

The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Volume 5

MAY 2006
2ND EDITION

"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

ELECTION SCANDAL

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By Ernesto Johnson

Can you recall the shock the nation felt during the 2000 presidential election between Al Gore and current President, George W. Bush? Many felt the outcome was unfair for a number of reasons, but one of the larger issues of that election concerned disenfranchised voters and other irregularities with thousands of ballots. In that election, Florida's Supreme Courts determined the winner, not the voters. This became extremely controversial because the people who ultimately determined the outcome of that election were closely linked to President Bush and many individuals felt they handed him the election.

History always seems to repeat itself and although much has changed since that controversial election, much has remained the same and some of issues that affected the 2000 presidential election, appears to have compromised City College's recent election.

On May 2-4th, City College held its first online Undergraduate Student Elections.

The candidates were Iqbal Mahamud who ran under the Diversity slate, Leon Abbo AAA's candidate and Chike Ukaegbu, City Unity's candidate.

The election was riddled with flaws. Deciding to move the voting process online without educating or informing voters about that sweeping change was just one of the problems. In addition, the elections were administered without any supervision in unregulated environments, which could have precipitated foul play on several fronts. Furthermore, many voters were not allowed the opportunity to vote due to a hitch linked to the registration process. This detail alone disenfranchised many potential voters, and it serves as a reminder to the many schisms displayed in the past two national elections.

To top all of that, the election's governing body, the Student Election Review Committee (SERC), will not certify the recent elections due to alleged claims of fraudulent activities committed by Iqbal Mahamud, the candidate with the majority

of votes. The charges claim that online registration was open to a hacker who accessed students email accounts and fraudulently cast 41 ballots, amongst other charges. Coincidentally, those ballots were made from a computer located within the student government office where Mahamud and others serves as a rep.

Another oddity involving this election is the tightly linked associations between some members of SERC and members of the AAA slate. Several of the candidates who ran for office feel that their association raises issues about their ability to arbitrate this matter objectively.

Gabbidon, O'Lanso, a member of SERC states that student elections will be redone in during the fall semester this September.

Mahamud states, "I have not committed any fraudulent act and this is not fair."

Thus far, Mahamud claims that no evidence has been furnished that unequivocally links him to any wrongdoing and he is totally shocked by the charges. He also states that everything said so far is only hearsay.

A Look Into MAPS

By Christian H. Bijoux

Christian H. Bijoux, president and Kevin M. Charles, secretary of The Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS) Chapter at The City College of New York has been working extremely hard on a program they founded. This program is designed to give twenty-five students of minority background an opportunity to engage in a summer program where they will be taught and mentored by

CCNY students.

Bijoux and Charles have been working behind closed doors to form a partnership with Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). This partnership between a student organization and the well respected HHMI will not only provide more minority students with an opportunity to gain experience in biological and physical sciences, it will potentially open door for other student organizations to become more vocal on campus.

Too often student organizations are not taken seriously by both student and faculty. MAPS seeks to be seen as more than just a student organization on campus. With the support of faculty members such as Professor Micheal Samms, Ph.D, it will not take long for organization to become the "voice of the students". This programmed is also done in conjunction with the National Society of Black Engineer (NSBE).

THE IMMIGRATION DEBATE

By Orin Abel

On the 1st of May, 2006, the passions of the immigration movement climaxed in what was termed "A Day without Immigrants". The event entailed that immigrants across the country stay home from school, work and refrain from buying or selling. The boycott aim was to show Congress and America, the might of the immigrant population in the United States. The boycott was accompanied with a series of marches across the country. In New York City, the march was held at Union Square. The May 1st boycott was the extension of marches held around the country on April 10th. The April marches drew hundreds of thousands of immigrants around the country.

Like its predecessor, the march on May Day targeted the HR 4437 bill which was passed by the House of Representatives in December. The bill, which is stalled in the Senate, would make illegal immigrants and their sympathizers, felons. Ever since, the immigration population has taken to the streets in a show of solidarity for the cause of humane

immigration reform. There are an estimated 12 million illegal immigrant in the United States. Thus the impact of HR 4437 is sure to be felt throughout the immigrant population.

The May 1st march and boycott comprised a total of 1 million legal and illegal immigrants. Across the country from L.A to Chicago, D.C to New York, immigrants set out to instigate change by sending a clear message to Congress, *Legalization not Criminalization*. Around the country the move emptied immigrant neighborhoods, closing businesses and filling streets. Estimates placed the march at 400,000 in Chicago and tens of thousands in New York. Altogether millions took part in making it truly "A Day without Immigrant".

Though the protestors were predominantly Latino, there was ample representation from other immigrant groups as well. Many political analysts have argued that

the rallies may have a counter effect on Congress. Immigrants' attempt to show their Americanization may be undermined by the overrepresentation of their differing nationalities. In addition, the boycott might challenge the standing among opposing figures who may

view the actions as impudent. Still, the solidarity among immigrants cannot be brushed off. The boycott called attention to the immigrant's place in America. Surely the millions of immigrants that made May 1st "A Day without Immigrants" are a force to be reckoned with.



OP-ED AID BLACK MEN - HOW ABOUT FIXING THE BOYS?

By Damon Davis

In the March 2006 issue of *The Paper* there was an article that revealed the City University of New York (CUNY) created a task force to aid Black Men. As a Black male, I applaud such efforts; however I am very skeptical about the success of this program since there are so many issues plaguing black men outside of academia. However, I feel programs dedicated to help boys become men would be more beneficial so society.

About three years ago, Medgar Evers College (MEC), whose student body is about 20 percent male, established a program aimed at recruiting and retaining black males. What could be described as a freshman seminar course was divided into two semesters. The first part focuses on academic necessities such as study skills, enhancing interpersonal skills, learning critical thinking and balancing the demands of academic and social responsibilities. The second part focuses on problem solving skills in written and oral expression. This synopsis taken directly from MEC's website sounds pretty ambitious and I praise them for taking the lead in the CUNY system, but I do have some concerns about the viability of the program.

