

THE PAPER

MEDIUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

"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

October / November 2011

Volume 132 - Issue 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial



By Oronde Tennant

During the summer I had the opportunity to visit The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. Located in the vista between the Lincoln Memorial and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial it stands as a testament to Dr. King's legacy. The Lincoln Memorial is where Dr. King gave his 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech. The memorial gazes across the Tidal Basin toward the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. The memorial is the first on the National Mall not dedicated to a United States President or war hero, but a citizen activist for civil rights and peace.

From conception to completion the memorial has been controversial; everything from the location, the design, the sculptor, to the re-paraphrasing of some quotes has been debated. After a tireless planning and designing process Lei Yixin of China was selected as the sculptor leaving some unhappy with the decision of the design committee who chose not to commission an African American sculptor. When asked about his connection to King and his message Yixin expressed that he has experienced and struggled with discrimination

in his own impoverished life and understands King's vision. He said, "Equality is the priority; we can't choose who we are born to be, but everyone is born equal". He agrees with King's concept. Reverend Jesse Jackson notes that "Dr. King was a globalist; the fact that the sculptor is Chinese would have impressed him, because he saw the world through a door and not a keyhole". Jesse Jackson, who was a close friend, claims Dr. King would have appreciated the jester. One suggestion I found poignant was to have Dr. King's stance with open arms amongst a congregation of multi-cultural people instead of alone with arms folded.

Under the leadership of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Foundation, the memorial was set to be dedicated on August 28, 2011, the 48th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, but was postponed until October due to Hurricane Irene. The public was able to get a first look at the National Park before the hurricane was predicted to hit the area. The main entrance to the memorial is through the "Mountain of Despair", a massive boulder symbolizing the struggle faced in the quest for peace and equality. From within the struggle, a piece has been

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Solid Ground at Occupy Wall Street

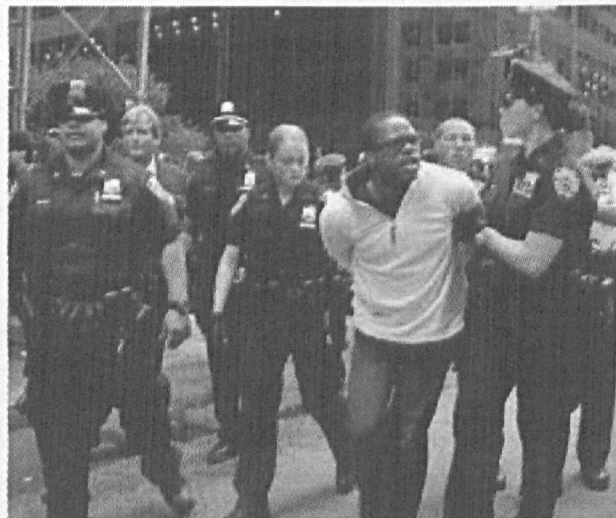
By Conor Tomás Reed

On Saturday, October 1, over 700 participants in the "Occupy Wall Street" movement were arrested for taking over half of the Brooklyn Bridge, catapulting this nonviolent public square movement to global attention. The previous Saturday, at least eighty people involved with OWS were similarly arrested in an explosion of police brutality. On both occasions, organizers swiftly blasted videos online documenting the NYPD's unhinged force, while securing legal support for those arrested and reorganizing to maintain "Liberty Plaza," a people's camp permanently nestled a brick's throw from Wall Street since Saturday, Sept 17th. In the aftermath, NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly is being urged to resign.

These graphic images echo NYPD aggression in

response to a crowd of thousands claiming the streets of lower Manhattan on September 21, one day after Troy Davis's execution. Called "A Day of Outrage" by the NYC Campaign to End the Death Penalty, what began as a Union Square vigil mourning his death became a full-scale disavowal of the US government and justice system. Thousands of people of all colors shot through the streets, without permit, stopping traffic and dodging police vehicles from Union Square to the Village, then down across Broadway to join a mass rally at Liberty Plaza.

An unintended outcome of these examples of state repression is the remarkably vast public support for the interlinking community efforts at social change. Amy Goodman, Michael Moore, Cornel West, Lupe Fiasco, Anonymous, Wikileaks, the Yes Men, and others have praised the movement that is being modeled after past



Source: www.google.com

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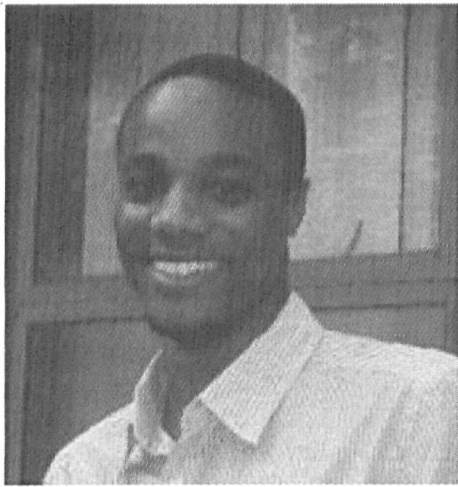
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the
City College
of New York

Editor's Letter



By Oronde Tennant

As incoming Editor-in-Chief I'd like to share stories of triumph, pain, success and strength each issue. As you read the feature of the Martin Luther King Monument you learn that the journey to accomplish such an important milestone would not have been possible without persistence. It is my wish that we all honor and reflect on the contributions the Reverend made to the world, as well as, reflect on his message of tolerance, justice and peace. I encourage all to visit the magnificent memorial and relish its splendor.

The opportunity to profile interesting, unique personalities and individuals who deserve recognition is very important to me. Many of you who follow fashion are familiar with Chanel Iman, Jourdan Dunn and Arelenis Sosa, but after seeing a captivating face on the cover of U magazine, the Tyra Banks Show and in Kanye West's video for his single "Power", I decided to investigate and learn more about an intriguing individual.

