

# The Paper

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

Langston Hughes

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A Medium For People of African Descent

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CITY COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

## SARS—Attack of the Coughs . . . or is it?

By Chinonyerem N. Omeokwe

In this day and age, it is difficult to maintain a level head in light of all the different threats we are constantly exposed to. Whether it be “weapons of mass destruction” or diseases such as AIDS and cancer, we are constantly on high alert, avoiding situations and behavior that put us at even greater risk. One thing that makes life more bearable these days is information. Generally, we have information on who has “weapons of mass destruction” and who is capable of using them. Therefore, we can take actions to prevent such use. Generally, we have information on AIDS

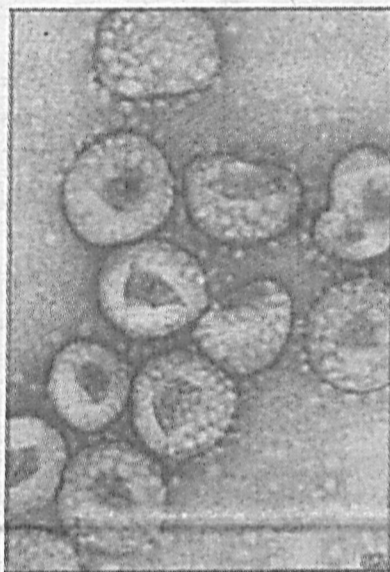


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and cancer and know, for the most part, what behaviors will keep us healthy and alive.

A few weeks ago, another variable was introduced into our already wildly spinning world: SARS. At first it seemed only a few people were affected and by the time we took a second look, the whole city of Hong

Kong in China was shutting down, quarantining its people in a effort to stem the spread of the deadly disease. As with other “acronym-ed” diseases, the mention of SARS elicits fear and anxiety and this is mostly because there is relatively little known about this disease. Information is power, there are no qualms or questions about that. While we may never be fully comfortable about SARS, we can find some relief and assuage some of our fears by learning about it.

### What is SARS?

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). For many, just the use of an acronym is reason for nervousness so the first step in demystifying the disease is to spell out what the letters stand for. The cause of the disease is believed to be the Corona virus, a group of viruses that also cause the common cold. In fact, the symptoms of SARS mimic the common cold and/or flu including high fever, sore

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By Valdon Tau Battice

The latest evidence that the Metropolitan Transit Authority has been less than honest with its riders in revealing its true financial status not only hurts the pockets of commuters but also leaves a sour taste in their mouths. With straphangers being asked to plunk down an additional 50 cents per base ride—the first fare increase since 1995—Sunday 4 May 2003 ushers in a new era in New York City public transportation history. New Yorkers have grown accustomed to periodic fare increases but the 25 percent fare hike is the largest to date. When the subway system began operation a hundred years ago, a ride cost a nickel. Though the Metropolitan Transit Authority has claimed that it is one of the most open agencies in City and State government, audits by New York State Comptroller, Alan Hevesi, and New York City Comptroller, William Thompson, dispute the legitimacy of the \$2.8 billion deficit for 2003 and 2004 claimed by the MTA last December.

The Hevesi Audit found that the MTA had a set of figures that it pre-



Image courtesy of mta.info

sented to the public and another set which it kept to itself. The Audit uncovered “hidden reserves in 2004 which inflated the budget gap by \$118.2 million.” The report also concluded that some of the reserves were “shifted from 2002 to 2004” and “would have been sufficient to avoid a fare hike in 2003.” The revised March Plan presented by the MTA Board on

March 6, 2003 included approved fare and toll increases and funding for the new agreement with the Transit Workers Union (TWU). The Hevesi audit found that beside the plan’s “projected surplus of \$59.8 million by the end of 2004, including a \$40 million reserve”, a review of “the internal version” of the plan unearthed “hidden reserves of \$27.5 million which would raise the surplus to \$87.3 million.” According to the State Comptroller, “the secrecy surrounding the MTA’s finances and manipulation of its financial plan must come to an end.” The Thompson Audit released April 23, 2003 found “the Transit Authority did not provide the public with complete, clear and accurate information about its current and

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## Undergraduate Student Government Elections: A Look Back

By Kelechi Onwuchekwa

The student government polls have come and gone, with the majority of positions going to the AAA slate led by Lev Siridov, the future president of USG. What does this entail for students in the 2003-2004 academic year? Their ability to fulfill their campaign pledges remains to be seen, as student trust and willingness to work with them needs to be built up in an environment of hostile school, city, and state politics.

The campaigning was again reflective of the type of politicking that is seen in real government. In classrooms and hallways around campus, one could not miss the flyers advocating, in a myriad of flashy slogans, voting for one candidate or another, how

All CCNY was made of a diverse group of students that supposedly reflected the ethnicities of students on campus (although it is a question of whether their viewpoints were also reflective,) what the acronym AAA stood for, erroneous claims that certain candidates were relatives of members of the US government, had plastic surgery done on them, or whatnot.

Aside from the campaigning, there was the debate that was hosted by NYPIRG in the days before the polls. Numerous charges, countercharges, and promises of things that will get done were made at these debates. Notwithstanding fallacies, these things should (or, at least, should be) warrant examination:

Student Union building: As was stated by AAA at this debate, this

would be a place that students could go to on campus and simply be themselves or be with their clubs. It would reflect student unions on campuses elsewhere in the country in that not only would be home base for clubs, but a place that outside food service franchises (e.g. Subway, McDonalds, etc.) would be invited to come in and provide competition for Metropolitan Food Service (the cafeteria).

Problem: Baskerville, as stated by AAA, would be the obvious choice to be renovated, but afterwards there is no guarantee that it can accommodate all clubs on campus. In addition, at a time in which “branding” of schools across the United States is a major social controversy even in affluent school districts (much less than in districts with majority populations of

people of color), it would be unwise to attempt such a venture and expose this school to the almost ruthless fast food competition throughout the United States. On the other hand, this proposal was more concrete than the vague promise by ALL CCNY that they would “continue fighting” for student clubs if their slate was elected.

Standardization of AEC bidding process: Again, AAA’s idea. It would call for standard forms for clubs to fill out and submit for bids to receive AEC monies for club events throughout the academic year. The idea is to prevent one club from presenting proposals that would give it either an unfair advantage or disadvantage in the bidding process. In dispute, ALL CCNY offered to create a system

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# Editorial

## The days begin to stretch lazily

By Bindu

The days begin to stretch lazily. Just can't wait for the end of this lecture. Thought May fifteenth would never come. Summer approaches. Another semester is a wrap. The world is changing. America has become an emboldened imperialist aggressor. The dumb-Jock Frat-boy chief executive spins webs of concealment to hide the truth of an economic crisis his administration is powerless to right. Policy slight of hand misdirects the public attention away from the reality of a severely damaged economy with the ultimate in reality game-show TV. War TV, the ultimate Nielsen ratings grabber! You too can be an armchair general clicking your remote from channel to channel, savoring the vicarious thrill of crushing your Iraqi foes from the safety of your couch. Watch as the very latest and greatest in American technological know how destroys the lives of thousands. Amputating human limbs, mangling and searing the flesh of innocents. Cutting short the lives of far too many children, mothers and families. Just collateral damage for the greater good of bringing precious democracy to those oppressed Iraqis godammit! While we're here lets secure that oil too, for the good of all these Iraqis we been maiming, and oh yeah get that scum Hussein and his cohorts while

we're at it. Yeah you remember. The same scum we installed supported and equipped with weapons of war. Weapons of mass destruction (where are those pesky weapons anyway, I know they must be here somewhere).