First and foremost, college is not for everybody. Accepting marginal students only complicates matters. Higher education is not a right; it's a privilege for those who can do the work. If there are some marginal students that exhibit potential then let them demonstrate their abilities in the community colleges. If they earn the associates degree in satisfactory standing and wish to further their education then I will personally greet them with open arms. If they are unsuccessful, then it's quite obvious that col-

lege is not for everybody. According to the report, "Leaving Boys Behind: Public High School Graduation Rates," conducted by the Manhattan Institute, only 59 percent of African-American girls in New York State received their diploma in 2003. Their male counterparts stood with less than half at 49 percent. In the nation's 100 largest school districts, New York City - the pool which CUNY draws a majority of their student body, has the third lowest overall graduation rate, at 43 percent. The graduation rate for African-American boys is 33 percent. I'll contend that all surveys have some flaws but the fact remains that students who are ill prepared to deal with the academic rigors of high school are probably not suitable for higher education. Granted, there are indeed a few that buck the odds but those numbers pale to the reality that a majority will not succeed. Fact is work needs to be done at the grammar, middle and high school levels, which are the responsibility of the New York City Department of Education and not an institution of higher learning. The foundation for success at any academic level starts at home.

I've had the opportunity to converse with several educators at the grammar school level and they all echo the sentiments that no politician will dare say. The real education begins at home. Teachers can only do but so much and if the parents are not going to reinforce their child's education at home, then half the battle is already lost. One teacher recalled when one of her 4th grade students came to school with a different pair of new tennis shoes for a week but failed to bring a pencil much less the required assignments. Parents are continuously dumping their responsibility on the public school system and now higher education wants to absorb these issues? This doesn't make any sense. Parents need to share in the accountability of the educa-

tion of their child. The external challenges, aside from substandard parenting facing black males are; the general obsession to immediate gratification, lack of sufficient role models other than athletes and rappers who promote individualism, materialism and excess and, the belief among black youth that an education and expanding ones knowledge is associated with being white. I want to be optimistic, however there are a number of issues that must be addressed and I strongly believe higher education is not a right but a privilege, where the only requirement (aside from finances) is that you demonstrate you can do the work. There are too many of these policy makers making decisions that fail to realize this. When you analyze the situation in reverse, you're inevitably punishing the individuals that went through the necessary channels and have taken the steps to get into college.

Young black males have the most difficult obstacles to overcome in America but some of these hurdles are self-inflicted, such as the mainstream use of a certain racial epithet. Though I have identified a number of issues that contributed to the plight of the young black male, there are slew, which I haven't addressed such as institutionalized racism. Indeed this is a tragedy and someday I hope a resolution is discovered but I seriously doubt the answer lies in higher education. You do not need a college education to become useful and a productive citizen in society. Wanting to achieve success in education is similar to a marriage. Both require commitment and drive that come from within, something that should be instilled from day one. Comedian Damon Wayans once quipped during a stand up routine, "I'd rather have my son be an out-of-touch nerd, than some cool mutherf****r in jail." This is something that young black men need to think about.

THE PAPER

The City College of New York
138th Street and
Convent Avenue
New York, NY 10031
Phone: (212) 650-5029
Fax: (212) 650-5022
Email: thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Lindsie Augustin
MANAGING EDITOR
Ernesto Johnson
VICE PRESIDENT
Orin Abel

FACULTY ADVISORS

Professor Herb Boyd
Gloria Thomas

STAFF WRITERS

Orin Abel
Teshaka Bond
Juan Nunez
Angelina Miller

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Professor William Crain
Gregory Smiley
Piaget A. Francis
Christian H. Bijoux
Cheryl Beckford

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Sonia Echeverria

We Apologize: Editorial Staff

Due to a simple graphic error the illustration on the front page of the May 2006 issue of *The Paper* was missing the name of the artist. We would like to acknowledge **Amina Umma** for her contribution to *The Paper* and extend our apologies for the mistake.

In the May 2006 edition of *The Paper*, and op-ed was written about a fellow student at CCNY. While everyone is entitled to his or her opinion the language of that piece was extremely offensive and vulgar. And because of that the editorial staff of *The Paper* would like offer our sincere apologize to **Jessica Sell**.

Correction

The candies that ran for the office of Presidency in the 2006 USG Elections were Leon Abbo (AAA), Chike Ukaegbu (City Unity), and Iqbal Mahamud (Diversity).

CCNY TOPS MODEL UN FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

CCNY Broadcast

NEW YORK, May 10, 2006 – The City College of New York's dominance in the annual model UN continues: For the third year running, CCNY took top honors at the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference held last month at the United Nations and Marriott Marquis hotel in New York. City was one of 15 institutions to receive an "Outstanding Delegation" award, the equivalent of a gold medal, in the 2006 competition, which attracted 240 colleges and universities from five continents. Junior Kathleen Thomas and sophomore Jessica Sell, both majoring in International Studies, served as Head Delegates for the 15-member CCNY contingent. "It's the depth of our diversity that makes our team so unique and strong," said Ms. Thomas just one of five Americans in the City College delegation. "We come from different backgrounds and cultures, but of course, we also work extremely

hard." Other CCNY participants came from the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and Latin America. The CCNY team represented the Bahamas in the competition and prepared for the conference by studying the island nation's position on a number of international issues. "The students prepared for 45 different topics including HIV/AIDS, disarmament, terrorism, human rights, development and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," said CCNY Assistant Professor of Political Science Isidro Medina, the team's Faculty Advisor, who taught the students how to research and debate the topics. In addition, Professor Medina, who teaches a "Model UN" class, which the students took before the conference, took the team to the Bahamian Mission to the United Nations in Manhattan for a briefing on how the country votes on the issues. "The students did the research and defended Bahamas' positions on the issues very well," he proudly noted. Two of

the CCNY envoys, Ms. Sell and International Studies junior Jeanette Mitchell, who graduated from high school in Trinidad and Tobago, were on last year's team. The other 2006 CCNY delegates were (major and homeland in parenthesis): Freshman Alvin Bradbury (International Studies/Jamaica); junior Joylyn Beresford (International Studies/Guyana); sophomore Mario Patino (International Studies/Colombia); junior Reuben Zorilla (International Studies/Dominican Republic); sophomore Ethan Frisch (International Studies-History/United States). Freshman Annie Durang Deng (Chemistry/China); sophomore Javier Smith (Engineering/Puerto Rico); senior Lauren Fasano (Political Science-English/United States); senior Josela Reales (Psychology-Political Science/Panama); junior Elyse Kreuser (International Studies-History/dual France-Germany); senior Ana Vlahov (Economics/Croatia) and senior Daniel

Sherman (Political Science/United States). NMUN, which is organized by the National Collegiate Conference Association, a non-governmental organization of the United Nations, is the world's largest university-level simulation of the United Nations. Every year, the conference educates more than 3,200 students (50% from outside the United States) about the United Nations and other contemporary international issues. Other American universities represented during the five-day conference included Pace University, Brigham Young University, University of Miami, Georgia State University, Syracuse University, Florida International University, University of Denver, University of California at Los Angeles and University of Colorado. The international participants included universities from Canada, Guyana, Mexico, Venezuela, Germany, England, France, Italy, Sweden, China, Korea, Japan, and the Philippines.