Her name is Diandra Forrest; she is a model with albinism, the hereditary genetic trait in which the skin, hair and eyes produce little or no melanin, resulting in a lack of pigmentation. Diandra at 19 is redefining beauty in the fashion industry as an African-American model on the rise. Despite her success her story is one of pain and ridicule, as

a child she experienced rejection and violence for looking different. In an interview she explained how as a child people would ask her if she was adopted because her family members have darker skin than hers. Diandra remembers wanting to tell people she was adopted so that it would be easier to explain to people why she looked so different. I think she is absolutely beautiful and stands as a strong example of someone who has turned negativity into success while standing up for other people with albinism and serving as a role model.

In my research I learned that people with Albinism in Tanzania are being hunted and killed because it is believed that they have magical powers. There is a black market for their body parts. Some witch doctors are marketing their skin, hair, bones, and limbs putting them into potions promising this will bring wealth if taken orally. There are people with albinism who try to hide their albinism out of fear that people will think they have evil super powers. The Tanzanian government has decided that anyone found hunting or killing people with albinism will be sentenced to death.

I learned the term "albino" is considered derogatory to people with the hereditary trait. It can be compared to calling a Hispanic person "Spic", an Indian person "Paki" or a white person "Cracker", because it has been used as a term of hate, a way of subjugating and labeling the person with albinism as bad. Some people with albinism think that society prefers people with darker skin and hair. Observing various advertisements models featured are tanned or over-tanned, frequenting dating websites dark hair and eyes are desirable, celebrities popularize tanning and it appears as if no one values light skin or hair. I find it interesting how different people view society.

It is necessary to speak out against discrimination, hate and injustice of any form. We must educate ourselves and our youth on albinism. Other groups have been subject to stereotypes and have achieved more tolerance. Extending the same tolerance to people with albinism is the right thing to do. Beauty comes in many shapes, sizes, shades of color and races. We are all beautiful in our own unique way. Love yourself.



Source: www.google.com

Activists are working to defend the rights of these individuals, conducting research on attacks and organizing meetings in Dodoma, Tanzania to denounce the traditional beliefs.

Positively,

Oronde Tennant

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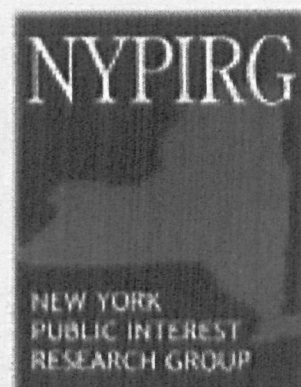
NYPIRG Welcome Back

Hello and welcome back!

As many of you know, the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is the state's largest student-directed advocacy organization with twenty chapters on college campuses throughout the state. As full-time staff, NYPIRG project coordinators train students to work on a range of local and statewide issue-based campaigns, teaching important and practical skills that supplement their education in the classroom. At City College, we offer an on-campus internship and internship opportunities in Albany.

At NYPIRG, students learn grassroots organizing skills through involvement in real-world campaigns that effect change on issues like protecting higher education affordability and the environment. One event that we already had was, an international day of action on the climate crisis this event happened on September 24th 2011 and took place all over the world. The event featured prominent national and international speakers, live music, and students gathered from City College and throughout New York to demand action on climate change.

For more information contact Stanley Fritz at NYPIRG@ccny.cuny.edu



OUR MISSION

In 1969 two student leaders, including Louis Reyes Rivera, founded *The Paper* as a radical social voice for people of African descent. We stand on the shoulders of journalistic giants! Our mission is to carry on this legacy. As an organization, we encourage and develop socially progressive student activists. *The Paper* will continue to serve CCNY and the surrounding Harlem community.

The Flash Black

Because we strive to connect past lessons with today's struggles, we are thrilled to present this feature in our publications—the FLASHBLACK! For each issue, we will reprint articles and photographs from the *Tech News* and *The Paper* archives which are housed in our own Cohen Library. We encourage our readers to respond to these blasts from the past, build on their legacies, and spread the word about our college's amazing political history.

Chisholm Coming To City

The Honorable Shirley Chisholm, the first Black Congresswoman in the United States Congress will speak in Bottenweiser Lounge, Finley Student Center, on Friday, March 26th, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. only. Mrs. Chisholm, who repre-

sents Bedford-Stuyvesant's 12th Congressional district, will speak on the "Realities of Political Life As Faced by a Black Congresswoman." Her appearance at City is being jointly sponsored by the Speech and Theater Department and Roni J.

Unger, a speech instructor for the SEEK program. Having been a school teacher and the director of a day nursery, Mrs. Chisholm is a qualified expert in early childhood education and child welfare. She first entered politics in 1964 when she won a State Assembly

seat on the Democratic ticket. In 1968 she became the first Black congresswoman, once again running on the Democratic ticket. This will be the second appearance at the college for Mrs. Chisholm. Previously she appeared in the Spring of 1969.

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(aka Tech News)

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1971

*So here we stand,
on the edge of Hell,
in Harlem, and wonder
what we will do, in
the face of all that
we remember.*

—Langston Hughes



photo by Jeff Morgan
Guards replying to questions posed by students.

Lawyers Seek To Burn Blacklist

A State Department Passport Division blacklist, containing almost a quarter of a million names, was challenged in Federal District Court in New York last week by four individuals and a minority political party.

The action, prepared and presented by Victor Rabinowitz, Acting General Counsel of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, seeks to force the government to destroy the list and to expunge from its files all information about persons on the list.

The complaint grew out of a disclosure February 9 that the Passport Division blacklist contained the names of 243,135 persons, gathered from various sources, for checking on applicants for passports, or validation of existing passports.

They asked the court to declare the blacklist invalid as an infringement of their rights under the First, Fifth, and Ninth Amendments. The list, they charged, "serves no legitimate purpose," and "authorizes an unwarranted invasion" of their "personal and associational privacy."

If they sought to exercise their right-to-travel freedom, they said, they would be "defamed and stigmatized," their movements would be monitored,

and they would be "made the targets for intensive police investigation and surveillance, criminal prosecutions, loss or denial of governmental benefits, licenses or employment, public opprobrium, and economic injury."

They asked that the State Department be enjoined from operating the blacklist, or maintaining or implementing it in any fashion. "Otherwise," they said, "since there is no remedy in existing law for a person on such a blacklist, the burden of proving a passport applicant's loyalty is placed upon the applicant, thus presenting "an irrebuttal presumption of disloyalty."

