

The Paper

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

Langston Hughes

Volume 58 No. 6

A Medium For People of African Descent

September 25, 2002

CITY COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

CCNY Graduate Colin Powell “Booed” at Earth Summit

by Valdon Tau Battice

The ten-day World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg ended on September 6th with much said and even more to be realized. Dealing with environmental, social and economic issues, the “Earth Summit 2002” is, to date, the largest “green” forum.

A Round of...

Of all the speeches delivered, none generated more attention than U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's on the last day of the conference. The CCNY graduate seemed to open a can of worms during his ten minutes before the 1,500-strong group of delegates—either that or anti-U.S. sentiment was just waiting to rear its head. Mr. Powell's speech was interrupted by boos and jeers no less than five times.

Two minutes into his presentation, Powell's comment that in Zimbabwe, “the lack of respect for human rights” was pushing millions to the brink of starvation met with an uproar of catcalls. Before the assembly of heads of government and non-government would calm down, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma South African foreign minister and the chair of the proceedings, had to hammer with her gavel and call for order. Mr. Powell remained unflustered, thanking the crowd and saying, “I have now heard you, I ask that you hear me.” A rain of boos came again when he criticized Zambia for “rejecting bio-tech corn which has been eaten around the world

safely since 1995.” Chants of “shame on Bush” were common throughout the secretary's speech. Interestingly, many of the jeers came from American lobbyists.

Reflecting on the summit, Dr. Jack Felder, a self-published bio-chemist and Harlem street vender said “what do you expect man? Powell is



Colin Powell, CCNY Graduate

Wards off the “unfavorable response” he received from the World Summit audience. *Courtesy of BBC*

Bush's mouthpiece and right now the U.S. is the biggest international gangster.”

Remi Parmentier, political director of Greenpeace felt that “the reaction to Colin Powell's speech [was] a very accurate reflection of the anger of non-governmental organizations at the role played by the United States at this conference.” Simply put, the U.S. is not living up to its sole superpower status at such important mega-summits.

Beginnings

Central to the Earth Summit process is the concept of sustainable development. It has clear roots in the United Nations Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972 when the international community convened a round table to discuss global environment and development needs. From these talks arose the UN Environment Program (UNEP). In the 1980s the World Commission on Environment and Development was established with further hopes of addressing mankind's relationship with his surroundings.

The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 sought to give a higher profile to conservation efforts and realistic solutions for the management of natural resources, production and consumption, radioactive and solid waste disposal, health, technology transfer and health. Though ambitious in scope, the summit called for new attitudes and behaviors toward the environment while providing guiding principles for many governments' environmental policies.

Fast-forward ten years. The planet has plunged deeper into pollution and poverty. The ravages of wars and the HIV/AIDS pandemic meant this year's Earth Summit was an even heavier undertaking. When all was said and done a number of significant and not so significant policies came out of Johannesburg.

Resolutions

Regarding water and sanita-

tion, governments agreed to cut in half the number of people without safe drinking water and satisfactory sanitation by 2015. According to the UN, upwards of 1.1 billion people lack access to clean drinking water. Portable water and proper sanitation will save millions of lives and drastically reduce diseases like cholera.

Health wise, the reduction of HIV in young people aged 15 to 24 by 25 percent in severely affected countries by 2005 and worldwide by 2010 was a significant agreement. Access to healthcare was also recognized as being a basic human right.

The eradication of poverty was one of the key issues at the summit. It was agreed that the number of the world's poor living on less than \$1 per day should be cut in half by 2015. Furthermore, the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers must be bettered significantly by 2020. The establishment of a voluntary fund to wipe out poverty was also agreed upon.

Additional agreements pledged to halt destructive fishing practices, establish protected marine areas and reduce biodiversity loss by 2010.

A very common feeling is that the Earth Summit lacked urgency because the developed nations such as the United States are not backed against the wall. President George Bush didn't even attend. Jacob Scherr, of the U.S.-based National Resources Defense Council quipped, “It's as if the U.S. is not on this planet.”

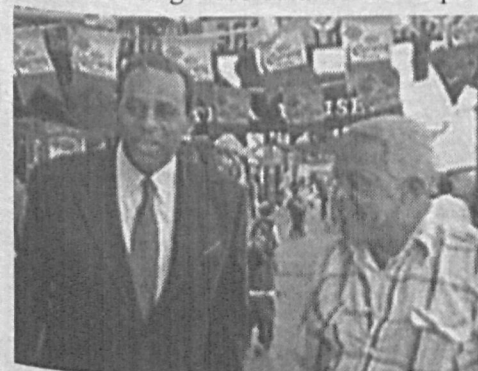
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Now That the Primary Elections are Over

by Malik Lewis

On the eve of the one year anniversary of the World Trade Center attack, New York State residents were asked to exercise their constitutional right and civic duty by casting their ballots in the New York State gubernatorial primary.

Candidate H. Carl McCall who won his party's nomination by an overwhelming 86% said of the Sept.



Gubernatorial Candidate H. Carl McCall *Courtesy of the New York Times*

10 election date, “democracy is not a spectator sport . . . too much is at stake.” For the nearly 88% of eligible voters who did not show-up at the polls, Mr. McCall's statement rings ironically true: democracy isn't a spectator sport; the majority of New Yorkers weren't even watching.

Local and national papers have devoted a significant amount of coverage to the peculiar institution of New York politics. Republican groups have adopted typically liberal positions, right-wing candidates have cozied-up to labor interests, Democrats have run race neutral campaigns, and leftists have come to the defense of corporate icons turned political figures like current Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who this month was named 29th wealthiest man in the world.

CCNY voters, not to mention New Yorkers in general, would be justified in their confusion about the cur-

rent political climate, and discouraged by the timing and lack of intrigue in last week's primary. Unfortunately, as Mr. McCall intimated, there is an awful lot at stake—especially for City College students. On primary day in a full classroom one CCNY professor of sociology asked the students who had voted and in a shot three-fourths of the class responded affirmatively. The teacher could not believe it.

