

The Paper

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

Langston Hughes

Volume 55 No. 2

A Medium For People of African Descent

November 1999

City College of the City University of New York

Sonia Sanchez Receives 26th Annual Langston Hughes award

by Jerome Francis

On Friday, November 12, Sonia Sanchez, one of the major poets of the Sixties Black Arts Movement, was awarded the 26th annual City College Langston Hughes Award. The award ceremony was held at the CCNY Aaron Davis Hall in the Marian Anderson Theatre at 134 Street and Convent Avenue. Radio Personality and Journalist Clayton Riley hosted the Ceremony, which began about 7pm. Other participants in the program included Amiri and Amina Baraka, Dr. Joyce Ann Joyce (Chairperson and professor of the African American Studies department studies department at Temple University in Philadelphia.) Also present were Val Gray Ward (founder of Kumba Theatre), Kathy Engel, Keisha Hutchins, Vinnie Burrows and a special appearance by Ralph Carter of "Good Times" fame. Ossie Davis, who was scheduled to be at the event was unable to attend.

Sonia Sanchez was born Wilsonia Benita Driver in Birmingham,

Alabama on September 9, 1934, to Lena (Jones) Driver and Wilson L. Driver. Her mother died when she was only one year old, so her grandmother and her father, who remarried several times, raised her. She has one brother and one sister. In 1943 she moved with her father, a musician, to Harlem. He took Sanchez to hear such prominent jazz artists as Billie Holiday, Billy Eckstine, and Art Tatum. After graduating from Hunter College with a Bachelors of Arts degree in political science, she did graduate work in poetry with Louise Began at New York University. Along with Haki R. Madhubuti (Don L. Lee) and others, Sanchez established a weekly writer's group that gave public readings. She soon began publishing poetry in small magazines and later in black periodicals. Committed to the black liberation movement of the 1960s, she supported the Congress of Racial Equality and was instrumental in establishing one of the first university level black studies programs in

the United States.

Sanchez has long been interested in presenting her works before live audiences. She has given readings in Africa, Cuba, China, the West Indies, Europe, and on more than five hundred campuses in the United States. Of her popularity, Kalamu ya Salaam stated:

"Sanchez developed techniques for reading her poetry that were unique in their use of traditional chants and near-screams drawn out to an almost earsplitting level. The sound elements, which give a musical quality to the intellectual statements in the poetry, are akin to Western African languages;

continued on page 11



Sonia Sanchez receives Langston Hughes Award, pictured L to R Val Gray Ward, Deputy Provost Zeev Dagan, Sonia Sanchez, Clayton Riley Ralph Carter, Kathy Engel and Dr. Joyce Ann Joyce

photo by Sulaiman Laguda

CCNY Black Alumni Association Awards Scholarships to Students

by Joan Thomas

On October 24, 1999, the City College Black Alumni association observed their Annual Scholarship Gala on board the Spirit of New York yacht. The event raises money for the Black Alumni

Association and awards scholarships to City college students in their junior year

Recipients of this years' awards

continued on page 11

Special Education Students Call For The Reappointment Of Professor Jiggetts

Two years have passed and concerned students of the education department are still hoping to resolve the situation of the removal of Professor Jiggetts as the Head of Department of the CCNY School of Special Education. After numerous letters to the former president Provost and Dean, students of this department are still facing the same predicament. Numerous letters have been written to Student Affairs and other Student

Government bodies concerning this matter. The students of this department have no doubt that Professor Jiggetts is the right person for the job. Students were outraged when they learned of the removal of Professor Jiggetts as Head of the program by former Dean Sam H. Frank. When asked why Professor Jiggetts was replaced by Marilyn Rosseau, Dean Frank simply stated; "It was of no cause."

continued on page 10

Check Out The Special Feature Section On
The CCNY Students For Cultural Exchange
Pages 12 - 14

EDITORIAL

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Greetings fellow students. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and did not eat too much food. For those who do not celebrate this particular holiday, I hope the day(s) off were put to good use.

The results of the vote came in at about the time *The Paper* was going to press, but the state Board of Regents approved the plan to phase out remedial courses at CUNY's four year colleges. The plan, approved on November 22, by a vote of 9-to-6 is effective from next semester at all CUNY senior colleges except for Lehman and City College, of which remedial classes will supposedly be phased out by September 2001.

All is not lost, however as the Regents will be monitoring the effects of this measure on students population and diversity. The measure can be revoked at the end of the review period;

December 31, 2002 so now more than ever, those of us who are in support of open admissions should gear up and take a stand.

One thing I find quite disturbing is the way this vote coincided with the media hype over "social promotions" in our public high schools. Rather than give my opinions on the state of our public high schools at this time, I will present my case for why the open admissions system should remain the same. The people I believe will suffer most from the closing of open admissions would be Immigrants from non English speaking African and Latino countries. I personally know a number of students who have actually taken college level classes in their native countries and have decided to further their education in America (after all, not All Africans hunt Lions and not all Latinos speak

of "La Raza.") Having to support themselves financially and unable to qualify for financial aid, most of these immigrants turn to the City University system to acquire a quality college education. Should the fact that they need to brush up on their English Language prevent them from a four year college? Think about it.

We have a long way to go, fellow students. However, I am sure most of us are trying to concentrate on passing their final exams at this time. We should remember that these issues will still be here when finals are over and as such need to be addressed now for our benefit as well as those who will be coming after us. On behalf of all editors of the paper, I thank you for taking time out to read this publication and hope you enjoy the rest of our day.

"UNPROFESSIONAL" PROFESSORS

It seems that some of the faculty at City College do not care about the students. Some professors never devote any time to meet with their students. In some cases some instructors come to class unprepared. I have for the past couple of semesters heard horror stories about what some professors make students go through just because the professor and the student do not get along.

In one case a student told me that he was registered for a science class a couple of semesters ago. The instructor for that section was also the chairperson of the department. He was always 15 minutes late for class, never bothered to give the class a syllabus and always came to class

seemingly unprepared.

One student, not scoring high marks in the instructional and laboratory classes fearing failing the class requested from the professor to could drop the class. The professor convinced the student to not to drop the class, but at the end of the semester, the student was the only one with an "F" grade in the class.

The student made many attempts to meet with the professor to go over the exam, but the professor never had the time to schedule an appointment and since the class was a core requirement the student had to take it again.. The student recently met with the professor

who told the student that if he was a good student, the "F" grade shouldn't affect his G.P.A. at all. He also went on to say that if the student gets an "A" the second time around the "F" grade still remains on the transcript but the "A" grade will count in the student's GPA.

What the instructor failed to understand was that by repeating the class the student wastes both time and money and that the grade might affect the students chances of being accepted in graduate school should the desire arise. Now how can a student feel enthusiastic about being in college this such unprofessional minded "professors?"

