

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.



CITY COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK IN HARLEM

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A Medium For All Peoples Of African Descent

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OPEN DISCUSSION ON RACISM

By: **Lehlovo Thinane**

Staff Writer

Reported cases of racism are rising across college campuses nationwide. A recent article in The New York Times (Wed. May 9, 1990, No. 48,230) pointed out that Blacks are increasingly avoiding white colleges in favor of Black colleges.

City College has been in the spotlight these past weeks for charges of racism emanating from interesting sources. Dr. Michael Levin of the Philosophy Department and Dr. Leonard Jeffries, chairman of the Africana Studies Department have both become the center of a controversy following charges of racist remarks. Professor Levin claims that blacks are less intelligent than whites and calls for the discontinuation of Affirmative Action, while Dr. Jeffries referred to white people as cold and materialistic.

Susan Ross, clinical psychologist and Multi-ethnic educator at a Bronx school and Joyce Duncan, Race Relations and Cross-Cultural Communication Consultant, spoke about the issue of racism in an open forum here at City College. According to Ms. Ross, racist attitudes can be traced to slavery and colonialism. When Europeans enslaved and colonized people of color they developed an ideology that would justify their actions.

The question of intelligence was one such tool used for centuries to exploit and

oppress other people - a question which resurfaces in every generation, she said. The relative difference between professors Jeffries and Levin, contends Ms. Ross, is: "The history of the impact of what Levin is saying has institutional racism behind him. It has hundreds of years of ideology and institutions and power and government and corporate control, and the law and every aspect of this society that is behind him." Whereas Dr. Jeffries does not have that kind of backing. "Whether he is 100% on target or not ... What Jeffries is saying, even concretely, how is it going to oppress people in this society?" she asked.

Ms. Ross said people have unconscious attitudes and feelings that influence their behavior. Similarly, where she teaches at the moment, the student body is Black and Latino while the teaching staff is predominately white; and from her observation, such an arrangement is racist because it denies the recognition of who should be in charge; also, she says, the staff has a low expectation of students although

it may deny to be prejudiced. If Dr. Levin continues to say this, more and more psychologists and educators will be influenced by these readings which help perpetuate a profound system of oppression that reinforce stereotypes.

Ms. Ross illustrated the connection between racism and oppression by noting how, in the 1960's, Dr. Arthur Jensen of the University of California, Berkeley went around the country preaching the theory of black inferiority. She also noted that at the same time of Dr. Jensen's preaching, two Black girls in Alabama, aged 12 and 14, were labeled as retarded; this labeling allowed the Department of Health Education and Welfare to get permission to have them sterilized.

Professor Gary Benenson, of the Department of Technology, said the issue of racism is not as complex as people make it out to be. He stressed that people should strive to respect each other's differences and find a common ground to work together. He

made an example of two South Africans - Nelson Mandela, Black, who spent 27 years in prison and Joe Slovo, Jewish, chairman of the South African Communist Party, who was exiled for more than 30 years. The relationship between Mr. Mandela and Mr. Slovo culminated when they took part in the recent negotiations for political settlement in South Africa.

One student suggested that Racism 101 be offered as a requirement to students.

The forum, organized by the Dialogue Committee, is a beginning of a series of dialogues aimed at opening up discussion to find a solution to racism on campus.



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CITY BRIEFS

General Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff and 1958 graduate of City College, will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree at CCNY's Commencement Exercises on Friday, May 25, 1990.

City College will also present honorary degrees to entertainer/humanitarian Harry Belafonte, Doctor of Humane Letters; actress/producer Miriam Colon, Doctor of humane Letters; and poet/educator Adrienne Rich, Doctor of Letters.

In addition, The City University will award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Professor Lee Lorch, a leading mathematician and educator.

Each honoree will make a response and President Harleston, will deliver a charge to the graduating class.

Commencement will begin at 10 A.M. on May 25 in CCNY Lewisohn Plaza.

