

The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Volume 4

MARCH 2006

"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

Cuny Task Force to Aid Black Men

By Lindsie Augustin

Over the past few years, the amount of African American males enrolling and graduating from institutions of higher education has steadily decreased. While the real cause of this problem is unknown, a bulk of the blame has fallen upon the schools more so than the student. In an effort to remedy this problem, the City University of New York (CUNY) has established a program aimed to increase the amount of African American males who enter and graduate from college. Over the next four years, The CUNY Task Force on Black Male Initiative plans to develop and put into action a university-wide program aimed at recruiting, retaining, and graduating African American students.

From 1996 to 2001, Black males made up the majority of men attending City College but since 2002, that amount has decreased by approximately 2%. Currently, there are only 1,250 undergraduate African American males attending CCNY, a mere 25.9% of the entire student body.

In an attempt to break that cycle, CUNY's Task Force has come up with nine recommendations aimed at rectify-

ing the situation. These recommendations are as follows:

- ♦ Establishing strong university leadership
- ♦ Improving the access to higher education
- ♦ Increasing admission and graduation rates in the CUNY system
- ♦ Educating a new generation of K-12 teachers
- ♦ Using university resources to improve employment for African American males
- ♦ Contributing to the reduction of the incarceration rate for African American males
- ♦ Establishing the Institute for the Achievement of Educational and Social Equity for Black Males
- ♦ Involving experts to assist in executing these recommendations
- ♦ Establishing benchmarks to evaluate the university's progress with the program

If CUNY's outreach effort succeeds, it would be a great credit to society, particularly since the current statistics regarding African American males are alarming. In the fall of 2004, only 10.3% of CUNY's students were Black. With respect to enrollment, the disparity between African American males and other ethnic groups is not extreme; how-

ever, studies do show that Black males are less likely to return for a second year. In 2004, only 74.3% returned at the bachelor's level and only 57.1% returned at the associate's level. Furthermore, the graduation rate for African American males are tremendously low compared to other ethnic groups. Only 27.1% of males who entered in the fall of 1998 graduated within the six years later and a mere 14.6% from the associates program graduated.

The amount of African American males that are incarcerated or working is less than the amount that attends college. While Blacks only makeup 13% of drug users, they represent 38% of those arrested on drug related charges. In 2001, approximately 50,000 African American males entered prison from drug related crimes. In 2003, the amount of African American teen males employed had reached a historical low, with only 19.9% working. These appalling numbers continue well on into young adulthood with only 70% of African American males working in 2003.

The CUNY Task Force was established as a way to assist African American males ascend above some of the discriminatory experiences they

face so that they can advance in life and contribute to their society.

The plan includes programs where juniors and seniors with high GPAs will become mentors for incoming freshmen

and sophomores. This plan aims to keep the younger generations motivated and focused on graduating. Among other programs, CCNY would also like to provide recreational activities and better gyms.

With any luck, these strategies can reverse the current trend. Task Force believes that with the answer lies with more supervision and guidance. Perhaps, but something is preventing African American males from completing their degrees.

These various programs may serve useful and they scheduled take effect next year. As thoughtful as these programs may be, they will make absolutely no difference if the participants involved are not completely committed to its success. The CUNY Task Force has provided the African American males with the lemons and it is up to them to make the lemonade. Its their choice whether they fail or succeed the blame can no longer point the colleges.

Contributing writer Ernesto Johnson

A DROP IN BLACK STUDENTS AT CITY

By Professor William Crain

CUNY administrators frequently boast that the university has raised admission standards while maintaining student diversity. President Williams has frequently made this claim with respect to City College. However, the evidence suggests otherwise, at least with respect to students of African descent.

Between 1999 and 2005, The City College suffered an 11-point drop in the percentage of Blacks in the undergraduate student body (from 38.9% to 27.9%, according to *City Facts, 2005*). In absolute numbers, the decrease was from 3,244 students in 1999 to 2,684 students in 2005.

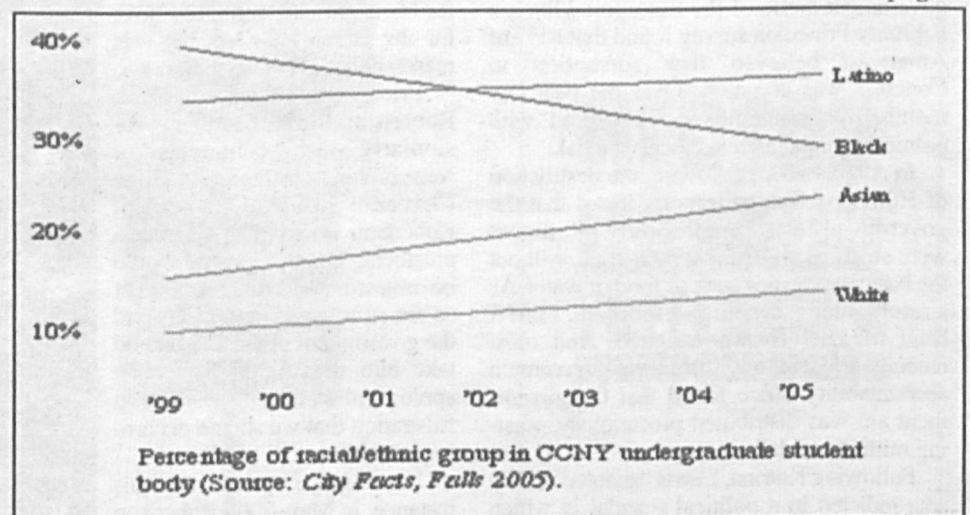
During this period the overall undergraduate population rose. The percentage of Asian students increased about 7 points, while the percentages of White and Latino students each increased about 2 points. The decline in Black students was great among males, but it occurred among females as well. The drop in Black students at City College was too sharp to be explained by any recent changes in the

New York City population. What's more, the decline at our college appeared to be greater than that at CUNY as a whole. Between 2001 and 2004 (the period for which I have located CUNY-wide data), the Black contribution to our undergraduate population dropped 6.6 percentage points, whereas the overall decline at the CUNY senior colleges was only 2.3 percentage points.

My guess is that a major reason for the decline is the CUNY admission policy,

first implemented between 2000 and 2001. The policy requires applicants to meet cut-off scores on three skills tests (or equivalent scores on SAT or Regents tests). These tests, which are weak or worthless predictors of success at CUNY, yield disproportionately low scores among African Americans and low-income students. During the Open Admissions era, City College, located in Harlem, gave many opportunities to students who were both

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Student Lounge Opens Events @ City

CCNY Broadcast

The beautiful new Lillian and Harold Hoffman Student Lounge and Forum is open to all CCNY students. The hours are Monday through Thursday 9am to 8 pm and Friday 9am to 5 pm. Clubs that wish to reserve the Forum make their requests through the Finley Center. The Lounge is reserved for use by CCNY students; admission to the Lounge requires a valid ID card indicating that you are a CCNY student.

