are currently in. YES, slavery greatly affected Africa. YES, colonization greatly affected Africa. But are we the only peoples who were ever colonized? NO! The Asian countries post their colonization have made tremendous gains in securing their futures and becoming a real player within the world's economic and political field. Yet, many African countries are on the Least Developed Countries (LDC's) list and also may not achieve any of the United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015 for sustainable growth and development. This is not good enough.

The reality of the situation is somewhere along the line we have allowed others to define, direct and control where we are headed. If Africa is to one day exist on levels with developed nation of the world and be a beacon of hope to its descendents in the Diaspora, we and the rest of the world must first realize we are going through growing pains. Most African countries are only between 30 - 40 years old. In terms of national development and growth, that is baby years. If we are going to compare, let's compare it to their earlier histories of the US or most European countries. Have we forgotten European history? Where they have had thousands of years of conquering and being conquered, economic instability, epidemics, civil wars, peace and security issues, corruption and the mass exodus of their populations. These are almost the same problems stated above for Africa. They worked and continue to

work to build stronger nations.

Have we also forgotten American history? America was once weak in the international community of nations. Now 228 years down the road they are the strongest. It didn't happen overnight. It didn't happen in 10, 30, or 50 years. But in time, through planning, through aggressively seeking its self-interest and putting no other ahead of their vision, they were able to achieve greatness.

History has taught us that the vision and planning of a few can move millions and change realities. A few of the leaders, who fought and achieved independence for Africa were not that much different from us. They were educated abroad in the US, England and France. They faced far greater oppositions and issues upon their return to Africa. Nevertheless, they forged forward without having to be enticed or given great promises on doing what needed to be done. They saw their house were dirty and chose to clean it. It wasn't perfect or finished. It was left to us to continue that legacy. We were bequeathed a great treasure that has to be protected, nurtured and guided. This takes awesome insight, fortitude and vision. We are far better equipped for this task than our forefathers and mothers were, because we have history, technology and resources to our advantage. But are we resolved to do it?

Many of us claim we don't want to go back. This is unfortunate. Our house will never be clean unless we do. We should be no different from our forefathers and mothers in our commitment and strive to save, protect, and strengthen mother Africa. We have the greatest opportunity to make a difference and change. But will we?

We need to seriously learn from previous mistakes. As well as, learn from the success of Afro-descendents in the Diaspora, especially African-Americans. African-Americans did not get the right of freedom or to vote by waiting for others to fix their problems. We

as Africans today within the US, benefit tremendously from the sacrifices of our brothers and sister as they forcibly changed the policies of a nation where they were enslaved, killed, exploited and the minority. And as new immigrants, we neither recognized nor respect that enough as we make our gains in this society. Consistently, when things go wrong in Africa, they are the vanguards that champion our cases to the US government, the UN and the rest of the world. This must be acknowledged and respected.

The Challenge

1. Can this generation of repatriated African with the benefits we have acquired, commit their knowledge and resources to bettering Africa and the Diaspora?
2. Do we continue to complain about what is wrong and how to do it, but make no commitments in achieving it?
3. Do we wait for things to be solved by others first, rather than ourselves?
4. Can we find new creative ways to challenge African leaders, foreign governments and multinational companies who squander and steal from us?
5. Can we learn from our predecessors?

"We the people," must work more cohesively as nations and people to reclaim our continent. We must protect our self-interest and not fall to the greed of others. We must honor, respect and engage the creativity of women and the youth. We must engage home grown ideas, concepts and practices wrapped in the foundations of Pan-Africanism, if we are to be truly independent, achieve success and united as a continent. The consequences of a lack of action on our parts, means the devastating issues that face Africa will revisit generations to come.

CCNY'S Fall Fashion

By: Kwasi Kessie

1) Ana Rodriguez is sporting a camouflage trucker hat and leather jacket.
 Major: Psychology
 Year at the college: Senior
 Voted for Kerry
 Favorite place to shop: Macy's

2) Berenis Garcia is wearing a pair of poke a dot rain boots to keep dry
 Major: Psychology
 Year at the college: Senior
 Voted for Kerry
 Favorite place to shop: Zara

3) Alba Rodriguez is styling in her tweed ¾ coat
 Major: Business Management
 Year at the college: Junior
 Not a citizen
 Favorite place to shop: Zara

4) Zainab Johnson is profiling in her green leather Diesel jacket (for all the ladies green is the new pink for the fall)
 Major: Education and Math
 Year at the college: Junior
 Voted for Kerry
 Favorite place to shop: Online

5) Jola Jegede-Jide is styling in her black trench coat
 Major: English and Education
 Year at the college: Junior
 Did not vote
 Favorite place to shop: The Gap