New York State is currently on the brink of a fiscal deficit that has been unmatched in decades. As a result of the World Trade Center attack New York City is in the hole \$800 million. The CUNY system continues to serve as the sacrificial lamb of the state budget, as it has been for more than a decade. For CCNY students the choice between voter participation or non-participation comes down to a question of priorities. In a study conducted by the Debt to Society Project

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- New and Improved—What do you think of the new changes to the campus?
- Did you know that NYC is facing a huge deficit? How will it affect you?
- Health is Wealth—Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S. How can you protect yourself?
- How much do you know about Marcus Garvey? This influential leader changed the way we view the world.
- New Movies, New Books, and much, much more . . . It's all Inside!

Editorial

**Knowledge is Not Only Power
Knowledge is Life**

by Chinonyerem Omeokwe

It is hard to make sense of the situation the world is in now. It is painful to think about the amount of suffering that has been endured and the misery that still continues. In America, however, life typically revolves around work and home and the pattern is broken only on rare occasions called holidays. Americans simply don't have the time or the desire to feel honestly, to think things through thoroughly, to come to logical conclusions about the goings-on they see and hear about. They are constantly inundated with one-sided gossip called news that is repeated over and over. The media has mastered the principle of propaganda to the point where it has become a fine art.

Eventually, inevitably, no matter how illogical or ridiculous a report sounds, when people hear the same things repeatedly they start to imbibe them and in time accept them as axiomatic. With only lies and half-truths serving as their knowledge base, the people then are unable to discern genuine enemies from fake friends, real danger from trumped-up, suspicion-filled, and paranoid rumors.

The time has come for everyone living in the United States to seek the truth. Although most Americans

only have a vague notion of what their government is doing domestically and an even fainter hint of an idea of what it is doing abroad, they have the obligation now to take on the responsibility of becoming informed. The horrific events of the last year have made this quite apparent.

Information is the key word. Necessarily, because of human nature, news will always be skewed to shine favorable light on someone or something—especially if that someone or something is paying big bucks. "In a state where capital is the measure of one's worth, joblessness sends shivers down the spines of the mighty. Thus does capital discipline its wordsmith; thus do the rulers control the scribes." This quote by Mumia Abu-Jamal in his book *Live from Death Row* is an accurate assessment of the situation that now exists. Televised and written news is tainted and controlled by interests that the average person is probably not aware of. It is clear, however, that these interests must be protected and the media goes to all lengths to do so.

So what recourse does the average citizen have? Should the everyday American then close his eyes and shut his ears so as not to receive faulty information? Of course not. No matter where news comes from, it will never be the whole

truth—this is the reality of the situation. What Americans, especially students (whose whole mission as students is to seek truth and make sense of the world before they try to tackle it) need to do—must do—is to open their eyes and ears even wider. There are numerous other news sources besides ABC, NBC, and CBS. There are many more newspapers besides the Daily News, the New York Post and the New York Times. These sources are good places to start gathering information but for a rounded, more complete sense of the happenings in the world, look to alternative news sources such as BBC and others that are easily accessible on the World Wide Web.

When Americans start to become truly informed and proactive, start to make sense of the happenings around them, start to feel the pain that millions around the world feel on a daily basis, then and only then can there be a difference. Only then can the world start to find its way to peace.

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**New Data Show CUNY's
Admissions Policy Discriminatory**

by Professor William Crain and Sandra Del Valle

In January 1999, the CUNY Board of Trustees created a new admission policy. Students can no longer enroll in the bachelor's degree programs by meeting the senior colleges' standard admission requirements. Students must also demonstrate the absence of any remedial needs by passing three skills tests or receiving exemptions on the basis of specific SAT or Regents scores.

In August 1999, several of us filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), pointing to evidence that the added layer of testing would disproportionately bar students of color from the bachelor's degree programs. The OCR decided to gather ongoing admissions data from CUNY, and has recently obtained the data for the Fall 2001, when the policy went into effect at all senior colleges, including the college with the largest percentages of students of

color.

Our analysis of this data indicates that among the students who had met the colleges' standard admissions requirements, 21% of the white students, 42% of the African-American students, 42% of the Hispanic students, and 27% of the Asian students were turned away solely on the basis of the added testing requirements. These figures are for the students rejected after both the summer immersion program and the Prelude to Success program were completed.

What is more, CUNY has not shown its tests to be valid predictors of success at the university. CUNY's new policy is disproportionately turning away student of color solely on the basis of highly questionable tests.

In response to the present findings, CUNY's central administration reports that between the Fall of 1999 and the Fall of 2001 (before and after the admissions policy went into effect), the admission rates among the various ethnic/racial groups all fell

slightly and about equally. However, their data does not address the specific impact of the added layer of testing because they include SEEK and ESL students who are exempt from the test for admissions. Our findings more directly target the effects of the tests of the students who had to pass them in order to enroll.

In the next two month, the New York State Board of Regents will decide whether to continue CUNY's new admission policy. It is unfair and they should not continue it.

Our report is based on data provided by CUNY to the OCR, but the analysis and interpretations are our own.

William Crain is a Professor of Psychology at CCNY and can be reached at 212-650-5650. Sandra Del Valle is Associate Counsel for the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund and can be reached at 212-739-7505. For our full report, please call Professor Crain.

The Paper

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**"No African Will Be Free and Respected
Until Africa is Free and Respected!!"**

The Last Must Be First

Mugabe Struggles to Free their Land and their People

by Kelechi Onwuchekwa

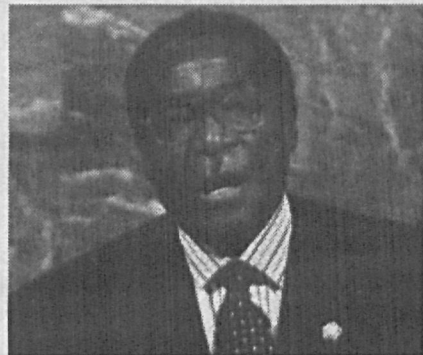
Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe, has long been the target of criticism and threats of removal from power by the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain, mainly because of his attempts to redistribute farmland to native Africans. Because of this action, he has been depicted as both a despot and a racist. A different perspective of the situation can be had, however, if one were to look at Zimbabwe's history.