THE PAPER

CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
NAC BUILDING ROOM 1/118
138 ST AND CONVENT AVENUE
NEW YORK NY 10031
TEL#(212)650-5029
FAX(212)650-5022

E MAIL:THE_PAPER@MAILCITY.COM

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
S. ADEBOWALE LAGUDA

ADVERTISING MANAGER
CECILE PAUL

BUSINESS MANAGER
YASHIMA THOMPSON

CAMPUS AFFAIRS
VACANT

MANAGING EDITOR
LOUISA PAUL

ENTERTAINMENT AFFAIRS
VACANT

FEATURES EDITOR
VACANT

POETRY EDITOR
NACINIMOD DIDIER

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
PROF. WILLIAM G. WRIGHT
CHRISTOPHER FERRARA
JEROME FRANCIS
JOAN THOMAS
JENNIFER FARAY
MOJISOLA DARAMOLA

LAYOUT/DESIGN
SULAIMAN LAGUDA
NACINIMOD DIDIER

FACULTY ADVISOR
MR. HARRY MARS

Articles appearing in *The Paper* do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the staff unless otherwise indicated. *The Paper* reserves the right to edit letters to the Editors. *The paper* welcomes reader responses, letters to the editors and faculty editorials. Due to space restrictions, *The Paper* reserves the right to edit and condense all letters and articles. Any reprint of materials without the express written consent of the author or *The Paper* is prohibited.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COVER

Langston Hughes Award
Special Education Students plea
CCNY Black Alumni Association Awards

POETRY

NEWS

COLLEGE ANNOUNCEMENTS
January Intersession Program

OPINIONS

Unprofessional professors

FEATURES

CCNY Students for Cultural Exchange
The Credit Card Game

College Announcements

ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION HUMANITIES FELLOWSHIP IN CCNY

The Rockefeller Foundation has selected City College's CUNY Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC) as a residency site for Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowships for the years 2000-2003.

IRADAC will host the residency program in conjunction with two other CCNY bodies, the Simon H. Rifkind Center for the Humanities and Arts, and the Colin L. Powell Center for Policy Studies. Professor James de Jongh, the director of IRADAC, will head the \$250,000 research program. The Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowships grant enables CCNY to support the work of scholars engaged in research on transnational issues, non-Western cultures, and the diverse cultural heritage of the United States.

During each academic year, the Fellowship Program will support the full time research of two visiting scholars. In addition, the research of five City University scholars will be supported with some released time from regular teaching responsibilities.

Scholars will be drawn from a broad range of disciplines, including history, literary studies, linguistics, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and philosophy. Professor de Jongh said "Language and Diaspora Culture, " would be the theme of the research program. "It will seek to foster study into how language both affects and is affected by the cultural conditions of Diaspora, and how under these conditions linguistic differences and affiliations interact with other categories of identity, be they geography, race, religion, gender or class," he said.

CCNY STUDENTS EXPLORE AIDS, CANCER, AGING

At a science exhibition on Thursday, November 18, at The City College of New York, undergraduate students presented their outstanding research in the fields of AIDS, cancer, cellular aging, and other areas. The 35 students and their mentors - among the most distinguished of the Division of Science - are part of the City College Academy for Professional Preparation (CCAPP), the Division's student support program. This innovative program includes a research apprenticeship that allows students at the undergraduate level to participate in pioneering inquiry with world renowned scientists - the largest undergraduate research program in the metropolitan area, unique in the level and kind of research that it includes.

City College qualifies as a Research II University, a rating achieved by fewer than 5 % of all four-year institutions, and is the site of leading edge research in laser optics, molecular modeling, AIDS, and a host of other fields.

During 1998-99 the City College faculty received over \$27 million in research grant support from the NSF, the NIH and NASA, among others, more than any other CUNY college. City also leads CUNY with 21 University Distinguished Professors, while six faculty have been elected to either the National Academy of Sciences or the National Academy of Engineering.

CCNY PROFESSOR TRANSLATES AWARD WINNING SPANISH BOOK

Mexican writer Silvia Molina's novel *The Love You Promised Me* (*Li amor que me juraste*), which was translated into English by City College Professor David Unger, has received the 1999 Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz Prize, one of

Mexico's highest literary honors.

In addition, a second translation by Professor Unger, a simplified version of Victor Montejo's adaptation of *Popol Vuh: A Sacred Book of the Maya*, has received critical acclaim from the media, including *The Los Angeles Times*.

Marcela, the heroine of the novel, is a modern, professional woman in her forties sifting through her disappointment after a brief but intense, extra-marital affair.

As the novel opens, Marcela is in the town of San Lazaro, the home of her forebears, to pick up the pieces of her life, and to discover the secret past of her parents.

The novel takes place in 1994, during Mexico's last elections. The Mayan insurrection in Chiapas and the assassination of presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio serve not only as backdrop, but also parallel the emotional vicissitudes in Marcela's own life. Professor Unger's translation of *Popol Vuh*, published by Toronto's Groundwood Press, makes easy reading of the complex ancient scriptures of the Maya.

Professor Unger, who was born in Guatemala City, is the director of City College's Publishing Certificate Program and teaches translation in CCNY's Graduate English Writing Program.

CCNY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION RECEIVES GRANT

City College's School of Education has received a \$153,350 grant from the United States Department of Education's Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology (PTTT) Program.

The grant is designed to enhance the capacity of education and liberal arts faculty who are involved in teacher preparation to integrate the latest technology into teacher train-

ing, said Dr. Norman Shapiro, Professor Emeritus and Director of the Center for School Development at CCNY.

Professor Shapiro and Professor James Neujahr, Chairman of CCNY's Education Department, are the directors of this project, whose main goal is to implement a new technology-rich teacher preparation program at CCNY for full implementation by September 2000.

Grants awarded under the PTTT Program support innovative teacher preparation improvements developed by consortia composed of higher education institutions, state agencies, school districts, nonprofit organizations, and others who are joining forces to develop well-prepared, technology proficient educators. Nationally, over two million K-12 teachers must be recruited over the next ten years and it is critical that these teachers be technology proficient.

CCNY's project partners include, The Technology Initiative of the Board of Education's Division of Instruction; Community School District 6; the Panasonic Learning Center, and Think Quest.

The United States Department of Education's PTTT Program is a competitive discretionary grant program authorized under Title III of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994.

**Do You Have a
Message For The
College Community?**

**Send It Through The
Paper For Free**

**for More
Information, Contact
us at
(212)650-5029**

**or stop by our office at
NAC 1/118**

How can I tell if someone I love is alcoholic?

Even though he was a practicing physician, David got drunk nearly every night for 17 years. Somehow believing he could hide his alcoholism from Kiesha, his wife, he constantly looked for new places to stash his liquor.

"When my wife was planning to go out in the afternoon, I would get a large supply of liquor, smuggle it home and hide it in the coal bin, the clothes chute, over door jambs, over beams in the cellar and in cracks in the cellar tile," David recalled years later in the Big Book of "Alcoholics Anonymous."