Op-Ed

You Can't Fool All The People All The Time!

By Piaget A. Francis

Democracy remains the most persistent and recurring challenge of our time. One thing for certain is that democracy requires participation; and on May 4th City College students declared their participation by casting approximately 1350 votes over the internet during this year's student government elections. This was the first time in the history of the school that the internet was used to facilitate voting. While this sudden and unannounced change in procedure seems to have had good intentions of accommodating students and increasing participation, the total number of votes decreased since last year's elections. The 2006 elections made history for several reasons, and will continue to provoke questions concerning the motives and effects of the changes in procedure.

There were three slates/teams vying for positions during this year's elections: *AAA*, a slate that has dominated the student government for the last three years; *City Unity*, a new slate launched a year ago, and *Diversity*, a newly formed slate. The results of the elections were astounding. Iqbal Mahmud from the *Diversity* slate came out on top as the President elect, winning by 62 votes. *City Unity* won four of the nine executive seats, and *AAA* won four executive seats, with three of the four winning by default since they had no contenders. Nevertheless, the results demonstrated that a radical change in power was eminent. Unfortunately, this change may never become a reality because the Student Elections Review Committee (SERC) denied certification, and declared the results null and void due to alleged fraudulent misconduct.

SERC is responsible for overseeing the entire student democratic process, and is comprised of faculty, staff, and student members. Currently the two known student representatives on the committee are Roberto Gordillo and Tahmeed Ahmad. Roberto Gordillo has been the Chair of the committee for the last three years, and Tahmeed Ahmad is the current student Ombudsman who won his position as a *AAA* member during the 2005 elections. These gentlemen played a part in the decision to inval-

idate this year's election results, based on an investigation that was prompted by student complaint. SERC claims that several students reported that they were unable to vote, because the voting system had already registered their votes. Following an investigation, SERC found that 46 votes were cast from a computer in the student government's office, which is a major violation of the election rules. SERC also claims to have the testimony of three students who accuse Iqbal Mahmud (*Diversity* President elect) of misconduct.

The extent and nature of the students' testimonies, and the claims made by SERC cannot be verified because SERC has yet to publish the minutes from past meetings. Although the committee is still in discussion, the elections remain uncertified and the entire *Diversity* slate has been disqualified with Iqbal Mahmud facing possible disciplinary hearing. These punitive actions taken by SERC demands a thorough investigation of all allegations and the corresponding evidence related to them. While no evidence has been published to support the claims made against the *Diversity* slate, the judgment has been made.

What we do know for a fact is that SERC made three major adjustments to the elections procedures this year. First, by changing the election days from April to May, SERC violated Article II of the Charter for Governance, which states that Senators should be elected during the month of April. Second, by reducing 50% of the total amount of money slates could spend on their campaigns (from \$500 to \$250), SERC limited the participants' abilities to campaign effectively. And Third, SERC approved internet voting with full recognition that it required the use of a CCNY e-mail address, and fully knowing that most City College student do not use their CCNY e-mail addresses. In consideration of these facts, as conscientious students, we are forced to examine the timing for these procedural changes and their relevance.

SERC's purpose is to supervise and facilitate the student electoral process, while providing policies for efficiency and maximum participation. Is it then a coincidence that their actions on face value seems to be contrary to their true purpose? Or, did the committee have

legitimate reasons for making the elections closer to final exams, limiting the individual slates' ability to campaign effectively by reducing their funds, and alienating students from the process by using the internet? Beyond the committee's intentions, a more ominous assessment revolves around the manifestations of their actions. Why did SERC declare the elections null and void? Why was the entire *Diversity* slate disqualified? And why is Iqbal Mahmud facing possible disciplinary hearing? In attempting to answer these questions, we can make one of two speculations. First, we may assert that the actions by SERC are merely unfortunate coincidences, which were done in the best interest for participation and integrity. Second, we may cautiously assert that SERC suspiciously changed the electoral rules, and subsequently nullified the election results in serving the interests of particular individuals. Whatever the case may be, it is reasonable to conclude that the entire SERC electoral process needs a full investigation and revision.

When we consider the fact that Student Government possesses the greatest power we have as students, we cannot be complacently ignorant of the process involved with electing its membership. Rather, we must be increasingly vigilant and committed to ensuring the most effective process for elections, while catering to the greatest potential for integrity. In light of the fact that enrollment has decreased for students of African ancestry, and in memory of the struggles that opened the doors of City College for today's minority students, we who remain possess the mounting responsibility for those who follow. Hence, the time is at hand for us to come together in city unity, and support the brave among us who stand up against injustice knowing the potential consequences. Let us give Iqbal Mahmud our full support during this very uncertain time, and seek always to be empowered by the conviction of truth and justice. In the words of Bob Marley,

"YOU CAN FOOL SOME PEOPLE SOME TIME, BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL ALL THE PEOPLE ALL THE TIME, SO NOW YOU SEE THE LIGHT, STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHT!"

