

The Paper

VOL61 NO2



the
City College
of New York



Fashion Expo Student Empowerment

In a continuous effort to inspire and empower the youth, All About Education (AAE) in collaboration with University Student Senate, are presenting "Get Out the Vote" Campaign. The highlight of this campaign will be the 1st Annual City University Wide Fashion Expo, held in the Great Hall (Shepard Building) on Tuesday, May 11th, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The purpose of this event is to empower and inform college students on the importance of voting in the 2004 presidential elections. In accordance with AIDS awareness month, the proceeds of this event will go towards funding for the Hale House Children Center Inc., an environment for babies whose mothers/families are unable to care for them due to drug addiction, homelessness, and babies born with HIV/AIDS. Also part of the proceeds will go towards funding IN ARMS REACH organization. IN ARMS REACH, Inc. is a non-profit art, music, prison visitation and educational mentoring organization that exclusively services children whose parents are or were formerly offenders of the criminal justice system. Many notables political officials will be in attendance. For more information, or to offer your support, call AAE at 212-650-5030.



USS CHAIR AGNES ABRAHAM
Picture by ReskQ

"Students united will never be defeated!"

by Christina Hailey

"I hate the fact that there is never enough parking at City College," proclaims student Darryl France. Students often don't know where to turn when they have complaints like this, but there is help.

United Student Senate (USS) is specifically setup to help students like Darryl. According to USS's mission statement, "The University Senate Student was established in 1972 to serve and protect the interests of all CUNY students."

"The USS insures the students' voices are heard and are brought to the CUNY Board of Trustees. We advocate for better conditions," explains Agnes Abraham, Chairperson of USS and President of Megar Evers College Student Government. "It is a policy making body made up of all the CUNY student bodies".

As a Megar Evers Public Administration student, Agnes—who describes herself as a servant for students—appreciates the struggles that the average CUNY student goes through juggling school and work. While serving over 213,000 students she pushes the envelope even further by helping to fight for students needs. "We lobby for capital funds to make sure CUNY receives money for helping with building and other programs that would make our education a lot more successful and pleasant, like science labs, full time faculty, and low tuition."

With USS fighting and lobbying, we have several new opportunities to thank them for, such as the E-Permit policy. This policy

allows any CUNY student to attend any CUNY college and obtain a letter grade (A, B, C, D) to be averaged into their grade, in comparison to the previous "P" (Pass) or "F" (Fail) grade which couldn't be averaged in. Since Agnes Abraham regime as the USS chair, a lot has been accomplished. Apparently, the current USS administration has been very productive. USS is in the works of hosting "Get Out the Vote" campaign on each college campus. A continues effort to empower, inspire and encourage the youth on the importance of voting in the 2004 presidential election.

Throughout its accomplishments, the University Student Senate continuous to work toward the future. "Restoration for TAP, Pell opportunities, and space for student activities", are some of the things Agnes explains that the USS plans on fighting to improve in the future.

If students have any problems at their immediate school, Agnes encourages students to "go through the chain of command and communicate to administration that you have a problem. Be able to identify your problem. Then if the complaint is not taken seriously, you may want to go to your student government, and then lastly, USS".

If students would like to get involved in the USS, they must first become involved in their immediate school's government, and then get nominated to become their college's representative to the USS. As Agnes reminds us: **"Students united will never be defeated!"**

The USS can be found at www.uss.cuny.edu or 1.646.344.7280

STUDENTS SHARE TRUE FEELINGS ABOUT CCNY

By Joseph A. Leffe
joeleffe@hotmail.com

CCNY was once called "the Harvard for the proletariat" in its expansive history, but has since lost its prestige. So The Paper decided to ask random students a simple question: What's your biggest complaint about City College?

The most frequent answer was the condition of the bathrooms, as articulated by Gina Gonzalez, an upper freshman who said: "The bathrooms are just disgusting. They aren't clean, and the toilet paper is so cheap. It's like the worst quality toilet paper you can get." When I asked Gina if she would ever sit down in a City College bathroom stall, she responded with a terse "NEVER" and threw in an additional grievance, "Oh, and the tuition is too high and [it] keeps going up."

In agreement, the bathrooms are definitely not comparable to that of the Hilton Hotels, but The Paper was looking for the even more cogent issues that have been dropping from the lips of City College students like anvils. Miriam Ghebremedhin, who's on CCNY Women's Soccer team, exhaled Methane gas and used our tape recorder as a torch to illuminate a still eclipsed subject: "There's not enough funding for women's soccer, or women's athletics in general. It seems like the male teams get a lot more funding. Plus, they have more coaches. We only have one coach. I mean, we have a great coach, but we could use another coach, like the male teams; and we need someone to recruit. Female athletics seem to get no financial attention in this school. I understand that we haven't won as many games, but still we need more help to be successful."

Jason, identifying himself as "Just Jason", a Comparative Literature major and straight -A student, with plans to attend a top law school, had a funny response when asked what his biggest complaint was. He said, "Well, I don't think we have enough time because I have class at 6:30p.m." It was 5:30p.m.