The Lounge, operated through the Finley Center, features an opportunity for our students to socialize; to study alone or together; to use laptops in a comfortable, wireless environment, and to enjoy coffee, soft drinks, and snacks served from a modern food service counter.

There will be opportunities for scheduling and attending performances, lectures, and forums in the Forum, adjacent to the Lounge.

The art work in the Lounge is dedicated to exhibiting the work of CCNY students; the first exhibit is now in place. (Comparable space in the new Faculty Lounge, opening Thursday Feb. 2, will be dedicated to exhibiting the work of CCNY faculty.)

The College is deeply appreciative for the generosity of the Hoffmans, alumni who made it possible for us to create a truly exceptional lounge for CCNY students. Our students were consulted on every aspect of the design and know that this Lounge symbolizes a commitment to enriching their CCNY experience.

The Hoffmans, in a tribute to President Williams at the opening ceremony, attributed their generosity to recognition of college leadership that has "restored CCNY to the status that made its alumni proud to have a CCNY degree."

Events @ City

ELECTRONIC DESIGN & MULTIMEDIA ALUMNI PANEL

March 28, 2006

City College — 5:30 PM

The Real World! 3 EDM Alumni Talk About Life after EDM and CCNY in the World of Work Alumni return to talk about life in the world of work and advise's students.

LINCOLN AT COOPER UNION

March 30, 2006

City College — 4:30 PM

Lincoln at Cooper Union Lecture, Discussion, Book Signing & Reception Featured speaker: Mr. Harold Holzer This event is free and open to the public

FACULTY CHAMBER RECITAL

March 30, 2006

City College — 12:30 PM

Featuring professors Allison Deane, piano - John Patitucci, bass and Janet Steele, soprano.

The Paper's Mission Statement

For over thirty years The Paper has served as a medium through which students and faculty, students, and members of the local community can communicate. As a publication for people of African descent, The Paper focuses on pertinent issues facing the black and latino community as well as issues that are of relevance to people of all races and ethnicities. In addition to that, this publication is a valuable resource for CCNY students and faculty alike as information on everything from scholarships to job opportunities can be in the newspaper.

With increased membership and support of the student body, The Paper will continue to serve CCNY and the surrounding community. The members of The Paper are dedicated to bringing useful and credible information to all that may benefit from it, and will not falter in pursuit of that goal.

Washington's Corruption Trend



Jack Abramoff

By Orin Abel

The United States' system of checks and balances is supposed to prevent any branch of the government from abusing power and authority. However there seems to be more and more cases of political corruption in the media. Accordingly, a January poll from CBS news/NYTimes, found that 63% of Americans believe that they can only trust the government some of the time. In addition a February Princeton survey found that 81% of American believed that corruption in Congress was common. Over the past few months, Washington seemed racked with political scandal after political scandal.

In August 2005, following the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, reports found that the government acted inefficiently. Refugees were stranded all over New Orleans, without the basic necessities such as food or water. As a result of the mayhem that followed, FEMA head Michael Brown resigned. And most recently a federal audit from the government accountability office found that the government aid was distributed precariously, wasting millions of dollars.

Following Katrina, Lewis "scooter" Libby was indicted in a political scandal in which

the identity of CIA agent, Valerie Plame, was revealed. Libby was the chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney. In addition, the involvement of Gorge Bush's Presidential adviser and chief political strategist Karl Rove further politicized the scandal.

During recent months it has come to light that the Bush Administration secretly monitored the international calls and emails of many Americans without the permission of courts. Many view the Administration's phone tapping policy as an invasion of their constitutional right to privacy.

Additionally, corrupt lobbyist, Jack Abramoff, pleaded guilty to charges of feder-

al corruption in a scandal involving a U.S congressman. A pictured surfaced featuring Abramoff and the president of the United States, though the Bush Administration denies any connection to Abramoff.

Some view the recent seemingly upheaval of political corruption as typical of Washington whilst others see it as a result of the current administration. Karen Forde, a City college sophomore, states, "In the last five years [my trust in the government] has decreased. Still, the CBS news/NYTimes poll found that 60% of Americans believe that corruption in Washington has remained unchanged.

Robertson's Recurring Rebuttal

By Orin Abel

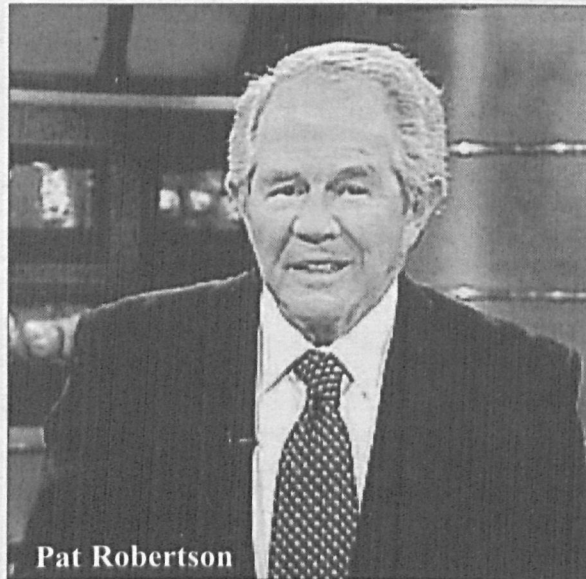
Pat Robertson, infamous Conservation leader is best know for his company CBN, the Christian broadcasting network, and as host of the 700 club. According to the website cbn.com, the Christian broadcasting network is seen around the world in over 180 languages and by over a million Americans daily. Most recently, Robertson come to light for "insensitive comments" concerning hospitalized Israeli prime Minister Ariel Sharon. On January 5th, 2006, Robertson stated that Sharon's hospitalization was the result of his dismal decision to remove from the Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip. Robertson has since apologized for his comments citing his "love for the Israeli state" as the sole reason behind his rash judgments.

Prior to this instance, Robertson made headlines for similarly rash comments of Venezuelan premier Hugo Chavez. In August 2005, Robertson stated that Venezuela president, Hugo Chavez, should be assassinated. Roberson went so far as to suggest the CIA and the government of the U.S should take him out. Again Robertson apologized stating, "I spoke in frustration that we should accommodate the man."