The majority of the blacklist are persons described as "known

or suspected Communists or subversives." Others are individuals whose actions "do not reflect to the credit of the United States abroad, "defectors and expatriates, persons wanted by law enforcement agencies, individuals sought in child custody or desertion cases, and suspected delinquents in military cases.

Plaintiffs in the complaint are Dr. Corliss Lamont, Chairman of the N.E.C.L.C.; Bernard Brightman and Sidney Gluck, businessmen who are members of the N.E.C.L.C. Executive Committee; Arnold Johnson, Public Relations Director of the Communist Party, and the Socialist Workers Party, acting in behalf of it and its members. The four named plaintiffs are acting as individuals.

Guards Meet Students

By DIANE KEARNEY

Aggravated members of the Third World college community and four officers from the Wackenhut Protection Service met recently in an attempt to irradicate the friction which has developed between the two Black groups during the past few months.

The meeting was called by Student Senate President James Small, who explained that he had been asked by representatives from both groups to hold such a meeting.

The group of approximately 150 students, were concerned with rumors charging the guards with general insensitivity to and harassment of Black and Puerto Rican students.

The four Wackenhut officers were Sgt. Melvin Allen, badge number 283, Sgt. John Washington, badge number 253, Sgt. David Jeffries, badge number 519, and Sgt. Alvin Long, badge number 230. The four agreed to first listen to opinions and grievances from the students, answer any questions, and finally to explain their position.

The students chose to discuss the issue of drug arrests because of the recent activity by the guards in that area. Many students felt that the Wackenhut officers often ignored the very obvious "pot sessions" white students repeatedly hold in many of the lounges; yet go out of (their) way to track down Brothers and Sisters who lit up in more discreet places. Such secluded areas as bathrooms, the fourth floor of Finley Center, etc. The Black students demanded that whites be given the same punishments, and as often.

The Wackenhuts maintained that those present were very much misinformed since they were not aware of the "white arrests" that had been made. Few people were impressed.

The Wackenhuts were also asked to clarify their jurisdiction — narcotics, protecting buildings and students or both. And whether they worked directly with any outside forces, such as the police department, narcotics squad or FBI. The guards held that the entire college was a community, govern-

ed by laws, which they were supposed to patrol. As the students smirked, the Wackenhuts said that they identified with the police, yet were not connected with them in any way.

When asked if they had been instructed to "come down harder" on the students, than the Burns Guards had, they replied negatively. They were told that nevertheless the approach used by many of the guards, when checking student I.D.'s, was rude and extremely harsh, and resented by many students.

James Small stated that he did not wish to see a war between brothers and sisters develop, and to this end was drawing up a leaflet explaining the responsibilities of the guard force.

Jerry Mondesire charged that the Wackenhuts were a slave force put here to protect white property. He wondered to what extent they should adopt the white value system since they continually seemed to fall back on the statement that their orders came from their superiors, most of whom are white.

New Approach To Education

By JAIME RIVERA

A proposal, soon to be brought before the Policy Council of this school, will have an immediate effect on the future of a new and unique approach to education here in the City. M.E.N.D. (Massive Economic Neighborhood Development Inc.), sponsor of the proposal has received funds for the new program and has totally developed what is to be called: The East Harlem Experimental College.

The proposal seeks to give reality to the College by awarding credits for their courses.

Small urged that all concerned curb any hostilities and, in fact, attempt to make life easier for each other. The meeting adjourned with the resolution that the system would not be allowed and that both factions would to pit brother against brother, work to prevent another "spring disturbance."

These credits would be accepted as valid when the students transfer from the one year program to any CUNY school. The program will be aimed at areas such as East Harlem.

In its present state, the College will function like the SEEK program at the Alamac in that students will sleep and work within the same building. The college will also function quite differently as it will be a concept of total involvement for the students.

Students of the Experimental College (EC) will produce their own seminars, they will work in the community through Federal Work-Study grants and will be able to invite lecturing speakers.

MEND proposes a "continuing learning situation" and an atmosphere "in which competition is minimized and cooperation is emphasized."

President's Letter

Dear Students,

Now that fall and the new school year is in full swing, I am delighted to take this opportunity to welcome you in what promises to be a great year. You bring to each other, and to the College, an enormous richness and variety of experience – different points-of-view, backgrounds, and interests that will challenge and enliven your debates and discoveries. I believe this richness is “the City difference” – the foundation and the hallmark of real educational excellence – and we could not be more fortunate to have you all here.

Over the course of the semester I look forward to hearing your ideas about the College. I see some of you – and I certainly hope to see more of you – in the President's Student Chats, held every month in the President's private dining room. For the rest of this semester, the chats are scheduled on October 13,

November 15, and December 6. Bring your ideas! The new City College Tech Center on the first floor of the NAC is an example of a great idea that started with a vocal, activist group of students who came to us with a plan to improve the library. And it was funded in a new an innovative way; we used your tech fee, matched dollar for dollar by our generous donors!

Now – at the beginning of the year, I'd like to lay down my challenge to you. I want to ask you to bring to your work here at City College that very “New York” attitude that says, “I'm going to do this.” Athletes talk about “bringing it;” singers sometime talk about “leaving it all on stage.” We will give you every opportunity – you must take that opportunity, and run with it!

You will need to welcome what you don't already know, and to see that new thing blossom and branch out in

ways you never expected. This means you will have to move out of your comfort zone – and I mean move way out, not just academically, but creatively. If you're an engineer, try your hand at poetry. If you're a poet, try out for the Model UN team. If you're a Sophie Davis student, consider spending the winter break in Morocco learning Arabic.

In addition to ability and commitment, I cannot tell you how important it is to get involved in campus life. There is no question about this – we have hard, empirical evidence over many years that if you are involved outside of the classroom, you will do better in the classroom. I know that you are busy – but I promise you that the friends that you make – on the cricket team, on the student newspaper, in the salsa-mambo club, in student government, in the physics club, volunteering in the community – these are the friends who will help you through the hard times.

As important as getting involved is this cardinal rule: Ask for help. No matter how talented and how well prepared you are, everyone needs a little help sometimes. Ask a teacher. Ask an advisor. Ask a coach. Ask a classmate. It doesn't matter that you need help. It only matters that you receive it, and that – when you are in a position to help another, and you will be – you pass it on. We want you to succeed, and will do all we can to help you, but you have to ask.