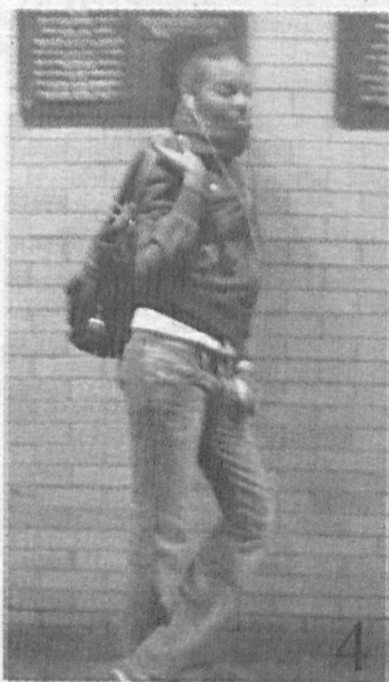
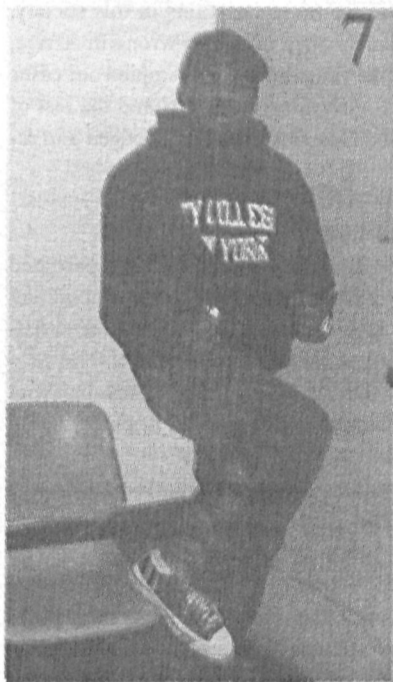
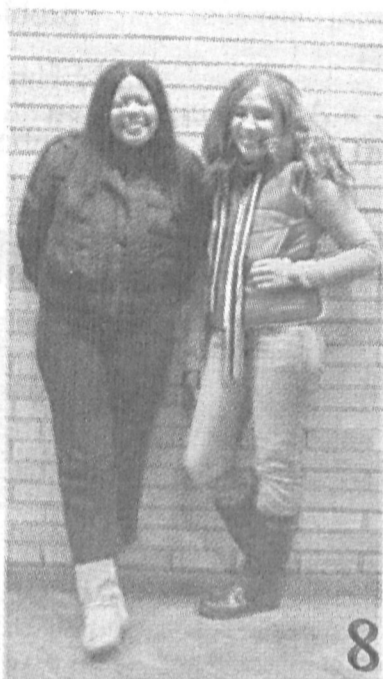
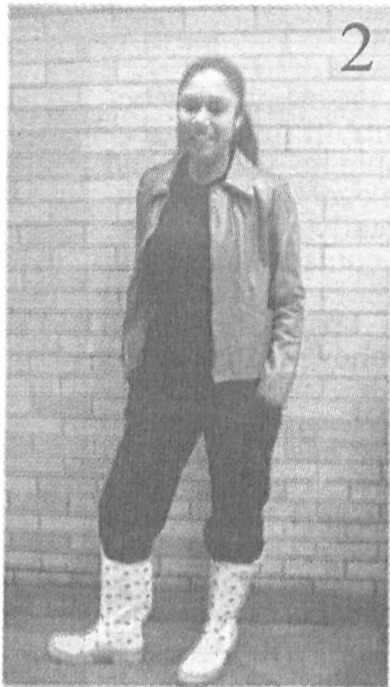
6) Jennifer Jaramillo is ready for an interview or a long day of class in her cream club coat
 Major: Sociology and Human Resource Management
 Year at the college: Junior
 Did not register on time to vote
 Favorite place to shop: Old Navy

7) Nesto Johnson is skilling a classic ccny blue and white hoodie with a Sean John Jeans and old school Tommy Hilfiger pro keds. Hat by Dickies
 Major: English
 Year at college: Junior
 Voted for Kerry
 Favorite Place to shop: Daffy's

8) Johanna De Lossanto
 Major: Liberal Arts
 Year at the college: Freshman
 Not a citizen
 Favorite place to shop: Urban Outfitters
 H&M

8) Diana Castillo
 Major: Sociology
 Year at the college: Senior
 Voted for Kerry
 Favorite Place to shop :

These two friends are co-workers who are always up on top of fashion. Johanna rocks her red vest and rain boots to brave the elements as Diana wears her Ugg style boots and bubble jacket to keep warm.



QUESTION OF THE MOMENT

What is your reaction to outcome of the presidential election?

Do poets and comics invoke consciousness through their acts, or are they simply entertainers?



Adetunbi, BioMed, Senior

Yes, but that is just my opinion. First amendment rights state that we are allowed to say pretty much what we want. Censoring his music might mean censoring important things in the future. In terms of Eminem, we can choose not to listen. And when it comes to kids being negatively influenced, leave it to the parents to the censoring!

Answer #2

Well, I'm a New Yorker - you know what I think. I can't be happy about a man who spent the past four years digging the U.S. into a hole.

Answer #3

Depends. In this field you have those who are purely entertainers and the rare few who do invoke thought. I like it when poets talk about racism, family life, and other hot topics because it puts it out there so people think and actually discuss these issues. When Chris rock talks about racism, white people laugh, but I guarantee that when they walk out of the comedy club or shut off the T.V. those thoughts will still be on their mind.



RESK Q

Eminem definitely goes way too far. But you can't blame him. He goes with the system and takes advantage of it. If he were a black man he would have been shut down. I think he expressed himself and shouldn't be conformed in respect to the 1st. amendment. However, black hip-hoppers should get the same merit.

Answer #2

Very disappointed. One would think that Americans are smart enough to change the direction America is heading.



Louis So, English

Think back to Madonna; gimmicks, tricks, and purported maverick publicity stunts. They both know that antics sell.

Answer #2

If the numbers are right (no election fraud), then I feel sad for America; a pitiful chapter of democracy begins today, for its demise is imminent - under the religious fervor and the self-centric doctrines of the conservatives.

Answer #3

Yes, there's of course an underlying message in the many political jokes performed by comics and poets (and pundits) alike. Comedy is the sugar coating of their political pop-pills.



Professor Vesser

I don't care for Eminem. Give me James Brown any day.

Answer #2

Confirmation. It confirm my suspicion that American citizens tend to embrace the imperial role and that they distrust elaborate speech. The liberals' supercilious mockery of Bush's language strengthened his hand.

Answer #3

Poets may not be the unacknowledged legislators of humankind, but they do occasionally give verbal, articulate form to inchoate, chaotic trends.