The Bridge To Medicine Program, under the auspices of the City University's Medical School at City College, in eleven years, has become a bridge to success for many New York City high school seniors interested in medicine and related health and science careers.

This year, two Bridge students have gained local and national recognition: Ashi Atyathoabe, a Nigerian exchange student, took second prize in the New York Newsday Scholastic Achievers 1990 High Honors Competition; Michael Yam Pui Mui won a spot as a semi-finalist in the Westinghouse Talent Search with a social science paper concerning the attitude of Chinese females towards the AIDS virus in the Chinatown community.

Ms. Atyathoabe will continue her studies at City College in the pre-medical program. Mr. Mui will enter the Sophie Davis Biomedical Program in September.

ABOUT HONORARY DEGREES, GENERALS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR AT CITY COLLEGE

By: Ileana Maramoros
Contributing Writer

Our college is planning to award an honorary degree to General. Colin Powell, Chairman of the military's Joint Chief of Staff, on graduation day, May 25th. As U.S.'s highest military official, General Powell was, in the words of former Defense Secretary Wienberger, "the Principal architect" of the invasion of Panama by U.S. forces last December.

The overthrow of the government of Panama will have negative repercussions on its largely black, poor majority for decades to come. The invasion spelled the end of almost twenty years of government, at least somewhat more responsive to the popular majority and reinstated the "Rabi-blancos" (white tails) as the overwhelmingly white oligarchy is known, to their historic dominance.

The alleged purpose of the invasion was to capture

Panama's ruler, General. Antonio Noreiga, and bring him to trial on drug-dealing charges in the charges in the United States. Noriega, however was set up in the drug business by the CIA. He was a dictator armed and encouraged by the U.S., notably George Bush, former Director of the CIA. Leading officials of the new regime also have connections to drug rings.

The invasion was a clear violation of the international law and was condemned as such by the Organization of American States in a twenty to one vote, with only the U.S. delegate in opposition. It has also been condemned by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

A report just issued by *America's Watch*, a respected human rights group, charges the U.S. military with war crimes in its conduct of the invasion and subsequent occupation. Particularly horrific was the assault which leveled El Chorrillo, a densely populated



poor neighborhood of indigenous, black and Creole families. The lack of warning to residents of the barrio, before launching of the assault was cited by *America's Watch* as a violation of the Geneva Accords to which the U.S. is a signatory.

Our administration wants to hold up Colin Powell as

the role model for the students of this college, and the entire New York City community. CCNY is really honoring the violation of Panama's sovereignty and military violation of human rights in its brutal execution of the invasion. We do not want General Powell's action held as a role model at our graduation. What we want are more opportunities for all students in our educational institutions, more scholarships, a better budget to have a real opportunity to fight for our rights in the U.S.

We, the Student for Education Rights, Students Against Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, and the Dialogue committee, are circulating petitions around campus to be signed and sent to President Harleston showing our opposition to this act. Students are invited to a meeting with community activists to plan a protest against this act on our campus in room NAC 3/201(SER).

Correction:

We would like to apologize for our error in the May 7th issue (volume 91# 5). The speaker of the Namibia Independence Celebration was Michelle Kamuvake; not Alida Farena.

The Paper

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OPERATION: JUST CAUSE

By: Véronique Pluviose
Staff Writer

The recent talks of boycotting General Powell at City has ignited a lot of attention with regards to Operation Just Cause. 'Just Cause' was an operation in Panama to capture General Noriega for his alleged drug-trafficking. While the media showed a clean military operation, there are indeed contradictions in the number of reported casualties and damages.

Eduardo Suárez, a student at the New School for Social Research, and a member of the Coalition Against in Panama Latin America and Caribbean was able to provide us with numerous figures and details regarding the

just cause operation.

The cities in Panama that were under attack include El Chorrillo, Rio Ato, and San Miguelito. It is now reported that most of the native of El Chorrillo are now homeless, killed, or maimed due to the use of phosphorus gas and attacks of stealth bombers and laser rays. There have been questions raised about the legality of the use of such weapons in a non-war situation.