***The world is changing. Patriot Act II looms ominously from the horizon, virtually unnoticed, the constitution has put on jackboots and is going for a long hike with some guy named Ashcroft . .***

The world is changing. Patriot Act II looms ominously from the horizon, virtually unnoticed, the constitution has put on jackboots and is going for a long hike with some guy named Ashcroft (but we were only counted as 3/5 of a person in it anyway, so maybe that's not so bad) and no-one seems to know when it will be coming back. *Sieg Heil!* But its all good cause we got a nice new 52 inch wide screen with TiVo, some brand spankin' new Manolo Blahniks, Sean Johns outfits, Gucci loafers, Louis Vuitton bags and

an Escalade out in front of the project high-rise, sitting on 22's with fifty cent blaring out those Bose speakers. Yeah we don't have to worry about a damn thing. We alright. While Fifty's sales reach higher and higher into the stratosphere, and the summer radio waves resonate to his neo-gangster, head-bopping, hook driven ditties another fifty cent will be waiting to steal the show.

Peter Kalikow is managing the new fifty-cent. He and the MTA won't let a little thing like cooked up accounting books stop the new fifty-cent. Believe me the new fifty cent is gonna have bigger sales than anybody, millions and millions of units by next year. He'll be available all over the city. Coming this summer to a booth near you.

So please. Enjoy your summer, in the words of a wise lady, "here have a cookie, I promise by the time you're done eating eat it. You'll feel right as rain." Turn that fifty up a little louder, have a few drinks, go to a few clubs. Yeah, you'll remember you don't pay any attention to this kind of alarmist crap. See you next year. Just in time for the tuition hike.

Power and strength

*Bindu is a guest editor to The Paper.*

## SARS - Attack of the Coughs?

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throat, coughs and general aches. The only difference here is that the virus that causes SARS has mutated making it much more harmful to human beings.

### How does one get SARS?

Much like the common cold, SARS is transmitted through droplets of body fluid that can be ejected from the body via a cough or a sneeze. There is some speculation that a person may pick up the virus by touching something that an infected person has already come into contact with. It is important to remember that SARS is very much like the cold virus except for the fact that it is more dangerous. So far, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), there have been 5663 cases of SARS worldwide and 372 deaths to date. Because SARS is a virus and not a bacterial infection, there is no one cure for the ailment. There are cocktail antiviral/antibacterial treatments available but for the most part, these treatments can only help to alleviate the symptoms while helping the body fight off the virus. This, of course, is not good news to hear but generally, by taking preventative measures, simple measures such as washing hands and covering noses and mouths when sneezing and

coughing, can help to curb any virus' spread. Also, it is a good idea to be familiar with herbs, such as goldenseal and Echinacea, which are known to help prevent colds.

### But . . . who said SARS is not just a really bad cold?

That is what it seems like considering the number of deaths in proportion to the number of cases. Some skeptics are wondering why it is only now that SARS has become such a major issue. The World Health Organization has pushed back the date it started watching SARS (which was originally called "atypical pneumonia") to November 1, 2002. We, as citizens of the world, have to once again put on an analytical lens without making things up. It seems, however, that this is the perfect distraction from the issues at hand. After the United States decided to chase Osama Bin Laden, searching in caves and other unlikely places of hiding, it conveniently decided that Iraq posed another threat because the now-deposed leader Saddam Hussein supposedly had ties to Bin Laden, as well as "weapons of mass destruction." The U.S. then began to focus its energies on chasing Hussein while Bin Laden has been put on the back burner. We do not point fingers carelessly and say that the United States made up SARS

to distract people from the fact that although the military campaign in Iraq was immensely successful, the situation we find there now is less than desirable with more and more Iraqis agitating for the quick exit of the United States and all its forces. Many cannot seem to grapple with the perceived ingratitude of the Iraqis toward their would-be liberators. Again, we do not point fingers but we do note the convenience of the heavy emphasis on SARS in the media recently. It is impossible for U.S. citizens to focus on Iraq when an even greater health threat looms.

### So . . . what is the U.S. government doing to prevent the spread of SARS?

Bush and his administration have been strangely quiet about SARS choosing instead to funnel all the energies toward rebuilding a more U.S. friendly Iraq. Maybe they are quiet because SARS is not really a threat. Maybe they are quiet because they do not know what to say or do to relieve the people's fears. We know, however, that if nothing else, the Bush administration is quite masterful at devising stories and/or explanations to calm people down. (How could we forget the infamous injunction to go out and buy duct tape in the event of chemical and biological attack?)

## The Paper

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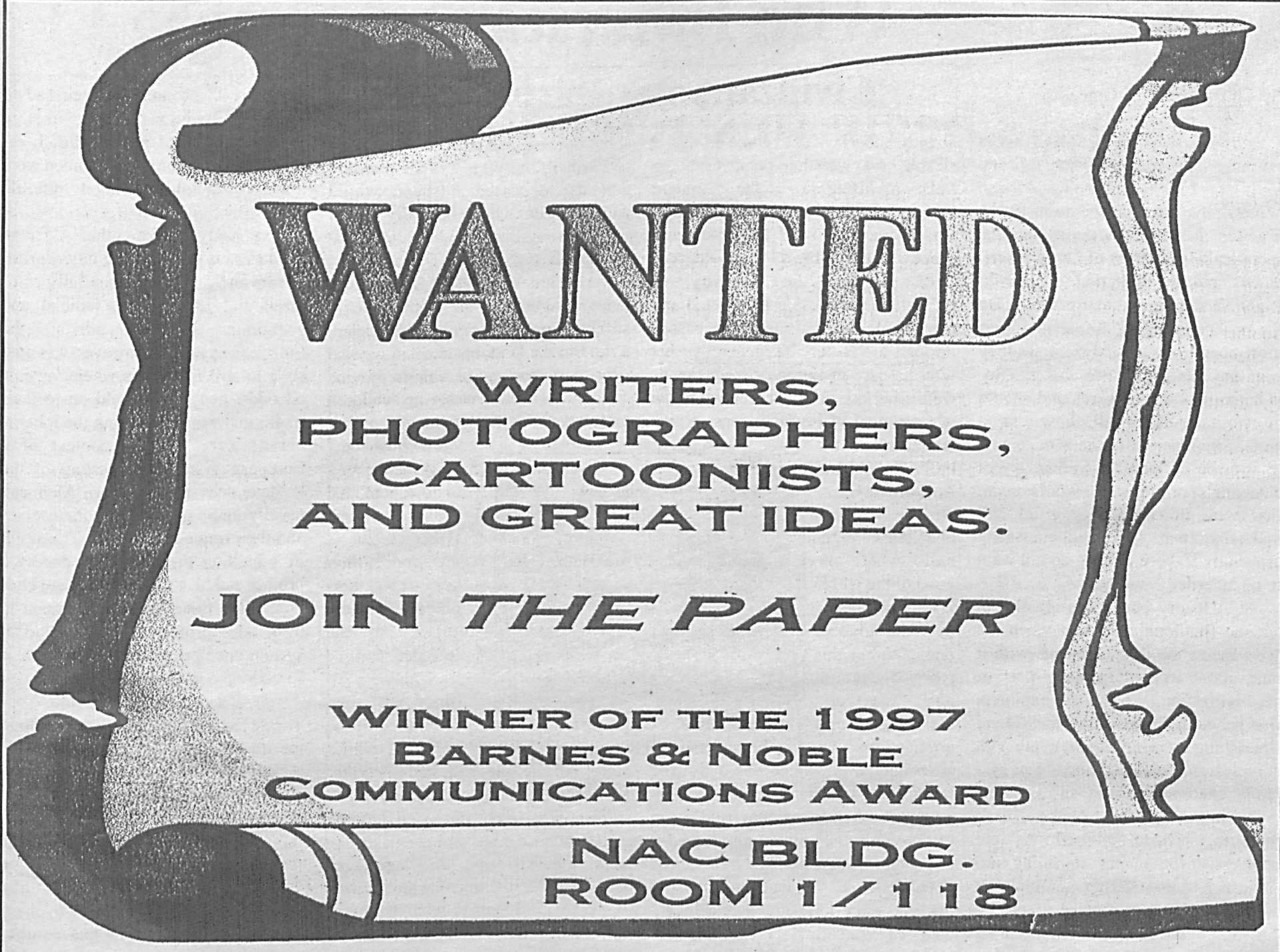
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### Meanwhile . . .