Yet again, prior to this instance, in May, 2005 Robertson

came to light for statements concerning the Judiciary and the world trade center attack. According to Pat Robertson.com, Robertson stated whilst appearing on "This Week" with George Stephanopoulos that "the gradual erosion of the consensus that's held our country together is probably more serious than a few bearded terrorists who fly into buildings." Again, Robertson apologized maintaining the validation of his statements'.

Robertson's seems to have a knack of speaking inappropriately. It seems evident that the former presidential candidate is sure to make head waves as his controversial spears ahead.



Pat Robertson

THE PAPER

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Who was Coretta Scott King and What Was Her legacy?

By Teshaka Bond

On January 30th 2006, the African American community lost another influential member of the civil rights movement. Coretta Scott King was the wife of Martin Luther King Jr., and complemented him as another key figure in the civil rights movement.

Born on April 27, 1927 in Perry County Alabama, Coretta Scott was born in the midst of the Jim Crow south. Following a stint at Lincoln High School, Scott attended Anitoch College in Ohio, where she received her B.A in music and elementary education in 1949. While at Anitoch, Scott joined the local chapters of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Young Progressives.

Coretta Scott met Martin Luther King Jr. while she stayed in Boston enrolled at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music in 1951 earning a Bachelor's of Music degree in voice and violin. During much of her husband's public career, Coretta remained out of the public eye taking care of their four children, Yolanda Denis, Martin Luther III, Dexter

Scott, and Bernice Abertine. However, she continued to play a critical role in many of the major civil rights campaigns of the 1950' and 1960's.

After the assassination of her husband on April 4, 1968, Coretta Scott devoted much of her life to spreading her husband's philosophy of nonviolence and racial equality. Just a few days after the assassination, she led a march on behalf of sanitation workers in Memphis, substituting for her husband, and, later in the month, keeping his speaking engagement at an anti-Vietnam war rally in New York. In May, she also helped launch the march on Washington of the Poor People's Campaign, thereafter participating in numerous antipoverty efforts. In 1962, Coretta Scott King expressed her long-standing interest in disarmament efforts by serving as a Women's Strike for Peace delegate to the seventeenth-nation Disarmament Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland. She also attended the 1964 ceremony in Oslo, Norway, where Dr. King was awarded the Noble Peace Prize. By 1969, Coretta Scott King began mobilizing support for the Martin

Luther King Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Her plans included an exhibition hall, a restoration of King's childhood home, an institute for Afro-American studies, a library containing King's papers, and a museum.

Throughout the 1970's and 1980's, Coretta Scott King continued to speak publicly and write nationally syndicated columns. The most notable achievement in Core her public life when she worked hard to establish a national holiday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. In 1984, she was elected chairperson of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, which was established by an act of Congress to formalize plans for the annual celebrations that began in 1986.

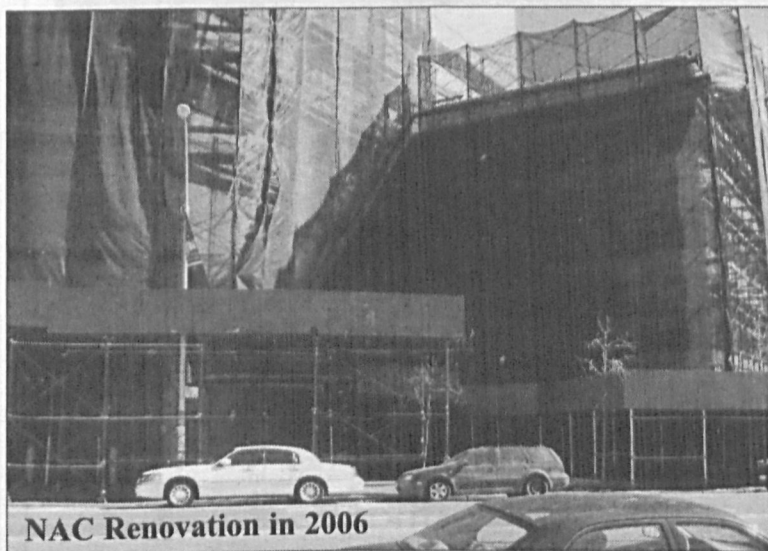
Coretta Scott King will not only be remembered as the wife of Martin Luther King Jr., but as a strong African American



Renovations To Increase Appeal of Campus

By Maurice Selby

Renovations on the façade of the NAC and other facilities on campus are currently underway, making the sight of catwalks scaffolds and protective netting commonplace at CCNY. Despite the drab appearance created by the construction, many students haven't been inconvenienced by the work, however they would like to see the beauty of the school once again. These projects, in addition to the construction of other facilities, are apart of a 285 million dollar campaign to increase the aesthetic appeal of the campus. Included in CCNY's Strategic Plan for the First Decade of the 21st Century are plans to maintain and upgrade existing facilities at CCNY to ensure that both the students and faculty at City College are able to work in a safe and aesthetically pleasing environment. While this is something that doesn't bother too many people at CCNY, there are a few that are somewhat disturbed about the recent work, and can't wait for the bigger picture to emerge. "It's hard to stomach the appearance of the school these days," said Boris Kirichansky, a freshman engineering student here at CCNY.



NAC Renovation in 2006

This sight has become common once again at CCNY as the NAC and Compton Goethals are currently under renovation. The goal of these renovations is to increase the overall aesthetics of the campus.

"Renovations at my high school took several years to complete. I remember doubting I'd ever see the true structural beauty that was hidden under a shroud of scaffolding."

Kirichansky attended Curtis High School on Staten Island, which is one of the oldest public high schools in the city. A neo-gothic architectural marvel, the school has been designated as a landmark, which led to strict renovation guidelines that are tedious and that usually lead to a longer project time. "Because Curtis was designated as a landmark, renovating the building was not as simple as take down the old and put up something new," said Kirichansky. "They actually had to take out each brick one at a time, send it to be refurbished and then place it back in it's original position on the building."

While renovations on a good portion of Shephard hall have recently been completed, the NAC is still shrouded in scaffolding and protective netting along with Compton Goethals Hall in the northern part of the campus. As of right now, it has yet to be determined when these projects will be completed, however there has been recent success in upgrading some of the facilities on campus. The recent reopening of the student

lounge has bought some life to the campus and the construction of CCNY Towers is still on schedule and many students and faculty alike are looking forward to the opening of CCNY's first dormitory. The completion of those projects, coupled with ongoing renovations on campus, will no doubt lead to a more aesthetically pleasing CCNY.

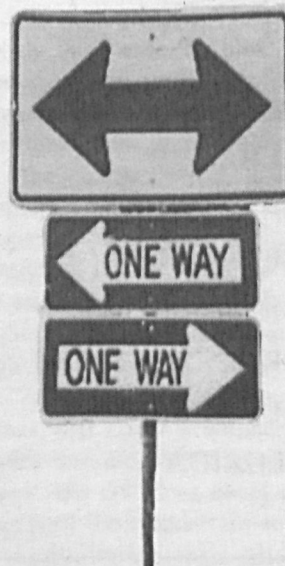
Which Way Do I Go?