David did not fool Kiesha forever. Eventually she took her husband to meet Antonio, a man who called himself a recovering alcoholic. One month after that meeting, on June 10, 1935, David took his last drink. He and Antonio began seeing other alcoholics, and soon they formed a mutual-support group called Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

Members of AA often tell the story of Antonio's first meeting with Dr. David. But any full account of AA history must note that someone worried enough about David's drinking to arrange that meeting.

If you worry about someone's drinking, you're not alone. According to the most recent figures from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), 13.7 million U.S. adults meet the criteria for alcohol abuse or alcohol dependence.

Still, people might struggle for years with the question: How can I tell if the person I love is truly alcoholic? Fortunately you don't have to be a medical professional to answer that question and take



appropriate action.

One simple option is to use a four-item questionnaire developed by Dr. John Ewing. The first letter of a key word in each question forms the acronym CAGE:

- Have you ever felt you should Cut down on your drinking?
- Have people Annoyed you by criticizing your drinking?
- Have you ever felt bad or Guilty about your drinking?
- Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or to get rid of a hangover (Eye opener)?

You can pose these questions directly to your loved one, or come up with your own answers for that person. According to NIAAA, one "yes" answer signals a possible problem, and more than one means that it's time for your loved one to get help. Another way to help determine if your loved one is alcoholic is to learn about the way alcoholism is diagnosed. In the United States, professionals commonly use the criteria listed in the fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV). According to DSM-IV criteria, people who are alcohol dependent (alcoholic) will:

- Show tolerance (find that they have to drink more to get their desired effect from alcohol).
- Experience withdrawal symptoms when the effects of alcohol wear off.
- Drink larger amounts over a longer period of time than intended.

- Consistently fail to cut down or control their drinking.

- Give up important work or personal activities in favor of drinking.

Spend a great deal of time getting alcohol, drinking it, and recovering from its effects.

- Continue to drink despite knowledge of a persistent physical or psychological problem caused or exacerbated by drinking.

To satisfy a diagnosis of alcohol dependence, a person must experience at least three of these criteria during a twelve month period. People who are not alcohol dependent may still meet the criteria for alcohol abuse, a condition listed separately in DSM-IV. Alcohol abusers can limit the amount they drink when the consequences become severe enough. People who are truly dependent on alcohol cannot do this.

Tim Sheehan, PhD, regional vice

president of Minnesota Recovery Services for Hazelden in Center City, Minn., suggests that people can often trust their own judgments about a loved one's drinking as much as questionnaires and formal criteria.

"A simple assessment like the CAGE questionnaire can be used to help a loved one better think through the extent and severity of drinking behaviors," says Sheehan. "But there's no substitute for our own common sense in deciding when to approach a loved one about a drinking problem."

Alive & Free is a chemical health column provided by Hazelden, a nonprofit agency that offers a wide range of information and services relating to addiction and recovery. Address questions to Alive & Free Editor BC 10, PO. Box 11, Center City, MN 55012-0011. For more resources on substance abuse, call Hazelden at 800-328-9000 (ask for Hazel) or check its web site at www.hazelden.org.

The Wellness and Counseling center
in conjunction with the
New York Presbyterian Hospital
Will conduct a special presentation for
World Aids day

on
HIV/AIDS

By The Central Harlem HIV Care Networks Education
Committee

On November 30, 199 in the NAC Ballroom at 4.00pm

Refreshments will be served.

THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
A DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
THE WELLNESS & COUNSELING CENTER
&
WOMEN'S SERVICES
CELEBRATES

WORLD AIDS DAY

DECEMBER 1, 1999 NAC BALLROOM 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM



CALL (212) 650-5910 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
JOAN ARTHUR R.N.

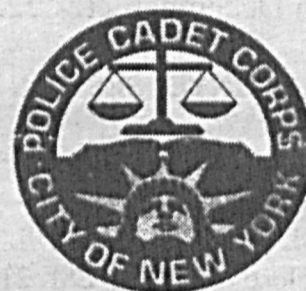
FREE CONDOMS-HIV BLOOD TEST SCREENING-LITERATURE

WELLNESS & COUNSELING CENTER
138th Street & Convent Ave. New York 10031

ADVERTISEMENT

**ATTENTION: ALL CITY COLLEGE
STUDENTS**

Earn \$36,000 As A Police Cadet



- ***Paid Internship - Part Time/ Full Time***
 - ***Create Your Own Work Schedule***
 - ***Tuition Assistance***
 - ***Competitive Hourly Wages***
 - ***Earn Credits Through Work Experience***

***GUARANTEED CAREER PLACEMENT AS
A POLICE OFFICER***

ALL ACADEMIC MAJORS WELCOMED

GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN THE

FIELDS OF:

COMPUTER SCIENCE

SOCIOLOGY

PSYCHOLOGY

***Call (212) 477-9218 in order to launch a career with the
New York City Police Cadet Corps.***

The New York City Police Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer

DID YOU KNOW...

... Liberal Arts and Science students must complete Math 73 by Summer 2000?

... As of Fall 2000, the college will no longer offer: English 1 and 2 College Skills 1 and 2 or Math 73, 80, and 90?

IF YOU NEED ANY OF THE ABOVE CLASSES, HERE IS YOUR CHANCE!

January Intersession begins January 4th and runs through the 27th

Registration will be on December 21 & 22, 1999. Check out the schedule below. Oh Yeah, *All Classes are free.*

SPRING, 2000 - JANUARY INTERSESSION PROGRAM

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE WORKSHOP

	SEC	TIME	DAYS
USIP 21.5 Bridge to ESL 99.1 Prereq: pass ESL 20 and close to passing ESL 21 (Instructor's recommendation required)	UA	9:00am-12:20pm	M T W Th
USIP 25 Bridge to ESL 30 Prereq: pass ESL 21 and close to passing ESL 20 (Instructor's recommendation required)	UA	9:00am-12:20pm	M T W Th
USIP 35 Bridge to ENG 110 Prereq: ESL 99.1 and close to passing ESL 30 (Instructor's recommendation required)	UA	9:00am-12:20pm	M T W Th

ENGLISH AS A PRIMARY LANGUAGE WORKSHOP

	SEC	TIME	DAYS
USIP 2.5 Bridge to English 110 Prereq: Passing or Close to passing English 2 (Instructor's recommendation required)	UA UA2	9:00am-12:20pm 9:00am-12:20pm	M T W Th M T W Th
USIP 115 ENGLISH 115 Prereq: D grade in English 110 (Instructor's recommendation required)	UA UB	9:00am-12:20pm 1:00pm - 4:20pm	M T W Th M T W Th

MATHEMATICS WORKSHOP

	SEC	TIME	DAYS
USIP 80 Math 80 Fundamental Algebra Prereq: 42 on Placement (Science/Psych. or Ed. majors only)	UB	9:00am- 12:30pm	M T W Th F
USIP 73.1 Math 73 Supplemental Workshop Prereq: D or R Grade in Math 73	UA	9:00am-12:20pm	M T W Th
USIP 80.1 Math 80 Supplemental Workshop Prereq: D or R Grade in Math 80	UA	9:00am-12:20pm	M T W Th
USIP 90.1 Math 90 Supplemental Workshop Prereq: D or R Grade in Math 90	UB	2:00pm-5:20pm	M T W Th
USIP 90.5 Bridge to PreCalculus (Math 100) Prereq: C grade or higher in Math 90	UB	2:00pm-5:20pm	M T W Th