Chinese businesses are suffering as people assiduously avoid situations which they feel put them at risk. United States citizens sit and wait for the next event in our increasingly T.V.-like lives. Stay tuned . . .

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## Shady MTA Wants Too Much

...continued from front page

future financial position."

Faced with an aging subway system, shaky weekend service, token booth closings and tough economic times, New Yorkers are not enthused about the jump in public transit cost. "This increase is not right" said Adrianna Rivera, a 39-year-old biochemist living in Queens. Ms. Rivera transfers from bus to train every day. "Who takes the train?" She asked. "Mainly, students and people who don't have a lot of money."

Betty Ingram who regularly rides the M18 and M100 buses running

through Harlem said, "the MTA had two sets of books. They were being dishonest so I don't think we should be forced to pay this increase." Mrs. Ingram added, "I use public transportation quite a bit. Without the subway, I'd have calluses on my toes."

"It's heavy, bottomline," said Alfred Neuble, a music teacher from Brooklyn who remembers the days when it only cost a dime to ride the subway. But we are somewhat spoiled in New York because there is no where else in the country where you can travel the distance from White Plains to Coney Island for 2 bucks." Pre-school teacher Akeem Cook, 34, of Irvington,

New Jersey said "I don't think they were honest about their books but I'm not too upset about that because the increase was going to come anyway."

"I'm angry cuz I don't wanna pay extra money for my bus," 11-year-old Keithley Adams of the Bronx said. Aki Trent, a Psychology/Black Studies major at City College said "I usually get the monthly metrocard and I just got used to paying \$63 for that. Now I have to pay \$70. I'm upset but what can we do?" On April 30 MTA chairman, Peter S. Kalikow admitted that the authority "could have done a better job in the area of transparency, communicating with the

public about our finances and the way we go about our work" but he also called Hevesi's report "outrageous".

The New York Public Interest Group Straphangers Campaign, in an effort to stop the looming fare increase, has filed action against the MTA. State Supreme Court Justice Louis B. York hears the arguments on May 1, 2003. Waiting for the 2 train at East 180 Street in the Bronx, Jamaican-born Iris E. Macpherson said, "de MTA too damn greedy."

*Valdon Tau Battice is a senior. He may be reached at touch\_tau@hotmail.com.*

## USG: A Look Back

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based on merit, as well as to find a medium to delegate the offers, since there are so many clubs with many different event ideas in mind. Ultimately, a "bottom line" would be created for the AEC process.

Problem: A controversy erupted last semester over the conduct of undergraduate student government members on the AEC committee, which involved the way funds were being disbursed, the conduct of meetings (which may have violated New York State law in some cases), and charges of favoritism, all resulting in costly delays in funding for clubs that

presented proposals. This came during the debating process and not out of application errors and the like; this should be reformed rather than the application process.

Student Space: Both slates made it clear that there would be losses in space in the coming years, losses that would be hard to fight. From here it differs. ALL CCNY's offers to offset the losses spelled out vague attempts to "minimize" the damage that's done; they would promote more "student-education oriented" activities, and help engineering clubs fight their impending forced removal from Steinman Hall. AAA's offers spelled out the Baskerville Student Union plan,

increases in activities oriented towards school spirit and pride, and a possible renovation of the unused Eisner Hall (South Campus) for use by Architecture students.

Problem: Only AAA offered to attempt to offset these losses with gains in other unused areas. Both slates are centering themselves on grandiose plans geared towards generating school spirit at a time when places to do so are quickly decreasing along with academic opportunities, on a campus which is mostly made up of commuter students who do not have time to play. Both slates also did not make clear how clubs will be able to pay for these activities when they also

have not made clear how the funding process could work for them.

The victories of AAA in many of the executive and senatorial positions now give them the opportunity to live up fully to their promises to make student government and the AEC legitimate again. With the fallout from the budget cuts, tuition hikes, and space losses to be felt in the coming semesters, it can be assured that they will be tested greatly.

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# Wife Inheritance

## “Civilization or Barbarism”

By Chinonyerem N. Omeokwe

Recently the *New York Times* ran an article entitled “Rights Group Calls for End to Inheriting African Wives,” that brought attention to the practice in some African nations, specifically in Kenya of “wife inheritance” and the agitation of Human Rights Watch to end that practice. On the surface, using the Eurocentric lens most people use to analyze news they hear and things they see, this practice is barbaric and backwards and should be stopped. After all, how can a woman be inherited? She is not a cow or a piece of land. A woman is not someone’s property. It would seem that wife inheritance is cruel and makes women suffer unnecessarily especially if these woman do not want to be inherited.

History books continually retell the fictitious story that when the West meets the Rest, it brings with it innovation, technology and, most of all, civilization. When early explorers first penetrated into Africa, they found flourishing civilizations complete with complex governmental and social systems. There were rules and customs governing every aspect of life including birth, marriage, and death. As time progressed, the impetus for going into Africa and conquering her took on another aspect for capitalism became the order of the day. The goal became, then, to take out of Africa all that could be taken and to re-structure African society in such a way as to maximize profit. The whole system needed to be scrapped as Europeans imposed their superiority complexes on native Africans, developing the idea that everything the Africans did, from religion (primarily) to government to marriage were inherently wrong and perhaps even diabolical as Africans were thought to have some kind of special contact with the underworld. To be sure, Africans suffered tremendously. But, as is usually the case, women suffered the most.

For the most part, Africa was primarily a farming society. Generally in societies where the means of making a living were agricultural, there was an emphasis on large families. Women were valued because of their production (both agricultural and life-giving) abilities and for a man to marry more than one wife was a symbol of his prosperity and wealth for a husband had to be able to provide a decent portion of land on which each wife could cultivate foods. Before a man even thought of marrying a wife, he

already knew he had to come up with a sizable bride wealth to compensate the father of his bride for the imminent loss of his daughter, who, no doubt, was a crucial part of the production process in her father’s household.

Indeed, the majority of African societies were patriarchal and patrilineal (that is, inheritance passed through the father) but generally, this was the case in European societies as well. The key difference between the two was that while Europeans society emphasized the individual and individualism, African societies operated communally where the good of the whole was emphasized over the good of one. Within this type of communal framework, the validity and even goodness of arranged marriage can be understood. Marriage was not necessarily the romantic “falling-in-love” of two young people but was rather a union of two clans, the joining of two groups of people. Still, a woman was required to leave her father’s land and go to her husband’s land. Generally, she did not own her own land.

In traditional, pre-colonial Africa, land was everything. Land meant life for it was by the land that the people made their living. Women worked the land, in most cases cultivating crops specific to their gender but the land they worked belonged to their husband. If a woman’s husband passed away before his first wife’s son was of age, the question of what would happen to the land arose. In the complex pre-colonial system, the answer was simple. The woman’s brother in law, and not the woman, would inherit the land. For those who would like to look down their noses at this system of land ownership, it is wise to point out that in European societies as well, women were not allowed to own land either and the system of land inheritance was quite similar. But in the Western model, when a woman’s husband died, often times she was left to fend for herself unless her husband left her a substantial amount of money to take care of herself or unless she remarried. After all, she had married the man and not his family. In the African model, however, the woman was married to the clan and need not worry

about how she would take care of herself or her family. It was the tradition that her deceased husband would “inherit” her, which basically meant that she would become her brother-in-law’s wife.