By Ernesto Johnson

Has anyone noticed that there are very few signs posted around our campus that makes it known where things are located? If you are a visitor or a new student trying to make your way around you may have noticed that it's a trying ordeal. You may even feel as if you are walking in a maze. Until the various sites around campus become recognizable, or better yet, signs are posted, the best way to get around is to either ask for directions or get a map of the campus. Maps can be acquired from the North Academic Center (NAC) at the Information Desk on the first floor, or from the City College website (<http://www1.ccny.cuny.edu>)

An additional tip for visitors and new students who may need a hand getting around is to give yourself some extra time to locate your destination, and be patient.

Could you imagine New York City without street signs or traffic lights? Unthinkable right? I never knew how necessary signs were until I came to City, and neither should you.



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The Nuñez Nightlife Report 2006

By Juan Nuñez

Are you a CCNY student who is tired of spending dull weekends at home? *The Nuñez Nightlife Report* is the answer to your prayers. This section of *The Paper* is a new arrival for the benefit of all the students at City College. The report is the perfect tool to help you uncover the hottest nightclub where you can dance away the stress of classes. The report will range from locations where one can find dance or comedy clubs, to places that offer live entertainment, cheap drinks, or quiet conversation. The locations will be critiqued by a scale of one to five. So, if you are still looking to add that spark to your weekend? Let *The Nuñez Nightlife Report* be your guide to the vast New York City nightlife.

Rating =*

POOL HALL

Q Lounge

220 W. 19th St.
(bet. 7th & 8th Ave.)

(212) 358-8647

QUIET CONVERSATION

Angela's Share

8 Stuyvesant St., 2nd floor
9th street at 3rd avenue

(212) 777-5415

DANCE CLUB

Copacabana

560 W. 34th St.(11th Ave)

(212)239-2672

COFFEE HOUSES

Grey Doga's Coffee

33 Carmine St.
Take the 1 train to
Christopher St.

(212) 462-0041

KARAOKE BARS

Planet Rose

219 Ave. A
(bet. 13th & 14th St.)

**

(212) 353-9500

MUSIC CLUBS

The Delancey

168 Delancey St.
F/J/M/Z to Delancey/
Essex Sts.

(212) 254-9920

PUNK BARS

Ding Dong Lounge

929 Clumbus Ave.
(105th & 106th Sts.)

(212) 663-2600

COMEDY CLUBS

Gotham Comedy

34 W. 22nd St.
(bet. 5th & 6th Aves.)

(212) 367-9000

POETRY

Ode to A Lady

By Jonathan Kyei

Dear Billie,

*Lady sings the blues. Can you sing my blues too?
I've eaten strange fruit and seen what a little moonlight can do.
Except, it shines through me and illuminates the aura around you.*

*But on the day Lady died, many a fans felt jilted,
Making my music was over, the white gardenia had wilted.*

Can it be, that you're gone; heroin withdrawn.

Let us meet, Billie, in silk sheets.

I'll extract the needle, put it on a record.

Record the tragedy of a life so hectic.

Mama may have, but who can really say.

Papa may have, but he left it that way.

I wanted to play one of your tunes today,

To remember the Queen, they called Billie Holiday.

New York State of Mind

S H D E S B H Y P O N R M B B
A G B A O L N A N O O A F I
R R U W E A L E R C T L B I N
A U F E B T O A H R D S H T G
T B F L C N S E F S I L D K H
O S A P T E S P W N T S C A A
G T L A E T E I M R O A O C M
A T O K E R N R O E D S L N T
S A G R K V U P G N H R D M O
P L Y T I C K R O Y W E N U N
R P A L Q C T R O G E W S O H
I G L A O Y I S Y R A C U S E
N E X R N D M E H E L H T E B
G T B Y A L O N G I S L A N D
S U T I C A D I R O L F N E B

ADIRONDACK
ALBANY
BALDWINVILLE
BETHLEHEM
BINGHAMTON
BROCKPORT
BUFFALO
FLORIDA

GREECE
HARRISON
HEMPSTEAD
HUDSONFALLS
LONGISLAND
NEWYORKCITY
ONEONTA
OSWEGO

PERU
PLATTSBURGH
POTSDAM
ROCHESTER
SARATOGASPRINGS
SYRACUSE
UTICA

Cartoons Causes Pandemonium in Middle East

By Lindsie Augustin

Chaos and uproar surround Muslims in the Middle East over a number of cartoons published in the popular Danish Newspaper, the *Jyllands-Posten*. The cartoons first appeared on September 30 in the *Jyllands-Posten* and have since reappeared in several other publications mainly in Europe. The illustrations portray the Muslim Prophet Muhammad in a number of distasteful situations.

The most controversial of the cartoons portrayed the Prophet Muhammad carrying a lit bomb in his turban. With all the controversy surrounding the Muslim community, many are wondering why the

newspaper published the cartoons in the first place. The editor-in-chief, Carsten Juste stated, "We are sorry for any offence caused by the drawings but we can not apologize for freedom of expression."

The initial publishing of these cartoons and the reprinting of them have initiated large numbers of protests by the Muslim community worldwide. Hackers are constantly defacing Danish websites, and approximately 800 websites have already fallen victim to these types of attacks. Hackers have left messages cursing the region. Such as "explicit Demark" and "Let the Muslim people live in peace explicit." Approximately 16 people worldwide have lost their lives because of these cartoons. Not to mention, these cartoons

have also lead to attacks at the Danish embassies in Beirut, Damascus, Tehran, and London.

Many Muslims are now living with a hatred for the Danish. Fifteen Muslim countries are boycotting all Danish made products; causing nearly 200 people to lose their jobs in Denmark. According to the Afghan Islamic Press, a top Taliban commander has offered 100 kilograms of gold for the murder of the one responsible for the "blasphemous" cartoons.

While the *Jyllands-Posten* regrets being the cause of such turmoil, they do not regret publishing the cartoons. "We are on the way to a slippery slope, where no one can tell how the self censorship will end"- *Jyllands-Posten* editorial.



Illustration of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad that caused uproar in Danish newspaper, the *Jyllands Posten*

BIGGER, BETTER, BLACKER

Written by
Adrien Nicholas

Those were the words used to describe not a Chris Rock or Dave Chappelle comedy show, but the recently held "Holla Black" event. Heralded as night for community and celebration, the organizers held up and moreover surpassed expectations. The event was held in the Aronow Theatre, here at City College by collaboration of various clubs.