Jason is a non-resident student who stated his tuition was approximately \$5,000 per semester. "For starters, the Chancellor of CUNY has paid a salary of \$900,000, while student tuition keeps increasing. The

continued on page 5



Do we have a Say ?



Editor in Chief

ReskQ

Student Government and the Media are the two most powerful organizations at CCNY. They are the driving force behind student concerns and the resolution of such.

Addressing these major concerns is extremely necessary. Doing so will make the Faculty Senate aware that decisions must only be made with the approval of an organization that fully represents the students. The Student Government is that organization. In the past, decisions have been made without such approval. How can the campus be run effectively when there is no communication between the two?

The City College Media, as represented by The Paper, The Campus, SAME TV and WCCR Radio, are additional vehicles for voicing all matters that concern our college. As students we need to take back the power that will enable the media board to become more visible, thus productive in our name. Another useful resource at CCNY is WHCR Radio (90.3 FM); a community broadcasting station that has 10 watts and reaches as far as to 42nd Street in Manhattan, parts of the Bronx, Queens, New Jersey and Brooklyn.

For the last three years the quality of WHCR has been compromised. Promises are given, but not kept. This Administration-run radio station is practically invisible to the students on campus and the community. With the passing of the former general manager, Joe Brown, it

has become apparent that WHCR, 90.3 FM is in dire need of new leadership. The current interim manager is struggling with her position. Students who are interested in becoming involved with the station are being shut out and ignored. "I'm busy," she retorts, as students walk into her office for assistance. The treatment of the students is discouraging. It leaves CCNY students voiceless in the campus community. She uses her position as a launching pad for opportunities in other media organizations. WHCR needs a dedicated general manager to represent the interests of the student body and the community that surrounds it.

There are many more issues to be addressed and the Student Government, with the aid of the media, can see to it that they are. Recently, a "plus and minus" grading policy was implemented, effective this spring semester, without any input from the Student Government. The potential misuse of this new system is a prospect that worries many students. Professors are now able to give a B+ to a student who may deserve an A, based on a minor infraction, because a B+ is the closest increment to an A. The only advantage will be that now there is a distinction between an A+ and an A, when previously an A was simply an A.

Another major concern at CCNY is the lack of space. During the periods between classes students find themselves with no place to enjoy their break. There is no lounge area, or café for socializing, or space aside from the library, for class-prepping. A lounge on this campus is pivotal to the social and educational wellbeing of the student body. Offices are being relocated in NAC, causing overcrowding. Options will have to be explored by either using the buildings we have off campus, or creating a small, but functional lounge in the NAC rotunda area.

The quality of customer service in CCNY departments is another issue. "We feel disrespected and [are] talked to as if we [are] children, when seeking help from these various departments, such as the Registrar's office, Financial Aid office and the Humanities department," states Yolanda, a 34 year-old transfer student who complained to

made without my knowledge which do not represent my views and which blur the original article's denunciation of repression at CUNY.

In particular, a sentence was inserted beginning "Campus security is obviously a necessity and a service that we all appreciate," which is directly counterposed to the position of the Hunter Internationalist Club. We call for all cops off campus, along with all police and military recruiters. The attack on Miguel Malo reflects the system of police repression, not just the acts of a few "bad apples." The real function of the campus cops, like

The Paper. "The registration process in the school is very poor, these departments give students bit and pieces of the information, having students run around without getting proper help," she continued. "It is our money; we pay higher tuition fees to at least get the respect we deserve. Too much bureaucracy," a freshman bitterly retorted.

In a forum organized by All About Edu-tainment (AAE) and The Paper, on March 16th, 2004, student club leaders expressed their disappointment in the poor quality of customer service in most of the departments - especially the Student's Services Corporation (Business Office). In effect, a lot of students are transferring from the City College of New York to other higher educational institution, including Yolanda, who will not be returning after this semester due to the mistreatment she received.

The leadership of the Student Government is very important. In the upcoming elections, exercise your power to vote for a better leadership to represent your rights and interests. It is time we deal with these major concerns.

The last, but not the least, problem is the lack of minority faculty members. It is extremely important for students to have a say in the hiring process of faculty members of the school. Conversely, students should be able to evaluate tenured professors according to their performances and not have the process be an automatic one.

As students our ultimate goal is to get the best education to meet, or exceed, the needs of the job market in our various fields.

You may ask yourself, what is the quality of education we receive at this higher learning institution? Why is tuition rising as the quality of office service decreases? Do we have a say? Why is it so hard for recent graduates to find jobs in today's job market? How can we improve things? I believe it starts with us here, with your participation.

Serving in the interest of the student body,
RESK Q!

all police, is to provide the "service" of repression on behalf of the racist, capitalist system.

Especially since the insertion was the opposite of what we stand for, I must ask that you print this letter as a correction in your next issue.