This system of wife inheritance ensured that the woman would still have a place in her husband’s clan, a right to the land that she had worked over the years, and be able to provide a stable environment for her children under the care and guidance of her “new husband.”

It is interesting to note, here, that the ancient Hebrews, as is recorded in their holy texts, also practiced the custom of the levitate.

With the coming of the

European came the dismantling of the traditional African ways and confusion. All the rules that had once provided for an orderly society were overthrown even as the European attempted to impose his “civilized” society upon the Africans. One significant area that was disrupted was the marriage as polygamy was outlawed (although often secretly practiced). Even without polygamy being made illegal, the practice became impossible

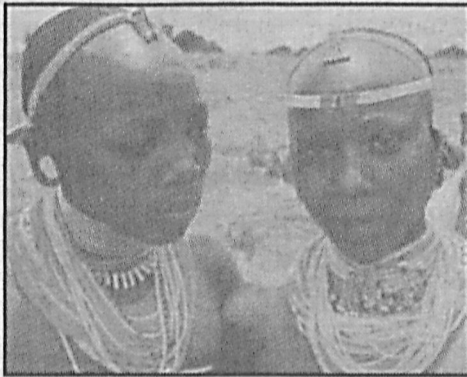


Photo courtesy of smafathers.org

***With the coming of the European came the dismantling of the traditional African ways and confusion. All the rules that had once provided for an orderly society were overthrown even as the European attempted to impose his “civilized” society upon the Africans.***

as the Europeans claimed for themselves the best of the land and left native Africans with the worst. Men were no longer able to provide good land for his wives. In addition, colonialists converted the society from an agricultural economy (“work the land to grow food to eat” society) to a wage economy (“work for money to buy

food to eat” economy). Men had to leave their traditional settings in large numbers to try to provide for themselves and their families. Women were left to try to cultivate largely infertile land.

Kenya, like other African countries, is a former colony. For all intents and purpose, it was fully colonized and its political, judicial and economic systems mirror the European systems. However, it is possible to still find areas where, against all odds, people still hold on to their traditional ways, including the inheriting of wives. In the context of a European system, the custom of the levitate does not function. Men can usually only provide for themselves and their immediate family. The strain of inheriting the land of a deceased brother and his brother’s wife and children often times proves too much to bear. The protection the traditional system once provided to the widow is sorely and conspicuously lacking.

The article in the *New York Times* has once again misunderstood the traditional African system, incorrectly asserting that “the potential groom typically agrees to give the family of a young bride cows or other property in exchange for the girl,” making it seem as if the young woman is indeed property instead of a link or a union between two clans. The article tries to show that families of the husband are only interested in material gain and take all their dead clansman’s property leaving his wife destitute and owning nothing. In traditional society, she owned nothing to begin with. Her husband (an extension of his clan) owned everything. The Western world says that by marrying she owned half of everything her husband had and that upon his death, she owned all of it. Within this paradigm, then, the woman has had her rights violated giving Human Rights Watch every right to rectify this grave wrong.

Many Kenyan women are now more “modern” meaning that they have imbibed Western ideologies and ideals and are just as repulsed with the inheriting of wives as outsiders are. The water is muddy here as the old bumps head with the new, the traditional with the “civilized.” It becomes extremely necessary, in this day and age, to take proclaimed “human rights violations” with a grain of salt. Africa and Africans are still overcoming a seriously destructive culture clash. Time will heal some. Education about and sensitivity to African culture *without prejudice* will heal all.

## We already pay too much!!!

By Enrique Cepeda of NYPIRG

Students already pay more than their fair share to attend public colleges in New York State. According to the Higher Education Corporation Services, New York State is the 15th most expensive state for four-year colleges and the sixth most expensive state for two-year colleges in the U.S. Between 1990-2000, tuition and fees

have increased 97% (when adjusted for inflation.) In the same time period, state aid declined 22%. In 1995, when tuition was increased by \$750, enrollment in NYS public colleges subsequently decreased by over 29,000 in a two year period.

A tuition increase coupled with cuts to financial aid would be devastating for CUNY and SUNY students. On Wednesday, January 29th,

2003 Governor Pataki released his 2003-2004 budget proposal. The governor is seeking to increase tuition at CUNY and SUNY by \$1200. He is also looking to cut \$82 million dollars to the CUNY budget. The governor also proposes the restructuring of the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) by reducing students individual Tuition Assistance Award by 33%. In addition the governor budget proposes to cut

opportunity programs such as EOP, HEOP, SEEK, and CD by 50%. The governor’s proposal also eliminates funding for STEP and CSTEP.

Students should speak out to their state representatives and let them know that the Governor’s proposed budget is unacceptable. To get involved, or find out more information, stop by the NYPIRG office in 1/120 NAC, or call 212-650-5047

# I Love Hip Hop - I'm Just A Lil' Worried About It

By Ernesto Johnson

Here in the Rotten Apple, most of our urban radio stations, notably Hot 97 and video programs like Music Television Video (MTV) and Black Entertainment Television (BET) have the ears and psyche of the city on lock. Supposedly, they're playing all the hottest tunes, but in truth, listeners are flooded with negative and in some instances harmful music that's masked behind a catchy hook, tight production or a well-known celebrity. Today's music carries all the frills but strongly lacks on skills.

Nowadays, a "hit song" is more often than not either profane or vulgar, topped with lots of senselessness. Take the current chart topping song "Magic Stick", performed by Lil Kim, featuring hip-hop current rap king, 50 cent. In this song, the two braggingly rap about how they are not only qualified, but also gifted in the area of sexing. Now I can't front, this tune is definitely a head bobber especially in clubs, but lyrically speaking, it isn't saying anything! And worse, many youngster seem to be singing this. Check it:

**50 Cent's Verse**  
*Been a fiend for this since Rakim made hits  
 Get the position down pat, then it's time to switch  
 I'll rock the boat, I'll work the middle  
 I skeet it up, straight beat it up  
 and I ain't in the hood with my toast  
 out loc'n...*

**Lil Kim's Verse**  
*I'm in the crib givin niggaz deep  
 throat...  
 Guys wanna wife me and give me the  
 ring  
 I'll do it anywhere, anyhow, I'm down  
 for anything  
 Couple of humps, give a nigga goose-  
 bumps  
 This junk in my trunk ain't made for  
 chumps  
 When Lil' Kim's around you don't  
 need to lie  
 It's the "Drugs" baby, I'm makin ya  
 HIGH!!*

The above excerpt is a light (light because there is worse songs out there, though this one is BAD) example of the current sound trend in urban music. Songs of this nature receive heavy airplay on both radio and video programs. Both Kim and 50 are notorious for their shocking music.

Gone are the days of talent and the funny thing is when these budding artists declare who inspired them, they usually say someone who is talented. Their own products, however usually fail to reflect any of that inspiration, creativity or substance. Listening to their lyrics, it's usually hard to figure out what all the hype is about, aside from the song's production or the artist's stylishness. But songs like the

mentioned Lil' Kim and 50 Cent collaboration always seem to easily climb to the top of the charts and content-wise, many can't understand why. Why do we expect so little from our artists today, and why are most of them so obviously untalented? Why are they hardly ever held accountable for their message? Go figure. I suppose their excitement is built from propaganda aided with great marketing. Or maybe it comes from how repetitiously their songs get played. Hot 97 is especially guilty of overplaying a lot of the garbage masquerading for music. This radio station

plays the same songs from sun up to sun down, day in, day out. The outcome, brain-washed listener.