Until 1980, Zimbabwe was known as Rhodesia, a result of the imperialist exploits of Englishman Cecil Rhodes, who with the aid of soldiers, forcibly subdued the peoples in the region and took their land for gold/diamond mining and habitation. With the aid of discriminatory land and labor acts European control of the lands and Africans was firmly established from the initial conquest of the late 19th century well through World War II.

After the war, many of the native Africans, particularly those in labor parties, began to resist those who controlled the land and mining operations. This resistance took shape with the formation of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). The resistance led to great instability in government and in society over the twenty years after the war, with

things coming to a head when Ian Smith's attempt to form a white supremacist state that was independent of the United Kingdom failed. A guerilla war between Smith's forces and the ZANU and ZAPU parties ensued, and because many of the landed elite fled the country Smith was forced to come to the negotiating table.

At that point, Mugabe was



Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe President

the head of ZANU (now ZANU-PF, or Patriotic Front). In the 1980 elections that came out of the negotiations, ZANU-PF won most of the seats in the nation's parliament, with Mugabe himself becoming president. Two problems arose at this point: First, Smith managed to negotiate agreements that would have kept the European landed elite in control of key parts of the civil service, parliament, and the land. Second, the rivalry that developed between ZANU-PF and ZAPU (headed by Joshua Nkomo) as a result of the elections developed into a civil war in 1985 that lasted

for three years. This war ended with talks that united the two parties in 1988 under the banner of ZANU-PF.

Mugabe was then able to focus on negotiations over control of the land. This proved a nearly impossible task, however, because the redistribution program became stalled in the early 1990s amidst the increasing hostility of the remaining white landowners, and the governments of the U.K. and U.S. who generally supported them. Meanwhile, the economic situation in Zimbabwe worsened, leading Mugabe to take steps to expedite the land redistribution process, such as reallocating half the land under the control of Europeans to native Africans in 1991 and later having legislation passed that would allow the government to make compulsory purchases of the rest. This was not enough, however, as hostility grew not only among the Europeans in the country but even among natives Africans. The latter group either grew tired of the situation and vehemently opposed Mugabe, or they took matters into their own hands and began raiding the European-owned lands themselves. In any event, most of the international community held Mugabe responsible for the situation, and by the end of the 1990s the U.K. and U.S. were calling for Mugabe's removal from power. In addition, in elections this past April, the two powers openly threw their support behind opposition Movement

for Democratic Change candidate Morgan Tsvangirai, whose stance on the land reform issue and the Zimbabwean economy makes him more favorable to the two powers.

This past month, Mugabe has agreed to allow genetically engineered foods to be shipped into the region, according to the Inter Press Service (IPS). This was a result of the inability to regain the land quickly and efficiently so that the native Africans can begin farming. The worsening drought in the region is also a factor in Mugabe's decision to accept these foods, which reportedly came after a discussion between him and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. This is a reversal of previous positions against accepting these foods for fear of their potentially harmful effects on the population, most likely reflective of trade problems Zimbabwe has had in light of the political and economic situation earlier this year.

The overall situation has the potential to devastate native African hopes of economic self-determination. One must look hard to find this part of the story, however, because in much of the media the situation is often discussed from the perspective of the Europeans who still hold the economic power and the land in Zimbabwe.

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African Diaspora African Diaspora

Three Religions, One History Minister Farrakhan Addresses Youth at Leadership Summit

by Kelechi Onwuchekwa

At a recent summit on leadership that was held at the National Black Theatre this past weekend, the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan gave youth and those in attendance some key advice.

Some aspects of this advice had to do with religion, and in this regard Min. Farrakhan not only used Islam but also other major religions, such as Christianity and Judaism. He mentioned that, "Obeying God is the true religion," a statement which is based on God's command to Adam not to eat from the "Tree of Knowledge" in the Book of Genesis. This story forms the basis not just for Christianity, according to Farrakhan, but also for Islam and Judaism. He said this in order to point out that there should be no reason for different faiths to be so divided.

Min. Farrakhan gave an anecdote, telling the story of why

God allowed the young men to live during the Exodus, explaining that they were "strong" and "fearless" in their pursuit of God. He proclaimed



Minister Farrakhan, Leader of the National of Islam, speaks to young people in Harlem.

that "blessed is the man who finds God in his youth." This was key he gave to youth so that they may find ways to break out of the "cycle of servitude" in the Black community.

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Life After the Primaries

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paid for by *Mother Jones* magazine, New York State was found to rank 48th nationally in higher education spending and 2nd in spending on prisons.

Because of the projected low turnout for the November general election, and the strange political atmosphere most observers are uncertain whether Pataki will retain enough Republican votes or if independent Tom Golisano will tap into his upstate support base. H. Carl McCall, who is running a middle of the road campaign in a state that is 5-to-1 Democrat to Republican, is concerned

that typically politically apathetic Democrats will allow the incumbent to retain office by default.

Based on the priorities of each major candidate, and their commitment to higher education, CCNY students have a simple choice to make. All that they must do now is make their wants heard by showing-up at the polls in hordes. Democracy is not a spectator sport. It is an interactive game that can be won.

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Powell Boomed at Summit

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Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez called the summit a "dialogue of the deaf."

Where From Here?

Just how sustainable are the Earth Summit resolutions? The Rio summit of 1992 laid out many plans that are yet to bear fruit. Will it be any different this time around? International aid agency Oxfam said that this latest summit offered only "crumbs for the poor." Let's hope that within the next ten years the poor and underprivileged will actually eat bread.

Valdon Tau Battice can be reached at touch_tau@hotmail.com.