Sincerely,

Abram Negrete
Hunter Internationalist Club

The Paper

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Letter to the Editor

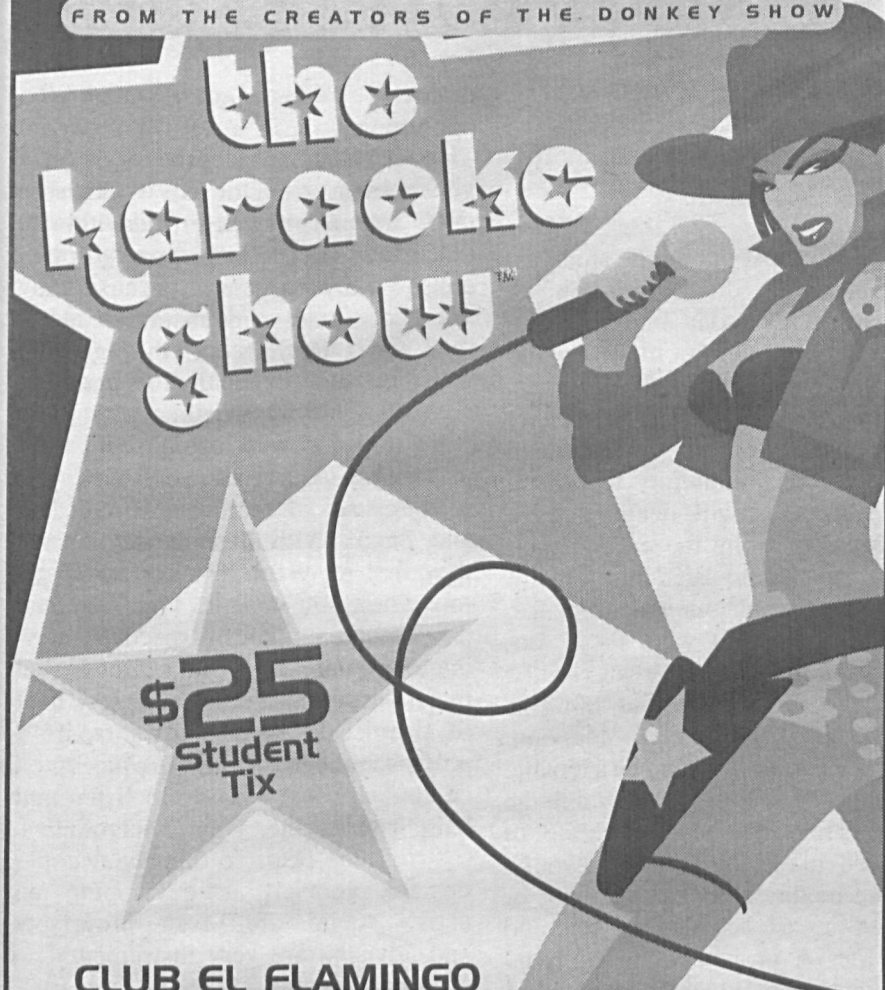
The Paper
CCNY

Dear editor,

The February issue of The Paper prints an article under my byline (as a representative of the Hunter Internationalist Club), regarding the campaign to defend Hostos Community College student leader Miguel Malo against ongoing, vindictive prosecution. I am writing because several editorial changes were

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Owe A Credit Card Debt?

that has BANKRUPTCY scrawled all across it, in bright green letters.

According to the United States Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), there is a decade-long rise in average student debt after graduation - from \$9,000 to nearly \$17,000. "Get 'em young" is the marketing strategy for credit card companies. For students who use their credit cards for something other than emergencies, the term compound interest will hopefully deter their continuance. It works like this: Let's say you get a credit card that has a 2.9% APR (annual percentage rate) for the next 3 months. That's fantastic! Then it goes to 18%. By this time you have about \$10,000 debt on it. If it's 18% APR, that means its \$1800 interest a year, or \$4.93 a day. So basically you're buying someone else a hot lunch everyday. And don't forget that this money is only the interest; you'll still have to pay back the \$10,000. Don't let this happen. If you are already in trouble, below are frequently asked questions concerning debt:

"I think I can pay this debt off,

but I have a lot of late payments—my credit sucks. Shouldn't I just claim bankruptcy?"

No! If you pay off the debt, you can delete the negative accounts from your credit report. There are many law firms that can do it. I have used Lexington Law Firm. They're inexpensive. For more information call 1-800-341-8441.

"I don't have that much debt, but I have a bad credit history. Is there anything I can do?"

Yes. If you have a derogatory account on your credit report, as long as it's paid off, it's very possible to have it deleted by visiting certain law firms, but the account must be paid off. The reason for this is because the record becomes inactive and easier to delete once it's paid off.

If you have been fortunate enough to avoid this type of financial quicksand, then great. Stay out of debt—away from the quicksand. Walk around it. The key is to first adjust your lifestyle to your income, and then work on adjusting your income to your desired lifestyle. The Federal Trade

Commission offers 5 credit rules for college students:

(1) Credit cards are just like a loan - you have to pay what you owe.

(2) Keep track of how much you spend. Remember that incidental and impulse purchases add up fast.