SCIENCES WORKSHOP

	SEC	TIME	DAYS
USIP 103 Bridge to Chemistry 103/103.1 Prereq: Math 90 or Math 100	UA	10:00am - 12:30pm	M T W Th F

SCIENCES**WORKSHOP**

USIP 203 Bridge to Physics 203/207

Prereq: Math 202

SEC

UA

TIME

10:00am - 12:30pm

DAYS

M T W Th F

SKAT WORKSHOPS**READING****WORKSHOP**

USIP 3 Reading SKAT

SEC

UA

TIME

9:00am-11:30pm

DAYS

M T W Th F

UC

5:30pm-8:00pm

M T W Th F

WRITING**WORKSHOP**

USIP 4 Writing SKAT

SEC

UA

TIME

9:00am-12:30pm

DAYS

M T W Th F

UA2

9:00am-12:30pm

M T W Th F

UA3

10:00am-1:30pm

M T W Th F

UB

1:00pm- 4:30pm

M T W Th F

UC

5:00pm- 8:30pm

M T W Th F

MATH**WORKSHOP**

USIP 71 Math SKAT

SEC

UA

TIME

10:00am-1:00pm

DAYS

M T W Th F

UB

1:00pm- 4:00pm

M T W Th F

UC

5:30pm- 8:30pm

M T W Th F

Attention SEEK Students***Let the SEEK study center help see you through
your finals*****What is the SEEK Study Center?**

The SEEK Study Center is a tutoring center for SEEK Students at City College. It provides free personal tutoring in a relaxed atmosphere. Students may be referred by faculty or refer themselves, but they must register to receive tutoring.

What kind of help is available?

The center offers regularly scheduled individual and small group tutoring in a variety of subjects. Students are generally scheduled for 2 hours a week per subject. Tutors use textbooks, practice exams, reference materials and homework assignments to help students master their subjects. The center also provides computer access, study space, SEAT and English Proficiency Exam Workshops and review sessions in selected courses.

Who are the tutors?

Study center tutors are CUNY students who are selected for their expertise in certain subjects as well as their ability to communicate and relate information to others.

When is the SEEK Study Center Open?

The center is open during the following hours:

Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Drop-In Evening Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday, 5pm - 7pm

**To register for tutoring come to Harris Hall, Room, 010, upstairs.
For more information call (212) 650-8105 or 650-5787**



PHULL PHLEDGE PHLOETICS

Total Package

As the silence envelops me
I sit and think

As the wind passes over me
I stand and the cry

As the rain pours down on me
I kneel and smile

As the silence engulfs me
I lay and dream

All because of you...

- Anonymous -

Stolen sunshine

The four wicked winds that wagged war
Upon this wretched landmass
Blasts with a festered fury
Fettered in duty
To undo the devilish deeds
Done in the past

We wait for our fate to take shape
And break fast at the coming of the dawn
The morn comes but there is no sun

For the sun shines no more
And so we are at war
With those who chose to ignore
The power of universal law

And thus we must explore
Have a rapport with our core
And put the rest to rest forevermore

And thus we must explore
Have a rapport with our core
And put the rest to rest forevermore

- Nacinimod -

Black Barbie

You stand tall
Wrapped in your appearance
Of what a woman is supposed to portray
If she isn't tall, slim, white
Smothered with makeup
Got long hair
Then she ain't right
But who told you you was my sista
I don't know no sistas that look like you
You covered in plastic
Oh, yes I do know some sistas that look like you
Who indeed look like you
They plastic too
Nose ain't real
Hair ain't real
Eyes ain't real
Waist manipulating our eyes
By the girdle, that waist nipper
She must wear
That holds her captive
Enslaved, bound
So she could look like you
Little does she know
She's cut down, cut away
Removed some fat
But she hasn't and can't
Remove her mama's genes
Her grandmama's pride and joy
Those Southern hips
That thick silhouette
Where is the real BlackBarbie?
Will she rise?
Native American Barbie
Looks just like you
Russian Barbie
Looks just like you
White Barbie
You look just like her
We are their mothers
But yet they give birth to us
We cry as they
Wipe our eyes
And camouflage our tear-dried faces
With eye shadow and some
White man's shade for our complexion
Foundation
Our foundation ain't what we
Put on our faces
We are: FOUNDATION

Greetings,

In the name of love from above and below and from everything that flows to and fro. Welcome to a world where written words are woven together to form brilliantly colored fabrics of lyrics. This is the world of phull phledge phloetics and these are this issue's entries into the phull phledge phloetics philes. May they inspire a desire within you to join us in keeping this world alive.

Phull Phledge Phloetics Philes
Nacnimod D. O. Didier
Poetry Editor

OUR ROOTS, OUR ANCESTORS,
OUR VERY OWN BLACK BARBIES,
OUR QUEEN'S OF SHEBA,
OUR CLEOPATRA'S
Will the true Black Barbie
Please rise?

Yes.

I knew Mommy you were the real Black Barbie

Time does not tell tales

And if it does

I'd rather listen to you

Tell me the truth

Black Barbie

Black Mommy

Black

Black with pride

Black and proud

Black Barbie

I rise too

I unwrap you

To acceptance

And appreciation

Black Barbie

- Paula Tallegrand -

Untitled

Notice how Rob is broke but I rolled this
Sparked this with my peoples
As equal partners regardless

My love is not elusive

But all inclusive

An exclusive to the devoted

For those for whom I rolled it

- Smokey Rob -

Damnation

I damn those demons dwelling deep inside of me
Daring me to do deeds contrary to divinity.

- Alias -

Eve - Like Nature

She had come over saying she
wants to see me
To erase the feeling of blue
that has rocked me
all week due to ruffles I face all day and night

Sitting on my lap and stroking
my ego softy
She whispered sweet nothings
into my cerebellum
I could not make out the meaning in her words but
I wanted more

Rocking me like aged wine
My thoughts
staggered aimlessly without balance
Gaining grounds
I found myself by the doorsteps
of mystic pleasures
Intensively intoxicating
Effortlessly
she tuned my machine
Desperately I began
to count the moon and stars
Inside her

A tickle in my soul
brought me air
To breathe and regain my sanity
for it her
The same that has taken
my heart for a soccer post
Eve-like in her nature
Could it be her
prowess has fermented
Only to conquer this African again.