Source: city college

There will never be another time in your life like your undergraduate years – when you can explore ideas and experiences with quite the same freedom and effect. More than earning over the next four years the credentials for the job that you want – as important as that is – you have the chance to really find out what this world is all about – and how to change that place if you dare. This is your time. I am thrilled to have you here, and committed to your success. Sincerely,
Lisa S. Coico
President

Student's Action for Climate Change

Advocates Push for Solutions to Move Beyond our Reliance on Fossil Fuels and to Embrace Climate Solutions as Part of International Day of Action

On September 24th, City College of New York students joined thousands of New Yorkers to rally near the United Nations to show their support for moving beyond our current dependence on fossil fuels, and to call on our leaders to embrace aggressive solutions to address the climate crisis.

The rally included compelling speakers, including world-renowned climate change expert Dr. James Hansen; Dr. Mohammed Waheed Hassan, Vice President of the Maldives – an island nation whose very existence is being threatened by the consequences of climate change; Laura Flanders, popular GRITtv and radio host; “No Impact Man” Colin Beaven; and a delegation of indigenous leaders from 13 countries who are partners with the exhibition project “Conversations with the Earth: Indigenous Voices on Climate Change” (currently on view in Washington, DC).

The rally at the United Nations was a flagship event for an international day of action known as Moving Planet, in which hundreds of thousands of people across 176 nations participated in actions dedicated to the goal of solving the climate crisis by ending the world's dependence on fossil fuel energy. Moving Planet showed politicians that in every country on Earth, people are demanding an end to the fossil fuel economy, and an immediate transition to clean energy solutions.

The international day of action was coordinated by 350.org, and the New York City event was organized by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) and 350.org, with the support

of dozens of co-sponsors. Moving Planet is 350.org's third annual international day of action to combat climate change.

Students from City College were very active in helping to organize this event. Third year student and Pre Law Major Yeraldine Reyes along with freshman student Jose Garcia were some of the students who helped to tell other CCNY students about it. They posted fliers on campus, got students signed up, and called their fellow students all week to make sure students were aware of the event. With their help alongside other City College students, the event was a huge success. Over 1500 CUNY and SUNY students and community members attended. The City College NYPIRG chapter signed up hundreds of students to attend. The NYPIRG Higher Education Campaign Project Leader, Walter Steele, was very pleased with the event saying, “I was amazed at how many people were excited about saving our environment. I hope we get the same kind of energy at our General Interest Meeting on October 6th.”

NYPIRG Executive Director Rebecca Weber noted, “Already we are seeing entire island nations being swallowed up by rising sea levels...Severe weather patterns are disrupting crop cycles and exacerbating hunger among the worlds neediest. Men, women and children are becoming climate refugees as they are forced to flee their homelands for more habitable climates – if they even can.”

Questions? Want to interview an organizer of Moving Planet NYC or any of the speakers from the rally program? Contact: Will Araujo, 212-349-6460, waraujo@nypirg.org.

Secrets and Lies

By The Truth

Hey! Psst. Remember me? I'm in your bottom drawer under the towels. I keep you up at night when you want to sleep. I live as words no one can read in your notebook. I pop into your head when the question is asked and topics are discussed. I have never been acknowledged by your speech.

I'm Dark and I'm Deep,

Your Secret

You, Whats up? Thanks for giving me life. I'm the answer out your mouth when the question comes in. I can live in your head and the pit of your stomach. You just blurt me out sometimes. I'm blocking shots. I make you cringe when a listener hugs you. Sometimes I can get the attention you think you need. Once you bring me up you never shut me down. You will take me to your grave. You recognize my constant existence in others. You can't bring yourself to turn me.

I have the power to control your life,

Your Lie

Hey you! Why aren't you telling anybody about me? Don't you know that this is wrong? Bring me out so I can go. I never understand why you make me hide. You have failed to reveal me, thinking you are protecting me. You have denied my existence long enough.

This is,

The Truth

Occupy Wall Street *continued*

and present tent cities in Cairo, Madison, Athens, and Madrid. The experiment is now taking hold like a fever in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Madison, Toronto, London, Sydney, Stuttgart, Tokyo, Milan, Amsterdam, Algiers, Tel Aviv, Portland, Chicago, Phoenix, Montreal, Cleveland, Atlanta, Kansas City, Dallas, Seattle, and Orlando.

And yet, for those who may have only encountered the aspirations of Liberty Plaza and Co. from a computer screen, this dazzling picture can remain a bit time-lagged, grainy, and flat. At worst, it might even appear to be doomed, a political liability. As a result, the big secret is that the political event of the year caught most of New York City's hundreds of leftist groups by complete surprise (an error that has since been addressed by now-broad support at the camp). Since early August, activists of varying stripes have held weekly outdoor assemblies to heed Adbusters' call to "Occupy Wall Street." But now, because this kind of protest—one where people stay put in a public space to build power—isn't in many groups' repertoire, a pivotal movement almost passed them by.

An on-the-ground view clearly affirms why many more should actively support this project's growing significance. Soon after thousands peacefully set up camp in Zucotti Square (since re-named Liberty Plaza) at the corner of Broadway and Liberty, the assembly's various workgroups coordinated food, clean-up, bedding, student/labor networking, media/online and community outreach, legal support, childcare, arts/culture/festivities, and more.

Occupywallst.org broadcasts daily statements from the square that address the movement's purpose, goals, and concerns, which much media coverage chooses to ignore. All group decisions are made in the assemblies, with constant attention to historically under-represented voices, ongoing political education, and yes, good vibes.



Source: www.google.com

For many people contributing to this project, experiences from over the last several years have proven invaluable, including the December 2008 New School occupation; February 2009 NYU occupation; March 4 and October 7, 2010 national days to defend public education; February 2010 Wisconsin capitol occupation; early May actions in NYC and Albany against Cuomo's budget; and June 2011 Bloombergville encampment against Bloomberg's budget. To be sure, at times, discussions in Liberty Plaza are a bit uneven because of different knowledge and experience levels, but this collective radicalizing process can grow exponentially with consistent undogmatic support. Young and old leaders alike are pointing the way to a unique new form of social action that requires everyone to rethink familiar organizing modes.