Blessed be the unconscious for they shall be slaves forever.

City College Welcomes City High

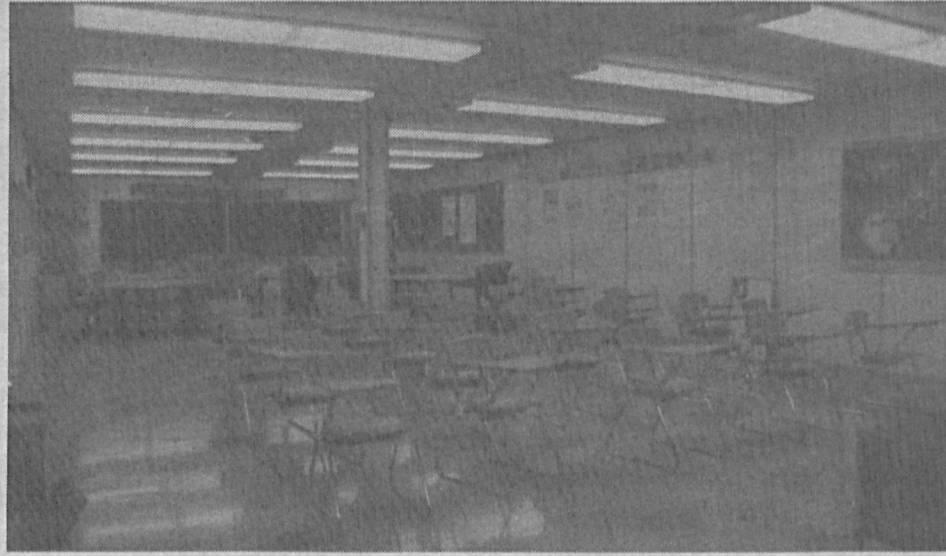
by Valdon Tau Battice

City College's Harlem campus is abuzz this semester—not only with new and returning enrollees and the traffic of pupils at neighboring A. Phillip Randolph Campus High School but also with fresh faces and possibilities at the newly established High School for Mathematics, Engineering & Science at the City College.

Born this past May of a joint effort between the Board of Education, The City University of New York and The New York City Public Schools, City's high school is one of three including the Queens High School for the Sciences at York College and High School of American Studies at Lehman College which will cater to highly motivated students. Of the three schools City has the highest enrollment with roughly 120 students. York's campus school has 101 while Lehman's population is over 70 students. The youngsters are of the same academic caliber as those of specialized, highly selective institutions like

Stuyvesant High and Bronx Science.

According to its brochure, the new high school is "a unique and unparalleled collaborative educational experience in which talented students



City High - One of the classrooms at the newly established High School for Mathematics, Engineering & Science at City College. Photo taken by Valdon T. Battice.

are challenged to expand their intellect and to develop." While the curriculum is heavy on sciences and mathematics, "fairly sophisticated" humanities and

enrichment activities will lead to a first-rate education. With its facilities on CCNY's South Campus, the High School for Mathematics, Engineering and Science intends to make the most

of the college environment. Among the facilities open to high school students are Cohen Library, Holman and Wingate Gyms and Mahoney Pool.

Ideally, students will do three years of rigorous high school courses and earn significant college credit in their senior year. Principal Randy Ascher, a SUNY Buffalo graduate, is very upbeat about his school's potential. He is not only "excited" about working with City's distinguished faculty but also welcomes and anticipates input from on-campus organizations such as Undergraduate Student Government.

The deceptively modest trailer-type buildings adjacent to Herman Goldman Center for Sports and Recreation house roomy, well-equipped classrooms—where science teacher Bill Dugan knows that his "eager" students will excel. Asked about future developments, Mr. Ascher envisions permanent buildings with a student population of 500 to 550. He says in years to come the City College High School will be "one of the top high schools in the nation."

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City College is New and Improved

by Cecily Canady

Students are getting back into the swing of things with a new semester ahead. Coming back from heat waves and free time, students are back to school trying to get focused. "Registration and getting books is the most stressing time of the year," says Judy Legrosse, a sophomore majoring in Liberal Arts. "Many classes are closed and some of the books are not available yet and professors have already given assignments," she adds. Students still have memories of their summer break with tans, flip-flops and t-shirts which makes it even harder to readjust. Tameika Nicholas said that, "The summer went too fast and now school again . . . hopefully the year would go by fast."

City College has welcomed the students with brand new tools to start the school year off right. Shepherd Hall has been completed after several years of ongoing construction, the library has a new attractive look and the bookstore has made a change and adopted a more modern appearance. With the new technology fee of \$75, the computer labs are now equipped with flat screen computers, new desks have been put in most classrooms and a few departments have received new equipment. Students have a lot of things to appreciate coming back to school this semester.

Within the last four years the students have appreciated all of the small changes that made a big difference in their City College experience. Ishrat Mirza, an applied math major, says, "The changes from freshman year to senior year have definitely made school a better experience. Registration is a big improvement now that it's on the web and over the telephone so you can get your classes ahead of time, there are more library

hours and the shuttle buses are great too—especially in the winter."

Although the brand new resources for students are very helpful, some students still find a need for more fundamental things like full-time professors, the lack of which is a common concern at City. Mike says that, "The beautification process is nice but it shouldn't be stressed that much. There should be more effort on academics and more concentration on increasing the number of faculty members." Jeanette Dentas, a history major agrees, "A lot of my classes were closed because there were not enough professors to teach the amount of students that are enrolled."

City College has been put through a beautification process to make the campus more appealing to the students, but the students are not finding that altogether necessary. Regina Waterman, a senior, agrees that, "They should have spent more time getting the books in on time for class then worrying about how the bookstore looks." What makes the bookstore appealing is how much information, resources and books the students can get rather than what it looks like. Juan Oriach, a psychology major states, "I dislike the bookstore [because] there are only a few items and few selections."