As a result there have been over 3,000 deaths; although, only hundreds have been reported by the U.S. media. Fourteen mass graves have been opened. One grave contained 123 mangled, flattened, and burned bodies. Many Panamanian officials have

criticized the United States for not being present at the exhumation of the bodies nor were autopsy performed. Furthermore, in a country where 75% of the population is Catholic, no Catholic officials were present.

The operation is said to have occurred in cities where the poorest of the people live. The breakdown of Panama's 2.2 million population: 12 - 15% indigenous groups of the Kuna, Ochocho, and Juaymi people, 20% African descent, 5% European descent, and the rest are *mestizos* or mixed heritage. However, these groups are monitored in the ministries of government where sits a each a member of the State Department and Pentagon.

Although Panama has been stricken with the loss of damages estimated at \$3 billion dollars, no financial remedies have been offered.

Panama, states a spokesperson from the Coalition, is in economic shambles. "It is still being raided under the false pretense of drug raids, the women are raped daily by G.I's and the people still suffer from political harassment and persecution. Our country is in a terrible state but the media have been unable to show proof of this."

The various pictures have been donated by the Coalition, Eduardo Suárez, and Severiano de Dios.

SMALL VICTORY AGAINST MOBUTU REGIME

On Tuesday, April 24th, thousands of people poured into the streets of Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire (formerly the Congo) to celebrate the beginning of the end of the dictatorship of Mobutu Sese Seko. This ally of apartheid, who came to power 25 years ago after he helped the CIA to assassinate Patrice Lumumba, is standing on the edge of a political cliff and the people of Zaire are getting ready to throw him over the edge.

On Tuesday Mobutu made a speech which was broadcast on national radio. In it he announced that he was setting up a transitional government to run the country until free elections are held--no date has yet been set--and that the Popular Movement for the Revolution (MPR) would no longer be Zaire's only legal political party. There will now be three legal parties: the MPR, and two others which he will select (the rumor is that one of the two others will be created out of the MPR itself). He also said that he will no longer head the MPR--although he will continue as president.

These concessions were the latest signs of weakness on the part of one of the world's most corrupt and brutal dictatorships. Earlier this year Mobutu was forced to initiate what he called a "popular

consultation" in which Zairians were allowed for the first time in a quarter of a century to speak out publicly on issues of concern to them. Realizing that Mobutu would never have made such a move unless his friends in the Bush administration and in Congress were putting the squeeze on him, many hundreds of Zairians from all walks of life took the opportunity to criticize in the strongest terms the regime, the MPR, and Mobutu himself. Some people dared to remind him the fate that had befallen another dictator, Nicolae Ceaucescu!

When Secretary of State James Baker was in Zaire last month, he warned Mobutu to clean up his act. Influential Democrats in Congress are talking openly of cutting off all aid to the dictatorship. They are responding to pressure from the anti-Mobutu lobby in this country--led by the Washington, DC based Rainbow Lobby and the US-Congo Friendship Committee--and Mobutu is feeling the heat. That is why he has begun to bend; he can be broken, eventually--as long as the pressure is kept up on him and on his friends in high places here.

On behalf of the New Alliance party, I have extended my warmest congratulations to our Congolese sisters and

brothers. And I congratulate the Rainbow Lobby and the US-Congo Friendship Committee, which have worked for many years to support the pro-democracy movement in Zaire. By helping to make it possible for the Zairian people to speak out, they have made an invaluable contribution to the victory for democracy that is at long last within sight.

But the struggle has just begun. Mobutu is not giving in without a fight--his speech last Tuesday made clear that he is only prepared to go so far. He will only go further if he is pushed. And we need to make sure that the Zairians who are daring to stand up and step forward and speak out don't get killed for it. You see, there is no good reason to trust Mobutu--or his friends in this country who, at that moment, are starting to turn their backs on him.