Where videos are concerned, lavishness and sexual imagery significantly charms the listener/viewer. Nowadays it is rare not to find a video where women are not baring it all while the males exploit them.

Everyone is taking it off, even kiddy Mouseketeer Britney Spears. Its like watching soft porn to some degree because they wear so little. It wasn't that long ago that she singing kiddy tunes on Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse program. Remember? M-I-C-K-E-Y? Now she's taking it off and inspiring other little girls and aspirant artists to do the same. Just think of how many videos are produced with the same ole concept-finely tuned or surgically enhanced naked bodies. Today's videos can be looked upon as borderline porn made readily available for any home with cable. It is very hard nowadays to distinguish the porn industry from music videos. The differences are minimal if at all. How many times have we seen videos that fail to connect with the songs meaning, yet the song still wins mass appeal.

Even big name artists are taking it off. Do you recall the nudity Janet Jackson surprised us with in *Vibe* magazine along with Toni Braxton following suit a couple years ago? We all understand the facts. Sex sells. But is it appropriate to sell it everywhere, including to minors? Seems so. Sadly, for many, what is viewed on television dictates how life should be. This is especially true for minors. We see (nudity-explicitness) and hear (vulgarity) a bit more than we really need to.

Good looks, not talent has become the most essential determinant in the success of a performers career. This factor has gradually become the single most important factor for many of the artist currently faring well.

The reality is that music has stimulating propensities and its forces are unseen like the positive and negative energy waves found in a magnet. For many, especially impressionable youths, a lot of today's urban music is regrettable, and sadly enough, many listeners become hooked like junkies falling for drugs.

Furthermore, we find listeners mimicking the things they hear in songs. This frequency of "life imitating art" is why many feel too much negative music is harmful. The nega-

tive transmissions parading as music can evoke hate, terror, anger, crime, vulgarity, promiscuity, bias, etc. What's even sadder is the fact that this trend is perpetuated by a fleet of artists who are willing to say anything and show everything. They exploit themselves and their listeners to strike it rich.

Messages like the one found on Lil Kim's song "Magic Stick" come a dime a dozen. These types of tunes flood the airwaves. There has to be more to rap and sing about besides sex, drugs, bitches, money, bling, and violence. This includes those female and younger artists out there. It's almost criminal. Back in the day negative songs had less airtime.

Music has an immense ability to affect the heart, spirit, and consciousness. The effects are often subtle yet powerfully persuasive. Take gospel music for example; it can, in many instances lift your spirit. Who can deny Michael Jackson's great catalogue of dance music, which makes everyone buss a move? Conscience reggae is also uplifting. This is evident from Bob Marley's great legacy. He exemplified a "good" musician. I cannot begin to describe how his music enrich and inspires listeners.

Another artist that maintains integrity is Nas. He currently scored on the charts and in the hearts of many with his latest song "I Know I Can", which is a song that promotes triumph through ones use of willpower. Peep his lyrics:

*Be, B-Boys and girls, listen again  
 This is for grown looking girls who's  
 only ten  
 The ones who watch videos and do  
 what they see  
 As cute as can be, up in the club with  
 fake ID  
 Careful, 'fore you meet a man with  
 HIV  
 You can host the TV like Oprah  
 Winfrey  
 Young boys, you can use a lot of help,  
 you know  
 You thinkin life's all about smokin  
 weed and ice  
 You don't wanna be my age and can't  
 read and write  
 Begging different women for a place  
 to sleep at night  
 Smart boys turn to men and do what-  
 ever they wish.  
 If you believe you can achieve, then  
 say it like this*

Oddly, songs such as Nas' current single, "I Know I Can," fails to capture the attention of radio and video programs, so they lag behind on the charts.

Unlike negative music, positive music can summon emotions such as love, joy, hope, self-worth, open-mindedness and peace. And it serves for many other functions. These virtues are undeniably beneficial. Good music is like medicine to one's soul.

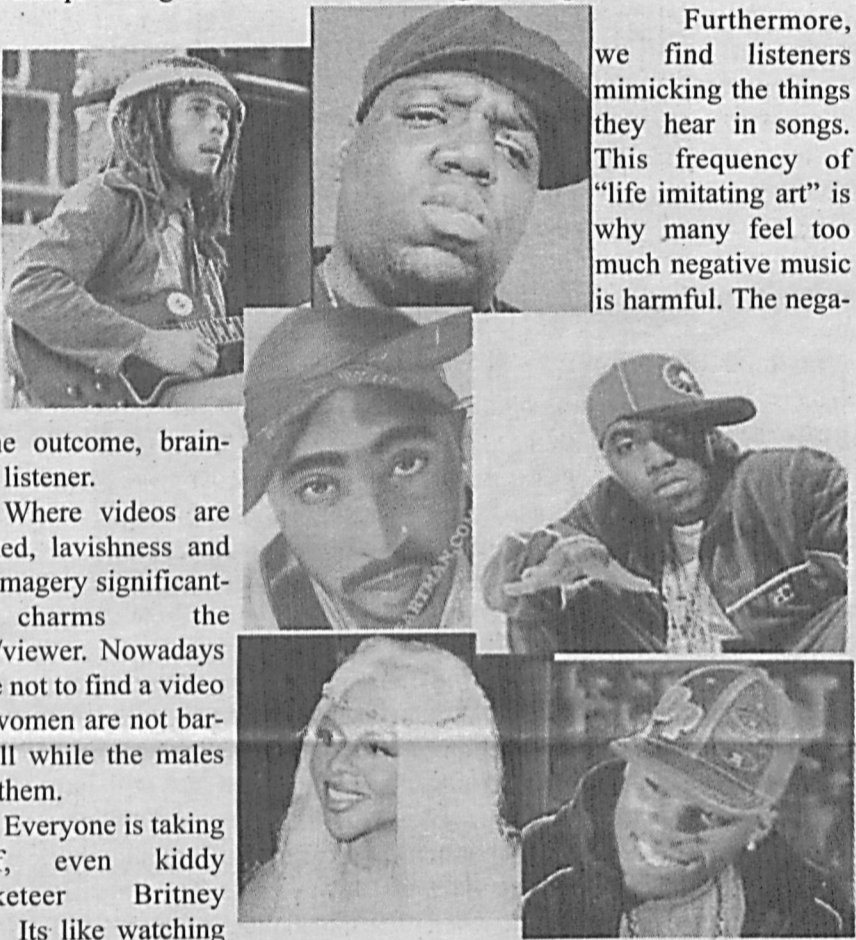
Parents, big brothers, sisters, friends, radio and video programmers, dj's, anyone who can intervene, realize the harm imposed on our generation if we continue to ignore or trivialize the consequences of negative music. We must recognize that music inspires. It should inspire more good than we currently allow. There should be a system designed that supervises and restricts much of the negative content heard and seen, even when it is considered a 'hit'. Too much credit is given to these artists without merit.

Let's save the music y'all.

Respect the game players.

P.S. I love hip-hop.