During the early 2011 Egyptian Spring, the following phrase gave direction to mass mobilization: "the road to factory occupations lies through Tahrir Square." This city and country's own road to vibrant job actions, grassroots community control, and opposition to legal lynching and other kinds of mechanized violence may lie through these Liberty Squares now blossoming everywhere. Egypt's lessons acutely demonstrate that liberated squares must lead to liberated workplaces, neighborhoods, and eventually liberated cities. This is exactly Liberty Plaza's aim—not to be a self-contained, pre-figurative mini-society, but a decisive force in the belly of the economic beast that can collaborate with this widening network to transform global society altogether.

In 2008, David Harvey likewise asserted that our "Right to the City" is "far more than the individual liberty to access urban resources: it is a right to change ourselves by changing the city...since this transformation inevitably depends upon the exercise of a collective power to reshape the processes of urbanization." Unsurprisingly, copies of this essay floated around the first Liberty Plaza assemblies, and continue to be shared at its free library. Harvey's big-sighted emphasis on mapping the hot-spots for urban change is reflected in the public squares movement's attention not only to workplaces and schools, but to these democratized hubs where diverse community sections can envision and act together in plain sight.

Political discussions constantly engage the square. Serbian student leader Ivan Marovic came to share how youth movements helped overthrow Milosevic,

and the CUNY STRIKE study circle pored through Joe Burns' Reviving the Strike. Alongside principles and ideologies, street tactics and strategies flow in and out of regular conversation.

The first night on occupied Wall Street, in which thousands of fiercely elated participants inaugurated this new public space of community power, hints at the kinds of action that can put people in the saddle. The tremendous roar of "Justice for // JUSTICE FOR ... Troy Davis // TROY DAVIS!" that for one near-insurrectionary night seized lower Manhattan hints at why people are propelled to take the reins. This anger and excitement will indeed continue after Wednesday, October 5th's National Student Walk-Out and mass rally at City Hall Park for all sectors of our community to challenge corporate greed with these dynamic new kinds of struggle. With all that we have ahead both inside and outside of Liberty Plaza, the city's prelude to a revolution may not seem so unexpectedly out of reach.

How to get involved! Go to OccupyWallSt.org, NYCGA.cc, and OccupyTogether.org

Conor is an activist with the Adjunct Project, a writing teacher in CUNY, and a member of the CUNY STRIKE study circle. He can be reached at conortomasreed@gmail.com.

M.L.K. Memorial *continued*

removed and thrust into the open plaza, the "Stone of Hope". Master Sculptor Lei Yixin's masterpiece, the "Stone of Hope", includes a 28 foot tall statue of Dr. King emerging from granite. With a combined length of approximately 500 feet, the granite "Inscription Wall" arcs on either side of the "Mountain of Despair", engraved Dr. King's speeches and writings which embody the universal themes of love, justice, democracy and hope.

The monument truly represents Dr. King's dream. It is a great combination of thoughtful, peaceful and strong likeness of the Reverend. As I walked and read the 14 quotes inscribed on the wall I observed many nationalities in attendance. I had such a warm feeling and experienced great emotion during my visit. I realized even more clearly that I stand on the shoulders of giants, Martin Luther King, Jr. being one of those giants. As I continued to walk through the park

I felt as if the words written on the wall were being spoken by Dr. King himself. The words are as relevant now as they were in the 1960's.

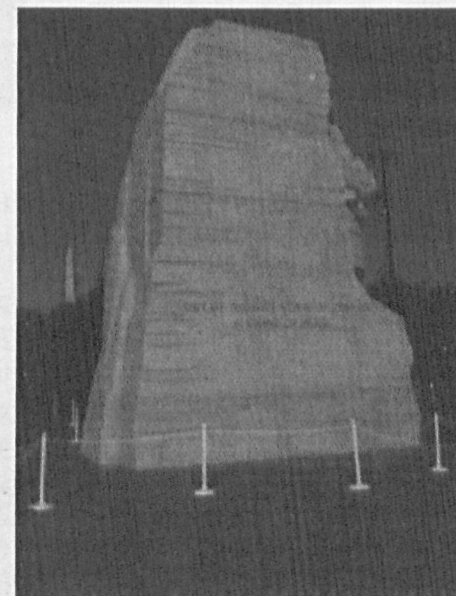
The memorial was funded mostly with private money. Proposed in 1984 by Dr. King's fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha, a dozen years of lobbying later Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the fraternity to move forward. President Clinton signed the legislation and in November of 2006 spoke at the ceremonial ground breaking. According to President Clinton, "The monument is a physical manifestation of the monument already constructed in the minds and hearts of many millions of Americans who are more just, more decent, more successful, more perfect because of Dr. King."

Symbolism surrounds the monument. The address 1964 Independence Avenue is a reminder that President Lyndon B. Johnson signed The

Civil Rights Bill with Dr. King standing by his side in 1964. To stand in front of the monument is to stand in front of a movement, to feel the power and possibility of change. The memorial allows the world to revisit King's message, which is why a portrayal in stone is appropriate. King rising out of the rock is symbolic as he emerges a drum major for change, justice and righteousness. He is strong, solid and unflappable in his commitment to non-violence and his position on change.

The memorial represents a profound change to the National Mall. As the monument stands nearby other memorials dedicated to wartime presidents and war heroes we have a memorial that represents peace. My hope is that the memorial inspires action in a time of economic recessions, high unemployment, violence and international wars. As we read Dr. King's poetic words about solutions to our

problems versus playing politics. The unfinished business remains: fighting poverty, illiteracy, disease, and ending unnecessary wars. Let us use our collective forces to come together, to make the world a better place. We can do this not by our words but by our actions.



A Protest for Troy

By Jessica Hunter

I had never been to a protest before Wednesday 21, 2011. The occasion was the scheduled execution of Troy Anthony Davis that was to take place at 7:00 p.m. Eastern time. I received an e-mail from a dear friend inviting me to a protest that would demand Troy's freedom, and I knew I had to take part.