Syd Jordan Cooley, Senior

Only with the long verses about the way he plans on killing his baby's mama - that's too much! It makes it seem like it's cool to violently take out your aggression on your girlfriend/wife.

Answer #2

Holy Shit. We're *#@&^!

Answer #3

Yes, performers have a public voice that reaches huge audiences - they have to recognize the power of that. Also, historically, entertainers have always had a social message in their performances.



Sometimes he does. However, I believe that he is a part of a particular culture that consistently abuses the right to freedom of speech. I am referring to the hip-hop culture. If we were to attack Eminem then we would have to add many others to the list as well.

Answer #2

Either way, any deep, insightful message is usually lost!



Dick C., Biology, 2nd Yr., Kevin L., Paramedics, 2nd Yr, Krizia M., Biology, 1st Yr.

Everyone has a choice if they want to listen to Eminem or not. With Eminem he is trying to be an entertainer, regardless if his antics are not agreed with the norm in society he is just like everyone else trying to make a living.

Answer #2

I guess Bush has a second chance to redeem himself. We're a bit relieved.

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ZOO-DIACS

Capricorn: It seems everyone is coming your way for assistance with this or that. Take into account that there's a reason for the word *no*. You can't save the whole world.

Aries: It's not your fault that you are gifted with a magnitude of thoughts and ideas that are always eager to fly out of your mouth. But this week it will be in your interest if you keep quiet and give someone else a chance to speak - someone you know at work or at home has something you need to hear.

Aquarius: You are smart and witty and often know how to cover your tracks, but this week be careful not to overstep your boundaries. Someone is watching to see you miss a step and if you do there's a penalty that you must pay.

Taurus: When you open your mouth to speak, people gather to listen because they expect something ingenious and provocative. If you want to hold their interest, you must know what you're going to say before you speak. More than one person has noticed that you haven't been yourself; take sometime to recoup before you proceed.

Gemini: If you could see that you're a light bulb and your possible mates the darkness, then you'd know that your switch is on, and your prospects are gearing up to be envelope your light. You'll be so enticing, that you'll even attract unexpected suitors - choose carefully.

Leo: You've been working, working, working. Take a break; retreat, consider going on vacation. Believe it or not, the work you think you have to do is the same work that other people have been doing for over a hundred years - there's always someone else who can complete the job.

Libra: It's not becoming of you to go with the flow of others when you have such clear, practical and trustworthy ideas. Why don't you go along and unleash that fire of wrath, and let it be known that your plan is worth notice.

Virgo: You are often deemed calm, mellow, and indifferent - then suddenly impulsive. Take into account that once you've made a decision there's generally no turning back. Someone in your life will try to save you from this next big mistake - take heed and be practical.

Scorpion: Now that you're feeling like your old self, charismatic and flirtatious, it might not be the right time for you to accept that special someone's proposal to be further joined. After all, there are so many possibilities and temptations everywhere you look; either you keep the relationship the way it is or you be frank and suggest a halt - otherwise, you're in for a rocky road.

Sagittarius: You love and miss the companionship of close friends and family. Call all the people that's been on your mind and set up a gathering. It's not worth you sitting around depressed because they haven't called you. You'll feel a lot better once you're surrounded by the warm hearts and well wishes of the people you love the most.



Melissa Simmonds, Freshman

He'll yeah. Sometimes he raps about politics or issues that concern people, which is good. It's when he degrades women it gets on my nerves.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REVOLUTION?

How far back must you go to hear Black Power!, or to see a closed fist rise in triumph? How far back until you see Dashikis and Afros? How far? Too far! All of these items have become symbols of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's and 1970's. It was a time of psychological empowerment among black people. This was The Revolution, a time when blacks said it out loud, "I'm Black and I'm proud."

The Revolution unveiled the traditions and values of a people long overlooked. It was a movement of self worth. It was about Blacks accepting their people and their culture regardless of society's

perception of it. Black revolutionaries such as Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and Medgar Evers led the fight against discrimination and inequality. In addition, it was a time of rapid progress and unity among Black people, and it was a time for laying the foundation for political, social and economic equality. The Revolution was an era that started 30 years ago.

Today there appear to be nothing left that is reminiscent of The Revolution. The Revolution seems to have passed, leaving only vague tracks of change in its path. The great potential of the revolution seem dimmed by the same change that set it in motion. Has the progress of partial equality satisfied and pacified Blacks? After all, since achieving partial success in the fight against inequality, Blacks have dispersed, stopped fighting and "moved on" with their lives. The unity that held us together in the fight for our rights pulled us apart. Furthermore, the cancerous effect of the revolution can be seen in our disinterest in bringing about change in our communities.

Although the Black community has achieved much, it can still be greatly improved. The Black community still faces many of the issues The Revolution sought to solve in the 1960's and 1970's such as poverty, political misrepresentation and an unjust judicial

system. For instance, blacks make up only 12 percent of the population of the United States, yet account for nearly fifty percent of all prisoners according to Prison Policy Initiative. Moreover, nearly a third of Blacks rely on government assistance programs such as AFDC/TANC, SSI and food stamps according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For Blacks on welfare or in prison, those trapped economically, politically or socially, the revolution may be their only hope.

The fate of the revolution, justice and equality, lies in the hands of all black people. Since the revolution has become "unfashionable," it has been forced to lie on the shoulders of the few who commit to ensure its survival. Organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Council of Negro Women, the United Negro College Fund, the American Association for Affirmative Action as well as many others, fuel the revolution in a time of stagnation due to reduced support. It is the duty of the Black race to build momentum and steer the revolution back on its course.