- Ikenna -

graphart by **Nacnimod**

Don't Try This At Home: The Credit Card Game

by Christopher Ferrara

A student whom I recently tutored at the Writing Center [Harris-015] got me thinking about the relationship that people who overuse their credit cards have to the debts that they acquire. Basically, he declared such people victims. He went on to paint a commiserative portrait of those many students who line up to apply for credit cards on 138th street and Amsterdam by pointing out the fact that most of those students have ample incomes—as most students have—

yet will surely not be able to resist spending past their means with a credit card because of the ever pervasive, powerfully intoxicating advertising media that dominates our society, a media that tells us that we are

inadequate if we don't have the most current [fill in the item of your choice]. Thinking about those many students on 138th street and Amsterdam who, having signed at the dotted line, walk away with a candy bar in hand, gave me a sense of an ironical scene.

Then it occurred to me. Those many students, who I thought by the very nature of their being "theys" I wasn't among, I was in fact among. Yes, I got my first credit through the 138th street and Amsterdam connection—although I didn't get a candy bar [those bastards]. Yes, I was now sitting on twenty thousand plus dollars of credit card debt. Yes, I had just blown four hundred bucks the prior evening on some items from a popular catalog, items which had haunted me through my irrational desire to own them—the night that

I ordered those items from that popular catalog, I felt tense and guilty about spending money which I knew I didn't really have, yet, upon placing the order, I felt a sense of release, or perhaps relief, because I truly believed that I needed those items. Yes, I was a victim.

Following my conversation with the student at the Writing Center, I walked around with the notion of my being a victim at the hands of merciless advertisers for several

Be Sure You Can Afford A Credit Card Before You Apply For One!

weeks, considered my subservient role in supporting an economy that depends so heavily on consumption, and lamented over my conformity and adherence to the principles that govern the rat race, my lack of adherence to the one principle that I always held above all: walking to the beat of a different drummer. And just as I began to feel I was on the verge of making the decision to fight back against the evil creditors who had enslaved me, just as I was about to throw my credit cards out the window and declare bankruptcy, which two of my friends have done and swear they do not regret doing, I saw the film *Fight Club*, a film whose premise and message mirrors this sentiment precisely.

Fight Club's basic premise is that we have been so doped up by consumerism that we are each suffer-

ing a slow death. This slow death manifests itself in the film's main character—played by Ed Norton—in the form of insomnia. As the main character goes through his daily life, a life that fits the corporate American archetype, a life wherein he obsesses over his purchases from an Ikea catalog—he is portrayed as an obsessive consumer—the effects of his insomnia move him in a desperate manner to seek relief. It is quickly established that his insomnia and archetypical

lifestyle are connected, at which point the film adapts a nihilistic philosophy. The main character's apartment

blows up and he is cast on a journey whereby he is stripped of material

possessions and turned against corporate society at large—he later organizes assaults, with a band of conspirators, on the institutions of corporate America. This aggressive response against consumerism and a society that fosters it is what the film, ultimately, suggests to be the solution to a society, which by its design, gives its citizens insomnia, insomnia being symbolic in this case. Notably, the main character becomes recognized in the film as a heroic icon. There is also, as part of the solution, the notion of Man's need to get back to his more primal nature. Thus, there is the fight club.

When I walked out of the theatre, I wondered what Karl Marx's reaction would have been to a Hollywood film that echoes his ideas. And then I remembered that the student who fixed me on this tangent against credit cards and

Professor Jiggetts

continued from page 1

Hundreds of students signed a petition to the administrators of the Education department stating that Professor Jiggetts has served them well for many years and that they were extremely satisfied with his professionalism towards students as well as his expert knowledge of the special education program. Students of the Special Education did not support Dean Franks obviously misguided poor judgement in selecting Marilyn Rosseau in favor of Professor Jiggetts. Several students have written letters to college administrators demanding Professor Jiggetts reinstatement. The students of this department are appealing to the current CCNY administration to reinstate Professor Jiggetts as the head of of the Special Education Program.

Students of the Special Education Department are also demanding that disciplinary action be brought against Professor Rosseau. They believe her lack of professionalism is unacceptable for such an important position. Numerous letters of

complaint had been forwarded to former President Yolanda Moses regarding Professor Rosseau's unprofessional attitude towards students concerns. In one letter to President Moses, one student, after requesting program related information from Professor Rosseau was told "Go ask Professor Jiggetts." On another occasion, she had called security on a disabled student who she had falsely accused of assaulting her.

Over a hundred letters have been written to the City College administration demanding the reinstatement of Professor Jiggetts as the Head of Special Educations Department of the City College of New York. President Yolanda Moses and Dean Frank have since left the college. The students of the Special Education Department are appealing to the current Current President and Dean of the Education Department to resolve this matter. "We are asking for a change, here at the CCNY Education Department," one of the students stated. "We hope our cries will not be in vain."

ADVERTISEMENT

HOW DOES \$800/WEEK EXTRA INCOME

sound to you?

Amazingly, profitable opportunity.

Send self-addressed stamped envelope to:

GROUP FIVE

6547 N. Academy Blvd., PMB-N

Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Sonia Sanchez

continued from page 1

Sanchez has tried to recapture a style of delivery that she felt had been muted by the experience of slavery. In her successful experimentation with such techniques, she joined...others in being innovative enough to bring black poetry to black people at a level that was accessible to the masses as well as enjoyable for them."

In the mid-1960s, Sanchez began the long teaching career that has lent support to her work as a writer and an activist. She taught at the Downtown Community School in San Francisco from 1965 until 1967; at San Francisco State College (now University) from 1967 until 1969; and the University of Pittsburgh from 1969 until 1970. She has also taught at Rutgers University (1970-1971), Manhattan Community College (1971-1973), and Amherst College (1972-1975), and the University of Pennsylvania (1976-1977). Currently, she is professor of English at Temple University, where she teaches African America literature and cre-

ative writing. Sanchez's entire body of work teaches and provokes one to think about matters we would rather leave to others to contemplate. If her goal is to empower others, she certainly has put her money where her mouth is by her unfailing belief in the goodness and the potential of others. In 1972, she edited *Three Hundred and Sixty Degrees of Blackness Comin' At You*, a collection of writings by her students in a creative writing class she conducted in Harlem. Her concern for young minds also manifested itself during this period in her publication of several books for children. Beginning with *In A New Day* (1970) and including *The Adventures of Fathead, Smallhead, and Squarehead* (1973) and *A Sound investment* (1980), in her children books readers are taken of a fantastic learning experience through fable, fantasy and moral lessons.

In her writing, Sanchez is always asking questions concerning Black people and their commitment to change. She meditates on the struggles of Blacks among themselves, the problem of Blacks and Whites

honestly communicating with each other, the struggles between men and women, as well as larger issues of cultural, emotional, and psychological differences. Much of her work is autobiographical, but not for the purpose of telling her life story. Sanchez's purpose seems to be to reflect the social condition of contemporary African-Americans in an attempt to bring about psychological and emotional freedom. She is a realist, who is political, and she is not interested in Romanticizing or idealizing her people for self-gratification. She has quite deliberately taken Black speech patterns, combined them with the music of her people, to reflect the hard knocks of economic inequality and the wide disparity in the Black community.