After leaving a chemistry workshop, I caught the M101 bus downtown. I didn't even know what to look for, but a few minutes after we hit 125th street I heard a group of people chanting in unison, and knew that it was my stop.

I found myself amongst a hundred-strong march heading west on 125th street, many wearing "I AM TROY DAVIS" t-shirts. There were several call and repeat chants, my favorite being "Together, the People, Cannot be Defeated!" It felt so good to be around people moved by what moved me, and doing something about it. We received much support from those we passed on our way to St. Mary's Church of Harlem.

It was about half hour before Troy's scheduled demise, when a woman addressed the standing room only crowd. She never formally introduced herself, but rather started the ceremony with a hearty, "I AM!" to which we enthusiastically replied "TROY DAVIS!" in such a powerful unison that I felt the Georgia Board of Pardons just might have heard us. As candles were passed around, the emcee reviewed the case.

Troy Davis was being executed for the murder of police officer Mark McPhail. McPhail was working as a security guard at a Burger King when he noticed a man being "pistol whipped" in the adjacent parking lot by two men. As he came to the man's aid, one of the attackers shot and killed him with a .38 caliber pistol; this man was believed to be Troy Davis.

Davis was accused the next day by his accomplice Sylvester "Redd" Coals and arrested at his home shortly thereafter. The murder weapon was never found.

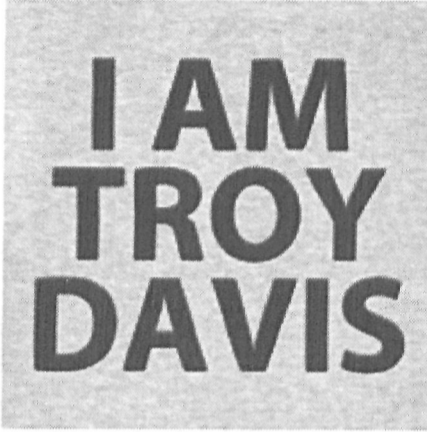
When the case was brought to trial, Davis was found guilty. Nine eye witnesses fingered Davis. He admitted to being there, but swore he didn't shoot McPhail, and pleaded not guilty. Based solely on the witness accounts and absolutely no physical evidence, Davis was convicted and sentenced to death.

Only years after the case was closed would evidence surface to support Davis. Many of the witnesses admitted to being coaxed and bullied by the police. "They made it clear they would leave me alone if I told them what they wanted to hear," said Jefferey Snapp, an eye witness in the original trial. Other witnesses stated that police officers had even threatened to name them as accomplices to murder if they didn't cooperate. Seven of the nine witnesses recanted either all or most of their statements.

Troy Davis implicated Sylvester Coles, his accuser as the triggerman. Coles is one of the only witnesses that

didn't recant, and ironically he is the only assailant that owned a .38 caliber gun. Coles' picture was never featured in the suspect pool presented to witnesses. Davis' picture was plastered all over television before the witnesses identified anyone as the shooter.

As we sat in St. Mary's church, the pastor said a few words about the death penalty and how they rang their bell every time someone was executed in the United States. How overwhelming the sounds of



Source: www.google.com

the bell that ring out to announce death. At 6:55 p.m., a projector was set up so we could watch Democracy Now's live coverage outside the prison together.

At seven o'clock we witnessed Davis supporters cheering outside the prison. An overwhelming feeling of joy rushed through the church and I personally felt so appreciative to have been a part of a movement so powerful. This feeling was short-lived. We soon learned that the execution was not dismissed, but postponed while the Supreme Court

conducted a last-minute review of the case.

In the end, Davis was executed at 11:08 p.m. He didn't have a special last meal. He encouraged his family to be strong and all of us to keep fighting.

Over half a million people signed petitions against the execution. Over a million called the Parole Board. Democracy Now featured footage from various countries that were also protesting in the names of Davis and political justice.

We as a people are powerful, but we allow too many 'isms to hold us up. We have become a people that are consumed by materialism, celebrity, and prejudice. The sooner we understand that we are one and focus on issues that really matter, the better off we all will be. In America it's more likely the government that has wronged you than your neighbor of a slightly different skin tone. It's the government that builds prisons instead of better schools. It's the government that taxes the middle-class and poor instead of major corporations. It's the government that provided Troy Davis with apathetic lawyers as they do for all poor people. What's worst is how we interfere with other countries without asking despite not having our own act together. I will continue not only to speak about, but to take action where I see lack of humanity and lack of justice; I encourage you to do the same.

We, the People, Will Not Be Defeated. We, the People, Will not be Defeated.

My Thoughts on Black Unemployment

By Malik Oxford

An article, [Black Unemployment Highest in 27 Years](#) appeared on Roland Martin's magazine/blog website. It seems we have three typical responses when someone sees these type of "Blacks have a more destitute situation than _____ (insert race of choice here)" articles. The first response is "America is racist; ergo if there wasn't racism we wouldn't have such high unemployment". The second response is, "Blacks are a bunch lazy fry chickin' eating watermelon cologne wearing, hip hop lovin', overspending, loud mouthin' government lovin', drag on the economy havin' monkeys that are unemployable who will continue to be the last hired and the first fired." The third response is, "Oh these _____ (insert race of choice here) keep taking our jobs. They'll take so much less to work _____ job".

These absurd responses don't get us any closer to solutions. They are simple knee-jerk reactions to a long-standing problem. I have seen these types of "high unemployment among blacks" headlines since I graduated from college

(and before college) and it's getting worse. The technology shift was supposed to be our golden parachute into prosperity. It didn't happen. Happen for some, but not many and clearly not enough.



Source: www.google.com

There are no short turnarounds for the high black unemployment rate but at the root of our problems is a misallocation of economic resources. Whether you believe the misallocation of economic resources was driven by a bunch of Klan sympathizing racists in corporate America, the general workplace, and our political system or self-inflicted by the black community; we are clearly dealing with a misallocation of economic resources in the black community. This

situation has been going on since our "inclusion" into the main economy.

The total GDP of the African-American community makes us the 13th largest economy in the world. That's right, only 0.6% of planet earth (African Americans) represents the 13th largest economy in the world. The [African American/Black Market profile from the Magazine Publishers of America](#) has slated the purchasing power of African Americans to hit the 1 trillion dollar mark by 2012. Why does the 13th largest economy in the world, have one of the highest unemployment rates in America?