*Bob Marley photo courtesy of alwaysontherun.net.  
 Tupac Shakur photo courtesy of theartman.com.  
 Biggie Smalls photo courtesy of jennyjones.warnerbros.com.  
 Nas photo courtesy of ew.com.  
 Lil' Kim photo courtesy of starpages.net.  
 50 Cent photo courtesy of mtv.com.  
 50 Cent. Photo courtesy of mtv.com*



**ONE GOOD THING ABOUT MUSIC . . .  
 WHEN IT HITS YOU, YOU FEEL NO PAIN! -Bob Marley**

# The IMF Admits It Goofed - Now What?

By Kelechi Onwuchekwa

Early in the month of April, the IMF came out with a report that examined the effects of structural adjustment programs and financial globalization on countries that applied them. This report concluded that the application of SAP in order to turn a developing country's economy into a market-oriented one may not be a good idea because it could lead to "consumption volatility" in markets. The report also said that places with a certain amount of "absorptive capacity" are better able to take the impact of financial globalization and benefit from it. Finally, the article goes on to say that the whole process should be undertaken "with caution" and under "country specific circumstances."

For some people arguing for the longest time that globalization would destroy the economies of developing countries, it is conceivable that "no kidding!" would be their response. While the IMF did not officially change its stance on how the world economic order should be through this report, it has finally acknowledged the necessity for markets to be well developed before they open themselves up to free market competition. However, this brings with it more deep questions regarding IMF motives.

One question that has to be raised is the timing of this report, which was during the invasion of Iraq. It has been said that with world attention diverted, no one would notice that a window of opportunity for developing nations had been opened for them to press their case for a reassessment of the relationship between the Global North and the Global South. That this report is published with worldwide attention diverted would thus be a ploy, according to some, by an agency controlled by the US Treasury in order to keep nations subservient to the Global North.

Whether this is true or not, one thing is clear: for African nations trying to climb out of political and economic conflict, the publication of such a report should make them reassess

and possibly disassociate themselves from the IMF altogether. The process of structural adjustment has been undertaken via IMF directives for over the past twenty years, and all it has gotten these states are worsening economies, political instability, mounting arrears, and a general feeling that things will never get better on the continent. Meanwhile, those calling the economic shots are doing so from

the comfort of their New York, London, or Paris offices, and have no idea of what the effects are on the ground, effects that generally prevent not only debts from being paid but

also markets from developing. Indeed, it could also be argued that the whole idea behind structural adjustment would be to make those markets so cheap that multinational corporations can attain goods for next to nothing.

The loss of economic sovereignty across the African continent, forcing its states to be subservient to the IMF, can be traced back to when its many nations were trying to liberate themselves politically. For many French-speaking nations, their banking systems were tied up in a financial consortium known as the *Communauté Financière Africaine (CFA)*, with its currency (the franc) pegged to the French franc at a low exchange rate. This system that was placed on nations like Mali and Niger so soon after independence checked their abilities to develop as they should, and it contributed to the underdevelopment of those nations today. For English-speaking nations like Nigeria and Kenya, such economic strangulation was not as blatant, but the combination

of uprisings, total state control, inefficient development, and corruption put them in such a position that they had almost no choice but to go to the IMF for help. Other African states, particularly in southern Africa, were either still under some form of colonial control, were in the midst of violent civil wars, or were in one-party state systems. The bottom line is that due to actions of those in charge as well as

volatility in world markets, they all ended up going back to lenders in the very nations they were liberating themselves from and had conditions put on those loans which

would have them virtually recolonized.

The cycle continues today, only now a new set of African leaders has emerged promising all kinds of change, but yet still have their economic terms and policies dictated to them by bankers and politicians in far-away lands. The situation has become so bad that, in a number of cases, some African leaders, instead of attempting to use those loans, pocket them instead, leaving their peoples worse off. And meanwhile, those in the IMF are in constantly trying to justify their policies, with activists following them wherever they go in the hopes that the continued pressure will get them to change their stance.

Judging from the few changes that have come in the last couple of years, from the stubbornness of western (northern) governments in living up to their promises, and the inability (and arguably the unwillingness) of many African leaders to do whatever they can to better their people's condi-

tions, the issuance of this report beckons for a new paradigm in terms of African economic development. It is reasonable to assume that in any event western (or northern) nations will not want to put themselves in a position in which their economies may potentially be trumped by a continent three times the size of the US and with four times its population (which is projected to increase despite the many wars and epidemics that are wreaking havoc on it.) They are not going to pay attention to African and IMF demands and risk opening up their own economies to global market competition, with their government officials paying the price in terms of losing their jobs. Therefore, why should African nations still take drastic and risky economic measures at home just so they could gain access to more costly loans and a tenuous foothold in western markets?

What needs to be done is that African states need to divert whatever resources they have to ensuring that their populations can eat, have a place to live, and have the means by which they can not only support themselves but also spawn a new economic revolution on the continent. It is not enough to simply attempt political union and settle with that (although this is necessary politically and culturally), but there should be inter-African development economically in which each state trades with each other and feeds off the revenues to develop internally. The best and brightest that have been chased off the continent need to be invited back home to help in this regard, because they provide the best guidance and the best potential pool of credit to get the continent going. This group should include peoples of African descent in the Americas and the Caribbean since it would be a travesty not to include such a group that is willing and able, with their economic and political experiences, to contribute to a potential African renaissance.

*Kelechi Onwuchekwa is a junior majoring in political science. He may be reached [nyonwu@netscape.net](mailto:nyonwu@netscape.net).*

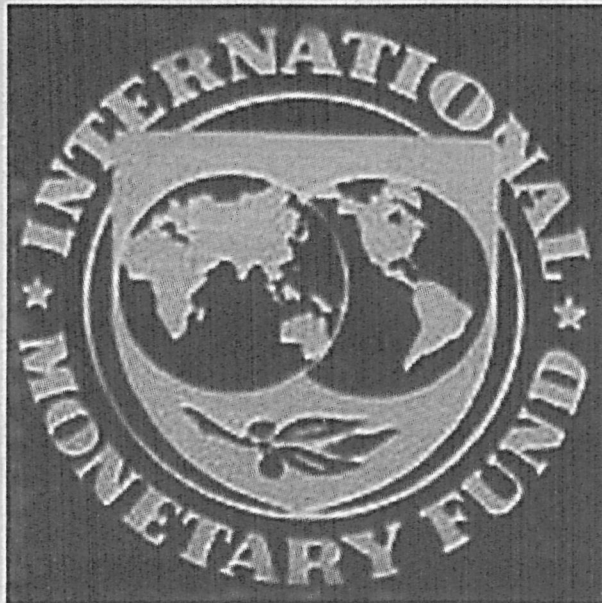


Image courtesy of [news.bbc.co.uk](http://news.bbc.co.uk)

## Two of Us Arrested in Civil Disobedience Next to INS Building

By Professor Bill Crain

Mexican-American labor organizer Jerry Dominguez and I were arrested Tuesday, April 29, during our act of civil disobedience to protest the Bush administration's assault on immigrants and civil liberties. We were arrested when we momentarily stopped traffic next to the INS building in lower Manhattan and were handled unusually roughly by the police.

Like me, you may know of several wonderful international students who have been jailed and/or deported. Before our arrest, we distributed a statement that quoted an April 20 New York Times editorial: "The Bush administration has slashed away at core constitutional protections in the name of fighting terrorism. The Justice Department claims the power to hold American citizens indefinitely without access to lawyers. . . Terrorism

suspects have been held in secret detention, their hearings closed to the public."

Our statement also observed that, The Patriot Act allows federal agencies to inspect anyone's library records without notifying the library patrons. The list of assaults on the Constitution goes on and on. It's time to stand up for freedom."

We would like to thank CUNY ESL faculty member Susan DiRaimo

and the immigrants who gave us support Tuesday morning.

*Professor Bill Crain is a professor of psychology here at the City College of New York. He may be reached at 212-650-5650 or at [wcrain@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:wcrain@ccny.cuny.edu).*

# Wack Teachers

## Students Should Demand More

By Ernesto Johnson

class taught by Professor Wallenstein. I hesitantly registered for his class because I was forewarned about his pedantic teaching manner and unstructured lessons. But because there was little time left for registration and no alternate class for the time slot that I sought, I disregarded the warning. In addition, I optimistically thought that the cautions that I received from prior students might have been isolated accounts held between those students and the professor. I figured he couldn't be that bad - I figured wrong.

