

The Paper

So
On the
In
And look out on the world
And wonder
What we're
In the face
What we remember

Langston Hughes

Volume 58 No. 5

A Medium For People of African Descent

September 9, 2002

CITY COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Cuomo lends support to McCall

- By Malik Lewis

Last week democratic candidate Andrew M. Cuomo shocked supporters with an announcement that he would discontinue his campaign in the interest of securing the financial security, and integrity of the Democratic party.

"If we were to now spend \$2 million this week on an acrimonious campaign, we would only guarantee a bloody and broke nominee," quipped Cuomo flanked by former president Bill Clinton, and congressman Charles Rangel.

Cuomo's decision to withdraw from the campaign was no doubt influenced by memories of the bitter defeat of Mark Green by Micheal Bloomberg following a protracted battle between Mr. Greene and fellow Democratic candidate Fernando Ferrer, as well as the unlikely ascendancy of current Republican governor George E. Pataki to the state's highest executive office.

In a show of support Mr. Cuomo, whose name will remain on the ballot for both the primary, and general elections on the Liberal Party ticket that requires at least 50,000 votes to appear on next terms ballot, pledged to lend his full support to H. Carl McCall, and urged supporters to do the same.

City College voters, who by-and-large make-up one of the nation's least vocal political demographic groups, people aged 19-24, must now ask themselves if they too will join Mr. Cuomo in supporting candidate McCall, or if they will cast their ballot with the status quo and grant governor Pataki another 4 years in office.

Students of City College, due in large part to the on-campus work of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) are familiar with the recent attacks on the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) written into the governor's 2002-03 fiscal budget, as well

as the chronic siphoning of fiscal resources from institutions of public education endemic of a republican administration.

The Tuition Assistance Program, which began providing New York's

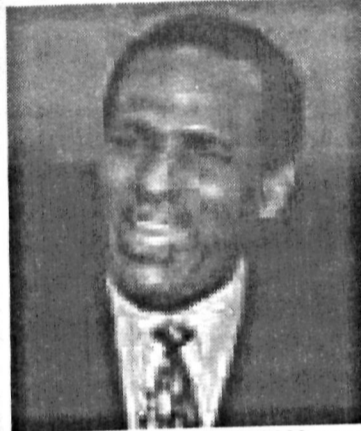


Photo courtesy of McCall2002.gov

full-time students with financial aid towards an education in 1974 provided \$587 million in grants to more than 257,000 students last year. Governor Pataki's 2002-03 budget cut TAP spending by nearly a third, \$155, and sought to cap current grant awards at nearly a third below previous levels.

Along with direct

attacks on TAP, a service which many CCNY students will attest to using, the 2002-03 gubernatorial budget failed to augment CUNY budgetary allocations, maintaining them at "bare-bones" funding levels with dramatically increased operation costs.

Most burdened have been the City's 2-year community college's which have proven to be a vital bridge between the City's largely unsatisfactory high schools and a 4-year college experience.

Mr. McCall, as part of his higher education platform has pledged to support a \$2000 annual limit on community college enrollment costs to students, as well as recalibrate TAP grant levels to reflect changes in the purchasing power of the dollar since 1974.

Governor Pataki, whose record speaks for itself, as part of his higher education plan has vowed to initiate a \$3 billion capital plan to infuse funds into the anemic CUNY

and SUNY infrastructure development troths, and has taken credit for changes in the machinations of the TAP largely fought for in the state legislature, and by interest groups like NYPIRG on the CCNY campus.

Like the August 9th signing of legislation to sustain immigrant student tuition at in-state levels by Governor Pataki, the fight for equitable support of the City's educational resources by the current administration has been exactly that; a fight.

Given the history students in both the SUNY and CUNY systems have had with the current administration they would be wise to consider following Mr. Cuomo's lead, and pitch their support to Mr. McCall.

Mugabe is Right!

- By Kahlil Almustafa

September 5, 2002; Harlem; "Mugabe is right!" "Free the land!"