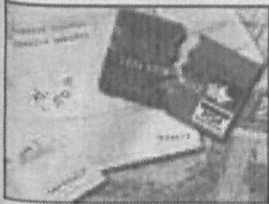
(3) Save your receipts. Compare them with your monthly bill. Promptly report problems to the company that issued the card.

(4) Never lend your card to anyone.

(5) Owing more than you can repay can damage your credit rating. That can make it hard to finance a car; rent an apartment, get insurance - even get a job.

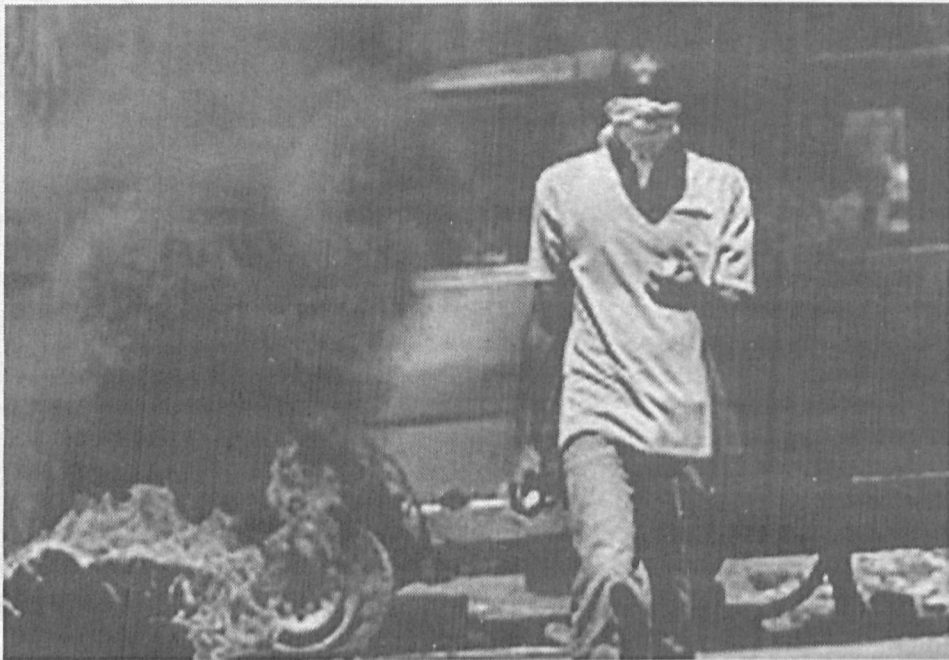
(6) Pay your bill on time, and in full, when possible. If you don't have to pay finance charges on the unpaid balance - and it take forever to get caught up if you just pay the minimum.

* Federal law limits your liability for unauthorized charges to \$50 per card.



by Joseph A. Leffe
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Credit card debt will ruin your brand new S. Carter sneakers because it's like sinking into quicksand. As a stockbroker, I've convinced people that saving accounts were a waste of time by comparing them to a glass of water that evaporates when left alone. As a current student at CCNY, I will now expound to you, my fellow students, that credit card debt truly is a sand trap. It feels comfortable at first, like maybe you could wade through it; but what happens next is that the burden reaches your neck, and you then you start worrying about whether you will survive. That's when you see a rope, you grab hold of it and pull, like a real trooper, you pull yourself out, but the rope is attached to a big cement block



HAITI IN CRISIS

by Melina Vargas

Masson Skarov's thoughts are a blur. "I don't know, I don't know. When I try to call, most of the time I can't even get through...[when I finally do] my mother tells me one thing, [but] the TV news [here say] another," said the Engineering student.

Our campus must be filled with students/staff/faculty dumbfounded by the political turmoil affecting the Haitian nation.

In a situation that worsens by the minute, the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere is experiencing chaos in the wake of political dissatisfaction. American and French military pose as authoritative figures, by orders from the U.N., to counteract the intention of rebels to over seize the presidential house and give commander-in-chief-powers to leader Guy Philippe.

The coup d'état of Aristide, as he has officially categorized it, even though he penned and signed his resignation before fleeing the country with wife, Mildred (Mrs. Aristide graduated in 1984 from City College, where she was president of the Student Government and an active member of the Haitian Student Association), and jetting to political-asylum-provider Africa, has been widely discussed by the media. The United States is a wealthy and powerful country that tends to intervene in the civil feuds of less resourceful republics. Are we participating for the sake of peace, or

in the name of goods, is what many want to know.

NYCaribNews reports: "And no amount of justification and rationales would take away from the issue that even if Aristide was bad, those who actively worked for his removal were ten times worse."

Whether the first democratically elected leader of Haiti was ousted by the Bush Administration or not, the facts speak for themselves. The documented deterioration of the country, the low quality of life that Aristide failed to improve, seems to be a branch of this tree of sadness that now hovers over the Caribbean nation. The pro-Aristide and the anti-government gang-guerillas have been facing each other for the last couple of months, dragging the lives of about 100 people in between, while tormenting the streets with angry, fatal violence; moving no closer to a resolution.