Sonia Sanchez is the author of 16 books including *Homecoming, We a BaddDD people, Love Poems, I've Been a Woman, New and selected Poems, Sound Investment and Other Stories, Homegirls and Handgrenades, Under a Soprano Sky, Wounded in the House of a Friend, Beacon Press Boston, MA. 1995, Does Your House Have*

Lions, Beacon Press, 1497, and most recently Like the Singing Coming off the Drums, Beacon Press, 1998, and Shake Loose My Skin, Beacon Press, 1999, just to name a few.

Sanchez has been the recipient of a host of impressive awards, including the P.E.N. Writing Award in 1969, the National Institute of Arts and Letters Grant in 1970, a National Endowment of Arts fellowship, the Lucretia Mott Award for 1984, the Outstanding Arts Award from the Pennsylvania Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Community Service Award from the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, she is a winner of the 1985 American Book Award for her book *Homegirls and Handgrenades*, the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Humanities for 1988, The peace and Freedom Award from Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) for 1989, and a Pew Fellowship in the Arts for 1992-1993. We here at City College are happy that now she can add the Langston Hughes Award to this list.

Black Alumni Association

continued from page 1

included Peter Williams who is majoring in Architecture and received the Alumni Association Award presented by the Executive vice president of the City College Alumni Association, Donald K. Jordan. Receiving the Black Alumni Association Scholarship was Nowamagbe Aigbogun, presented by the BAA president, Joan Thomas.

Monika Mittlehlzer, an Education major received the William G. Wright Scholarship. The award was presented by William G. Wright, who is a past president of the City College BAA. Mr. Wright said he was glad to see someone he knew receive the scholarship. Jackie Alexander also received an honorarium for her work in producing the Gala journal.

Anyone who would like to make a donation to the scholarship can do so by mailing a check or money order to: CCNY Black Alumni Association, PO Box 1747, New

York NY 10027. The deadline for submitting an application for the next BAA Scholarship Awards is February 29, 2000.



At the BAA awards. seated L to R Nowamagbe Aigbogun, Monika Mittlehlzer and Peter Williams. Standing L to R Joan Thomas, Prof. William Wright and Donald Jordan. Photo by William Ballinger

Got a problem on the
College Campus?

Don't Just Talk about it . . .

WRITE ABOUT IT !!!

Call us at: (212) 650- 5029

or fax us at: (212) 650-
5022

Or E-Mail us at:
the_paper@mailcity.com

We Are Located in NAC
1/118



CCNY Students For Cultural Exchange and Black Alumni Association Trips to Brazil and South Africa

A Perspective on Rio de Janeiro and Salvador, Bahia - Brazil

by Prof. William G Wright

After eight months of arranging with our travel providers the kinds of cultural activities we required while in Brazil, the date of departure arrived.

I am Professor William G. Wright, Group leader and faculty advisor for the Students for Cultural Exchange. This trip was the first in 28 years when I did not leave the U.S. with the travel group. Due to an oversight, I packed inappropriate travel documents for immigration and this prevented my departure at the scheduled time and stressed to an incredible extent.

I arrived in Rio happened two days after the group that was doing well and getting on like "Brasileros".

My mental state began to improve when I joined them on their excursion to 'Sugar Loaf' mountain.

Having arrived in Brazil and joining the group gave me the feeling of success because the many efforts I had made to assure an educational experience of incomparable benefits had become a reality.

For me every annual educational-cultural trip that CCNY's Students for Cultural Exchange realizes is nothing less than something I have envisioned in my wildest dream or

expectation as a poor person of disadvantaged status in the United States.

The visit to Brazil this August 12 - 25 represented the organization's 28th annual international trip and many of our travelers have been able to make them by scratching and scraping funds from every conceivable source.

My greatest regret is that students have not knocked down the door of the Students for Cultural Exchange. That is not to say that over the 28 years there was a dearth, but rather the experience of first hand travel and interchange with others from other lands is invaluable and cannot be duplicated.



CCNY Students For Cultural Exchange in Brazil

Rio de Janeiro

Brazil was a total blast! We spent five days in Rio de Janeiro, and seven days in Salvador, Bahia. We arrived exhausted after a twelve hour flight, at the Aeroporto Internacional in Rio de Janeiro at approximately 8:00 a.m. After going through immigration, customs and collecting our luggage, we met our tour guide, Alosio Mendes. We traveled by bus to our hotel, the Rio Copa, a block away from the world famous Copacabana Beach. We checked in and had lunch which is where our fun began.



A view of Downtown Rio

we visited many places in Rio, among them were, the Corcovado Mountain, the Petropolis, the Public University of Rio, the H. Stern Gem Factory and the Sugar Loaf Mountain. The Sugar Loaf Mountain is shaped like a loaf of

bread an legend has it that the mountain got its name from the first settlers who arrived from Portugal, and looking at the mountain, thought it resembled the home-made bread that they made. To reach the top of the mountain we took a cable car that had us about 2,000 ft. above sea level. The ride is quite scary, but it gave us a birds eye view of all of Rio. Unfortunately, summer in New York is winter in Rio, and there was a lot of fog and haze and as a result, we were not able to appreciate the view the cable car had to offer.

We also visited the Corcovado Mountain and the famous statue; Christ the Redeemer, which is equivalent to New Yorks Statue of

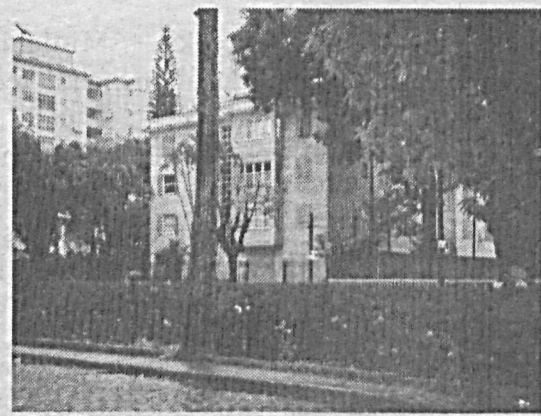
Liberty. Built on top of the 710m (2,343 ft.) high Corcovado mountain, the statue was the project of a Brazilian engineer and it took five years to construct. Standing at 38m (125 ft), the statue one of the most beautiful structures in the world as it stands with open outstretched arms to welcome all to Rio. To reach the top of the mountain, we took a funicular, which is a cogwheel train.

We toured the H. Stern factory, which is the largest gem factory in the world. We were given a tour in small groups, where we learned how gems are graded, cut and made into beautiful jewelry which are then sold in retail stops in Rio and worldwide.

We were all given a sample of various stones from the factory.

The Public University in Rio has 20,000 students and a total of 30,000 people who occupy the space daily. We visited the music department, where beautiful artwork was displayed and were fortunate enough to see a Capoeira show performed by the students. We also visited a senior citizen dance class where we were happily welcomed and invited to dance.