This is how Nancy Ross, the executive director of the Rainbow Lobby, puts it: "In the flurry of overdue denunciations of Mobutu, there has been little mention of the long postponed desire of the Zairian people for democracy--their right to determine their own national destiny free of foreign interference. In striking contrast to our government's strong applause for democratic participation in Eastern Europe, neither Congress nor the press,

not to mention the State Department, have so much as acknowledged the mass discontent of the Zairian people and the bold steps they are taking for democracy. The outcry against Mobutu here is completely consistent with the installation of a less politically embarrassing but equally undemocratic dictator.] The succession of Duvalierists who have ruled Haiti since the dictator himself was escorted out of the country and who have yet to satisfy the Haitian people's longstanding desire for a fair election serves as a reminder of the racist and hypocritical US foreign policy tradition--which prefers oppressive dictators over democracy when it comes to protecting US interests in Africa and the Caribbean. We will continue to keep the pressure on the State Department, on Congress and on Mobutu to make certain that the Zairian people's just struggle for democracy and fair elections is not, once again, short-circuited."

Dr. Lenora Fulani is the chairperson of the New Alliance Party and a practicing social therapist in Harlem. She can be contacted at the New Alliance Party, 2032 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10035 and at (212) 996-4700.

EXPRESSIONS

BLACK MEANS NO SHAME

We are proud of being BLACK because we are
the power and we represent the power
Our skin color is beautiful and we love it
Our hair texture which you call naps was put there
to charm our physical appearance
You have ridiculed our looks because we are totally different from
you
You have made us ashamed of our heads, eyes, nose, lips chest
butt, and feet because to you, they were never the right size, shape
nor color
To tell the truth, we love them the way they are because they make
us what we are
We can't do a damn thing about changing what we were before
what we are and represent today
SORRY! we portray ourselves the way you do
You'll just have to accept us for who or what we are

GONE

Our friendship was like
a slide of cool honey
down a warm parched throat
on a hot summer day
Care was thoroughly
genuine
on both of our sight
Eyes sparkling
laughter in air aflight
like a dove in early morning light
We sat through
the Cyclones ride
of life
and together
survived
Fate dropped a double-sided coin
at our feet
and as I picked up
one side
and you the other
we were thrown
in chaotic despair
to opposite ends of life
never to meet again

EXPRESSIONS

DRUG RELATED DEATHS IN HARLEM

Tiny metal death sentences
Ripping through innocent bronze flesh
Splattering blood
Silencing a beat
Breaking the Afrikan link
To me
Adding to the inheritance
Of a greedy mortician's daughter
And a drugrunner's illegitimate son

THE ROCKS BELOW

Friendship dashed
to the rocks below
Waves cover the
heat of Trust
and we drown...
Games continuously
played
The winner
loses all
respect
gainst distrust
The lose
stands destitute
in the sandstorm
of despair
Friendship hangs off
a precipice
and as thick
honey-coated lies
grinds its
whore-like heel
down on the fingers