Haiti is going to need assistance to prosper as a Democratic republic. The U.S. is spreading itself thin--- having a crack at let's-create-a-government elsewhere. The natives who have lived through the dictatorships, the corruption, the ambivalence, the scarcity may not have an optimistic bone in their body. Many who have seen hope, have simply immigrated. So it is left to the Samaritans of the world to step in.

A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

The Road to College

By Agusta Jenkins
jingles11@yahoo.com

For most college students, getting through this institution of higher learning is one big mountain they need to climb in order to accomplish the rest of their life goals. For some, it is an opportunity to set a precedent of success for people in their family or community to follow. Other students might deem it as a necessary step along the path to their career. And some students are in college because of parental influence, hoping to figure out what they want to make of their life. Whatever the reason, the most important thing is reaching the top of that mountain.

Of course, it would be a terrible lie to say that getting through college is easy. There are many roadblocks that could make the journey a rough one, like money, college expenses, or the juggling of academics, job, and social life. A proper frame of mind is very pertinent in any endeavor. A positive attitude generates a positive performance. The first thing to do once you begin your college classes is to believe you can do anything once you set your mind to it. Nothing is beyond your reach. Along the way, many new temptations are likely to crop up, enticing you to stray away from the your goals: Therefore one should always remember the reasons for being in college. What do you like to do, what degree do you wish to acquire, what field of education?

Everyday is a period of self-

discovery. Whenever you get the opportunity, make a SWOT analysis. This self-evaluation process reveals your present strengths (S), weaknesses (W), opportunities (O) and threats (T). Many people have gone through college only to return because they did not assess themselves along the way. They went through the motions, the mechanical routine of college, ignoring whether what they were studying was in tune with their personality. As a result, years down the road instead of feeling accomplished and happy with their achievements, they feel regretful. You can avoid all this when you observe your personal developments. You'll discover new interests and find out things that make you feel more complete. A host of people, like your advisors, your professors and various offices on campus are just waiting to listen and help you tackle your uncertainties.

One positive thing you could do for yourself is developing an active social life. Your professors and advisors are very instrumental in shaping your college life and thereafter. In most cases, they are waiting for students to inquire about whatever it is that's on their mind. Also, get to know your fellow students by joining group-studies, clubs and societies. Broaden your scope by learning about different cultures and ideas. Most people are open to making friends, but sometimes feel shy, intimidated, or overwhelmed. Keep in mind that it doesn't hurt to initiate a conversation; be a leader. This would help improve your social skills and give you the confidence needed in "the real world".

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2 Vote Or Not To Vote

by Jenny Olson

At one time, voting was a privilege given only to white men. In succeeding years, women challenged this preconceived notion and won in 1920. The African-American struggle for voting equality during the Civil Rights era prevailed in 1965. People have been jailed, humiliated, and killed for this right. Despite this knowledge, today, millions of Americans do not vote, specifically black Americans.

Many reasons underline the causes of this dilemma. Some of the primary reasons involve the minimum amount of knowledge given about the politics behind voting. Many black Americans, young and old, do not fully grasp the significance of the black vote. Health care, education, job opportunities, and even issues of

disfranchisement, are all key factors surrounding the importance of voting. Ironically, many blacks feel their vote does not have an impact in today's America. History has illustrated otherwise. In fact, some of the first black mayors in Chicago, and in other large cities, obtained this appointment through means of black alliance.

Now is when our vote is needed more than ever. The upcoming Presidential election this November demands for a research by the voters of the candidates' positions on relevant topics. Taking the moment to educate ourselves and making it work to our benefit is the best track to choosing the best candidate for the job. The media has a key role in manipulating public opinion in either direction, due to its role as the primary medium where ideals and politics for each candidate

are presented. In fact, the current controversy over Ralph Nader's announcement to run for president as an independent contender has stirred up new troubles for the Democratic Party. It is believed that this will draw Democratic votes away from Kerry, a presidential favorite, towards the Republican Party. This leaves a greater possibility for George Bush to capture a victory for presidency. Noted, it is imperative that our voice be heard in the 2004 Presidential Election.

The nation is divided on many issues, leaving many undecided as to who could run this country to its full capability. As we progress into the new era, many political issues have stimulated unmarked controversy. Mayor Jason West of New Paltz, New York, has performed several same-sex marriages as a plea to change current

state laws, which mark same-sex marriages as illegal. Whatever your view is on this and other central ideas affecting our society, it is clear it will be a deciding factor on who is to become the next president of the United States.

Student Feelings *continued from front page*

language department is floundering, and there are limited literature courses. They keep cutting courses. I had a choice between Detective Fiction and Science Fiction at the time I wanted to take it. I am a Comparative Literate major. No, thank you." What else, I inquired. "Well, this is a very homophobic campus. I have heard the word fag many times and nothing is done about it. It's like socially expected of you to be homophobic".

Gillian, who kept her last name anonymous, said, "Security guards are unprofessional. They are always flirting with you saying, 'Hey Ma' or inviting you out on dates. Sometimes I don't want to deal with that stuff you

know?"