City College is slowly but surely improving the atmosphere for students. Nia Joseph, an education major states, "I am pretty much satisfied with how the college has grown so much and has made several things convenient for the students. Everything takes time but the gradual process is at least showing an effort that they want to keep students coming back."

Cecily Canady can be reached at cejody@hotmail.com.

The City College of New York
A Division of Student Affairs

Wellness & Counseling Center

Services Provided:
FREE

- Physician Medical Evaluation and Treatment
- First Response-Emergency Medical Services
- Counseling-Individual and Support Groups
- Women's Health Issues & Concerns
- Pregnancy Testing, STD Testing & Evaluation
- Men's Health Issues
- STD Testing & Evaluation
- Health Related Referrals
- MMR, Hepatitis B, & Influenza Immunizations

Counseling Services

The Wellness & Counseling Center offers short-term psychological services free of charge to registered students of City College. A psychologist and a social worker are on staff to talk to you.

Counseling Staff
Psychologist
Call (212) 650-8222 for an appointment.

Social Work Intern
Call (212) 650-5920 for an appointment.

Stress Reduction/Test Anxiety

Stress reduction and test anxiety workshops are also held for students during the school year. If you have any questions regarding the workshops, please the Wellness & Counseling Center.

Ophthalmology Services

This is a referral service to New York City Technical College's Ophthalmic Eye Clinic. The comprehensive eye exam is free with purchase of Eyewear and prescription lenses. The base charge for frames is \$50.

Center Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
9 am - 5 pm
Tuesday 9 am - 6 pm

Marshall Science Building
Room 15
Tel: (212)650-8222
Fax: (212)650-8227

Director
Pereta Rodriguez, DSW, CSW

Medical Director
Vincent Esposito, M.D.

Immunization Information

If you were born after December 31, 1956, you are required by law to prove you are immune to Measles, Mumps, and Rubella to attend college in New York State.

Acceptable proof of immunity may include immunization cards from childhood, immunization records from high school or another school you have attended, or records from your medical provider or clinic.

You may fax immunization records to (212) 650-8227. The fax must include your name, social security number, and date of birth. You are advised to confirm the receipt of your fax transmission by calling (212) 650-8222. You may also turn in your records personally, by visiting the Wellness & Counseling Center in the Marshall Building, Room 115.

Proof of vaccination must be submitted to the Wellness & Counseling Center before you register for classes. If you do not have records you must be immunized again, or have a blood test drawn to prove you are immune to all three diseases. The Wellness & Counseling Center provides vaccinations free of charge on the day of your registration.

Free Physician Services

A physician is available to City College students. Call (212) 650-8222 for an appointment.

Alternatively, you may go to the Marshall Science Building, Room 115, during the hours that the physician is available for walk-in medical evaluations and treatment.

Physician service hours:
Tuesdays
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Thursdays
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Caring for the students of CCNY

The Barbershop Talks About Reparations

by Kahlil Almustafa

The last place I expected to hear about reparations was at the movie theater on a Saturday night while watching Ice Cube's new comedy, *Barbershop*. Though the audience spent most of the movie laughing, they fell silent while several characters discussed this serious issue. The characters in the movie were misinformed about the Reparations Movement, a representation of the misinformation in the larger African-American community.

One of the characters began the discussion by saying, "I heard Black people are supposed to be getting some money, something about Reparations." Ricky, played by Michael Ealy and Ed, played by Cedric the Entertainer gave reasons why descendants of enslaved Africans do not need or deserve Reparations.

To emphasize why African-Americans don't need Reparations, Ricky says, "Black people are the richest Black people on the face of the planet and if we just get it together we would be fine." While many Black folk may agree with Ricky, "Black people just getting it together" does not address the institutional racism that exists in the

United States. It could not stop the forty-one shots fired at Amadou Diallo or the twenty-seven shots fired at the lesser-known Stanton Crew in New Jersey. It does not address the CIA selling drugs and putting them in Black and Latino communities during the 1980's. And it does not explain why eighty percent of drug users are white, while eighty percent of those locked up for crimes involving drugs are people of African descent.

Cedric the Entertainer's hilarious character Ed says "Black people already received welfare and affirmative action, isn't that Reparations enough?" Not funny, Ced! This question suggests African-Americans do not deserve Reparations. However, neither affirmative action nor welfare were created to compensate the descendants of enslaved Africans for stolen labor. Affirmative action, implemented in the early 1970's, opened only a small door for Black people. Furthermore, although the Black woman is always connected with welfare (while she is the hardest working American for the last 200 years, educating, helping her man, and raising her children as well as white people's children), Black people are not the main welfare recipients.

Cedric the Entertainer's character also suggests Black people are playing the role of victim by suggesting they are still suffering from slavery. This opinion is held by a large population of African people who do not know that the current Reparations Movement advocates for the *repair* of the vestiges of slavery. Lynchings, assassinations of our leaders, cocaine and AIDS put into our communities, the Ku Klux Klan, fire hoses, the Tuskegee Experiment, Rockefeller Drug Laws, sharecropping and all of these post-slavery injustices entitle African-Americans to demand Reparations.

Some additional characters in the movie were brought into the barbershop just to say, "Black folk deserve at least one hundred thousand dollars each" and "I ain't turning down no check," displaying the most common misconception of the Reparations issue. Reparations is not about "40 Acres and a Lexus" or a check in the mail. It is about righting a wrong. It is about reclaiming our history. It is about repairing our communities. It is about institution building. Reparations could come in the form of memorials and museums, land for farming, endowments for cultural programs, money for building

businesses, the review of brothers and sisters in the prison system, and almost any other program or institution designed to repair the African community.

The word Reparations means "to repair." The imprisonment and lack of employment in our communities that are displayed in the movie are reasons our communities need repair.

This movie displays the misconceptions about the Reparations Movement within the African-American community. Unfortunately, many people will be influenced by the comments in this movie. The *Barbershop* is another reminder to those in the front of the movement of the need to create an all-inclusive campaign to inform and educate the masses.