Blacks must become more aware that the race continues. It is not enough to be halfway there; we must pickup the lagging torch and run the race. The revolution is essential in achieving equality. The Montgomery Bus Boycott, the case of Brown vs. Board of Education, and the Civil Rights legislature were possible because of the revolution. This state of mind is capable of accomplishing so much, yet we relinquish its potential and rely on others to get us through.

Why have we been convinced that it is too radical to shout Black Power!, or too extreme to raise our closed fists in triumph? These are not the 1960's gestures; these are gestures for today, for tomorrow, for life. These are the gestures of the revolution - a revolution that has been ignored far too long by Blacks nationwide. Although it is not as mainstream as first initiated, the revolution certainly lives on. It may be overlooked, avoided and pushed aside but the revolution can never be blotted out. For the few who have kept the revolution alive and those waking up



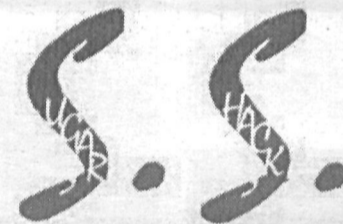
CONGRATULATIONS!

By Atiq Johnson

Barack Obama just became the fifth African American senator in American history. In his first speech following the election, Obama recalled a time when most people felt his campaign would end unsuccessfully: "656 days ago I announced in a room a little smaller than this - it was a lot smaller - that I was announcing for the United States Senate. At the time, as many of you know, people were respectful but nevertheless skeptical. They knew the work we had done to provide health insurance to children who didn't have it, to help make the tax system more fair, to reform a death penalty system that was broken. But they felt that in a nation as divided as ours there was no possibility that someone who looked like me could ever aspire to United States senate. They felt that in a fearful nation like this someone named Barack Obama couldn't hope to win an election. Yet here we stand because we had a different concept and notion of the American people." The newly-elected democrat senator of Illinois continued by relaying his belief that Americans share a value system based on decency: "...there was a set of shared values that extended beyond race and region, extended beyond income and ethnicity. A belief that every child in America should have a decent shot at life. A belief that we are brothers and sisters. And that we have mutual obligations towards each other,

and that those mutual obligations express themselves not only in our family, not only in our workplaces, not only in our places of worship, but also through our government. We believed in the possibility of a government that was just as decent as the American people are. And we knew that despite the misinformation, despite the bitterness, despite the partisan politics, that when you talk to people those common values would come out. That the innate instincts of the American people would surface, if we could speak to them, if we could connect to them, if we could talk to them directly. And because of the efforts of so many of you in this room, we had the resources, we had the manpower, we had the capacity to touch each and every one of those hearts throughout the state." Barack Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and is the son of Barack Obama, Sr., of Kenya, and S. Ann Dunham, of Kansas, who happens to be white and ironically a descendant of Jefferson Davis, founder of the Confederacy. After graduating from Columbia University, Obama became the first black president of the Harvard Law Review, and graduated from Harvard Law School magna-cum-laude. He became an overnight sensation after delivering the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention earlier this year. There is even talk of him becoming America's first black president. Time will tell.

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Leonard H. Robins

How a minority, reaching majority, seizing authority, hates a minority!

Voltaire

As long as people believe in absurdities, they will continue to commit atrocities.

Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis: Three Prevalent STD Infections in the US

By Geniesha Jones
ms_geniesha@yahoo.com

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 19 million sexually transmitted disease (STD) infections occur annually, half of which are comprised of young people between the ages of 15 and 24. According to the CDC report, many STD infections are undiagnosed and thus unreported. Nevertheless, findings show that chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis are the 3 most reported STD infections in the United States.

The report shows that Chlamydia is the most reported infectious disease, followed by gonorrhea and syphilis. In 2003 alone, for example, there were 877,478 reported cases of chlamydia, and 335,104 reported cases of gonorrhea.

In addition, the 2003 report reveals that chlamydia has remained nationally widespread among women between the ages of 16 and 26. In respect to this finding, the CDC stresses that women between this age group who are sexually active should have regular screenings for the disease.

Gonorrhea, in contrast, has reached an all time low of 4.8 percent with a decline in African Americans by 8.1 percent, and a decline of American Indians by 8 percent. On the other hand, gonorrhea has increased in Asian Americans by 6.5 percent, in whites by 5.5 percent and in Latinos by 3.6 percent. At the same time, the report shows gonorrhea is 20 times more prevalent in African Americans than in whites; this is 23 times lower than it was in 2002.

In 2003 there was a 19 percent increase of syphilis in the U.S. However, syphilis

has decreased among some groups while showing a notable increase in men who are having sex with men. According to the findings, there has been a 17.9 percent decrease of the disease in African Americans and a 33.3 percent decrease in African American women. And overall, there has been a 27.3 percent decrease of syphilis in women. On the other hand, 60 percent of syphilis occurred in men having sex with men; this is a 13.5 percent increase between the year 2002 and 2003, and a 68 percent increase between the years of 2000 and 2003. Similar to gonorrhea, there is a notable difference of syphilis in African Americans than in whites. The CDC report of 2002 showed that the disease was 8 times higher in African Americans than it was in whites, and the 2003 report shows that the disease is 5 times higher in African Americans than in whites.

Unfortunately, the symptoms of all three STD infectious diseases are usually silent. Once contracted, however, chlamydia is known to show symptoms within a week to a month. Gonorrhea of the throat is not known to have any symptoms at all, and syphilis, the most deadly of the three diseases, is known as the "great imitator" because its symptoms are usually mistaken for many other diseases.