Petropolis is a city outside Rio named after one of its past rulers. It is a picturesque city that is considered to be upper class and has a lot of German and Italian influence. Pedro II, the last emperor of Brazil once lived in the Petropolis. We visited his palace, which is now a museum and displays one of the finest collections of furniture, china and jewels in Brazil.



The "Petropolis"

Bahia

After four days in Rio, we flew to Salvador in the state of Bahia where we spent the next seven days. In addition to having largest black population, Bahia was the first capital of Brazil. The city is further up the coast from Rio de Janeiro and is thirteen degrees south of the equator.

The Bahians have a strong African and Spanish influence on their culture, and although most of the population practices Catholicism,



Woman in native clothes

they also worship the spirit gods connected Candomble, as part of their African heritage. Our second day in Salvador afforded us the experience of visiting several beautiful old churches, most of which were built by slave labor during the 17th and 18th centuries. Our walking tour through the old city included a visit to a museum which housed lifelike replicas of the Spirit Gods and background history of Candomble, as well as artifacts from Africa. We visited Castro Alves Square, the major site of the Bahian Carnavale and other festivals. The architecture in this area showed the variety of cultural differences evident in the people.

Like Rio, Salvador has its favelas. We had the opportunity to not only visit a house in one of Salvador's favela, but to witness an initiation ceremony of three inductees into the Candomble religion. The specific group practiced the rites according to the Yoruba culture of

Nigeria. The participants played drums, sang traditional music and performed religious dance movements associated with the Yoruba. They were dressed in white attire and

wore traditional beads and turbans according to their standing with the group. The room where the ceremony took place was decorated with branches, vines, leaves and palms to provide a setting suitable for the forest spirits that were evoked.

Other places of interest included a hospital founded by a Catholic nun, Sister Irma Dulce, and a Public Home for the Elderly, which costing of millions of dollars, was built to accommodate Emperor Dom Pedro II for his two-day visit to Salvador. The property was used as military quarters, then remained locked up for many years until it was finally donated by the State to

provide free shelter for the elderly who are homeless or have no one to care for them.

Our visit took us out into the farmlands where we visited a sugarcane plantation. One of the workers cut cane for us and removed the skin so that we could chew on it and enjoy the natural juice. He also ran some of the pieces through the hand mill and we had freshly pressed cane juice to drink. This was a new experience for many of us in our group. We found areas where the blacks were brought originally to



Masquerade at traditional ceremony

work as slaves and visited a great house and its private church. The house stood on a hill overlooking the "master's" property and his flourmill. A caretaker and his family now occupy the house and the flourmill is closed. The town

around it is dying but people still struggle to survive through farming.

The local market provided a taste of the local life and was bursting with vendors and shoppers. Here, we were introduced to many local fruits and treats. A walking tour took us on a visit to the Sisterhood of the Boa Morte, a group that originated in the times of slavery. These women undertakers took care of the bodies of dead slaves, which were not allowed to be buried in cemeteries. They still exist today helping the needy and the abandoned "street kids"

Our last evening was spent at dinner at a local restaurant and watched a show depicting aspects of the local folklore, which once again included the Spirit Gods. The restaurant was by the ocean and was once the site where slaves were in holding and the ships were loaded and unloaded. The trolleys were still intact throughout the building and the rest of the property.

Bahia is rich with history and its people have held on to their roots. They still practice their African religions and have retained their style of dress, art and cuisine. Brazil is an interesting contrast of cultures and religious differences.

Would you like to send a message to members of your club or would your club like to issue a notice to the College and Harlem Community?

Post your announcements through *The Paper* FREE!

for more info, contact us at (212)650-5029 or stop by our office at NAC 1/118

South Africa '98

Capetown

by Professor Wright

Capetown is without a doubt an extraordinary piece of fine handiwork by nature. The over-riding opinion of our thirty-eight member group was that Capetown had found an indelible spot in their hearts. The peninsula of Capetown was incredible, it is a view to be seen to be fully appreciated

We climbed the mountain-sides, a definite part of the natural character of the peninsula, starting in the morning and returning at dusk. There are so many special things for people like from the United States to savor about the peninsula and its people. One of these things is The *Rotair* (tram) which elevated us 3,000 feet to the top of Table Mountain. Being up there with the Indian Ocean as a backdrop was like a dream not realized.

We also visited Robben Island, and the *Catamaran* ride out to the

island was more than exciting. To imagine that this very special opportunity had been ours. Walking on the same grounds that many Africans gave their lives for is an experience not easily understated, yet we were able to touch cell bars, of which some one passed on hundreds of years before. On returning home to New York, a letter from President Nelson Mandela's Private Secretary greeted me in my College



CCNY Students For Cultural Exchange in South Africa

mailbox. Surely little imagination is required to understand my sentiments regarding that arrival.

In South Africa, We experienced some of the most fertile lands that I have observed in anywhere as we traveled and tasted different wines in the *Stallen Bosh* area of Capetown. Command performances were presented for us by members of a Capetown South Africa

International Choir whose members comprised of singers from villages near and far. They sang with pleasure and they seemed in no hurry to finish. Their performance ended with the South African National Anthem. We very gaily ended our Historical educational and Cultural Travels to South Africa with a Bon Voyage Dinner.

Durban

by Jennifer Faray

Our first stop in Durban was for lunch at the Roma Revolving Restaurant, which services Indian cuisine and has a full view of the largest city in the Natal Province of South Africa. The restaurant's dining area actually sits over thirty stories off the ground and revolves, all diners a chance to see the very modern and industrial seaport.

Our lunch at the Roma, coupled with our of the city familiarized us with the large Indian population in South Africa. Their influence on South African culture is evident in the various markets, historical sights and the overall design of the city.

We were also able to meet with the Mayor of Umlazi, Ms. Tereza Mthembu at the Umlazi Commercial Technical. We listened intently to her views on social issues, economic and racial concerns and her position as a female Mayor. We later had the opportunity to speak with her personally, as well as a few South African news reporters and members of the College faculty.

The morning of our final day in Durban was spent leisurely engaging in activities of interest. Some of us returned to the Indian Market. Those who had earlier caught a glimpse of the universal golden arches followed the scent of golden fries to compare with McDonald's in the United States. Others were attracted to the beautiful beach a few steps from the hotel entrance and wanted to leave South Africa their footprints in the sand and rinse their feet in the cool waters of the Indian Ocean.

Johannesburg

by Mojisola Daramola

Thirty eight travelers boarded a tour bus of which included members of the City College Black Alumni Association and City College Students for Cultural Exchange. Although we were tired, the excitement of realizing a dream months in the making kept our energy levels high. On the bus were greeted by our tour guide, Pumla Dabula and driver, Nick Tseke. During the tour, Ms Dabula gave us a brief history of Johannesburg and its foundation as a gold mining city. The next day, our first stop was Soweto, which means "Southwest Township." It was thrilling to walk the same streets that came to shape much of the country's history. Soweto's downtown area was bustling with taxi's, outdoor markets and other retail stores.