Aside from this scene, Ice Cube hits again with this comedy. Go see *Barbershop* then go to your local diner and discuss what reparations means to you.

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

Kahlil Almustafa can be reached at kahlilalmustafa@blackalchemistpress.com.

Reparations Now! Reparations Now!

Eat the Rich

Finding Solutions for the City's Financial Crisis

by Malik Lewis

So you say the City is in debt. Conventional wisdom in New York has been that in the event of a budget deficit cut extraneous social services that mostly benefit the poor. When Mayor Michael Bloomberg assumed the office of the City's top executive he said that a fiscal crunch would be imminent but that all New Yorkers would "share the pain."

The most recent cuts to social services championed by the Bloomberg administration have been primarily aimed at the Board of Education, Higher Education, and New York's lower and middle classes. By-and-large the "pain" eluded to by Mayor Bloomberg has been felt by those with the least access to resources available to defend themselves. Enter the City Council.

It's a fact: both Democrats and Republicans receive ten times more campaign contributions from corporate interests than they do from labor unions and private citizens combined. Mayor Bloomberg was recently named Business Week magazine's

29th richest man in the world and even the independent party candidate is a billionaire. The wealthiest people in New York City earn 33 times more money than the City's poorest. This obvious disparity in income and power is what prompted the City Council to propose an inventive and progressive plan for raising the nearly \$800 million dollars needed to balance the city budget. The plan is simply to tax the rich.

"The wealthiest people in New York City earn 33 times more money than the City's poorest."

Earlier this month, twenty-seven of New York's 51 City Council members including Councilmen Charles Barron and Bill Perkins submitted a resolution for ratification to speaker Gilford Miller recommending a 1% to 2% incremental increase in the tax

levied on the City's highest income bracket. At a contribution of little more than \$13,000 a year, New York residents earning \$250,000 or more could bail out the city and "share the pain" in a more egalitarian way.

Thus far speaker Miller has signed-off on the resolution and as mandated by law it will be submitted to the Mayor for approval. With little more than half of the City Council supporting the tax hike, if the bill were to be vetoed by the Mayor, those in favor of the action might not secure the necessary two-thirds vote required to break an executive veto. Mayor Bloomberg has not officially voiced his opinion of the proposed tax but if his corporate history is any indicator of his support of progressive tax schemes, he will most likely resist the resolution's passing into law tooth-and-nail.

The group of 27 City Council members also suggested a return of the much debated commuter tax to raise necessary funds. Given the fiscal hit suffered by the City following the World Trade Center attack, the Mayor will probably fight any measure that makes New York less appealing as a business center to outside interests.

Most significant however was the re-instatement of the stock transaction tax. Every major city has one. New York for more than two decades has been refunding the .05% tax per share

on stock transactions. With a per transaction cap of \$35 dollars, a stock tax could raise the \$800 million needed to ease the citywide deficit, and would inflict minimal harm on the City's questionable free market. Of all of the measures proposed to ease the City's financial woes, the stock transaction tax is perhaps the most inspired but least likely to be signed into law.

While CCNY students will have to wait about 3 years before they can elect a Mayor with their interest at heart, instead of the interest of the City's sheltered elite, they can bring about a change now, while a state-wide battle for executive control is underway. CCNY students can ask gubernatorial candidates from the Democratic, Republican, and Independent parties what they think of a stock transaction tax. They can ask representatives of each candidate if they feel that Higher Education and social services should be cut in the interest of securing the wealth and health of New York's richest 5 percent. They can also stop asking questions to which the answers are obvious, and start acting. In November they can cast their vote for H. Carl McCall, and stop sharing all the pain while enjoying none of the rewards.

Malik Lewis can be reached at malik_basi@earthlink.net.

"You can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace until he has freedom."

-Malcolm X

Vegetables Fight Cancer

by Krishan Trotman

The single best weapon human beings have to ward off sickness and disease is a healthy, well-balanced diet. If a person eats well from the first day he or she lands on earth, it is safe to assume that he or she will probably not become acquainted with many, if any of the common childhood sicknesses. If a person continues on a balanced diet, wellness is almost insured throughout life. Many of us living in developed countries, are already addicted to breads made of bleached white flour, fatty eggs, and fried meat. As a result, obesity is becoming the norm.

Scientists have found that obesity is linked to certain types of cancer including cancers of the esophagus, endometrium and most notably, the breasts. In April of 2002, The American Association of Cancer (AAC) in San Francisco found that obesity increases the risk of breast cancer by about 50% in post-menopausal women.

Middle aged and post-menopausal women have the highest

risk of developing breast cancer, although most women in this age group do not consider cancer of any sort a threat to them. Throughout the years research has shown that Black women in particular are the hardest hit. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) found that "while death rates from breast cancer have decreased in the 1990's for white women, they have remained the same for Black women." NCI researchers suggest that the disparity in who develops breast cancer may be connected to socioeconomic differences rather than physical differences, specifically the unavailability of healthcare to women of color.

While obesity contributes to breast cancer for women, another factor is alcohol. Alcohol abuse causes cancer of the mouth, throat, and larynx, esophagus, liver, and breast. Obesity and alcohol abuse in tandem are proven to be the most significant reason for the high number of Black women suffering from breast cancer.

Although treatments have improved circumstances have not for those already victimized. The number of fast food joints and liquor stores is

steadily growing. It seems the poorer the neighborhood, the more liquor stores, the more McDonald's and KFC locations. On every avenue or near

"While death rates from breast cancer have decreased in the 1990's for white women, they have remained the same for Black women" National Cancer Institute (NCI)

every subway station a McDonald's or some other "restaurant" can be found wreaking havoc on the community's bodies and health. Black people, especially Black women are not encouraged to eat healthily and properly because big business holds to the belief that profit is good, no matter the cost and no matter the destruction. These companies are focused on the profit made from the people rather

than the wellness of the people.