Symptoms of the STD Infections

Symptoms of chlamydia in men may include one if not all of the following symptoms and may seem to "come and go":

- Painful urination
- Mild, sticky, milky or mucus-like discharge from penis

- Testicular pain
- Irritation around opening of the penis

Symptoms of chlamydia are especially silent in women with a raving 90 percent of women who live with the disease because they are asymptomatic. When there are symptoms, however, they may include one if not all of the following:

- Mild, milky or mucus-like discharge
- Painful urination
- Painful intercourse
- Bleeding between menses
- Abdominal pain

Symptoms of Gonorrhea in men are, a painful burning sensation during urination, yellowish discharge from penis, and painful or swollen testicles; and for women: painful or burning sensation during urination, yellowish vaginal discharge, bloody discharge, and abdominal pain

Symptoms of Syphilis occur in three stages, the Primary, Secondary and Late stage. The Primary stage may include a painless ulcer and/or a sore located near or on the genitals or chancre. The Secondary stage may include a rash on the hands, feet or other parts of the body in addition to an enlargement of the lymph nodes. While there are usually no clinical signs of the disease at this stage, there are usually vascular and/or neurological harms that may appear as flu-like symptoms.

Consequences of the STD Infections

While all three diseases, chlamydia,

gonorrhea and syphilis, are easily curable when diagnosed in early stages, if left untreated they can lead to serious consequences, including death. In women, for example, both chlamydia and gonorrhea can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), ectopic pregnancy and infertility. In addition, gonorrhea can lead to chronic pelvic pains in women. Syphilis, on the other hand, is noted for causing still births (death of a child soon after birth) when the mother is infected with the disease, and may also cause neurological problems for children who are born with the disease. In men, gonorrhea can cause epididymitis, which is a painful condition of the testicles that can lead to infertility. If left untreated, syphilis in both men and women can lead to heart damage, brain damage or death. And all three diseases, if left untreated, can lead to the HIV.

To limit your chances of becoming infected with a STD infection, and to prevent the infection from becoming too advanced follow these guidelines. This may save your life and your partner's (s') too:

- Abstinence from sexual intercourse including vaginal, anal and oral sex. Or,
- Wear a Condom during vaginal, anal or oral sex.
- Ensure that you and your partner have been tested then decide on the formation of a monogamous relationship.
- Limit your number of partners (The risk of contracting STD infections increases as your number of partners' increases).
- Get regular STD check-ups.

REASONS WHY MEN DON'T USE CONDOMS

1. "CONDOMS ARE TOO TIGHT" (DISCOMFORT)
2. (ALLERGIC) "IRRITATES MY PRIVATES/GIVES ME A RASH"
3. "GIVES MY GIRL'S PRIVATES A BAD TASTE"
4. "MY GIRL CAN'T GIVE ME ORAL SEX AFTER I HAVE A CONDOM ON"
5. "I'M STERILE"
6. "I DON'T EJACULATE THAT MUCH—WE'RE SAFE"
7. "I HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THE AIDS TEST"
8. "I'M CLEAN"—NO STD
9. "I RAN OUT OF CONDOMS"

10. "I NEVER GOT A GIRL PREGNANT"
11. "I'LL LOSE MY ERECTION"
12. "I'M NOT SEXIN' ANYONE ELSE"
13. "FEELS BETTER WITHOUT A CONDOM"
14. "AGAINST MY RELIGION"
15. "I'LL PULL OUT IN TIME"
16. INVINCIBILITY COMPLEX
17. "PEOPLE IN LOVE DON'T USE CONDOMS"
18. "I'LL JUST PUT THE TIP IN"
19. "WE DID IT BEFORE WITHOUT IT"
20. "OOH BABY I LIKE IT RAW"

ALTHOUGH SOME OF THESE EXCUSES MAY SOUND CREDIBLE IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT, THEY ARE ONLY EXCUSES. IS IT REALLY WORTH RUNNING THE RISK OF CONTRACTING A STD, HIV/AIDS, OR PREGNANCY?
STRAP UP!

(CONTRIBUTED BY ERNESTO JOHNSON & MARSHA LEWIS)

PREGNANCY AWARENESS ON THE CCNY CAMPUS

By: Geniesha Jones
gjones00@ccny.cuny.com

The Wellness Center in accordance with the Science, Mathematics, and Sophie Davis departments will be conducting a pregnancy awareness program on the CCNY campus. The collaboration of the Center with these three departments on campus comes as a result of the discovery that a high amount of students are becoming pregnant whose major studies fall in one of these courses.

The program intends to disclose information about safe sex to students in six new student seminars (NSS) comprising of students from the three noted departments. It will compose of three sessions. One session will discuss the psychological aspects in a forum led by Dr. Rodriguez, Director of the Wellness Center. The second session will discuss the health education aspects and will be led by Victoria G. King, Associate Director of the Center. Lastly, the third session will be a "peer education" session led by four students from the college, two males and two females who will be trained and tested for their competency in the program.

CCNY female students have been obtaining tests from the Wellness Center to determine their state of pregnancy. However, beyond that knowledge the college does not have the capacity to assist in whatever effort the students may choose. The Center can only make conjectures as of to the decision that is made. Some students choose to temporarily halt their studies; others choose abortion. Whatever choice the students make, there are psychological effects or other effects that can alter the life of the students, as well as the quality of life on the college.

According to Victoria G. King, the problem with the increase of pregnancy on campus is not solely because of the effects of pregnancy in the lives of the students and their studies, but because it suggests that they are having unprotected sex which also increases the probability of them contacting a sexually transmitted disease (STD).

The Wellness Center would like to extend the pregnancy awareness program to the entire campus; however, it has limited funding. The funds to begin the program for the six NSS courses will be taken from the Center's budget, and half of its budget has already been used.