Being a native of Soweto, Ms Dabula gave us an intimate tour of the towns schools, homes, and recreational areas. The high point of our day was a visit to Nelson and

Winnie Mandela's home in Soweto which is now open to the public as a museum. The house is full of photographs and memorabilia of the Mandela family.

Later on, we visited Witwatersrand University where we learned about the educational system of South Africa. The Witwatersrand University, called "Wits" by its students was founded in 1922 as a mining and geology college. It is now known for its liberal arts and science programs. We were able to have a discussion with the school's Chancellor, who spoke to us about efforts to prepare high school students for the rigors of college life. The next day, we visited the Alexandra township and its Resource Center. The resource center offers job training, library services and a place for groups like the Alexandra chapter of the African National Township to meet. We also saw the "Green House," Nelson Mandela's hide out during the time the South African Police were looking to arrest him.

At this time, most of us were staved

(at least I was!) and we had lunch at an eatery called Carnivore which offered a most unique dining experience. The restaurant walls were adorned with masks, pottery and paintings. The dishes offered on the menu included meat from animals unusual to mainstream Americans such as Ostrich, Wilderbeast, antelope and Wart Hog. The meat is prepared in large charcoal pits on Kenyan swords. The tips of the swords are placed in the plate of the diner and the meat is cut right into the plate. The meal was extremely delicious the meats especially were very succulent.

Later we toured the Museum Afrika in downtown Johannesburg. The museum had a very large exhibit about the South African treason trials in the 1940's and 1950's. We learned that the South African governments definition of treason in their constitution was vague. The police force arrested anyone they felt was a "threat" to the government. After our museum tour we spent the rest of our evening satisfying our appetite for shopping.

Special Report From NYPIRG

1999 Toy Safety Report

Children are seriously injured and die each year in the United States from toy-related injuries. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is the federal agency responsible for toy safety but lacks the resources necessary for adequately monitoring the thousands of new toy products introduced nationally each year. Sadly, many of the deaths and injuries that occur from dangerous toys could be prevented if toys were designed with greater attention to safety.

In particular NYPIRG's research and surveys focus on choking, the leading cause of toy-related deaths. The results of the survey and list of dangerous toys also include toys that pose other hazards such as strangulation and toxic substances. For the second year in a row, this report also includes the recently identified hazard of toys containing significant amounts of toxic chemicals. Specifically, many soft polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic toys contain chemicals called phthalates - which are probable

human carcinogens and known to cause chronic health effects including liver and kidney abnormalities.

NYPIRG's research discovered that many toy manufacturers attempt to circumvent the CPSC's ban on small parts and small balls in toys intended for children under 3 through labels. Surveyors found many toys that had play value for children under 3 and contained pieces or balls that could pose choking hazards. Often, the toys included choke hazard labels.

Toy manufacturers also make toys that may pose as choke hazards because they contain parts just slightly larger than legal sizes. Surveyors also identified toys that contained parts that could easily break off and fit in the CPSC small parts testing cylinder

Toy manufacturers and retailers fail to label unwrapped small toys or toys containing small parts within bins. They also fail to label bins that contain unlabeled unpackaged

toys that pose choke hazards, as required by law. One of the most dangerous toys, balloons, continues to be manufactured and marketed in shapes and colors that are attractive to very young children.

Important choke hazard warnings are sometimes hidden in the packaging of toys or are not in compliance with the warning required by the CSPA. Also, toy manufacturers are "over-labeling" toys by placing choke hazard warnings on toys that do not contain small parts. We are concerned that such vague and hidden labeling will water down the meaning of the labels and hence be less useful to parents.

Independent tests have shown that many plastic toys, including common teething toys, contain as much as 40% by weight of toxic phthalates, which may leach into children's bodies. The chemicals are possible human carcinogens and have been shown to have some of the characteristics of "endocrine disrupters" chemicals that cause reproductive abnormalities.

NYPIRG urges toy buyers and parents to be vigilant this holiday season and remember: The CPSC does not test all toys, not all toys on the shelves meet CPSC regulations and toys that meet all CPSC tests may still pose hazards, ranging from choking to toxic chemical exposure.

NYPIRG's 1999 List of Potentially Dangerous Toys

- Amscam's "It's the Big 1" First Birthday Balloons
- Assorted Bin Toy Ball-Like Erasers
- Children Development Inc.'s Ruff & Tuff Truck with Driver
- Club Earth's Tidal Treasures
- Empire Industries Tnc.'s Big Buddy Vehicle Play Set
- The First Years' "Squeakie" Car Playbook
- The First Years' Squeaky Pooh Playbook
- Fishel's What a Supermarket Plastic Play Food
- Fisher Price's Little Snoopy Pull Toy
- Gerry's Tub Squirts
- Hasbro's Pokemon Battle Figures
- Hasbro's Pokemon Power Bouncer Ball
- National Latex's Mickey for Kids Balloons
- Oddz On's Kooshie Koos Baby Boy Bradley
- Playskool's Talking Pay Phone and Cash Register
- Sanrio's Hello Kitty Erasers
- Sanrio's Hello Kitty Jewelry Set
- Sassy's "Who Loves Baby" Photo Book
- Tara Toy Corp.'s Rugrats High Bounce Balls
- Tomy's Monster Collection
- Toy Island's Pokemon Stationary Set
- Unique's Arthur Balloons
- Unique's Bowling Ball and Pins

The Credit Card Game

continued from page 10

consumerism said that he was a marketing major. Despising the very thought of my having been manipulated, I wanted to tell everyone to run out and get into debt—but I won't.

Therefore, in a last attempt at clarity, for those of you who also don't like feeling manipulated, I'll give you the plain facts from experience about credit card debt—just think of me as one of those prison inmates who has dedicated his life to scaring children from committing crimes by using himself as an example of what can happen if you go down the wrong path [besides, my editor insists that this article function as a deterrent to students contemplating whether they should sign up for a credit card at 138th street and Amsterdam].

Currently, I pay close to five hundred bucks a month in interest; it used to be less, but I missed a few payments over the summer, so my

creditors jacked-up the interest rate on my cards to about 20% annually—they can do that. I really have no plans, nor plans to make plans, of paying this debt off. It's just revolving debt, with a high interest rate tacked onto it. This sort of thing is precisely what the credit card companies hope you'll do with your debt: just let it revolve. Sure I could throw the cards out of my window and not pay, but then I would have to wear a scar on my credit record for a long time, which might hurt me in the long run. I guess that the most perplexing irony about this situation is my disposition: if I were magically granted a clean slate tomorrow, I would do it again, get into debt that is—I would finish the music project that I am involved in and go to France this summer. But what else would you expect from a credit card junkie: old habits die hard. And it's these habits that you can be sure the credit card companies bank on.

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS
IN THE PAPER!**

Call us at
(212)650-5029
fax (212)650-5022



Wanted

**Writers,
Photographers,
Cartoonists, and
Great Ideas**

JOIN *THE PAPER*

**Winner Of The 1997 Barnes &
Noble Communications Award**

**NAC BLDG.
ROOM 1/118**