50 Minority Scholarships

- 1) Ron Brown Scholarships
<http://www.ronbrown.org/>
- 2) FastWEB Scholarship Search <http://www.fastweb.com/>
- 3) United Negro College Fund Scholarships
<http://www.uncf.org/scholarships/uncfscholarship.asp>
- 4) Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarships
<http://www.jackierobinson.org/>
- 5) Intel Science Talent Search
<http://www.sciserv.org/sts>
- 6) Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund
<http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org/>
- 7) FinAid: The Smart Students Guide to Financial Aid (scholarships)
<http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/>
- 8) United Negro College Fund
<http://www.uncf.org/>
- 9) Gates Millennium Scholarships (Annual)
<http://www.gmss.org/hmr/vje1fdxdi0nwrbrmbd45/default.aspx>
- 10) McDonald's Scholarships (Annual)
<http://www.mcdonaldsnymetro.com/>
- 11) Broke Scholars Scholarships
<http://scholarships.brokescholar.com/>
- 12) National Society of Black Engineers Scholarships
<http://www.nspe.org/programs/>
- 13) National Merit Scholarships <http://www.nationalmerit.org/>
- 14) College Board Scholarship Search
http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbssearch_sa/welcome.jsp
- 15) Black Excel Scholarship Gateways
<http://www.blackexcel.org/>
- 16) FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- 17) LULAC - National Scholastic Achievement Awards
<http://mach25.collegenet.com/cgi-bin/M25/GetScholar?page=10177>
- 18) Scholarship & Financial Aid Help
<http://www.blackexcel.org/fin-sch.htm>
- 19) NAACP Scholarships
http://www.naacp.org/departments/education/scholarship_index.html
- 20) Paralegal Scholarships
<http://www.paralegals.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=13>
- 21) ScienceNet Scholarship Listing
<http://www.sciencenet.emory.edu/undergrad/scholarships.html>
- 22) Black Alliance for Educational Options Scholarships
<http://www.baeo.org/options/privatelyfinanced.jsp>
- 23) Siemens Foundation Competition
<http://www.siemens-foundation.org/>
- 24) College Board Scholarship Search
<http://cbweb10p.collegeboard.org/fundfinder/html/fundfind01.html>
- 25) International Students Scholarships & Aid Help
<http://www.iesfa.org/>
- 26) Historically Black College & University Scholarships
<http://www.iesabroad.org/info/hbcu.htm>
- 27) Guaranteed Scholarships
<http://www.guaranteed-scholarships.com/>
- 28) Hope Scholarships and Lifetime Learning Credits
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/PPI/HOPE/index.html>
- 29) Presidential Freedom Scholarships
<http://www.nationalservice.org/scholarships>
- 30) Sports Scholarships and Internships
<http://www.ncaa.org/about/scholarships.html>
- 31) Student Video Scholarships
<http://www.christophers.org/video2k.html>
- 32) Student Inventors Scholarships
<http://www.invent.org/collegiate/>
- 33) Decca Scholarships
<http://www.decca.org/scholarships/>
- 34) Black Student Fund
http://www.blackstudentfund.org/programs/FinAid/financial_aid.htm
- 35) Scholarships Pathways
<http://scholarshipspaths.blogspot.com/>
- 36) Private Scholarships For Seniors
<http://www.phs.d211.org/stsve/college/scholarships.asp>
- 37) ScienceNet Scholarship Listing
<http://www.sciencenet.emory.edu/undergrad/scholarships.html>
- 38) Chela Education Financing "Gateway to Success Scholarship"
<http://www.loans4students.org/>
- 39) Princeton Review Scholarships & Aid
<http://www.princetonreview.com/college/finance>
- 40) American Legion Scholarships
<http://www.legion.org/>
- 41) Free Scholarship Search
<http://www.srnexpress.com/>
- 42) 2005 Holocaust Remembrance Essay Contest
<http://www.holocaust.hklaw.com/>
- 43) Horace Mann Scholarship Program
<http://www.horacemann.com/scholarship>
- 44) Ayn Rand Institute
<http://www.aynrand.org/contests>
- 45) The David and Dovetta Wilson Scholarship Fund
<http://www.wilsonfund.org/>
- 46) Congressional Hispanic Scholarships
<http://www.cheyouth.org/>
- 47) Nursing Scholarships
<http://www.blackexcel.org/nursing-scholarships.html>
- 48) College-Bound High School Seniors - Scholarships
<http://scholarships.fatomei.com/scholar13.html>
- 49) AFROTC High School Scholarships
<http://www.afrotc.com/>
- 50) Minority Scholarships
<http://www.free-4u.com/minority.htm>

Nuñez Nightlife Report

By Juan Nunez

For this issue, I have decided to educate my fellow students about the theatre. Some students might say that "Broadway" is not for them, but it is never appropriate to knock it before trying it. Check-out the following selection I have put together for the pleasure of CCNY students. My hope is that a couple of you might end up enjoying the experience. Oh, by the way, feel free to visit Broadway.com for ticket information and show schedules.

The Color Purple

"The Color Purple is an inspiring and unforgettable story of a woman, who, through love, finds the strength to triumph over adversity and discover her unique voice in the world" (Broadway.com).

1681 Broadway
New York, NY, 10019
Bet. 52nd & 53rd St.
(212) 239-6200

Individual tickets on sale through: 10/15/06

Doubt

"A nun wages a moral war on a priest she suspects of foul play (Broadway.com).

Walter Kerr Theater
219 West 48th St.
New York, NY 10036
Bet. Broadway & 8th Ave
(212) 239-6200

Individual tickets on sale through: 9/17/06

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

A musical comedy about two con men who meet on a train and "unsuccessfully attempt to work together only to find that this small French town isn't big enough for the two of them" (Broadway.com). They agree on a bet: "the first one to extract \$50,000 from a young female target wins, and the other must leave town" (Broadway.com).

Imperial Theatre
249 West 45 St.
New York, NY 10036
(212) 239-6200

Bet. Broadway & 8th Ave
Individual tickets on sale through: 10/15/06

Some Girl(s) (Off Broadway)

"Neil LaBute's *Some Girl(s)* is a comedy straight from the trenches of the war between the sexes. "Man," a writer known only by that moniker, revisits four women from his past on his way up the aisle of matrimony. He invites each to his hotel room (in four different cities), intent on making sure there are no hard feelings, even though he has previously used their time together as material for his fictional work" (Broadway.com).

Lucille Lortel
121 Christopher Street
New York, NY 10014

Individual tickets on sale through: 6/24/06

Los Big Names (Off Broadway)

"This new solo show stars gay Latina performer Marga Gomez. It's an autobiographical play set in two eras: the New York Latin show business world of the '60s and Hollywood in the '90s. It follows the lives of an unconventional Latino family of three pursuing their dreams of fame and fortune" (Broadway.com).

47th Street Theatre
304 W 47th St
New York, NY 10036

Individual tickets on sale through: 6/4/06

EVENTS @ CITY

Chica Luna Workshop

April 3, 2006 - May 26, 2006

6:30 pm

(212) 410- 3544

Annual Student Photography Exhibition

May 2, 2006 - May 26, 2006

5:00 pm

Compton-Goethals

Room 220

City College Commencement 06

June 1, 2006

10:00 am

For more information call

(212) 650- 7580

DREAMgirls

June 23, 2006 - August 13, 2006

7:00 am

(212) 650- 5950

Aaron Davis Hall

Theater B

Seek Art Exhibit 2006

May 2, 2006 - June 2, 2006

12:00- 2:00

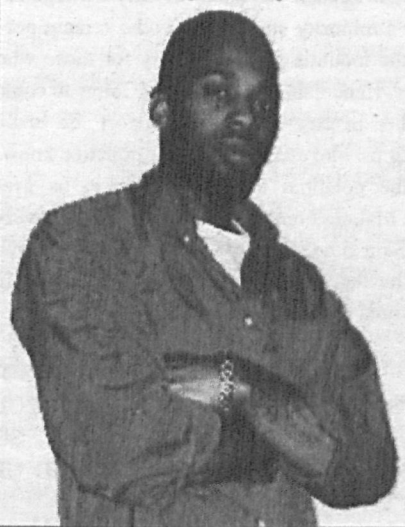
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The Devil