More than 200 people gathered on the corner of 120th Street and Malcolm X Boulevard in Harlem echoed these statements in support of Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe. The Friends of Zimbabwe, a group of African scholars, lawyers and human rights activists organized the rally to express their solidarity with Zimbabwe and President Mugabe.

President George W. Bush recently declared that "he wants to see a more democratic government in Zimbabwe, a change in the present government." Late August, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Walter Kansteiner announced that the U.S. was working with South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique,

local civic organizations and journalists to remove Mugabe's democratically elected Zimbabwean government.

The Bush administration contends Zimbabwe

franchisement of Black voters in Florida during Bush's 2000 Presidential Election as stated by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

President Mugabe has lambasted the United



leader Robert Mugabe secured his reelection through a stolen election earlier this year. Speakers at the rally pointed out the hypocrisy in these threats noting the disen-

States, United Kingdom and their Western allies for undermining the Zimbabwean Government. He said, "the leadership in Washington and continued on pg. 3

Black Stars come to CCNY

- By Kalechi Onwuchekwa

There were no shortages of stars on Wednesday evening, August 28th, inside Aaron Davis Hall at the Second Annual National Black Sports and Entertainment Hall of Fame.

They all came to this part of campus to celebrate the induction of several African-American entertainers and athletes into the National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame, a Harlem-based institution currently under development that will shed greater light and honor upon the contributions to sports and entertainment by not just people of

African descent but also those others who helped in these contributions.

This event was the culmination of a joint effort between government officials, many active members of the local community, various sponsors such as Verizon, JPMorganChase, and WNBC television, and the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce. A key concern throughout the planning of this event was the focus on education, which is reflected in the location of this event. According to Lloyd Williams, president of the GHCC: "The educational focus of this event drove us to pick an educational institution. It allows us to understand that we're talking about history."

The overriding theme, along with the educational focus of this event, was the fostering of better community relations between school and community. Scholarships given to some of the students in the Harlem community about to attend college.

Editorial

McCall is Our Man

A funny thing occurred to me the other day; more embarrassing than funny really. As I watched an ad paid for by The Friends of McCall 2002 I realized that if elected H. Carl McCall would be the state's first Black governor. Why has my race conscious mind only now grasping that very obvious fact?

H. Carl McCall, is clearly New York's democratic forerunner. He has won the support of his party rival, Andrew Cuomo, received countless governmental and journalistic endorsements, and was lauded by Rev. Al Sharpton, who made very clear that the quality of Mr. McCall's character, not the color of his skin was what distinguished him as a city leader.

Mr. McCall's ads that spotlight his rise to a position of power and prominence from an intercity slum capture the essence of this City's first major election since Sept. 11. If as one columnist declared weeks after the terrorist attacks against America, "Sinicism is Dead", then surely since last year humility and sincerity are making a comeback. Mr. McCall's all-too-universal rags-to-riches story has a certain "All American" feel that make him as a candidate attractive to voters from all walks of life, and to varied racial groups. At the risk of sounding cliché; Mr. McCall as a candidate transcends racial identity.

Not every Black political hopeful however has experienced the same warm embrace from the plurality of New York City social and racial groups.

When Rev. Al

Sharpton expressed an interest in running for mayor in last year's election he was at once lambasted by the press, and made into an enviable political figure in a racist comic depiction in the New York Post.

Former mayor David Dinkins who became the City's first Black mayor through strong support from a diverse electorate concluded his term in office as the subject of unfairly critical media analyses of his handling of racial tensions following the killing of a Black child, by a Hassidic automobilist.

In 2001 in an interview with a writer with the Smartertimes Press when asked about his future political aspirations, and how his race conscious politics would play out in a hypothetical run for the position of mayor in 2013 City Councilman Charles Barron of Brownsville said, "I don't have to change who I am, I don't have to placate or capitulate to any white liberal group. With the changing demographics, if people of color and progressive whites came together in a coalition, you only need ten percent of the white vote to win."