Comedian Paul Mooney
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STUDENT HEALTH AT THE WELLNESS & COUNSELING CENTER

By: Geniesha Jones
gjones00@ccny.cuny.com

Student health and well-being might not appear to be a priority here at City College, but the Wellness & Counseling Center here on campus, located in the Marshak Science Building Room J-15, has been making strides to ensure students health. According to Victoria G. King, Associate Director of the center, approximately 9,000 of City College's 12,000 students, visit the center each year.

Students who do not have medical insurance go to the Wellness Center to be examined by the nurse for non-acute ailments such as a sore throat or a mild cold, Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, and on Tuesdays until 6pm. Students may also opt to see the doctor when he is in on Tuesdays from 2pm-6pm or on Thursdays from 2pm-5pm, for more serious ailments in which a prescription might be needed. In addition, students go to the center to obtain doctor's notes when they are not feeling well and must be absent from a class.

Since the college does not have access to advance medical equipments, at times, the Wellness Center may refer students to

Heritage Health Care located at the corner of Amsterdam and 145th Street, for treatment. The clinic provides comprehensive health care at low costs for those without medical insurance.

When asked what the three major reasons are for student visits at the center, Victoria G. King replied, "Immunization, counseling, and gym screenings." On average, students first introduction to the Wellness Center occur when they have been accepted into the college because of the seriousness involved in obtaining documentation of students immunization records. State law mandates every student to submit proof of immunization to the college as a protocol. If the college does not comply and defaults by neglecting to obtain the immunization record of a student, the State of New York fines the college \$2000 per violation; and if five violations are found the school is shut-down.

Due to budgeting, the Wellness and Counseling Center only offers counseling to students on Tuesdays from 10am-6pm and

on Thursdays from 10am-5pm. This is two hours more than last semester. Last semester, counseling services were offered from 12pm-5pm on these same days. The college offers students six free sessions, 45 minutes long with either of the two psychotherapists in the center, Dr. Rodriguez or Dr. Faranda. In addition, if there is a need for a student to continue in therapy beyond the free sessions offered on campus, the Wellness Center also have access to low-cost specialists' to whom students are often referred to.

This semester the Wellness Center has not been as preoccupied with examining students for gym screenings because the College has not completed its remodeling of the gym's floor. In any case, the Wellness Center has recently posted its schedule for gym screenings beginning on October 7th. The schedule is as follows: Mondays 2pm-3pm; Tuesdays 10am-11:30am; Wednesdays 10am-11:30am and 2pm-4pm; Thursdays 10am-11:30am; and on Fridays 10am-11:30am and 2pm-4pm.

Straight, With No Vaseline

By Marsha Lewis

I was looking for something the night I went to see Paul Mooney's stand-up comedy. I believe that something was a laugh. I needed one that day, since my college career was on the rocks. I had just gotten back a paper from my professor, and the "F" she wrote on it put me in a foul mood. It was a dark and rainy night, but that was no deterrent. Out of desperation, I called up my mom, and asked her to pick up my sons. Not only did she pick them up, but she drove me to the train station, to help me make his 9 PM show at the Apollo.

November 12th was the night. As I rode the train, I recalled a segment of Mooney's repertoire in my mind, from the first time that I had ever heard his raspy voice: "I say 'nigga' 100 times every morning; it makes my teeth white...I want 'nigga' put on my tombstone when I die..." I laughed out loud to myself, and people stared at me. I wanted to explain to them the joke that echoed in my mind, but they wouldn't have gotten it. It's a Mooney thing, most people wouldn't understand. He addresses himself and other black people as "nigga" on a regular basis, but Mooney has a point: to startle you, make you take notice, and "have a nigga wake up call", as he so rudely, but comically puts it.

Although I have heard a little comedy from Mooney, I am new to Mooney world. That is a place where no prisoners are taken, and it's no holds barred. His comedy is funny and raunchy, and even scary and informative, but never sexual. Mooney's agenda's a bit different from the average comic. He is pegged by most, as "the funniest nigga on stage." What Mooney offers is not a lot of teeth and smiles, but a cold, hard, and truthful look at not only America, but White America, and what Blacks have suffered at their hands. Unlike Pryor, whose repertoire

ranged from speaking explicitly about his sexual encounters, to discussing male/female relationships, Mooney's a race man. Period.

Just before Mooney came onto the stage, I took a moment to buy some Buffalo Wings and a Snapple down the hall, and went back to my seat. His comedy is better on a full stomach. When the lights went dim, I was sucking the meat from the chicken wing with my teeth, and licking my fingers, getting ready for the main course. Out walked Mooney, wearing a ridiculously red bomber jacket, a black wool hat and black wind-breaker pants. While he sipped patiently at his cocktail in hand, he opened up with comments about: you guessed it, race.

"Race means everything in America." Mooney beat around the bush a little, poking fun at Bill Cosby regarding his most recently publicized comments about black people, but he didn't talk about him very long. Mooney had bigger fish to fry. He got into talking about the mistreatment of the "Native American" in his own homeland: "Indians will not be your slave," and quickly introduced us to a concept he created: "The Complexion Of Protection", where he states that white people are shielded by their color. He playfully hissed at Spanish speaking peoples, reminding them that the 'Salsa' (among a few other known Spanish dances), is an African Dance. White people seemed relieved that he had left them alone for a few minutes, and cracked on West Indians, who he believes behave with a high and mighty heir: "They dropped you off first", referring to the capture and drop-off of black people, made into slaves.

Mooney is comic relief for life. He touches on current events, to tell us how insane the world is, and how doomed we are, if we

don't have a "nigga wake-up call."