*The Whites of his eyes so full of shit that his stomach hurt
Cramped like over 500 years of menstruation
The period of his peers has caused over 500 years of frustration
The black rapist
Withdrawn in blood tears while swimming in defecation
The hues of his blues soak in the urine of dead skies dark maroon shot eyes
crying acid rain in which he plants his lies
Camouflaging his image he hides something in black face
Slowly eroding civilization into a desert waste
Claiming this land to be his place at the pit of his beastly ways digesting
what he BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL secretly praise
His smell glosses the eyes with blood as his touch numbs the body like that
white girl raw shit cooked and cracked so many of our brains a venom that
paralyzes the speech for when he opens his mouth his tongue release is poison
Suffocating the throat to the point most of us can't breath so for most of us
He breaths thoughts that bob wire and fuse our lips
The masses watch him feed starting and unable to eat to many sit with faith
And continue to believe while turning the other cheek waiting for relief
While others begin to release rebellion hells fiery for his pathology remains
fucking we transmitting verbal disease producing gonorrhea babies
He got our people fucking syphilis while others remain masturbating a
narcoleptic nation for he seeks genetic annihilation before physical birth
His narcotic words are in heavy does
He looks to feed his made narcosis making it sound and feel so good
many of us have become junkies
For he wanted to see the system of white supremacy live and in color
This illusion this falsification of how life should be he constructed
He gave us his artificial sight which is the result of his artificial shine so
artificial light would attract artificial life producing the struggle and fight for
a piece of his artificial pie
Thus many of us have accepted the life he wants us to live not fully
examining the statement within the question
To be Gods or not to be*

Eternal Mind

LIFE @ CCNY

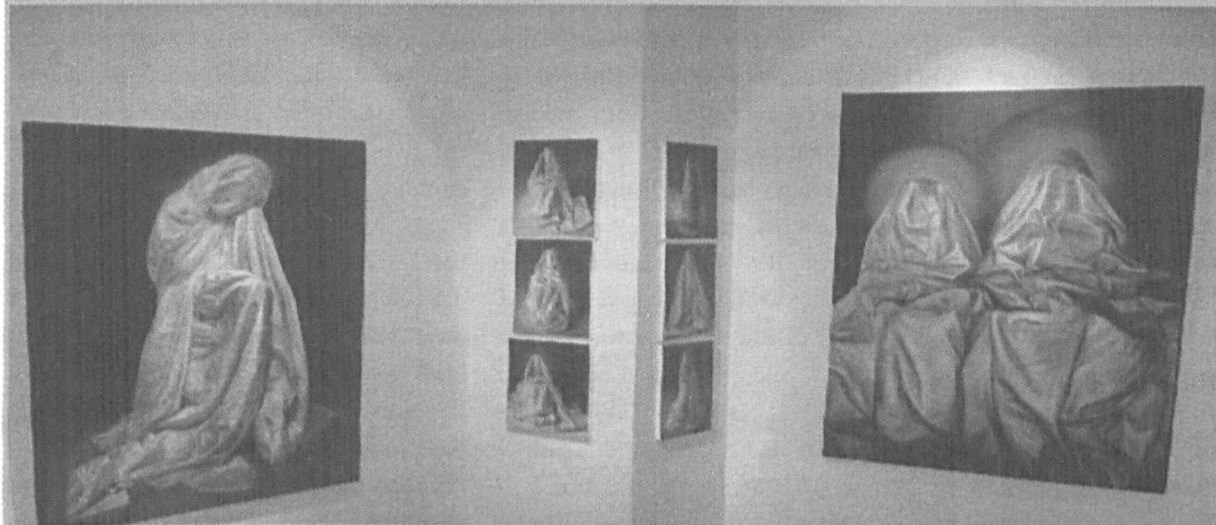
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Young Gifted & Black



The Jamaican born MFA student Marlene Smalling has graced the gallery space at IRADAC (The Institute for Research on the African Diaspora) with her one-woman show *Mother and Daughter*. The show exudes a power that reflects the indescribable bond between mother and child. The use of shrouded images leave to the imagination of the viewer what is taking place beneath the precisely folded fabric that encapsulates the two linked figures. What exist is known only to the artist but is open to the imagination of the observer. The bond that exists between mother and daughter is not visible to the naked eye; that which holds a child to its mother creates a bond intricately intertwined is shrouded in illusion and mystery.

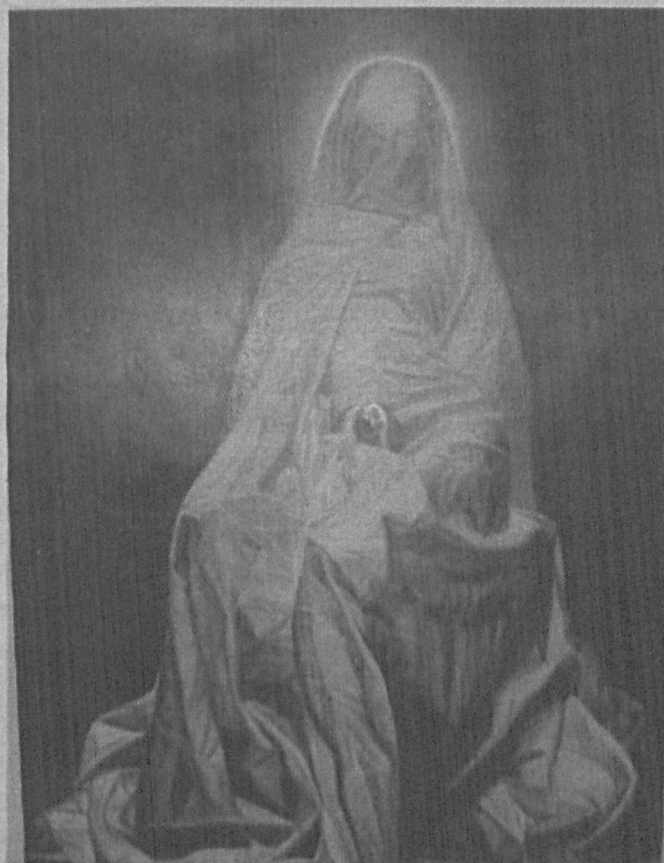
Imagery is the driving force behind her work. Smalling was influenced by Greek mythology and Western Religion to create her shrouded images that focus on the mysterious and universal connective bond between mother and daughter.