MILITARY PRESENCE



THE NATIONALIST VOICE
OF PANAMA



THE RUINS OF THE CITIES



AMERICAN'S CLEAN UP



By: Omar P.L. Moore

Staff Writer

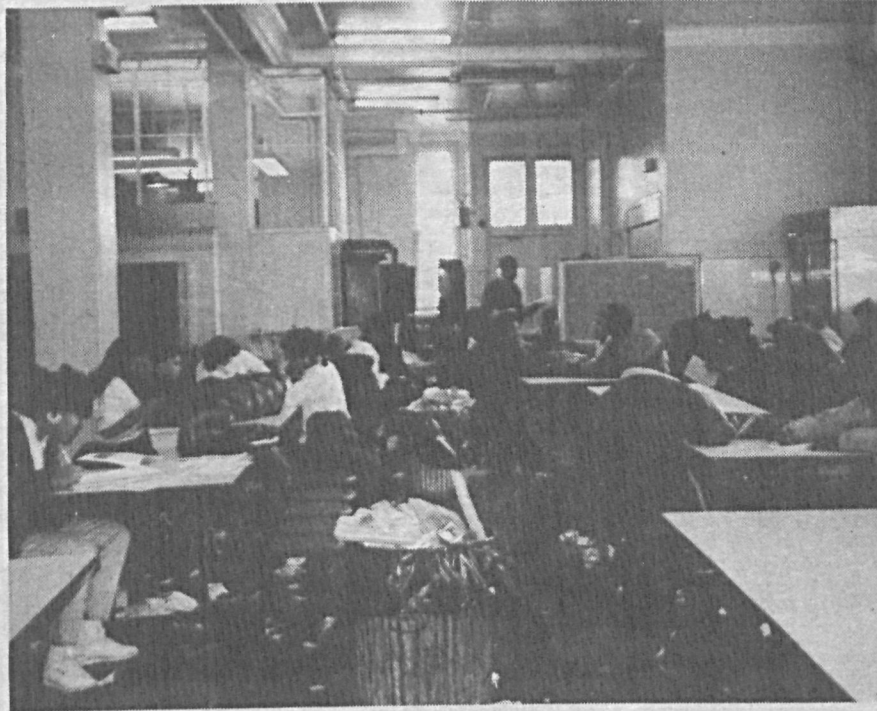
Once we enter college, how many of us remember the high school building we had lunch in? Or the classroom in which the dreaded U.S. history lesson was taught? For many of us, our High School rings symbolize all the memories of secondary education.

Maybe you didn't notice the state of a building or its surroundings. Of the fifty or more New York schools targeted for failing to "educate" their students, about forty of them are situated in the city. And most, if not all, of those have building and classroom structures that are dangerous or deteriorating. At this point, the natural question to ask is, what, if anything, is being done? Many of you may already have an answer.

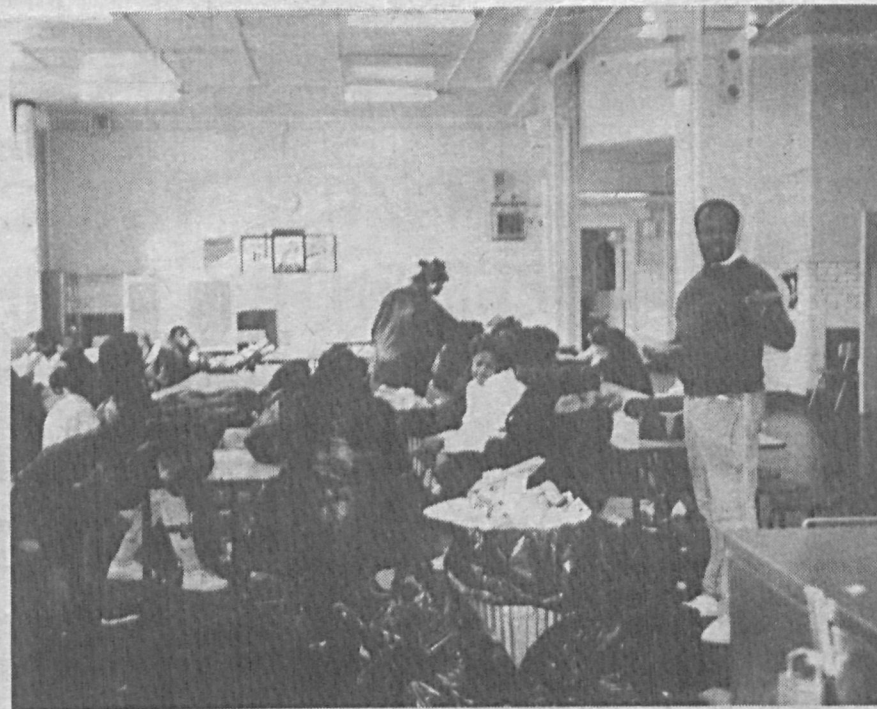
A day after the new year and decade were ushered in, Joseph Fernandez took office as the city's Board of Education Chancellor. He got "tough", directing, allocating, and suspending what seemed to be a good number of African-American and Latino administrators and school boards, including four principals. (One valid question: Is Fernandez being even-handed with his suspensions? Are white administrators being given a free ride in spite of irregularities? We believe there is evidence to answer the latter question in the affirmative.)