While the people of New York would be well served electing a politician as passionate as Charles Barron to the position of mayor, his statement was more likely in jest than a serious statement of interest. But one still has to ask themselves, are we witnessing a new day in New York City politics? Could the collective growth of Black and Brown people in the city mean that the once politically convenient misnomer of

"whiteness" has suddenly become less convenient?

If it is true that urban demographics will allow for a growth of Black and Latino populations, while holding current voter participation trends constant, will New York become a city whose political machinery is moved by minority energy?

The over-riding fear held by many is that given enough numbers, interest, and institutional motivation, New York under Black and Brown rule would come to resemble Detroit following the election of their Black mayor.

Predictions and proclamations aside New York City is changing. As a global city, at least racially, it is coming to resemble the demographics of the globe itself.

In Mr. McCall we see the potential for a Black representative of all of the people of New York; a representative of both mainstream and marginal political interests; elected by a coalition of likeminded Blacks, and Latinos, and significantly more than just 10% of the white electorate; who neither hides the social reality of his Blackness, nor uses it as a platform on which to mount a racially divisive campaign.

While I can't yet decide if main-stream black, latino, and white voters seeing Mr. McCall as race neutral is a positive thing for people of color, there is one thing I do know; that "All American" image might just make Mr. McCall the first black Governor in New York, even if New York doesn't realize he is black.

and respect as a culturally knowledgeable and all-around solid instructor.

In the middle of July, at a time when most students were on vacation and had long since completed all of their registration, a letter was sent out by the Department of Social Sciences informing students that the class had been cancelled. No explanation was offered in the letter and students were left to find a replacement class and deal with the disappointment that most undoubtedly felt. Telephone calls to the Department of Social

Sciences inquiring about the reason for the cancellation of the class were



Photo courtesy of Blackvoices.com

unfruitful and students were advised that Professor Green would be teaching other classes-although not at the same time and not even the same day.

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The Paper

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The Graduate Student Council Invites you to the annual Graduate Reception

October 1st - 4pm-8pm
In the Faculty Dining Room

All are welcome! Refreshments will be served.

Black Woman course canceled

-By Chinonyerem Omeokwe

One of the most interesting courses offered by the Black Studies Department here at the City College of New York for the Fall 2002 was entitled the Black Woman. Many students eagerly enrolled for the class to be taught by Professor Venus Green-a professor who many know

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London should know that the Zimbabwean government is chosen by Zimbabweans and not made in the U.S. or Britain."

"We have not asked for any inch of Europe," said Mr Mugabe. "So, Blair, keep your England and let me keep my Zimbabwe!" Last month, 2,900 white commercial farmers were ordered to leave the land. Many disobeyed the order and about 300 were arrested.

"We have said and sworn that no one should go without land, but they want much more, greedy, greedy, greedy colonialists. We cannot satisfy their greed at the expense of the rest of the people. We want to distribute land fairly and justly," he said.

Speakers at the rally included Viola Plummer (December 12th Movement), Monica Morehead (International Action Center), Camille Yarborough, Minister Kevin Muhammad (Nation of Islam), Elombe Brathe (Patrice Lumumba Coalition), John Branch (Afrikan Poetry Theatre) and a brother from the New Black Panther Party.

Participants showed their solidarity with Mugabe by holding up signs, buying T-shirts and signing messages of solidarity to be sent to Zimbabwe. Branch called Mugabe "an example for us (African people) to demand our land and Reparations."

More than 70 percent of the most arable land is held by 4,500 White farmers, while over six million Africans are relegated to the worse land. "Land is the basis of independence," Viola Plummer. Plummer made

it clear that the December 12th Movement does not believe Mugabe is perfect, but that they fully support the redistribution of land to indigenous people who it was stolen from.