"In my most recent works, which consist of mostly oils on canvas and wire sculptures, I am depicting shrouded images that initially represents my experience of motherhood. These images then recalls the Madonna and Child, the Pieta and other similarly iconic effect. I usually pose with my daughter, covered with beautifully crinkled sheets that hide our faces and bodies that serve to heighten the sense of drama and mystery. The sheets have a Tran formative effect and began to take on a monumental and sculptural appearance, enhancing the sense of religious iconography."

"Greek myths such as Demeter and Persephone, is one of the most profound and important myths for me because it celebrates the relationship between mother and daughter and the primary aspects of life - the great mystery contained in the processes of birth, growth, death and regeneration, which the pair governs."

The artist choice of a Madonna and Child figure as a model suggest the absence of a father the bond is strictly one-sided. The use of the color red in three paintings is in shocking contrast to the black and white of the other pictures. The shrouded figure in three painting uses the persimmon to suggest fertility, which is explored in the other paintings of this series.

The artist selected Bobby McFadden's "Twenty Third Psalm" which continuously plays in the background, this and the lighting serves to catapult the viewer into another time and space. The show must be viewed more than once for the audience to truly get the total effect of this new emerging artist.



"MOTHER/DAUGHTER"

MARLENE SMALLING
MFA THESIS EXHIBITION

AT
THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK



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Commentary

How Far Have We Come?

By Lindsie Augustin

Years of pain and suffering surround the history of African Americans in this country. They fought long and hard to secure a suitable future for their families. Many lost their lives to assure future generations the ability to take advantage of all the splendors this world has to offer. But looking at the present generations, I'm left wondering if the battle for equality was fought in vain.

Think back to the times of oppression; when African Americans were considered to be nothing more than just the common mule. For approximately 250 years they were forced to endure constant ridicule, exploitation, and abuse. Finding relief only in songs of prayer and secret messages, as well as in individuals who sought to rebel against the powers that held them in bondage.

Imagine living day by day being called a "nigger." A term that with each time it's said strips you of all your dignity and self respect. Imagine seeing your mother, daughter, or sister being stripped of their innocence and you being unable to help them. Could you honestly live your life knowing that you are no better than a common household pet?

Fast forward to the late 1870's and early 1880's, when oppression was alive and well in other forms. African Americans were no longer expected to serve those "superior" to

them; however they were expected to remain ignorant fools. In these times, a "nigger" with an education was as common as lighting hitting the same place twice. Had it not been for individuals who dedicated their lives for our equality, such as Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Linda Brown (Brown v. Board of Education), who knows where African Americans would be now.

Now in 2006, how far have we really come? Approximately 150 years after slavery was abolished, does the younger generation of African Americans really appreciate what was achieved? I think not. If one were to take a closer look at the present generation, a true wave of disappointment will overcome you. Today black youths center their lives on a series of excuses. "The White man is keeping us down," a common and overused excuse by the black youth. While it may have held merit during the times of the Jim Crow laws, it doesn't stand true to in this day and age.

The times have changed; things that were beyond reach to African Americans are now more accessible. The problem is rather than the black youth take advantage of these benefits, they choose make excuses instead. Getting an education is no longer significant, however making it as a rapper or athlete is.

Unfortunately, the black youth has decided by embracing negative views, they are more likely to succeed in life. Clearly, dress-

ing in "hood" attire will not make you the CEO of a fortune five hundred company, but it will get you respect on the streets and that is extremely important.

What is really alarming about this whole situation is not that the black youths have fallen off track; it's that many of them feel there is nothing wrong. They have acquired an extremely defeatist attitude towards life and a general feeling that could only go so far. Why is it that black youth would rather idolize rappers and athletes with criminal records as far as the eye can see, than successful African American with an honest past? The black youth are no different from individuals such as Tavis Smiley and Condoleezza Rice. So why is it individuals like them are either looked as puppets of the people they work for or lucky winners of the educated lottery; where 1 in every 1000 African Americans will win a successful future.

Our ancestors would roll over in their graves if they could see how today's youth have fail them. Once upon a time our music use to inspire and encourage our people, now they shame and degrade them. In times of oppression African American women were used and abused, their self-respect were taken from them without a second thought; and now young black females are selling their self-worth just to be latest rap video. We refer to ourselves as "niggers" a term

which long ago held our people captive; and have brainwashed ourselves into thinking by taking out the "er" and replacing it with an "a" gives a new meaning a less humiliating meaning.

African Americans have endured centuries of distress and after going through so much to provide a future for those that would come behind them, I am baffled that the black youth does not value these opportunities more. Hopefully, they will get their act together in time, before the works of our ancestors are phased out. I believe African American poet, Maya Angelou said it best, in her poem, *Still I Rise*

Out of huts of history's shame

I rise

Up from a past that's rooted in pain

I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide

Welling and swelling I bear in the tide

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear

I rise

Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear

I rise

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,

I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise

I rise

I rise.

Online Predators on the Rise

By Teshaka Bond

Online predators are continuously using the Internet to find young children to prey on. These predators use all kinds of tactics to seduce children with kindness, affection, and friendship to lure them out of their homes or give out their personal information. Predators establish relationships with these young children through instant messaging, email, or discussion boards. Many conversations with these online predators are based on sex, where they ease their way by introducing sexual content or by showing kids sexual material.

Predators are knowledgeable of the latest music and trends that appeal to the younger generations. They develop a friendship with them by listening and sympathizing with their problems.

Young adolescents ages 10 to 17 are more at risk to these attacks. At this age, they are beginning to explore their sexuality, branch out when making friends, and are moving away from their parent's rules. They tend to feel they are aware of what's going on around them and that would be

able to stop out a predator if one were to come along. However, predators are out to take advantage of them, and because of that children are not aware they are actually talking to a 25 year old rather than someone their age.

Parents need to be aware of what's going on in their child's life. To prevent your child from becoming victim to these predators parents need to monitor their child activities while they're using the internet. By setting up a child account on your computer you are limiting their access to certain websites. In turn, protecting them from perverts who are trying to exploit them.