After exiting the line, which spanned from the theatre to the security desk, supporters were able to an exhibition chronicling various figures from the black Diaspora. Of particular note were two exhibits, one in remembrance of the late Coretta King and another celebrating some

of City College's own stars: Dr. Edward Scobey, Dr Leonard Jeffries and Dr Neville Parker amongst others. While waiting for show to commence the lyrics of artists such as Bob Marley and Sizzla filled the hall.

The music lowered and the words of Eternal and Christ-is broke the silence. The spoken word performance prepared the consciousness to be awakened by the show. The energetic hosts added fuel to the now rekindled fire. The highlights of "Holla Black" commenced. A troupe of high school and elementary students walked upon the stage quite relaxed; their dance performance was the opposite. They burned the stage to the tune of Sean Paul, but they did not stop there. They willie bounced, leaned back, leaned with it, dropped it and even got crank to Dem Franchise Boyz. The applause was deafening. Poetry and spoken word followed, from our own colleagues. The curtains

were drawn close once more.

After a pause, were reopened to young men in loincloths, a couple ordained brightly colored garments. That was the first scene of the skit *The Strength of a Woman - the Story of Nanny*. The skit illustrated an initiation of the young men, which showcased the lovely dancing of the beautiful ladies of African Dance Association. The scene was closed to the raiding by slave traders. Red lights accompanied the solemn singing of Jelani and Chike during the heartfelt scene of captivity. The skit continued next at a plantation setting in Jamaica. Here showcased was the brilliant, precise stepping of HAVIC and talented voices of Roshai and Bernice. We continued to the escape, were the death and spoken word of Ron signaled to the audience the necessity of changed thinking. The skit closed with the foiled lynching and selling of slaves by Nanny.

The rest of the night remained upbeat.

SPAC & ADA performed a dance celebrated the reunification of Africans, Caribbean people, and African Americans. Jelani represented for the men, with his rap titled "I am a Black Man"?. Jerry enlightened the room with his spoken word performance. The heat was increased with the energy filled dance performance of the Black Out Squad. Chike reiterated the cause for rebellion against mental slavery with his spoken word performance "I Refuse"?. The evening closed to the chanting by two Rastafarian artistes calling for the purification of minds, hearts and souls.

The performances spanned ages, cultures, and beyond boundaries, unifying the Black Diaspora for that one night, hopefully the candle keeps a light beyond that one evening. Thank you everyone who helped in biggest ever "Holla Black" event on City College campus. We started as collaborators, we shall continue as friends. Forward Ever, Backwards Never.

ARE OUR CIVIL RIGHTS IN JEOPARDY?



President Bush shakes hands with Judge Samuel A. Alito in the Roosevelt Room of the White House.

By: Lindsie Augustin

We live in a country where many things are taken for granted. People never think twice about their civil rights. It would never occur to anyone that the basic rights we live by can be taken away. Truth is the rights we now have such as the freedom of speech, religion, and

press, can be over turned by the Supreme Court. With that in mind, we must consider how the conformation of Judge Samuel Alito will affect us in the long run now that he has been elected into the Supreme Court.

On January 31, 2006, Judge Samuel Alito became the nations 110th Supreme Court Justice. It's not surprising that many question Alito's nomination; however it is surprising that many did nothing to prevent his conformation. Becoming a Supreme Court Justice is a lifetime position. With Alito in office there is a chance many of the landmark cases that establish our rights can be reversed. Alito's history as a judge show extremely disturbing amounts of decisions that challenges our civil liberties, civil rights and basic fundamental freedoms. Alito's interpretation of the Constitution threatens its exact purpose, which is to protect the civil rights of all Americans.

Alito has a widespread record of conservative rulings on issues such as abor-

tion, federalism, and discrimination. According to NARAL President Nancy Keenan, "Alito's confirmation could shift the court in a direction that threatens to eviscerate the core protection for women's freedom guaranteed by *Roe v. Wade* or overturn the landmark decision altogether." is interpretations of race, disability, gender and age discrimination laws make it nearly impossible for individuals to prove their case to him. According to www.save_our_courts.org, Alito has been accused of favoring the state rights over the rights of the individual Americans. Due to the conservative makeup of the Supreme Court many rights could be in jeopardy. With Alito joining judges like Justice Scalia and Thomas on the bench, decisions made could reek havoc on our rights, leaving many vulnerable to civil rights violations.

Alito's conformation into the Supreme Court will affect a number of important issues that are currently on the chopping block. His decisions could affect the outcomes of these issues for several decades. If discrimination cases like *Alexander v.*

Sandoral (2001) and *Grutter v. Bollinger* (2003) are overturned this will make it extremely difficult for individuals to come find justice from violations of racial discrimination and limit the amount of affirmative action programs dedicated to enhance diversity.

What it all comes down to is how important our civil rights are to us. Individuals like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks dedicated their lives to ensuring that everyone receives the rights they are entitled to. To allow a man like Justice Alito into office, actually undermines everything they've worked for. Imagine life without the right to vote or to speak out against discrimination, it's a scary thought. It's imperative that the public becomes aware of what's going on in the government. While the severity of Alito's conformation may not be apparent now, it may perhaps play a major role in our futures for many years to come. Our ancestors experienced numerous trails and tribulations to secure a better future for us. Now it is up to us to take action and guarantee future generations these same privileges.

Schools in the Gulf Coast

By Edgar Williams

Dillard University, one of many schools in the New Orleans area, has reopened its doors after the devastating hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast last year. Dillard University, located in the Gentilly area of New Orleans, Louisiana, was forced to evacuate all students and faculty a week after the start of the fall semester. The campus was flooded and three dorms burned down, destroying everything inside. Students were advised to attend schools of their choice elsewhere.

Currently, the campus is being renovated to open for the upcoming fall semester of 2006. The students at Dillard are currently living in the Hilton Riverside hotel located in the downtown area of New Orleans, has provided temporary housing for the students, many of whom are from other states. In addition to housing Dillard University students, the Hilton has continued with regular business, generating confusion between the students and other guests of the hotel.

This is mainly because of the fact that students are located all throughout the hotel instead of in a specific part of the building. Students are located in different buildings and are so spread out on floors that range from 6-23 and according to many students, it has become hard to find one another.

Classes are being conducted in cubicles in the hotel's trade show area. Dillard University must contend with other displaced people like members of the local fire department and Dillard University faculty members. Students are depending on finan-

cial aid to fund the tuition as well as the stay at the hotel.

Most of the students that attended Dillard prior to Katrina were not expecting to return, and the students that did return are a limited few. The President of Dillard, Marvalene Hughes, was only expecting a quarter of the 2100 students population to return but just about half the students returned and some of them were sent packing back where they came from.