There are only a few individuals that have actually outlined real solutions and they are the following:

- *Black Lies, White Lies: The Truth According to Tony Brown* by Tony Brown

- *Blueprint for Black Power: A Moral, Political, and Economic Imperative for the Twenty-First Century* by Amos N. Wilson

- *The Entrepreneurial Secret To Starting a Business: Without A Bank Loan, Collateral or Revenue (Volumes 1, 2, 3)* by Cedric Muhammad

- *Powernomics: The National Plan to Empower Black America* by Dr. Claud Anderson

Although I have huge issues with their past prejudice/religious theology, the other organization is the Nation of Islam. With all its past faults, prejudices, and warped theology, *Message to the Blackman* by Elijah Muhammad was the first book that had me thinking about how my income and productivity in the economy made other folks rich and not my local community. I repeat, the book's religious theology is rife with shirk, misinformation, hatred and black supremacist theology. However, its economic prescriptions are 21st century. The book should be republished, minus the hatred. If I was part of the NOI, I would include a public apology in the introduction of the book.

If you look at many black media communication vehicles, including Black Enterprise magazine and BET (Viacom), many of them [black owned or not] have never mentioned any of these individuals. If they mentioned them, there hasn't been any real effort in promoting their ideas. The average black person has no idea who these individuals

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The Palestine Recognition: Will It Ever Happen!!!

By Mai Sabour

On September 23, 2011, Palestinian Authority President (PA) Mahmoud Abbas acknowledged Palestine's application for a full United Nations (UN) membership—a road to statehood. In doing so, he rejected arguments by the United States and Israel that this gesture was not a way for direct discussions for peace in the Middle East. Mahmoud Abbas said that he had no choice but to make this move, in light of the gridlock in discussions with Israel over its delayed refusal to stop the progress of new settlements, and the United States' failure to propose a substitute plan for achieving negotiations. The UN Security Council (UNSC) negotiations could take weeks or maybe longer, and some Palestinians have expressed a concern that the United States might drag its feet and hold up the vote.

The international powers known as the Quartet—the United States, Europe, Russia and the United Nations—have come to an agreement to resume talks between Israel and Palestinians. The announcement avoided any of the complex—and highly controversial—problems that have been the focus of discussions for months. It did confirm “strong support for the vision of Israeli-Palestinian peace” sketched out by President Obama in May. That involved two states divided by the borders that existed in 1967 with “land swaps” to explain for Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

A quick flashback: the Palestinian Authority was formed by the 1993 Oslo

peace agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. It was claimed to be a “temporary” government of the engaged territories in Gaza and the West Bank, which would finally be replaced by a sovereign Palestinian state after a final agreement was reached with Israel. Unfortunately, no final agreement was reached, however, and in 2007 the Palestinian Authority lost control of half or most of its land. The Fatah party, established by President Arafat until his death in 2004, was crushed in parliamentary elections in 2006 by Hamas. The following year Hamas gunmen drove Fatah out of Gaza and set up its own government there. This split left the Palestinian Authority in control only parts of the West Bank. Some 60 percent of the West Bank is under full Israeli control, and both the Palestinians and the Israelis claim East Jerusalem, which is now in Israeli hands. Over the years, numerous talks on final resolutions have brought little progress. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and the Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, said that they had been on the edge of a sweeping deal when Mr. Olmert was forced from office in 2008. The latest talks with Israel caught up shortly after they began in September 2010. Mr. Abbas said he would not bargain with Israel while it continued building settlements on occupied grounds, and the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, refused to renew a construction suspension that expired three weeks after the talks began.

In 2011, with the storm of change spinning through the Arab world,

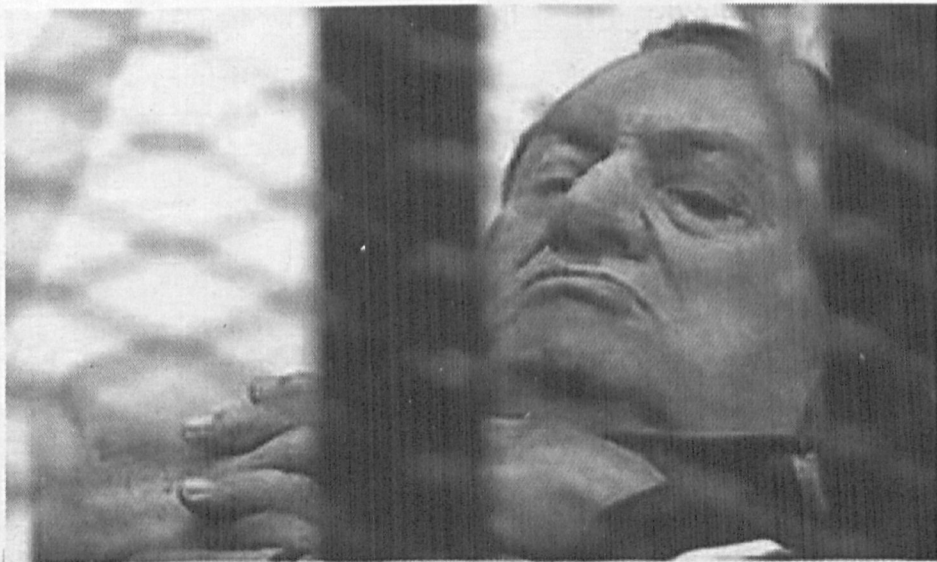


Abbas has shifted gears. Concerned that the talks with Israel were unlikely to work, he began concentrating on getting the United Nations to recognize Palestine as a sovereign state, which could increase Palestinian power for taking back Israeli settlements. Israel extremely opposed the idea, claiming that it would add up to a one-sided disapproval of the Oslo agreements. The American-Israeli view is that the only way to achieve peace is through direct peace talks, which never works, even though each side keeps the other to present their barrier to negotiations. Finally, the International Crisis Group pointed out, the Security Council could go by a different declaration that neither agrees or disagrees the relationship request, but hold off on making the decision while advising all parties to return to negotiations. In

that case, some Palestinian officials have decided that they will apply for recognition by the General Assembly, but that this would not be the same of achieving the full membership status under Security Council approval. This leaves many asking: when will Palestine be claimed as a sovereign country? What is the hold-up?