Peter Brown is a City College senior who grew up downtown. His initial response was: "The hallway cinderblocks are a depressive environment for learning." He remarked that City College as a name does not command any respect. He said, "CCNY needs to build up its reputation. It may have been the Harvard for the poor fifty years ago, but certainly not now. Also, a lot of professors at CCNY don't respect their students to the same degree that private colleges respect their students. At private colleges, student feelings are taken into consideration." Peter speaks from experience, having attended

Roanoke College in Virginia before deciding to transfer to CCNY.

Admittedly, CCNY has its faults, as do most bureaucratic organizations. There are probably dozens of other areas that have room for improvement, but how do we go about changing and improving? How do we make a difference? Interestingly enough, none of the students I spoke to were familiar with the Student Government and its leaders. This is very obviously the first step; getting involved in Student Government, or at least voting in the elections. E-mail The Paper if you have any gripes about City College, or ideas for improvement.

Upcoming Events

May 11th
Cultural Festival NAC
Plaza 12pm-2pm
All Clubs Invited

Spring Festival
NAC Plaza May 13th
Finley Student Center
11am-4pm
for info
1.212.650.5002

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The City College Of New
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TAKE A VACATION THIS SUMMER!

Travel to...

Lesotho

Although shunted to and from British and Boer control for almost 200 years, Lesotho's path to self-rule was comparatively smooth. Landlocked by South Africa, but distanced from it by huge mountain ranges, Lesotho is an often-surprising combination of rapidly-developing modernity and ancient culture.

It has managed largely to avoid many of the recent wars, racist policies and political instability that have plagued most of the African continent. Most travelers come to Lesotho as a side-trip following time spent in South Africa, and find it a real relief to escape post-apartheid tensions.

Although, like most of Africa, Lesotho is a struggling Third World nation, it has built a great reputation for dependable tourism. Public

transportation and organized tours and treks are quite reliable. The locals are always willing to help and practice hospitality. Although there are still internal political maneuverings, the instability looks unlikely to have any adverse effects in your visit.

When to Go

Weather is probably the main consideration for travelers deciding the best time to go, and if you don't mind getting a little wet, it doesn't really matter when traveling to Lesotho. Nearly all of Lesotho's rain falls in the summer. It's beautiful and warm when the sun comes out, but mountain areas can be foggy and more than chilly.

Activities

One of the most popular and exciting activities for travelers at Lesotho is pony trekking on the tough, sure-footed Basotho ponies. There are

several trekking centers, though the one located on God Help Me Pass has a certain allure, if only for the chance for t-shirt purchases.

Along the same lines, but without the safety of the cliff-climbing ponies, is hiking. With landscapes reminiscent of the Tibetan plateau, the hikes are dangerous and the weather cold and treacherous. Be well-prepared, bring all equipment with you and don't make Lesotho your first hiking experience.

Enjoying the great Lesotho outdoors doesn't have to mean being rescued from a ravine, however, with bird-watching and trout fishing among the more sedate pleasures. Nearly 300 bird species is pretty impressive for a landlocked country, with raptors being particularly prevalent. A fishing license is required from the Ministry of Livestock for a nominal fee, and bag and size limits apply.

Full country name: Kingdom of Lesotho
Area: 30,355 sq km
Population: 2.1 million
People: Basotho (99.7%), European
Language: Sotho, Southern, English
Religion: Christian 80%,
coexisting with traditional beliefs
Government: Constitutional monarchy
Head of Government: Prime Minister
Bethuel Pakalitha Mosisili

Exercise your power
VOTE
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Campaign brought to
you by
University Student
Senate

LEAD POISONING

LEAD POISONING

On December 15, 2003, the last council meeting of the year took place. Fourteen new bills were passed and one of them was Intro 101A, The New York City Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act. It passed by a vote of 44 to 5, with one abstention (Democrats Madeline Provenzano and Helen Sears and Republicans Dennis Gallagher, Andrew Lanza, and James Oddo all voted against the bill. Councilmember Peter Vallone, Jr. abstained from the vote.) "Four thousand children a year are poisoned by lead and 85% of them are children of color.... Our mayor can be a Santa Claus or a Scrooge this holiday season. We believe he should be Santa Claus and bring a gift to the children of the 'lead belt' by signing onto this legislation," said Harlem Councilmember Bill Perkins in an attempt to convince Mayor Bloomberg to support the new lead paint legislation passed by the City Council. While Mayor Bloomberg is expected to veto the bill, the debate about lead poisoning and its regulatory laws continue.