Anyhow, for over five months, Dr. Fernandez has also been tampering with the system, not necessarily changing it. For a few weeks now, Fernandez has been kept from the media spotlight. However, it is interesting that with all the money that is supposedly not available for improving standards and "education" in schools, the Board of Education can still purchase a house for the Chancellor in Brooklyn Heights at a price of \$1 million.

What seems to be more disturbing is the fact that over the years, as more schools became predominately African-American and Latino, schools were allowed to deteriorate. A good example is Erasmus Hall High School - a magnificent building which was kept in good shape when its students were Jewish and Irish. As the Flatbush community changed to African-American and Caribbean, so too did the student body at Erasmus, and as night follows day, so too did the



(1) Cafeteria lunch amidst trash



(2) Lunchtime at Maxwell High

school.

Since there are very few African-American and Latino teachers in the city's school system, another valid question has to be asked: what will Fernandez' introductory policy of school-based management do? (School-based management is where officials within a school will be more directly in charge of what happens in a school.). Will school-based management eliminate the discrimination against black teachers or erase the atrocious conditions that plague the learning environment of African-American and Latino

students? Unquestionably, both should be eliminated. We need more positive African-American and Latino teachers, but it won't mean anything if the education system remains the same. (That's why the proposed Curriculum of Inclusion is so very important.) And at the same time, eliminating conditions hazardous to the health of students is an absolute necessity.

The Chancellor needs to take a look at the policy of high schools like William H. Maxwell Vocational High School situated in East New York which has a policy of admitting more students than

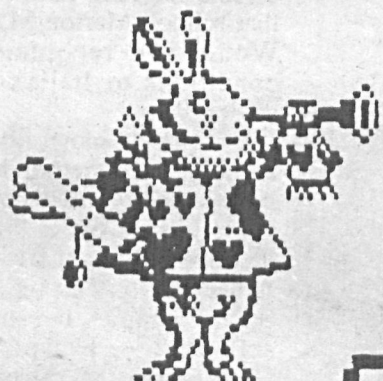
there is proper classroom space available. The result is that hundreds of students are served lunch among unsanitary and unhealthy conditions, as the garbage cans overflow in the cafeteria. This does not seem to trouble the long term principal of that school, Marion M. Lucchino. Would she recommend those conditions to Italian-American students?

The Chancellor needs to ask himself whether his school-based management will rid the high schools of racial discrimination against African-American and Latino teachers. Such examples can be found at schools like Prospect Heights High School, an all-black school in Brooklyn where the last four principals were white. The present principal, Jerry Cioffi, was so opposed to the celebration of African Liberation Day 1989 that he berated a teacher, the organizer of the celebration, till she cried.

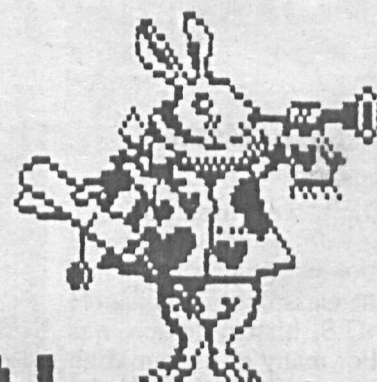
Prospect Heights was listed by the state as a failing school, yet white assistant principals are given tenure as a matter of course. Will school-based management do any good where African-American and Latino teachers have absolutely no control or power in the schools that miseducate our children? We think not. Mr. Chancellor, are you really fighting the power?



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