Op-Ed

NAACP COMMENTS ON SERC

By Gregory Smiley

President of NAACP Chapter at CCNY

As the President of CCNY's NAACP chapter, I feel that it is pertinent to address issues that arise which affect minorities. The Student Election Review Committee (SERC) has decided to cancel the spring recent USG elections due to their belief of improprieties by individual candidates. This issue negatively affects minorities because a majority of the individuals who won in different slates are minority students who have been disqualified due to alleged fraud. To add insult to injury SERC has neglected to inform the elected members of the issues at hand. It is obvious that specific student groups are not regarded on the same level. SERC feels it is not necessary to inform them of the issues only after the decisions are made which, disenfranchising them from the democratic process. The way things are being handled by SERC makes it appear that this matter is an issue of preferential

treatment. In my opinion, the SERC board is an agent in this dilemma. It is also suspect that individuals of "AAA" (incumbent slate which brought allegations to SERC) are on the governing body that oversees the USG elections. I hope that The Vice Presidents office can resolve this situation because the integrity of the SERC board has been breached and individuals that are entrusted with this task cannot impartially govern.

It is obvious that specific student groups are not regarded on the same level.

Life, Sex and Education

By Cheryl Beckford

Public health issues, specifically HIV testing has been on the rise in recent years. There are slogans such as BET's 'Rap-it-Up' and the NYC Public Health Education Department (NYC Dept. of Health) slogan 'Test Early, Live Longer', all advocating and encouraging people to get tested. Millions of dollars and people's time are being spent educating others on HIV testing, yet for some reason millions of people are infected each year. If all this time and money are being invested to advertise HIV testing, why is it people still not getting the message? According to Gwendolyn Wilson, Supervisor of Public Health Education with the Department of Health of New York City, fear is the number one reason why people are not getting tested.

One thing people are fearful of is being discriminated against and disowned by their family. Worries of revealing their sexuality to their family prevents them from getting tested. It can be very difficult for teen boys tell their family that they are gay or for married men to tell their wives they have to wear condoms. To them, disclosing this type of information to their family can equal loss and that's a loss they essentially don't want to take.

HIV 'positive thinking' is another reason why people aren't getting tested. They already believe they're positive and are fearful their belief will become a reality. Wilson stated "sometimes, they know the probability that they are infected is great, so their rationale is I'm already positive so why take test if I'm going to die anyway? These types of people are usually promiscuous; don't always practice safe sex, abuse intravenous drugs, and/or homeless". Too many times people let their personal beliefs hinder them from finding the truth. The

only way to know if you are 'positive' is to GET TESTED!

Shifts in attitudes have also stalled the testing rates for HIV. Since, HIV/AIDS was first announced to the world in the early 1980's up until today, testing rates has steadily decreased. On the contrary, HIV/AIDS infection rates have progressively increased.

It is Wilson's belief that the rate of HIV testing is also steadfastly declining because of people's mind-set concerning the disease. She stated "because of medical advances, some people are not taking the disease seriously despite the deadly consequences". In today's day and age, you can just take 1-2 pills daily instead of the normal cocktail of 27 pills. "HIV is not taken as seriously, because they know that if they are positive medication will help them live longer so they aren't as concerned. HIV is there, but it's not really there".

HIV/AIDS is no longer a "gay disease". Everyone is being infected and at alarming rates. Your parents, siblings, friends, professors, you, me, everybody and anybody can be and are being infected. The latest statistics put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website (www.cdc.gov) shows that in 2004 over 12,000 new infections were from heterosexual contact, over 18,000 from MSM sexual contact and over 5,000 from intravenous drug use. Data from the Department of Health Public Library suggest that people from the ages of 13-29 have the highest infection rate. The infection rate disparity among different ethnicities is alarming. According to international AIDS charity Avert (www.avert.org), the number of people infected with HIV for 2004 are Whites 11,806; Blacks 19,206; Hispanics 6, 970; Asian 394 and

American Indian 208. With all the attention given to HIV/AIDS awareness these types of disparities are mind-boggling.

An explanation for those disparities could be the various definitions as to what is sex and what is not sex. It should be known that HIV/AIDS could be transmitted sexually 4 different ways. The first is orally. Antibodies in precum and blood from gum disease can easily transmit the disease from the mouth to the penis (vice versa) and, the mouth to the vagina (vice versa). The second is anally. During anal sex the rectum can bleed giving HIV a gateway to be transmitted. The third way is through fingering. Undetected cuts on the fingers when inserted to the vagina or rectum can also be a transmitter of HIV. The fourth and last way HIV can be sexually transmitted is through intercourse. Unprotected intercourse has the highest risk rate of sexually transmitting HIV. To many,



oral, anal and fingering are not considered sex because there is no penetration. So, many participate in these types of sexual activities without use of protection and in-turn only using protection for actual intercourse.

With all that is being done is increase HIV testing awareness; people are still being infected too frequently. Something has to be done to increase testing. Wilson stated education is the key. Along with many other programs the NYC Dept. of Health has many programs that are aimed at improving HIV/AIDS awareness, for example the Pilot Project whose slogan reads "Test Early, Live Longer". The Pilot Project

provides outreach, education, counseling and testing in high schools across for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. Although, it does not specifically target HIV/AIDS it is a valuable resource that provides young people with information and an alternative to their family doctor. Education has improved testing rates, but education has to start in the home. Parents need to be more open and honest with their children from an earlier age. School them as to what's out there, so they will be armed with the knowledge needed to make wise decisions.

Immediate test results have also improved testing rates. Now you don't have to wait 2 weeks for test results. They can be given back in as little as 8 hours. The wait time is shortened and the 2 weeks of worrying is no longer necessary. This can have its drawbacks. "Since the results are so quick, people don't have time to think about their reaction if the results are pos-

itive, and a lot of time when positive results yield suicidal behaviors", said Wilson. Bottom line is, HIV/AIDS along with countless other sexually transmitted diseases (STD) are out there and will probably be out there for countless years to come. If you love the air you breathe don't take part in careless behaviors that will make you vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and other STD's. Protect yourself! Practice safe sex, don't use drugs and stay informed, educated and aware of your surroundings. If not, your actions will have you feeling like it's your judgment day as you sit in a clinic's waiting room anxiously anticipating your test results.

Nuestro Himno: Our Anthem

By Orin Abel

A Spanish version of the national anthem has recently emerged on Spanish radio stations. The Anthem is entitled, *Nuestro Himno* which when translated means "Our Anthem". The song is appears on the album *Somos Americano* which features musical artists Pitbull, Wyclef Jean, Ponce and Olga Tañón. While the gist of *Nuestro Himno* is identical to the Star Spangled Banner, the words are different. The anthem has had much airplay on Spanish radio stations drawing critics from all around.