THE HAZARDOUS EFFECTS OF LEAD POISONING

The lead poisoning problem

has been in the public eye since the 1960's, when it was discovered that lead exposure could provoke a wide range of health problems and seriously affect the cognitive process in young children. Often undetected because of its lack of symptoms, lead poisoning may cause learning disorders, attention deficit disorders, reduced IQ, and in severe and prolonged exposure, it may cause kidney damage, convulsions, coma and even death. Lead poisoning occurs through ingestion or inhalation of lead-contaminated house dust generated, not only from peeling lead paint on aging or damaged structures, but also by the mere physical contact with intact painted surfaces. According to NYC's Department of Mental Health and Hygiene (DOMHH), peeling or damaged lead paint was identified in 68% of lead poisoned children in NYC in 2002, while only 5 out of New York's 42 neighborhoods concentrated 35% of its environmental investigations for the same year. These five neighborhoods are: Williamsburg-Bushwick, Bedford-Stuyvesant, East Flatbush-Flatbush, West Queens and Fordham-Bronx Park. Lead poisoning also disproportionately affects poor and ethnic minority children. In 2002, 37% of lead poisoned children were Latino, 36% were African-American, and 18% were Asian. If not handled properly, this situation could have a catastrophic impact over the socio-economic aspect

of these communities.

A BRIEF HISTORY ON LEAD PAINT

Lead paint was extensively used throughout the 20th century, until its use was banned in NYC in 1960. The rest of the country endorsed the prohibition of lead paint use around the 1970's. However, this didn't entirely resolve the problem because many of New York's buildings were built before 1960 and therefore were painted in their majority with lead paint. As a matter of fact, the 1990 census indicated that New York City has the nation's highest percentage of pre-1960 (63.5%) residential housing. In numbers, this means that some 2,000,000 housing units may still represent a danger to the children of today.

LEAD POISONING LAWS

Before Local Law 1 was passed in 1982, a child had to actually be poisoned in order for the harmful lead paint to then be removed by building landlords. This changed dramatically with Local Law 1, which stated that any building/house containing lead paint, in which any child under the age of 7 resided, would be issued a "Class C" hazardous violation. Then, landlords were given

24 hours to remove all lead paint from the premises. But in 1999, and to the disapproval of various private groups and pro-health coalitions, the city instated Local Law 38, a law that replaces the original one, but this time the law seems to favor landlords and not children. When comparing both laws, it is obvious that Local Law 38 has many articles that are deficient, such as since the age of concern drops from 7 to 6, the landlord has now between 10 and 220 days to "fix" the situation (includes inspection, abatement of peeling paint, and re-inspection by HPD). Another downside of Local Law 38 is that there has to be a sufficiently high level of lead in the paint material in order for it to qualify for removal. Since landlords aren't required to know, or obtain documentation, about the material content of their building construction, such as the type of paint they utilize, our children have to first be contaminated for action to be taken. Does that sound just about right?

Intro 101A was introduced on March 25, 2002 by Council Member Bill Perkins. On June 23rd 2003, NYC DHMH commissioner, Mr. Thomas Frieden, testified before the New York City Council Committee on Housing and Buildings referring to Intro. 101, (The N.Y. City Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act) as not consistent with federal guidelines

continued on page 7

The City College of New York
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lead poisoning *continued from*
page 6

and that it's not aimed to protect those who are in greater need. Frieden is not the only one who criticizes the bill; the Bloomberg administration and the real estate lobbyists criticize the bill under the premises that the number of cases of lead poisoning are already declining, that it would create a slew of lawsuits against the city, and that it is a punitive measure for landlords, among other reasons. However, in July, Local Law 38 was struck down by the New York State Court of Appeals, leaving an older law, (Local Law 1) in its place. But Intro 101 has much support from a wide range of professionals, community leaders and doctors, such as long-time lead clinician Dr. John Rosen and various other members of the medical community, as well as, 30 co-sponsors of the bill, including speaker Miller, The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), the New York City Coalition to End Lead Poisoning (NYCCELP) and the West Harlem Environmental Action Group. To learn more about lead poisoning, you may visit the following comprehensive Web sites:

Department of Mental Health and Hygiene: <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/html/lead/lead.html>

The text of the bill: www.nmic.org/nyccepl/laws/Lead-Paint-Poisoning-Prevention-Act-of-2002.htm.

study abroad

A once in a lifetime opportunity

by Gibran Haq

When people refer to New York City as a "melting pot" where different ethnicities, cultures and religions mix, collide and interact on a daily basis, they are right. Ultimately, New York is the place where you can have an Italian lunch with French wine and a Middle-Eastern dinner with Japanese beer. Meeting people from every single corner of the globe is priceless: you get to expand your horizons and the knowledge of what you think the world is. This is why City College is such a wholesome experience; forget about looking for cultural diversity because as a CCNY student, cultural diversity will find you. Imagine traveling abroad and getting a chance to actually interact with a different culture, one that seems enigmatic or interesting to you—even if it is just for a week. But wouldn't it be so much better to stay at your preferred destination for a month, or maybe even longer? Then consider CCNY's Study Abroad Program

~~Just in case you didn't know,~~ Study Abroad is a program sponsored by the International Studies program at City College, which allows students to take a full college semester (or even a full year) at an overseas university of their choice.

"I went over to the International Studies office, just to see what it was all about, and I found this program that was designed for CUNY students that would allow me to go to Italy for only three weeks, because I didn't want to be out for too

long", said Jakira Torres, an MCA major, who made true her dream of visiting Italy this past January. "After speaking to other students enrolled in the program, I only heard good opinions about the program. Everyone agreed in saying that the experience was absolutely worth it", Torres added.