These white farmers acquired this land in the 1890's using brutal force. In 1930, white colonial

redistribution procedures may take place in neighboring South Africa. Yarborough advised the crowd to spread the news to your neighbor, your friend, "Good Morning. Have you heard about President Mugabe taking the land and giving it back to the people? Mugabe is



Photo by Kahlil Almustafa

rulers passed a land act that excluded Blacks from ownership of the best farmland forcing Africans to work for meager wages on white farms. Black Zimbabweans waged a guerilla war to regain control of their country and its land until the late 1970's. During the war ending peace talks, Britain promised to provide money to buy out white farmers. The government of Zimbabwe made peaceful attempts since 1980 to get their land back.

Elombe Brathe said, "Mugabe is on the threshold of doing something in Africa that has never happened before," as he stepped up a stepladder to address the crowd. Monica Morehead suggested that Mugabe's actions were ground breaking and that Blair is scared that if Mugabe is successful similar land

Right!" Information was passed out at the rally suggesting participants write, call, email or fax their local Black elected officials, such as Gregory Meeks (NY) Charles Rangel, (NY) and Donald Payne (NJ) to publicly support the democratically elected Zimbabwean government of Robert Mugabe and oppose all overt or covert efforts to illegally overthrow the government. Each of these Black Congressional members are on the House International Relations Committee / Subcommittee on Africa. To find out more on how to support President Mugabe in Zimbabwe contact the December 12th Movement at (718) 398-1766.

"They Owe Us"

- By Kahlil Almustafa

Thousands of Brown faces, both young and old assembled in Washington D.C. from more than 30 states for the Millions for Reparations Rally on August 17th, 2002. Red, black and green flags and clenched fists filled this nation's capitol, built by slave labor. The agenda was simple, descendants of enslaved Africans demand Reparations for the years of slavery suffered by their ancestors and the continuing vestiges.

The event was a celebration of Marcus Garvey's 115th birthday. Garvey led one of the greatest mass movements of Black people during the 1920's.

Support for the Reparations Movement was clear as this event marked an important moment for a mostly grass-roots movement. Momentum for this event was built a year ago at the World Conference Against Racism, where the Durban 400, led by the National Black United Front and December 12th Movement pushed for Reparations for the descendants of enslaved Africans. Many other organizations were present, including, NCOBRA, NAACP, the Nation of Islam, the New Black Panther Party and many others. Several labor-focused organizations, including A.N.S.W.E.R. and International Action Center were also present.

The theme of the rally was "Reparations Now, They Owe Us." Speakers and poets made their claim for Reparations for the Transatlantic Slave Trade,

slavery, Jim Crow, sharecropping, the Ku Klux Klan, police brutality, and many injustices committed against them.

Besides making the demand of the government and many U.S. corporations, many African-Americans came to network, link together organizations in the movement and form strategies for building their communities.

This event also supported several actions. One action is a bill HR-40 introduced to Congress by Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich. every year for the past 13 years, to create a commission to study Reparations. A second action is several lawsuits that have already been filed against corporations, such as Aetna, FleetBoston and CSX Railroad. Other lawsuits are planned to be filed against the federal government this Fall.

Participants stood on the Mall vending, making plans, sharing poems, and danced in a large drum circle. No official count of the participants has been released by the police or the organizers of the event. Several newspapers reported hundreds, but the number was clearly in the thousands.

The measure of success could not be made by numbers alone. It has come with the past year's education and organizing, through rallies, teach-ins and articles created to promote the march. Many people question if the event fulfilled its mission. Much of the rally's success will be determined in the upcoming years.

Free the land! Free the people! Free all political prisoners! Reparations Now!