The first step to decreasing the incidence of deaths resulting from cancer is a change of eating habits. However, eating properly does not include the veggie burger at Burger King, or the vegetable Lo Mien at the local Chinese restaurant. A healthy diet incorporates a wide variety and range of foods with a heavy emphasis on fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Researchers have found that vegetables like broccoli, brussel sprouts, and cabbages have anti-oxidants that reduce the risk of breast cancer.

To avoid becoming victims of breast cancer, start protecting your body by feeding it vegetables, exercise, and a health consciousness.

Health is Wealth!

For information contact Project S.H.E. (Support Heal Educate) an organization dedicated to raising Breast Cancer Awareness among African-American women at www.projectshe.org.

Krishan Trotman can be reached at trotman45@hotmail.com.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

Books, Books, Books

Finding Empowerment through Reading

by Kahlil Almustafa

While taking off a semester from City College, I read over forty books. This was more of an educational experience than my previous twenty-one years combined. The journey of reprogramming, though painful, was empowering. It engendered me as a self-determined African, man.

It all started at Afrikan Bookstreet Bookstore in Queens. The sign outside, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance" inspired me to go inside. As I walked in with my college ID dangling from my neck, the owner, Djaze Serikpa, greeted me like a long-lost son.

Djaze asked eagerly, "Have you ever read the *Miseducation of the Negro* by Carter G. Woodson?" I replied in the negative. As a matter of fact, I had not read many of the Afrocentric books lining the walls, baskets and stands of the quaint store.

Brother Djaze turned the book over and in his Cote D'Ivoire accent, read,

"When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him to stand here or go yonder. He will find his 'proper place' and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary."

"Then he looked up at me and said, "Brother, if I could get you to buy this book. I will never have to sell you

another book again. You will come back for more."

I accepted this challenge, and also bought, *Chains and Images of Psychological Slavery* by Na'im Akbar and the *Willie Lynch Letter*. These books spoke directly to my existence. Woodson's book explained why there are so many Christian denominations and churches in my community. Akbar explained why Jesus was always portrayed as white, with blonde hair and blue eyes and the damage that this image has done in our community. The *Willie Lynch Letter* described the process oppressors used to break the spirits of African people that affects their descendants today.

Within a week, I had read all three books and was back for more. I dug right in, *Hip Hop Vs. Maat* by Jawanza Kunjufu, *No Disrespect* by Sistah Souljah, *Assata* by Assata Shakur, *All About Love and Sisters of the Yam* by bell hooks, *Live from Death Row* by Mumia Abu-Jamal, *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. DuBois, *Makes Me Wanna Holler* by Nathan McCall, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, *Black Men: Single, Obsolete, Dangerous?* by Haki Madhubuti, *Racism 101* by Nikki Giovanni, *The Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys* by Kunjufu, volumes one, two, three and four.

The deprogramming continued for months. When I did not have money for a book, I borrowed a book and if there were no books, I would borrow money to buy a book. Eventually, I had to get a library card. Though I was a college student, I did

not have a library card and had not visited a public library since junior high school.

Books, books, books, week after week. The library allowed me access to hardcover books, which I could not previously afford to buy. As Haki Madhubuti says in *Tough Notes: A Healing Call for Creating Exceptional Black Men*, "Libraries and the information they contain and freely share - represent the real liberated zones of this nation."

Reading for me is as important now, as eating well and getting enough sleep. I am back at City College armed with the ability to think critically and analyze objectively. I will be

ready next time I take one of Professor Green's Black studies classes. Reading also helps in my personal life. Kunjufu, Madhubuti and Akbar have helped bridge the gap of fatherlessness and the loss of my mother at a young age into adulthood.

If you would like to expose yourself or someone else to some fabulous books, start with autobiographies. I recommend the works Sistah Souljah, Assata Shakur, Mumia Abu-Jamal, and Malcolm X.

Kahlil Almustafa can be reached at kahlilalmustafa@blackalchemistpress.com.

Here are some good books to start with:

- Chains/Images of Psychological Slavery* - Na'im Akbar
- The Miseducation of the Negro* - Carter G. Woodson
- From the Browder File* - Anthony T. Browder
- The Spook Who Sat By the Door* - Sam Greenlee
- Assata: An Autobiography* - Assata Shakur
- Black Men: Obsolete, Single . . .* - Haki Madhubuti
- Black Holocaust for Beginners* - Sam Anderson
- The Autobiography of Malcolm X* - Malcolm X
- Life on Death Row* - Mumia Abu-Jamal
- Makes Me Wanna Holler* - Nathan McCall
- No Disrespect* - Sistah Souljah
- All About Love* - Bell Hooks
- The Souls of Black Folk* - W.E.B. DuBois
- Their Eyes Were Watching God* - Zora Neale Hurston
- Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys* - Jawanza Kunjufu
- Black Labor, White Wealth* - Claude Anderson
- How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* - Walter Rodney
- They Came Before Columbus* - Ivan Van Sertima

The CCNY Community Speaks:

Question of the Week

by Ernesto Johnson



On Thursday, September 12, 2002, President George Bush addressed the United Nations with a strong message urging the United Nations to enforce resolutions requiring Iraq to destroy their weapons of mass destruction or else the U.S. would take action. On September 16, 2002, the New York Times reported that Iraq had agreed to comply with unconditional inspections. Do you think this matter should be resolved through diplomacy or military action?

Kenneth Williams

This matter should be resolved through diplomacy. Military action is definitely not needed right now especially with all the violence in the world. Sept 11th was one of the biggest tragedies that America has experienced and instead of saying enough with the violence, we're just adding more violence.



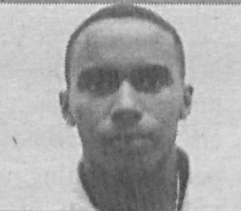
Carla Grant

I don't think diplomacy would work. I also don't think that they should have military action, but I do believe that they will because that's what they want. Even when allowed inspections, the U.S. government will find another reason to bully.