A very good place to begin an overview of the experience is www.studyabroad.com, where you can find details on what is needed by the student in order to reach his/her destination. A common belief about the program is that it may be way too expensive to be afforded by a struggling college student. Well, think again. The fact is that grants, loans, fellowships, financial aid and all sorts of opportunities are provided by various organizations in order to help students make true what to some might be a dream.

"It's not difficult, it just looks difficult... they ask for and require a lot of little things, but it definitely can be done", said Torres.

So if you are interested in spending time overseas, maybe in China, Germany, or the United Kingdom, this is your chance. And if you are really interested in International Affairs, but you happen to be enrolled in an unrelated major, remember that you can always get a minor in International Studies.

If you wish to be assisted in person, you may contact Dr. Maria Fernando, Director of International Studies, at the NAC building in room 6/141. Or, schedule an appointment with her by calling 212-650-5842.

Poetry Corner

Vitamin DEE

*I come from the depths of the
SEA
EMERGE and you would
SEE it's an
EMERGENCY*

*I hardly exist in the sun's
depleting
layers of OZONE
Pointing like the empty
barrels of
NAVARONE.*

*Yet I'm a part of your BACK
BONE
What is your time ZONE?*

*Maybe if we see EYE to EYE
You won't be telling a LIE*

*EMERGE from your slumber
and SEE
SAVE GOD'S EARTH
It's an EMERGENCY
Klenam Klenam*

Love is...

By: Sanayi Beckles

*Love is within you
It's in the stillness of your
soul.*

*And the things you do
Love is everywhere
Just pause for a moment,
To recognize it,
In each blade of grass,
Twinkle in a star, or beat of
a heart*

*It's in everything God created
Love is consciously expressed
whenever you
Touch someone through
Your eyes, your thoughts,
your words, your actions
And even a smile...*

Celebrating the legacy: Our History, The 1969 Takeover

During the 1969 Student Takeover there were four student newspapers on the City College campus: Tech News, Observation Post (white radical newspaper), The Campus and Main Event (evening student newspaper). By 1970, 15% of the college campus was Black and none of the student newspapers reflected this composition in their staffs or in their coverage of issues. Tech News, being the weakest of the four student newspapers became the target of a takeover.

Louis Reyes Rivera, who joined Tech News in September of '69, and Paul Simms, editor at the time, devised a plan to takeover the newspaper. Tech News was run by students from the Engineering department and had a predominantly Jewish staff. According to Mr. River, the Jewish students were so preoccupied with creating a Jewish studies department and their own newspaper called the "Source", that they neglected February '69 issue of Tech News, the Black staff members produced a Black History Month supplement insert and called it The Paper.

In November of 1970, the last issue of Tech News was printed as The Paper a.k.a. Tech News. This was the official issue of The Paper and the new voice for people of African descent. As it stands today, The Paper is the only organization that came forth as a result of the 1969 student takeover that is still in the hands of students!

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Student Government Elections
April 27th, 28th, 29th
NAC Rotunda

Do you support the plus or minus grading policy?
Vote yes or No

Sports Better Days

During the late 1950's the soccer teams of the City College of New York (CCNY) were dominant in New York City's collegiate soccer, winning outright or sharing five consecutive New York Metropolitan Intercollegiate League titles and going undefeated in 49 consecutive league games over a six year period. The peak occurred during the last three years of the 1950's, when the team was recognized as a national soccer power. In 1957 it became the only undefeated and untied team in the college's soccer history winning 10 games. That year, after defeating such national soccer powers as Army, RPI

and Brockport State, the college was ranked national Co-Champions, along with Springfield College of Massachusetts. The Co-Champion designation was made on January 10, 1958 by The Intercollegiate Soccer Football Association, the official body sanctioned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), on the basis of ratings submitted during the campaign by referees and opposing coaches.

In 1958 the team was also undefeated going 11-0-1 and was ranked fourth in the nation by the Intercollegiate Soccer Football Association. During that year the team scored a

record 73 goals, which eclipsed by 21 the previous year's record and gave up only 9 goals. In 1959 the NCAA held its first playoffs in soccer and the City College team made it to the Final Four, losing to the eventual winner St. Louis University.

The 1958 team was featured in the December 22, 1958 issue of Life Magazine's International Edition. The key perspective of the article was that all but one member of the team was born outside the United States. The team was also featured in an article appearing in the May 1959 issue of Sport Magazine and was repeatedly written about in

the New York Times and other major newspapers.

In summary, the 1957, 1958 and 1959 teams compiled a record of 30-2-2, had three members who were named on All American teams, had 9 members who were named to All New York State teams and have 8 members plus its coach, Harry Karlin, who have been inducted in the CCNY Athletic Hall of Fame.

In April, 2004 after 45 years the members of the 1957, 1958 and 1959 teams are planning a reunion to reminisce about the "glory years" of City College soccer.