Condeleesa Rice's reputation and track record walked the plank that night, and was eaten by sharks. Then he touched on perverted teachers in public schools, and a white woman's motivation to sleep with a little boy, as a problem she faces with white men and their "itty bitty dicks." He speculated some more about hurricanes being "black souls' revenge" from the suffering of black people, that took place for hundreds of years worldwide. He even commented on what he called "Janet's titty", saying that if she were a bigger woman, like the once overweight Oprah, with much bigger breasts, white men would have thrown their faces in her breasts, kissing them profusely, calling her "Mamie." This comment wiped the smile from many a white spectator.

Mooney left no stone unturned, no ridiculous event untouched. He ran down the line of "Black Divas", mimicking Diana Ross, Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston. Then he spoke about Michael Jackson and referred to his sleeping with white children in the same bed as a "nigga don't".

Not even Wayne Brady was safe from Mooney's satirical wrath. "Wayne Brady makes Brian Gumbel look like Malcolm X."

Mooney is not for the faint at heart. Even I got a little more than I was expecting. "I want you all to pay for South Africa," he announces defiantly like Nat Turner reborn, pointing at white people in the audience. He closed out his show with a spooky, spiritual hum, as if he were a slave that had returned for revenge. "We have to know who the f**k we are..." was one of the last things he said, before waving at the crowd, and thanking us all for coming. There wasn't a soul in the house sitting...

my people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge

HOSEA 4:6

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern about two articles appearing in The Paper written by Marsha Lewis. Both, "The Down Low on Down-Low Brothas" and "AIDS: Eroding Element" were shamefully homophobic, offensive, and factually inaccurate.

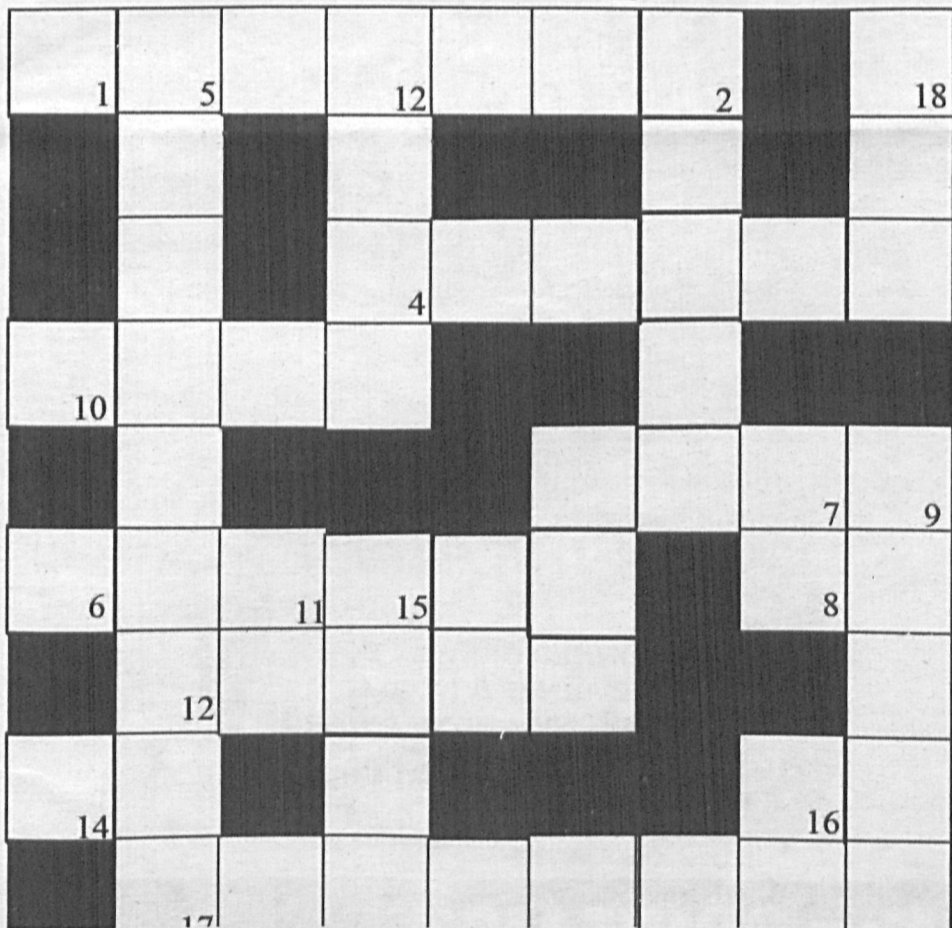
The existence of gay Black men is not an "epidemic," and the use of a term connoting sickness and the spread of disease is offensive. Furthermore, the implication that homosexuality is spreading among men, ruining them for women and tainting them with disease is homophobic fear-mongering completely devoid of any factual basis. Gay and Lesbian people have always existed in every culture, and always will, insofar as we can successfully survive against the prejudice of people like Ms. Lewis.

Homosexuality is a deeply held, intrinsic, possibly congenital identity, not a "lifestyle," a "behavior", and certainly not simply the act of anal sex. Ms. Lewis would do well to peruse a respectable amount of social science research before making her own illogical and simplistic claims about identity and sexuality. Perhaps Ms. Lewis finds her chat-room exploration in which she lies to and deceives gay men to be her own important contribution to the study of gay male sexuality.

While Ms. Lewis uses her "Gaydar" to avoid contact with men who have sex with men, we will be avoiding contact with her as well, since her ignorance and bigotry are what we should really fear.

By Benjamin Persky

cross word puzzle



- | Across | Down |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ Water | 2. Salad dressing, sunflower seeds |
| 3. _____ Oprah's Smokable | 3. the big _____ back |
| 4. High _____ | 5. _____ metrocard |
| 6. Lion, Lion, _____ | 7. Ego, superego _____ |
| 8. Former princess | 9. fastest speed |
| 10. _____ of mint | 11. malt liquor |
| 12. Small, _____ bopper | 13. Break, home |
| 14. To _____, not to _____ | 15. Opposite of far |
| 16. Surprised exclamation | 16. California T.V. show |
| 17. In neglect of duty, deril for short | 18. Michael Jackson Song |

Poetry Corner

DEMAND

By: Martinez J. Haslam, 2004

Don't ask
Demand.
Don't request
Demand.
Don't beg or
Get upset
Demand.
Take a step
Closer
And demand.