Gary Williams

I am for diplomacy because the last thing we need in this day and age is war, especially with Americans versus anyone else, being that we are a major power... it might cause a ripple effect in the world.



Hani Saleem

Diplomacy would be the best option otherwise if the U.S. attacks Iraq without the UN approval we'll go back to anarchy system all over again



Professor Leonard Jeffries

History is our best guide. Normal and rational people who are interested in human life would want to have it negotiated but we have found out that the European system as it has been put into the world in the last 500 years is not a rational way. War is an instrument of various politics. If the problem in Iraq is a man called Sadaam Hussein why not take him out? Why declare war in which hundreds of thousands of innocent people, women and children will be destroyed?



Hajy Ullah

My opinion is that diplomacy is a good way-war is not good, war will destroy everything. In war a lot of people will die-a huge loss of human beings. It'll just destroy everything.



Jason Seto

The U.S. should only take military action if Iraq doesn't allow the U.N. people to inspect their military bases. I would prefer to go in there and talk this out and seek a resolution that way but it's been how many years since this has been going on? So if military action needs to happen, then it needs to happen.



Hunkung Wah

I think that no country should take any military action against any kind of situation because you release the war and kill all kinds of innocent people. We should live in a peaceful world. We should do things more gently and diplomatically.



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

CCNY Announcements

Student Club Fair

Come meet and find out about student clubs and organizations.

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2002 and Thursday, October 3, 2002

Time: Club Hours: 12:00-2:00 P.M.

Where: Lewisohn Plaza In (in front of the NAC building.)

Latino Heritage Month -

September 15th - October 15th

Lectures, festivals, exhibits, and other events are held to celebrate Latinos in the United States.

For more information, stop by The Finley Student Center, NAC 1/210, call (212) 650-5002, or email: finley@ccny.cuny.edu or visit the web-site finleysc.cjb.net

"We Will Never Forget"

The City College of New York would like to invite the family members of Flight 587 to a memorial service that will be held in their honor. All are welcome!!

Special guest of honor: Junot Diaz

Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2002

Time: 5:00-8:00 P.M.

Where: NAC RM 0/201

AEC Proposals Due

The Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation (AEC) welcomes requests for funding proposals from current members of the City College community. The AEC board will give priority to endeavors that promote campus-wide initiatives that have a positive influence on the campus community.

The award amount will be limited to \$7,000.00 unless the AEC Board recommends special consideration.

When: Proposals are due by Tuesday, October 1st at 5:00 P.M. Late proposals will not be considered.

Where: All proposals must be delivered to the Administration Building Room 306. Dated receipts will be issued.

For more information contact, (212) 650-6680 or email dbutler@ccny.cuny.edu.

Learn How To Salsa

Date: Every Thursday, starting September 26th

Time: 4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Where: NAC Ballroom
The Salsa Mambo Club will be having dancing lessons.

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IN CELEBRATION OF THE 115TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MARCUS GARVEY

by Chinonyerem Omeokwe

*Marcus say, Marcus say,
RED for the blood that
flowed like a river*

*Marcus say, Marcus say,
GREEN for the land, Africa
Marcus say, Marcus say,
YELLOW for the gold that
they stole*

*Marcus say, Marcus say,
BLACK for the people they
looted from . . .*

—“Rally Round,”
Steel Pulse

For many people, Marcus Garvey's life and legacy stand in obscurity. Some have been schooled to believe that Garvey was a nominal figure in history that dabbled in this and that but did not really make a lasting impact one way or the other. Other people have not been educated at all on who Marcus Garvey was and is.

The Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey was born in St. Ann, Jamaica in 1887, a descendant of the Maroons, a group of fierce freedom fighters that managed to ward off imperial Britain's efforts to colonize the whole of Jamaica. Garvey was intensely aware of the plight of the Black man in a White man's world.

He correctly assessed the situation and set forth a solution that only made sense: the repatriation of the Black man back to his Motherland, popularizing the notion of “Africa for the Africans.”

In 1917, in the environment of the newly burgeoning “New Negro Movement,” Garvey established the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), an organization which boasted a Black membership in the millions, printed a weekly newspaper called the *Negro World* and started countless business ventures, most notably the *Black Star Line*, a shipping company whose mission was to ferry Black people in the Americas to their Homeland. The UNIA worked under the banner of “One God, One Aim, One Destiny” and Garvey and his organization stayed true to this credo. He was able to gain a massive following of Black people, the like of which the world had never seen before and worked cease-

lessly to achieve the uplift of the Black race.

Marcus Garvey was never formally educated but learned his lessons in the school of life. It was this down-to-earth persona that enabled him to draw support but it was also this characteristic that gave many prominent intellectuals including W.E.B. DuBois grounds to criticize Garvey and label him defective of temperament and training. To underscore this view, such detractors were



The Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey
1887-1940

Courtesy of www.isop.ucla.edu/mjpp

able to point to the indictment, subsequent imprisonment and deportation of Garvey on grounds of mail fraud—charges levied by the U.S. government, an establishment that throughout history has shown that when anyone or anything becomes a threat to it, that person or thing must be done away with. Even after his deportation, Garvey never lost his vision but he could never quite work up the following that he had once had.

If at his death in 1940, Garvey was disappointed, it was not because his vision of the unification of Africa and the forward movement of people of color back to their homeland was not a meritorious one, was not because it was only a dream that could never come to fruition. A visionary to the end, his charisma alone could not carry the UNIA. Nevertheless, Marcus Garvey takes an honored position in our history and we can still hear his voice his voice saying:

Chinonyerem Omeokwe can be reached at originalwombman@hotmail.com.

**Wake up Ethiopia!
Wake up Africa!
Let us work toward
the one glorious end
of a free, redeemed
and mighty nation.
Let Africa be a
bright star among
the constellation of
nations.**

Our grief is not a cry for war

We choose Harmony

We choose Peace

We choose Unity

We choose Life

We say NO to senseless suffering

We say NO to injustice

We Say NO to War in Iraq

We Say NO to War--PERIOD!