Many students were sent back because Dillard could not hold that many people in the hotel. Dillard accepted about 300 new students and turned away students that were already in their system and looking to graduate.

Xavier University, the only historically black Catholic university in the nation, only expected about half of their 4100 students population to return to the campus, but over 3000 students returned to the campus surrounded by empty houses and boarded up shops. Located 5 miles away from the Hilton hotel in the Midtown area of New Orleans, students returned to freshly painted buildings and a semi restored campus. However they can't help but notice the destruction around them. The university's campus is known for their high rise buildings separated by several residential blocks. The residential blocks that intervene throughout the campus are all empty with high dark water marks. What was once a parking lot is now a trailer park hosting faculty and other staff. One administrator at Xavier believes so many students returned because of the university's remarkable records in pharmacy and pre-med. The nation

has received more black pharmacist and medical students from Xavier University than any other undergraduate institution. Due to Katrina 30 percent of Xavier's faculty remain laid off. Xavier and Dillard Universities were hit the hardest in comparison with other schools located on higher ground.

Tulane University expected three-quarters of its 12,500 students and reported a return of 88% of them. Due to the flood damage, the university is having trouble locating housing for students. An apartment complex was purchased to house students, but it is not enough to hold the massive population that has returned. In addition to the apartment complex, students will also be housed on a Greek cruise ship docked in the Mississippi river just minutes from the New Orleans Hilton Riverside hotel where Dillard University students are currently located. The university has laid off hundreds of faculty in the medical departments, eliminated sports programs, and cut various academic programs.

Classes started for Tulane University students on January 17, and they returned to find out that a lot of changes have been made. About two-thirds of Tulane's facilities flooded, including dormitories. The medical students now have limited clinical programs so their studies will consist of mainly research.

The clinical programs have been reduced due to a lack of patients to care for in the area. Clinical faculty jobs make up about three-quarters of the cuts. Due to this the medical students will not be returning from Texas until the fall semester.

Most of the other layoffs are in the engineering departments. All engineering pro-

grams have been cut except biomedical and chemical engineering. Civil and environmental engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and computer science, computer engineering and exercise and sports science are the five out of seven engineering programs that were cut.

Over half of the doctoral programs including English, economics, and statistics are also being cut. Students in these discontinued programs will still be able to continue with these programs if requirements are met and completed by May 2007.

Of the sports programs that are being eliminated are men's track and cross-country, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's golf, and women's swimming and soccer. Football, baseball, men's and women's basketball, volleyball and women's indoor and outdoor track and cross-country are the sports programs that will remain. Academic scholarships in the programs that were eliminated will still be honored, as will be the sports which will still be active.

For the fall semester of 2006 changes have been made and new requirements have been added. Students are now required to participate in a public service project in order to graduate.

The graduate school will not be functioning as an administrative entity, they will now be functioning under the authority of the departments where they are working. Faculty in the Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering will be reorganized to the school of Liberal Arts and the school of Engineering and Sciences.

TWO WOMEN ELECTED AS PRESIDENT

By Julia Dodson

Has the world shifted? Apparently so, since for the first time ever, both Liberia and Chile have female presidents. In January 2006, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Michelle Bachelet of Chile both managed to beat the odds of history and become their country's first head of state. While their journey to the point at which they stand was not easy. The road ahead is lined with challenges they both willingly accept, in hopes to make changes that will positively affect their countries and it's people.

"Only a man can be strong enough to deal with all the excombatants. Liberia just isn't ready to have a woman leader yet." Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has put to rest the idea that women are not competent enough to be major political power players. Aside from demolishing the common idea of female inferiority, she beat out her much less qualified opponent Liberian soccer hero, George Weah. Sirleaf managed to beat Weah in the second round of the election by ninety one percent.

After losing, Weah claimed election fraud saying officials were tainting the race; but all officials have since said the race was clean. Political analysts said, Weah was banking on his fame as a soccer star to help him win the election but many believe he is not politically savvy enough to deal with the challenges Liberia is facing.

On January 16, 2006 Sirleaf was sworn into office. At her inauguration, Sirleaf a member of the Unity party, presented friendship and solidarity to all other political parties in an attempt to maintain peace in Liberia. She also understands that corruption will be one of her greatest adversaries. The people have great faith that she is a capable leader and rightfully so. She is a long time member of Africa's political scene, a Harvard educa-

tion economist, employed by the World Bank and served as minister of finance for Africa at United Nations Development program. Sirleaf ran on a platform of reconciliation and reconstruction; reconciliation to recover from Liberia's fourteen year civil war and reconstruction to rebuild. Liberians believe in Sirleaf because she too has suffered from the instability and irrationalness of a dictatorship, in this case Dictator Charles Taylor. She has been imprisoned and went into exile twice for speaking out against the country's regime; this makes her connection to the Liberian people that much stronger. While some see Sirleaf's gender as a disadvantage many see it as an asset. Supporter's say Liberia needs a mother's touch to heal it country's wounds; she may just be what the doctor ordered.

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is not the only woman who is stirring up international politics. Chile like Liberia has elected their first female president, Michelle Bachelet. Bachelet went face to face in the presidential election with billionaire business man and former senator Sebastian Pinera, winning fifty three percent of the votes. Her campaign platform was based on continuing the improvement of Chile's free market legislation and working on the development of the country's social benefits, with the ultimate goal of closing Chile's very large economic gaps.

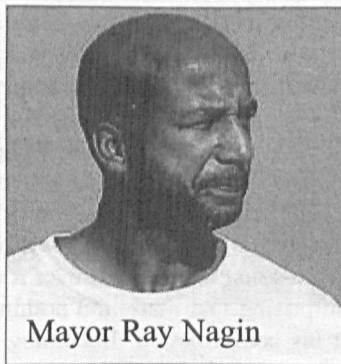
Bachelet is no stranger to Chile's political realm. She served as the Health and Defense minister during the Lagos administration. Much of Bachelet's work as Chile's head of state will be spent trying to repair the political and economic damage done by Dictator General Augusto Pinochet. Bachelet well understands the damage which Chile has undergone from its previous regime under all too well. She and her family were captured, tortured, and exiled out of Chile. There are high expectations placed upon her to assist and expedite the recuperation of Chile.

Bachelet's election into office is shocking since Chile is an extremely socially conservative Roman Catholic state; many say this is a big socio-cultural move. Such movement makes me wonder what does this all mean. For a country which regards others as being third world, American ideas towards a number of things especially woman seems awfully narrow. Are women now being seen as just as capable as men?