It isn't enough
Just to stand
Open your mouth
And command.
If it's wrong
Reprimand.
Demand respect
Because you can.
Be a friend
To yourself
Understand.
Don't tolerate
When they
Condescend.

Any man
Can
Demand.
Every woman
Should
Demand.
Hell,
All human
Beings must
Demand.

Standing on
Quicksand?
Do your feet
Give out when
It's time
To stand?
Put out your
Hand and
Extend
Open your eyes
Let your mind
Expand.
Withstand
The temptation
To give in
Especially
When exhaustion
Begins.

Stand up
For yourself
And be
Grand.
Summon respect
Until the
End.
And demand
Demand
Demand.

What is Love

By Kiante Young

You say I love you, then I say I
love you,
But I have a question.
Do we really love each other?
Do we really know what love is?
Do we say it cause it sounds nice
or sounds right?
Or cause we want to fill a void; the
void of loneliness;
Loneliness brought by
substantiated narcissism
Thinking we are too good for the
average,
Then once we find someone that
surfs above the waves of the norm,
We are in love.
Could it be we are in love with the
thought of being in love?
Drunk with the thought of having
one person of our own,
Cause we are either used to
having one or we are used to
having so many
That situations they get jumbled?
Maybe we are trying to make up
for the three words we never heard
growing up.
Could it be that we just don't
know what love is
And have never felt these feelings
before
So since we feel so good we label
it love.
Whatever it is,
I think we should stop saying I
love you.
Since I like you a lot and you like
me a lot,
That's good enough for me.

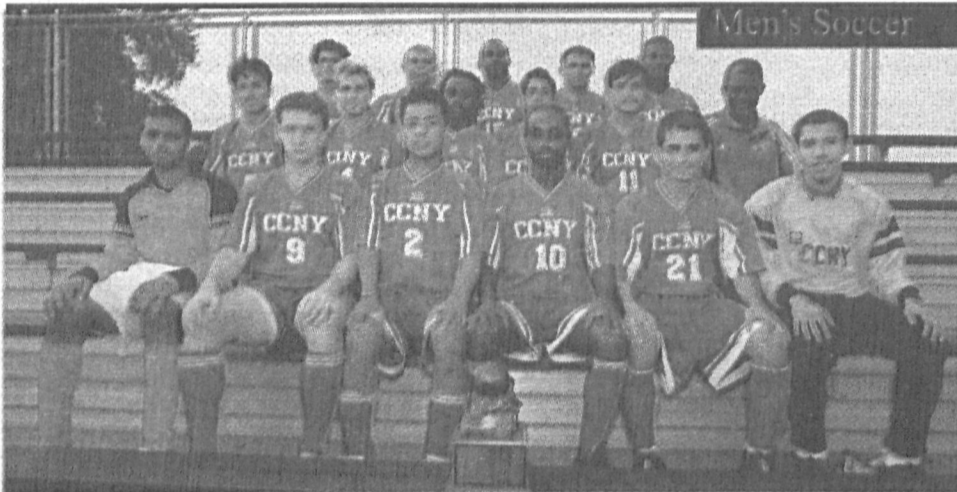
The difference between women and men

God made men then God made
women.
If God made women second
why would he make an inferior
product?
If you ask me God saw the
mistakes he made with Men then
made Women.
I am not trying to kiss up to
women or appeal to them.
It's just something that I have
always wondered about ever since
I heard the story of Adam and Eve.

The Paper

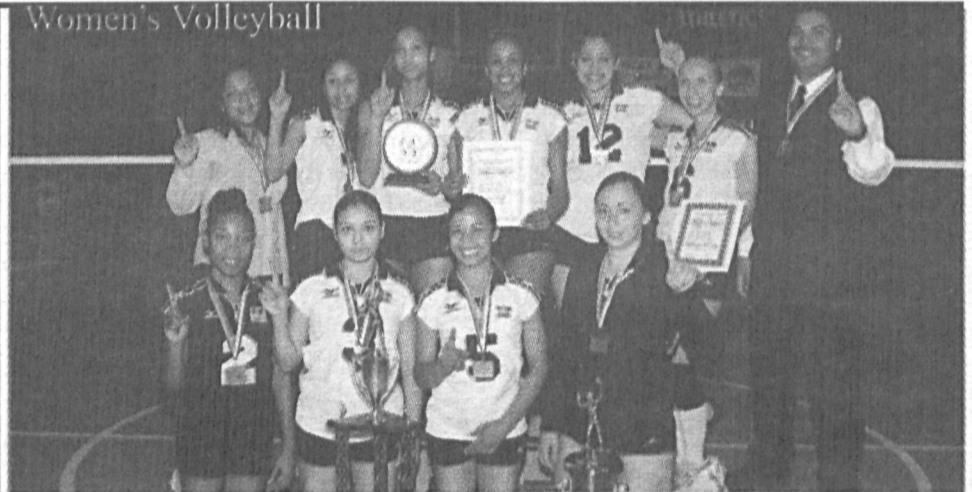
November 2004

Volume 2



Men's Soccer

The team's final record is 12 wins 2 draws and 2 loses



Women's Volleyball

The team's final record is 24 wins & loses 4

O⁷

Opus⁷

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- the rodent problem
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- the escalators and elevators that are constantly under repair