Reparations Reparations Reparations

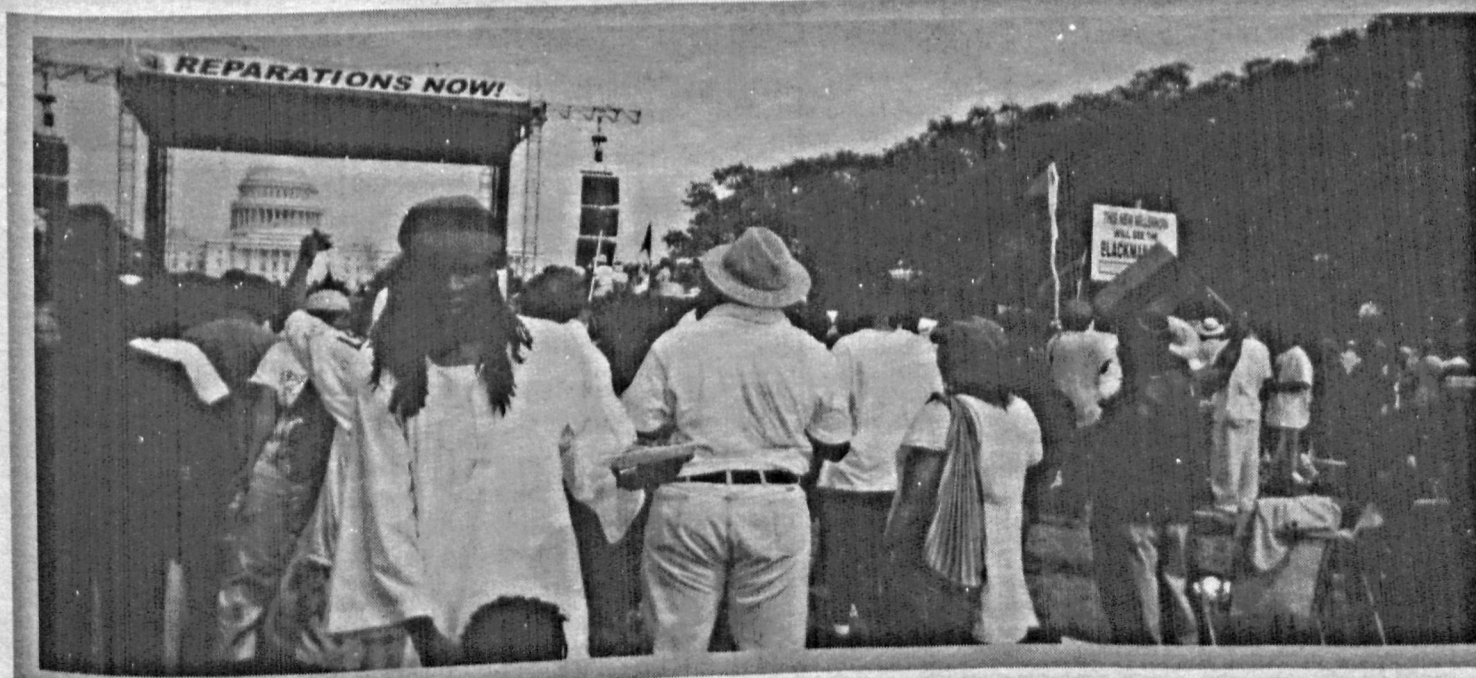


Image for the Millions for Reparations Rally in Washington D.C. in which thousands of people of African decent and spectators converged from all parts of the country to demand that the United States government and U.S. based multi-nation corporations compensate people of African decent for the injustices perpetrated during the age of American slavery, and since.

Photo by Kahlil Almustafa

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CCNY goes to Geneva

- By Kalechi Onwuchewa

An eye opener and eye catcher.

This best describes a recent internship program done in which several students spent two weeks studying and observing the United Nations SubCommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland.

the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were making. The second was to form connections with the many representatives of the different NGOs and the Sub Commission during the sessions. Both were done relatively successfully.

We were told of how the Kashmir conflict, is actually an occupation by Indian forces rather than a border dispute. In addition,

Diaspora representatives of the African Civil Society Organization (OSCA), who informed us of the organization's desire to form better connections with African students in the Diaspora; Diana Ala'i the representative of the New York Chapter of the Bah'i International Community, a religious community with roots in Iran; Matthew Wilson, representative of the Barbados mission to the UN; and members of NGOs representing the indigenous peoples in Honduras, from the Organization of Islamic Conference, and from the Afro-Columbian people. We also managed to get a meeting with Ambassador Kevin Moley, the US Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva. Most importantly, we formed a very close connection with the Ambedkar Center for Peace and Social Justice, a group headed by activist Yogesh Varade, that fights for the rights to self-determination of Dalits in India, who are outcast by the Hindu religion and those practicing it.