If this nation is so much more progressive than other countries which are considered

less advanced why are women still seen as inadequate in comparison to men? The only suitable answer to these questions is there is no good reason why women shouldn't be seen as capable and competent in regards to men. Perhaps this is evident in the unprecedented election of two women in presidential positions. This reality may not be so far for America with the potential of Hilary Clinton running for presidential office in 2008, perhaps giving American politics just what it needs to get its act together!

The Big "Chocolate" Easy



Mayor Ray Nagin

By Orin Abel

On Monday January 12th, whilst attending a function in remembrance of Dr Martin Luther King jr., Ray Nagin the mayor of New Orleans vowed that the city should become all "chocolate". That is to say that the city of New Orleans should be all black.

The mayor's comments undermine the message and dream of Dr King, who preached unity rather than discord

amongst the races. In addition, the mayor's words come as the latest block as New Orleans struggles to rebuild following the destruction of Hurricane Katrina.

The city's racial divide was made apparent following the refugee disaster that ensued after Katrina. It was discovered that many Blacks in the city were unable to evacuate due to the financial disparity between the races of the city.

Following this discovery many steps needed to be taken to level the disparity between the races of the city. Is rebuilding the race relations in New Orleans possible under the supervision of Mayor Nagin? Accordingly Mayor Ray Nagin has since apologized for his comments citing that his "chocolate" city required both "dark chocolate" and "White Milk".

A study from Brown University found that as much as 80% of Blacks may not be able to return to the Big Easy. In a city whose racial makeup may change drastically the backlash of his words may well be felt for the time to come.

SISTERS, IS BLACK HAIR BEAUTIFUL?

By Ernesto Johnson

Hair for all women is their crowning glory. Hair expresses to the world how women feel about themselves. From the beginning of time, women of color have spent time and energy trying to discover hairdos that are easily managed and attractive.

In the 19th century, Madame C.J. Walker built a multi-million dollar cosmetic empire with innovative products geared to help women of color deal with the difficulties of caring for and maintaining their unique hair textures. Madame Walker's hair products, alongside her competitors, promised consumers many miracles. Some products were effective, but not all. Back then, many of these products purported to make short hair longer, kinky hair straight and troublesome hair more manageable, regardless of how woolly or knotty their original hair was.

Women of color continue to face a large challenge and that is, how to present their crown to the world while still embracing who they are. Although we live in a diverse society, African American women seem largely to identify with hairdos belonging to other cultures.

Take for example the blond hair trend. The idiom Blondes have more fun appears to resonate strongly with black women as it may for white women because there are many black women who wear their hair blonde. This generation of black women has totally embraced the beauty standards held by the dominant culture, while they struggle to embrace or even denounce their own ethnic identity. Black women in the entertainment field exemplify this notion since a majority of them are blonde. Mary J. Blige, Lil Kim, Keisha Cole, Beyonce, Vanessa Williams, Eve, Faith, Ciara are just a few examples. It's no wonder why so many women identify with celebrities, but it is somewhat peculiar to see so many of them altering their appearance to look less ethnic, in favor of a more universal look. Sadly, they all appear to be clones.

We'll never really know if the expres-



Recommended book on Black Hair Care

sion Blondes have more fun? holds true, but what is a known fact is that many blacks grapple to embrace the notion that Black is beautiful. Gauging from all of the alternative measures some women take to style their hair, it's arguable that some don't feel as if their own hair is beautiful, or rather, as beautiful as their European sisters. Some have made hair more manageable, and attractive. Are women who do not identify with hairstyles indicative of their roots insecure about their ethnic heritage? Why is it that you would rarely find Asian or Muslim (and others too) women who blonde their hair yet black women are so inclined to go blonde? Why aren't all women influenced by the dominating culture. Who teaches or what teaches black women not to embrace themselves? The notion that Black is beautiful is seldom exhibited through these women's appearance because those who add length or another texture are attempting to look like someone else.

Braids, extensions, wigs and weaves have become the answer for women with short hair but is short hair so appalling? With time and dedication, the length or fullness that they wish for can be naturally

Mary J. Blige, Lil Kim, Keisha Cole, Beyonce, Vanessa Williams, Eve, Faith, Ciara are just a few examples. It's no wonder why so many women identify with celebrities, but it is somewhat peculiar to see so many of them altering their appearance to look less ethnic, in favor of a more universal look. Sadly, they all appear to be clones.

attained. Even young girls have taken to these hair techniques now. My friend Tina said, "Those hairstyles are just easier to manage than doing your own hair and that saves us time and effort." The irony with weaves, wigs and braids is that although it does provide a short term solution, prolonged use can cause hair loss, especially around the hair line areas. In effect, both subconsciously and deliberately, a large majority of women who sport these contrived hair styles overlook the damage these styles can cause, all in favor of a more exotic and accepted look.

Straight, curly, or long hair is characteristically considered idyllic, or good hair while hair that is woolly, thick and/or short is resented and deemed undesirable or ugly. In some cases, women who have thick, woolly hair have been referred to as someone who has naps which is a deprecating term that means really bad hair. Nevertheless, because of the texture some may have, many Blacks have to toil with their hair far more than people from other backgrounds, but that aspect alone does not make them any less beautiful.

In Harlem, all along 125th street head

shops ran by Africans turn huge profits providing young black girls and women hair styles radically different from their own. Nowadays, having your own hair has become outdated and within a few hours, anyone can be made to look like

Pamela Anderson, Marilyn Monroe, or even Lil Kim if they have the money. What many women should be aware of is the fact that not all hair stylist or hair technicians are competent and some incidentally mistreat or misinform customers about proper hair care and suitable hair care products.

Like other cosmetic procedures, extensions, wigs and weaves can become habitual and expensive, yet regardless of the expense and the dependency (and in some cases hair loss) these hair styles can pose, they are still heavily demanded; especially from those who benefit from the convenience these alternatives supposedly provide. Nowadays, people must also educate themselves.

Cosmetics should not be the only solution for women with unmanageable hair. Many of the answers to the challenges they face can be resolved with patience.

Desperate for solutions, some women try almost anything with hopes of finding a look that they are comfortable with but some go excessively far, like hip hop recording artist, Lil Kim who no longer resemble a woman of color. Cosmetics ought to simply offer some variety and short-term solutions, not anything permanent, nor anything that would make you appear to love yourself any less. Perhaps everyone has something that they would like to change or enhance about themselves, but there are some things people just have to accept. Looking good takes time and effort and some people are merely interested in the results, not the process. Having long hair takes years



Lil Kim with blonde weave

to attain and for women who desire length, patience is the key. Another key is learning how to take care of the hair you were born with. Most hair alternatives only mask the underlying problem.