**Bring Your Part
Of The World To
THE PAPER!**

Mubarak! The First Arab President to be Tried!



By Mai Sabour

Revolutions and popular rebellions are the definition of influential change in history, including military cultures. In Egypt, the most heavily populated country in the Arab world,

massive civilian protests exploded in January 2011, as the revolution in Tunisia intensified decades worth of blazing afflictions under the heavy-handed rule of President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak. After 18 days of angry protests and losing the support of the army and the

United States, Mubarak stepped down on February 11, ending 30 years of his absolute power. The army stepped forward and took control. It quickly balanced the unpopular requirements of the constitution, even while cracking down on continuous demonstrations. For Mubarak, who held positions in the Egyptian army before taking power, his acceptance of the fairness of his own army has likely brought cold comfort to Egyptians. When the street protests began in January, army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Sami Enan was at the Pentagon to discuss security support for the two nations' close military relationship. After Enan cut short his visit to the Pentagon and returned to Egypt, army tanks ran through the streets of Cairo, in many illustrations protecting protesters from police nightsticks and bullets. A specific moment came when the Egyptian army would not fire against a crowd of its own people. Army soldiers seemed largely

supportive of the demonstrators, in some cases even letting them climb on top of their tanks.

In March, a couple of constitutional amendments that lined the way for elections were widely approved in a primary that drew numerous voters. But it angered many demonstrators who saw the army's loyalty to Mubarak's government in the slow speed of change, leading to a new crowd of protests and violence in April. In May, the nation's top prosecutor ordered the ousted president to a stand trial in connection to the killings of the defenseless protesters, granting one of the revolution's top demands. If found guilty, he could face the death penalty. In early August, Mubarak was wheeled into the courtroom in a hospital bed to face charges of corruption and responsibility in protesters' murders. The symbolism of that day's proceedings, watched on live broadcast by tens of millions, provided a national purification for Egypt and

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CCNY Calender

OCTOBER 20, 2011

The Simon H. Rifkind Center and The Department of Theatre and Speech Presents Sapphire author of "Push" and "The Kid" Thursday, October 20 in The Great Hall at 6 p.m. for more info: rifkindcenter@aol.com

OCTOBER 21, 2011

Ailey II performance at CCNY Friday, at 7:00 pm. Aaron Davis Hall, Student tickets \$10, Regular Tickets \$25

"Reading Hip-Hop: Off the Records, In the Book Fri, Oct 21—Fri, Oct 21, 6:00 PM—8:00 PM 25 Broadway, 7th Floor

OCTOBER 22, 2011

Undergraduate Open House at CCNY. in the The Shepard Hall at 10:00 AM-1:30 PM. ADM: Free

OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 2011

Attend The Pan-Africanist Institute (PAI) discussions "African History Must Guide African Action!" October 27, "What is the Position of Women in the African Revolution?" November 10, "Socialism and the Building of a Mass African Civilization" December 1, "Pan-Africanism or Perish" December 15 at Medgar Evers College-Carroll Bldg. Room #M11 [1150 Carroll St. bet. Nostrand & Rogers, take the 2, 5 trains to President Ave. or 3, 4 trains to Franklin Ave.] Every other Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. Contact 347-678-2951, or email aapr.nypa@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 3, 2011

Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship Information Session Thursday, November 3 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in NAC 5/101

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Mubarak *continued*

stunned the Arab world—the icon of an absolute ruler brought down for the first time by his own people to the standing of an everyday criminal was very hard to believe. By mid-August, at the second session of the trial, Judge Ahmed Rafaat said that he would switch off the cameras "to protect the public interest." This decision angered some Egyptians, who said that the judge took away their rights to see their former leader behind bars. Mubarak continued to appear in a hospital bed as the trial proceeded in September. The judge has now ordered evidence from two top military officers now running the country—Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi and Gen. Sami Hafiz Enan—as well as Omar Suleiman, Mr. Mubarak's former intelligence

chief and vice president, who had been hiding from public since mid-February. These three men seem to know more than anyone (other than Mubarak himself) about the decisions made in his final days of power. When security police fought protestors in the streets, the army refused to use force against civilians—but also refused to protect civilians from government-hired thugs—but top officers eventually halted government repression in the name of the revolution. They could possibly offer the ultimate word on the most serious charge in the trial: that Mubarak was behind orders to kill peaceful protestors testing his rule.

Black Unemployment *continued*

are. That is not a simple oversight. It's intentional. Not in a conspiratorial way, but in a "these individuals will upset the apple cart" type of way. Unfortunately, Amos Wilson has passed on but his rich wealth of economic information lives on in his seminal work, *Blueprint for Black Power*. It might be tempting to dismiss many of these individuals as a bunch of black supremacist separatist who long for a day when the black separation movement will transform itself into a 21st century authoritarian movement. No, this is an immature characterization of their intent and economic ideas. They were concerned with the flimsy social contract that America promised its black citizens and wanted to usher in a concrete economic platform which we could depend on with certainty. Clearly we are in uncertain times and the social contract that America had with its black citizens is gone.

If Black America studied these ideas in these books with vigor and dedication, I believe we can significantly lower black unemployment into the lower single digits in about 20-30 years while becoming a viable and powerful economic engine for growth. There are no

easy answers. It's going to take time, skill reallocation, and a lot of money from those wealthy black individuals to invest in this plan. The government and non-black corporations have already moved on. This is what many of the individuals I mentioned above were trying to say 50 years ago. There will come a time when African Americans will be completely on their own. No jobs programs, no social institutions, no nothing. So in short, they were saying we have to build our own institutions and local economies of scale because the "support window" is going to eventually close. Now that the American economy is in such disarray, it's going into hardcore economic Darwinian mode. Obama and any other government employee can do very little for the black community. His jobs bill cannot overturn hundreds of years of economic mismanagement and social degradation. The government and too many "black leaders" are absentee landlords, time to look within our own community for answers. If they had your back, you would have been out of this mess a long time ago. We are on our own.