Says Dr. Hatim about the internship: "My personal objective is to see that students understand the difference between international human rights and civil rights... Civil rights is a domestic discussion; we have to get them to see that its not just a domestic issue but also an international issue." This was generally supported by Dr. Abdul-Malik, who said "I hope that by coming, one will have broadened his view of the concept of human rights, so that it is global, not local."



Photo by Lunitha Lancaster

This was a program that was done by the Malcolm Shabazz Human Rights Institute, with support from the Black Studies Department, Sankofa Roots, and the Division of Student Affairs. The program was overseen by Dr. Muhammad Hatim, Dr. Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Lunetha Lancaster, and Professor M.A. Samad Matias. The participants were as follows: Steve Berlack, Akousa Abrokwah, Helen Diaz, Rezwan Ahmed, Angela Lee, Rumana Mansur, Juana Martinez, George Berry, and the author of this article.

There were two objectives of the internship. One was to observe the Sub Commission in action, and hear the interventions that

we learned how difficult it is for indigenous peoples to control the natural resources on the lands they lived on, along with how difficult it is for developing nations to achieve economic success in international trade.

Many connections were formed. The MSHRI interns managed to get interviews with several members of the Sub Commission, including David Weisbrodt (United States representative) and Miguel Alfonso Martinez (Cuba representative). We also met with Arafat Saraf, who represents the state of Kashmir. He informed us that the conflict over there is actually an occupation by India. We also met with Madame Awa N'Daiye, the head of the African

After corresponding via e-mail with the Acting Dean of Social Science Vivian Tartter, a **continued from pg. 2**

reason was finally tendered: Professor Venus Green had been awarded a grant which released her from teaching one of her classes. Professor Green decided to forgo teaching the Black Woman. It must be noted that she informed the Division of Social Sciences of her decision way back in April and the course was not even supposed to be listed in the Fall 2002 schedule of

classes. Dean Tartter was forced to cancel the class altogether because there was no full-time City College faculty person to teach it and the Division of Social Science did not have the money to hire an adjunct professor for the job. Dean Tartter suggested that a student might want to take an independent study with Professor Green if possible and if necessary. As a side, Dr. George Brandon, the acting head of the Black Studies Department as of Friday, August 30, 2002, the first day of classes, was not even aware of the cancel-

lation of the class.

Once again, the students are left wondering who is being put first here at the City College of New York. There is a new entrance to the library and old books on the shelves, the campus has been outfitted with "new" buses and new garbage cans in the bathrooms but the issue of not having enough funding for classes is still an issue.

Let The Students Tell It

Question of the Week

What was your most memorable summer moment?



Enrique
Was working on this event called Listening to the City. It was an event where 16 organizers worked in different communities to bring 4500 people to the Jacob Javits convention to voice their opinions and have it documented in regards to what should happen to downtown Manhattan and a memorial for the victims lost on 9/11.



Sam
A roadtrip from Arizona to New York. I stopped in El Paso, Texas, where I met a beautiful female; Where I got a hotel room, leaving the truck, and going to Mexico for the first time ever with this beautiful female that I just met. That was memorable.



Anthony
I attended the Millions for Reparations Rally in Washington D.C. this past August. It was a great cause and experience. I had the opportunity to meet with a lot of good people.



Afiya
This summer I visited the birthplace of William Shakespeare in Stratsford, England.



Kahlil
I was at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe grand slam. I won the slam competition in NY which led to to a final competition held in Minneapolis, Indianapolis. In that competition, my team ranked third out of 57 other contestants.

Ernesto Johnson is the writer of the "Question of the Week", and advertising manager for "The Paper". Send your questions for next week to ErnestoJohnson@yahoo.com

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