I decided to speak out against this powerful man because "change is necessary." This change can come in a multitude of ways, but whichever way it comes, it should be in the interest of the student. By exposing him, I'm doing the school and my fellow schoolmates a great service.

My other reason for calling him out is because despite his reputation in the broader academic world as a poet and experienced educator, students here at the City College feel differently. He has continuously failed to win the satisfaction of his students by putting up a wall, which makes it impossible for him to convey whatever knowledge he has to his students.

He puts people down, thereby killing their ambition. How and why should we stand idle allowing this cycle to harm fertile minds?

*Ernesto Johnson is an English major and president of The Paper. He may be reached at ernestjohnson@yahoo.com.*

Everyone has had a wack teacher before. Those of us educated in the New York City public school system, probably had a greater likelihood of encountering these "ill-equipped" teachers: Bad teachers exist everywhere, not only in public schools, but even here at our very own college. Now I'm not talking about the type of teacher who is disliked for personal reasons, but the type of teacher who really can't teach or doesn't inspire students.

I'd first like to explain what a wack teacher is followed by why many students, myself included, feel that Professor Barry Wallenstein of the English Department, fits this profile. I'll explain also why I've decided to publicly call him out.

A bad teacher fails to capture the interest or respect of students. Their method of teaching bores and lacks creativity. The bad teacher tends to dissuade students instead of encouraging them. Imagine an educator who cannot inspire - how unworthy! Wouldn't you agree? Bad teachers do not challenge but instead offer destructive as opposed to constructive criticism while eagerly awaiting opportunities to fail students. Bad teachers may act heartlessly towards their students and possibly lack the patience to teach their students. These vices ultimately lead to a professor's unpopularity and more importantly, may affect his/her effectiveness.

Now I'm not saying that Professor Wallenstein has all of these traits but he does exhibit a few of them, and sadly, plenty of students have kept quiet about this for too long. Today, the silence is broken and now many shall discover this truth.

Last semester I took a creative writing

# POETRY CORNER

## Education

### Maze

By Ernesto Johnson

No Chalk  
Just Talk

No Instruction  
Hence Academic Destruction

I Yearn For Knowledge  
That's Why I'm In College

No Compassion  
Just Dissatisfaction

You Expect This  
And I Hope For That

It Ain't Your Fault  
And Sure Isn't Mine  
But It Was Initiated  
By Similar Design

When You Care, I Grow  
When Naught  
The Cycle Continues

The More This Persists  
The More I Resist

Haughtiness Is  
Ugliness

But...  
You're So Pretty

## Where's Yo' Pa?

By Martha Jules

The Streets are calling  
"Your father, your father,"  
a lonesome champ,  
man of 55,  
ungrateful burte,  
spread 14 seeds,  
a pimp, sugar daddy,  
some woman's man,  
hooked up on ventilators,  
monitored by pacemakers,  
the clock ticks,  
the hour  
has come,  
we regret to mourn  
the death of a player  
who died masturbating.

*All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident."*  
- Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860)

# If Affirmative Action Goes, Then What?

By Kelechi Onwuchekwa

In early April, the United States Supreme Court heard the affirmative action case involving the University of Michigan Law School that has generated much controversy in the last couple of years. The case, Grutter v. Bollinger, involves a white female law school applicant who claims that Michigan's admissions policy discriminates against whites in terms of allowing so-called lesser qualified African American applicants a better chance at admission.

Much of the controversy centers around the use of affirmative action in admissions policy and as a remedy for past racial discrimination alike. It is feared, particularly among African-Americans, that the loss of affirmative action may signal a beginning of the end of political and economic liberties fought for in the Civil Rights Movement. In some cases, these fears are justified, as there have been reports of increased racist acts on college and high school campuses around the country involving white on black incidents, as well as a preemptive scaling back of policies designed to correct racial imbalances in certain institutions such as schools, contracting work/bids, and even in employment rights.

The current political and economic

climate gives African Americans further reasons for unease. Although the invasion of Iraq has already been completed, the battles over patriotism, support for the Bush administration, and the financial fallout have only just begun. States, and especially New York State, are still

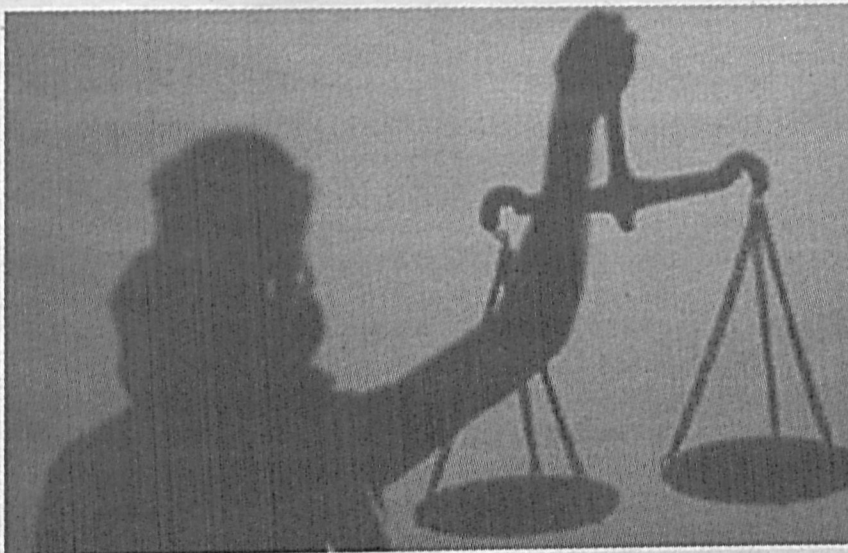


Photo courtesy of jacobchaw.com

reeling from the current economic recession and are saddled with budget deficits going well into the billions of dollars. It is likely that social services and education funding will be cut and fees increased, hitting African Americans hard. While the correlation between these economic woes and the financing for the reconstruction of Iraq is not hard to miss, attempts by African Americans to exploit this to

prove the Bush administration's ulterior motives have been and will continue to be met with charges of being unpatriotic and potentially treasonous. Given the history African Americans have had of being unfairly pigeonholed into these categories with their obvious results, these charges imply

serious consequences that cannot be taken lightly. Taken altogether, the affirmative action debate, and its potential loss, spell grave consequences. Some have already advocated a shift in political philosophy in order to counteract the effects of the Supreme Court's decision. In an interview with Dr. Leonard Jeffries, he espoused the belief that the loss of

affirmative action will "wake up" African Americans and "put reparations questions before United States institutions." He also went on to say that the questions of what is owed to us, regardless of affirmative action, is "much more significant...it will be raised no matter what happens. It is an idea whose time has come." This position is shared by many others, some of whom have already taken action to achieve this end, such as the lawsuit against Fleet Bank and CSX Transportation by Deadria Farmer-Paellmann, as well as attempts at gaining land in some Deep South states in order to force the United States to fulfill a promise it made to newly freed African Americans after the Civil War and forming a republic headed by an African American legislature. Whether a shift in focus to reparations or a continued emphasis on civil rights fits, one thing is clear: however the Supreme Court decides, African Americans must begin to take more political action collectively to counteract the trends of slow economic and political disenfranchisement that are resulting from the increasingly neoconservative political climate in the United States. Kelechi Onwuchekwa is a junior majoring in political science. He may be reached nyonwu@netscape.net.