People of color have far greater challenges when it comes to maintaining their hair, but thanks to the advances Madame C.J. Walker made, there are far more options available. The once formidable kinks, naps, peezy, knotted hair can now be managed with perms and relaxers and the stigma that some have of bad hair, their own hair should now be a thing of the past in 2006. Everyone deserves to sport a look that makes them feel comfortable without ignoring their true identity.

Black women, in the words of the immortal Barry White:

Don't go changing

Trying to please me

You never let me down before

I love you just the way you are...

A Drop in Black Students at City

continued from page 1

African American and poor even more opportunities than most other CUNY senior colleges offered. Now the testing policy turns many of the students away. And even when they do get admitted, rising tuition has made it difficult for them to stay.

Data summarized by Lavin and Hyllegard in their 1997 book, *Changing the Odds*, indicate that African American students took advantage of Open Admissions and often achieved stunning success. Now, at City College in particu-

lar, the doors are closing on them.

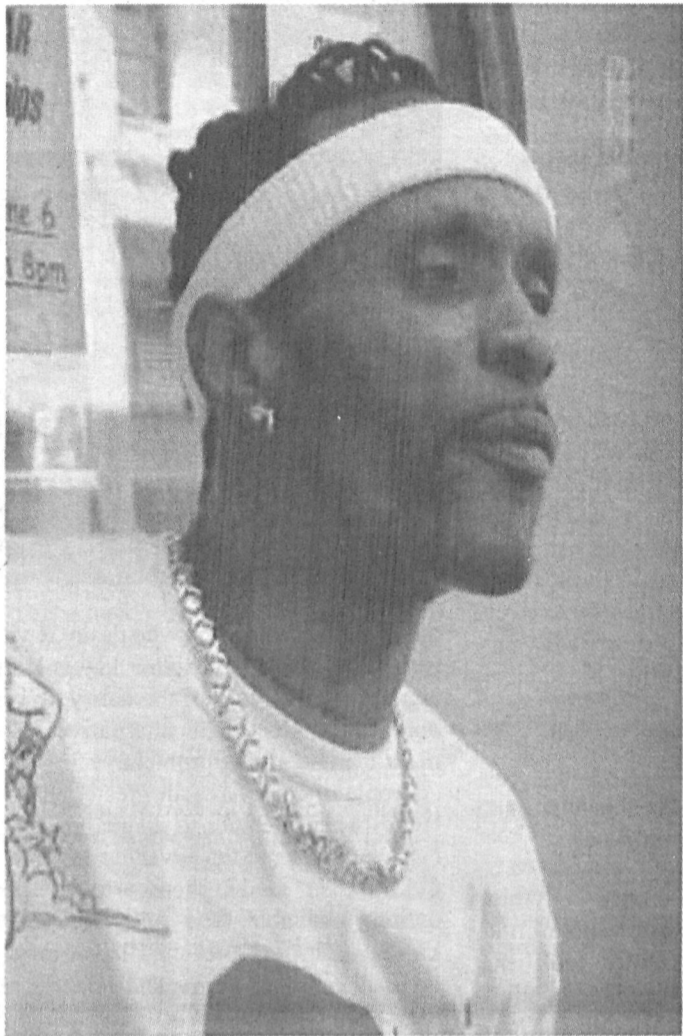
Latino students, to be sure, also have felt the brunt of test-dominated admissions and rising tuition, but they don't show similar declines because of the significant growth of the Latino population in New York City.

I want to emphasize that my comments on the testing and tuition barriers are speculative. I hope others come up with other hypotheses that might explain the loss of students of African descent. But whatever the reasons for the loss, it is serious. Bill Crain is Professor of Psychology at The College. His extension is 5650.

Gerald Levy aka Bogle

REGGAE DANCE BATTLE: WHAT HAS BECOME OF REGGAE MUSIC?

By: *Lindsie Augustin and Teshaka Bond*



Bogle's murder. How could dancing be the cause of such turmoil? Truth be told, reggae dance competitions are taken very seriously. Troy Smith, age 19, and a member of Hot it Up Dancers stated, "Well si wa mi a sey, all dem war yea a gwan between dancers zeen is dat everybody want fi have dem own war like John Hype and fadda Bogle. An di next ting is all about competition an nobody no want fi see a next man or next group advance inna party an get more vibez

Dancehall & Culture music has had a great impact in reggae music over the years. With the success of popular reggae artists such as Elephant Man, Sean Paul and Beenie Man, reggae music continues to grow worldwide. Many of the new songs also inspire new dances. Dances like "Bad man forward Bad man pull out", "Out-and-bad", and "Willie bounce", have fueled competitions between different dance groups. What people may not know, or understand is how important reggae dance battles are and how intense they can become for many partygoers.

On January 20, 2005 Gerald Levy, better known as Bogle, a popular reggae dancer along with four other people was shot and killed in Jamaica, while making a stop at a local service station; when two men opened fire on their vehicle. Bogle was pounced dead at the hospital. While the exact motive behind his murder is still a mystery, many believe a dance battle may have sparked his death. Because of previous confrontations, a rival dancer, John Hype has been accused of being involved with

from di crowd dan dem. (Hear is what I am saying, the reason is because so many people want to have their own war like the one between John Hype and the late Bogle. Its also a matter of competition, nobody wants to see another person or group get their shine or receive more respect from the crowds in a party)'_ Smith is not the only one who feels this way. Paul Gomez, age 18, and a member of the dance team Humanity feels there is a war between reggae dancers, because each dancer has a different style which is loved by a variety of people and this [could] results in one dancer trying to out do another to get that spotlight; this is taken seriously by an individual and it results in violence to show who is bad and top of the top in dancing._ In many ways these dance battles mirror that of many professional sports. Those that are involved with the reggae dance culture have a great passion for it and are eager to prove that they're the best by any means. Unfortunately, with all the violence surrounding these dance battles, the reggae culture in itself is suffering the consequences.

Sports Roundup

By *Juan Nuñez*

After two consecutive season losses, the CCNY Men's Basketball Team continued their streak as they lost 60-69 to York College on February 18th. The five new transfers, who now seem to structure the team, became great assets as they helped improve last season's record, which was 8-19 overall. The Beavers ended the regular season 12-13 overall. Hopefully, next season they can bring home the trophy. The CCNY Women's Basketball

Team ended their season with a record of 1-22.

The Men's Volleyball team is off to a weak start as they sustain a record of 4-6. Hopefully, under the direction of Coach Caiaccia, the team can reform itself and restore those successful seasons that they had from 2000-2003.

The Women's Volleyball Team finished with a record of 8-19 in the regular season and 6-4 in the CUNYAC Tournament. They lost to Baruch College by 3-0 at Nat Holman Gymnasium.

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