# Question of the Week By Ernesto Johnson

Now that the War in Iraq has subsided, and no weapons of mass destruction has been found or used against the Americans in battle, does that mean that the war with Iraq was unsubstantiated? (For more info, see P. Krugman's editorial in the *NY Times* [www.nytimes.com/2003/04/29/opinion](http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/29/opinion).)

**Mercedes Torres** - English Major/Creative Writing

The reasoning given by the Bush administration originally was that their administration had evidence that Hussein regime had weapons of mass destruction. As the war had been declared and fighting took place, the reason changed to "Iraqi Freedom," and the U.S. and Britain were fighting to decimate the Hussein regime and all of a sudden the oppressed in Iraq became an interest and their freedom became important. To date, no WMD has been found.

**E.T.-Sonic Arts**

Totally! There's a huge misunderstanding that there was a war to be fought. The Bush Administration has always known that there were no weapons of mass destruction. The only link between Osama Bin Laden and Saddam are that they were both supported by American dollars at some point. This war has been nothing more than another step towards establishing the New World Order.

**Jenny Martinez**-Economics of Finance

The president claimed foremost that there were weapons of mass destruction or nuclear weapons in Iraq to authorize an invasion in this country, his latter reason for invasion was to free the arab people from Huseeins despot rule. Since these weapons were not found, his first reasons were unsubstantiated, and even though I am glad the Arab people are now free, it was unfortunate that many were lost.

**Seth Salim Shihab** - Human Resources Major

The reasons that the president gave for going to war was unsubstantiated. The war leaves us with many questions. Some question against the president for going to war. If not for the weapons of mass destruction then what? Was it the oil? Was it the money? Was it the oppression of the Iraqi people?

**Diuyaang Agraal**

From the beginning I was against the war with Iraq. Just by saying "we know they have weapons of mass destruction, but we can and not prove it because of national security reasons" clearly shows the unjustified war with Iraq. Thus, yes the president's actions for striking Iraq were unsubstantiated.

**Orlando Quinones**-Psychology - Newly elected Executive V.P. (USG)

I feel that the president acted for the best interest of his constituents. Even though we question their motives, I feel we give 100% support to our elected officials. The main thing I am very afraid of is if the benefits of a select few outweigh the benefit of the whole.

**Alma Loaiza-Londono**

I have a feeling that most people knew or felt that the American theory of Iraq's WMD was said only to justify the war in Iraq. America is very eager to take control of the oil, money and power in Iraq.

**Lev-Siridov** (USG)

I am not convinced that the war is over. Getting the territory was easy, but to establish a secular government in a deeply religious society is the WAR.

**Johathan "Smiley" Rinaldi** - Architecture

Iraq is one country in a whole region of terrorist, abusers of civil rights and military dictatorships that subsidize violence and perpetuate hatred of all other than themselves. President Bush is trying to establish a democratic order in a lawlessland without pioneers such as Washington, Hamilton, and Adams to emerge and carry their people to a life of freedom. Iraq might not have weapons any more but they have been moved to Serbia.

**Professor Mary Soliday** -English Department

I do not believe that war with Iraq was justified even if Hussein had had WMD. We do know that North Koreans either have such weapons or at least the capacity for making them, for example, and we are engaging in diplomacy with this country (which also features a totalitarian government and cruel dictator). Diplomacy and collaboration with the international community are the appropriate responses in the case of North Korea; and would have been appropriate as well in the case of Iraq.

**Erin Scales**--International Studies

The principles were *never* valid and the administrations threw out a lot of "reasons" (suffering Iraqi's, dictatorship-like regime, Iraqi support).

**Dr. Leonard Jeffries**--Black Studies

Many of us believe that the decision to go to war with Iraq was part of a larger plan and that the decision to go to war was a foregone conclusion, and there's nothing Iraq could have done, even if it gave up its weapons of mass destruction if they had them, that would have stopped the war plan. I think the weapons of mass destruction, even if they were found, would not be based as the reason. It's clear that there are larger issues. We're not going to enter into North Korea for their

weapons of mass destruction, nor China, nor Russia. We're only going to pick on those countries that we can intimidate and invade successfully.

## Interview

with Orlando Quinones (Executive V.P.) and Lev Sviridov (president of USG), newly elected to USG.

### WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR POSITIONS

**Lev:** PresIDent runs everything--the greatest misconception. He just implements whatever the student senate passes.

**Orlando:** Very persistent and dedicated to the needs of the student body. One of my concerns is to inform students of their rights. Be their voice.

### PLANS

**Lev:** Fix finances. Most of the problems lack of responsibility in terms of finances in the student government and the club. AEC has been a disaster; a lot of back-scratching, partisanship. Its not supposed to be that way. There should be a single application for every club. An even playing field for all. USG will provide bare minimum to get club run. Get money back to clubs. To bring up morale. Five point system has been robbed because of pay increases.

**Orlando:** Set up information tables or seminars to inform.

### TRACK RECORD

**Lev:** Two years ago, elected as senator under Williams and promoted to be primary senatorial officer (highest office of senator), sat on PAC, AEC, did try to push for major change. Did work on implementing policy of keeping diverse community united after Sept 11th. Came up with slogan "United We Stand" on September 12<sup>th</sup>. To freeze academic records in case of be called off to serve in the military, in case of a funeral, pushed for it very hard. I tried to be as fair in AEC, the year was relatively problem free except for submissions by USG members on behalf of USG for personal ideas. Shot those down. Pretty much internal problems.

**Orlando:** Long history with student government. My fifth year being with Student Government. My job is to allocate budget to clubs (before.) Most I could do is to allocate \$20K. Created the "perrywinkle" policy, helping clubs receive more funding from USG, taking in proposals, looking at them, and if they have authorizations they are submitted to the senate. They approve or deny. Sat on AEC, was kind of disappointed; some clubs, departments submitted proposals while getting budget, while others got no budget and were forced to postpone events. Based on that I am very capable. Definitely need to change the policy of the AEC. Also should inform club about AEC, about proper proposals, what are the guidelines. Also, each organization, department should submit only one proposal.

**Lev:** people make arguments that they submit applications on behalf of departments or for themselves. One application solves that. Then it wont be a question of clubs getting double funding while others get nothing.

**Lev:** Rebuild student confidence in SG. Its not there. Most common reply during campaigning was that they only come out during campaign. Not knowing who we are is a problem. They don't know what we want. We need to follow the bylaws. They stipulate 2x/month town hall meetings.

**Orlando:** I have created email system to contact club president of what they will do. They will spread word to members. Inf table to reach out to student body. Freshman orientation - will be there on behalf of SG to inform the NG

### RATE PRIOR PERFORMANCE

**Orlando:** that depends. Speak to every club, I've represented 100%. AEC also, as an advocate. I did make a few mistakes like not having accountability of what I was doing. Some felt that I didn't rep for others. If they feel that way, then come to meetings and see what I did inform me.

**Lev:** I've done my best to repair the science building. We submitted reports, but USG didn't have quorum. Filed report again this year. Hope students did see changes. I was always out there meeting with students.

### UNLIKE PRIOR VP, P

**Lev:** Last year elections swept because only one slate. Bullet on paper doesn't mean anything. What are you going to do. Detail how and why. Difference is that we have a set agenda. We have priorities. Take more advantages of our land resources. Why only first NAC floor only student space? Repair other spaces, property on convent avenue. Plan to get student space saved.

**Orlando:** they are friends of mine. But we have duty to fulfill needs of student body. They tried their best, could not fulfill b/c of lack of enthusiasm on senate's part. Nobody held student government accountable. Media never around. Conflict between administration. Fighting against negative campaigns. I felt that my enthusiasm and experience in dealing with CC politics, we would do more world.