The "Star-Spangled Banner" was written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key. Key was inspired from the war of 1812's battle at Fort McHenry in Baltimore. Some Americans believe that the new version of the anthem disrespects the legacy of the Star Spangled Banner. Among them is the great grandson of Francis Scott Key, Charles Key. President Bush has also opposed the song, saying, "I think people who want to be a citizen of this country ought to learn English. And they ought to learn to sing the anthem in English."

Many believe that the song uses the national anthem to push the immigration agenda. They may not be far from the truth. Adam Kidron, the producer,

claims the version was written for the immigrant movement. In addition, the Associated Press states that a new remix version of the song is scheduled to be released in June. The new song will include a few English lines that specifically address the immigration issues of the nation, calling for immigration reform.

Biology major, Jessica Sano, a native of the Dominican Republic stated, "I am a very patriotic person. I wouldn't like people to come to my country and change my national anthem. [Immigrants] want rights but changing the national anthem is going too far." The question of conformity to the United States has always been an issue facing new immigrants. In the past, immigrant groups have tried to adopt the Star Spangled Banner in German, French and Yiddish. How much of their own lives should new immigrants be willing to give up in order to be part of a united nation? The song was used during the civil war for inspiration and courage on both Union and Confederate sides. It is this same ability of the Star spangled Banner to inspire and encourage that moves immigrants to use the song in their plight for humane immigration laws. Still, for many, *Nuestro Himno* remains merely their individual way of paying tribute to the land they call home.

Update on Anti Bear Hunt Court Case

By Professor Bill Crain

On December 10, I was arrested during a demonstration against the New Jersey black bear hunt. I walked around a barricade and, in an act of civil disobedience, refused to go back behind it. An hour later, five others also were arrested for similar behavior. In late April, our court case was finally concluded—at least rural Vernon, where the bear hunt occurred. The judge pronounced us guilty of interfering with the functions of the police.

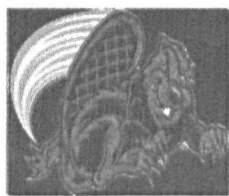
After the judge declared us guilty—but before he handed down the specific sentence—he gave us a chance to say something on our own behalf. I began reading a brief statement, but the prosecutor objected that it was political, and the judge told me to stop. I explained that I wanted to convey my thoughts and, besides, I only had three sentences left to read. In a resigned tone, the judge said, "Go ahead." My statement was:

"My actions on December 10 were peaceful attempts to call attention to a moral principle—the need to respect the worth and dignity of all living beings.

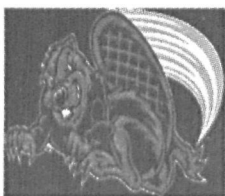
"Black bears have not caused the death of any human in New Jersey for 150 years. But because real estate development encroaches on their territories, they are coming into conflict with humans and have sometimes become a nuisance. In response, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has authorized bear hunts, killing over 600 bears in three years. In other words, it has put human convenience—people's right not to be bothered—above the bears' very lives.

"If we want to be humane people, it's not enough to be humane toward our own kind. We must start showing full respect for the other species who also live on this Earth." As I was walking back, the judge asked, "Feel the same way about deer?" I replied, "Yes, all living beings.

The prosecutor said that after hearing my statement, the judge should impose the maximum fine of \$1,000. But the judge fined each of us \$505. (Without jail time) However, because there are questions about the legality of the barricade, our lawyer has filed an appeal with the New Jersey Superior Court. So this story isn't over yet.



CCNY Sports Round Up



John Jay College defeated the CCNY Beavers 12-3. The CSI Baseball Complex on the campus of the College of Staten Island hosted the semi-finals of the CUNYAC Tournament. The Beavers' Darlyn Nunez was tagged for 10 runs on six hits and walked four in 5 1/3 innings. In addition, CCNY committed seven errors behind Nunez and Wilton Salazar who pitched the final 2 2/3 innings in relief. The John Joay Bloodhound went on to the championship round whilst Beavers ended with an 11-25 record overall and a 9-9 mark in the conference ending their 2006 season.

The Penn Relays held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania proved successful for the Women's Track Team. Mechelle Barnwell, Alecia Watson, Sharnalee Stewart, and Jodyann Raymond, blazed their record time setting a new record of 46.73. The CCNY 4 x 100-meter relay team outran every other Division 3 school this season.

The New York Relays took place at Ichan Stadium on Randall's Island. In the 100-meters, Orhys Brown placed 17th place among 30 sprinters. In the 200-meters, Brown, placed 27th out of 49 entrants with a time of 23.32. In the 400-meters, Hadley Hoyt had a time 54.48. Valentine Lyashenk finished in 58.02, Carlos Guadron 58.43; and Erick Ortiz Lee crossed the line in 2:11.21 and Ortiz recorded a time of 2:18.48 and Rany Hosny, 2:19.42. The Women's Track and Field Team performed well again. In the 100-meter dash, Jola Jegede-Jide placed 11th. In the 200-meters, Sharnalee Stewart, Miranda Munro, Jegede-Jide and Whitney Gardner finished in the top 17. In the 400-meter dash finals, Mechelle Barnwell placed eighth with a time of 58.51 and Jodyann Raymond, finished 11th in 1:00. 29. In the 800-meters, Jennifer Walia, had a time of 2:47.12.

Light and Sweet Please

By Angelina Miller

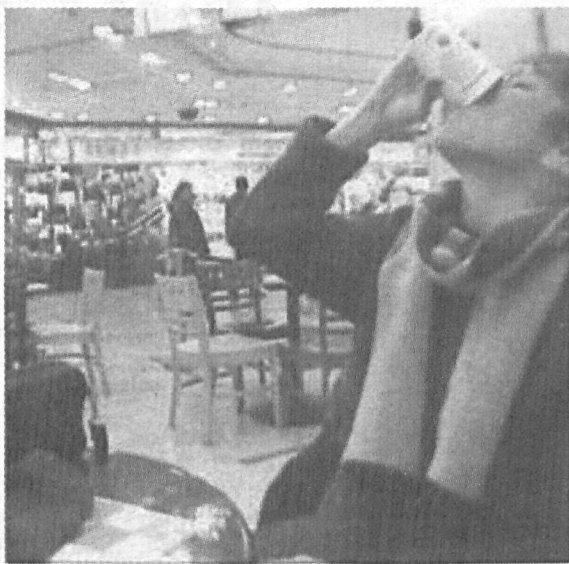
"The best part of waking up is Folgers in your cup," remember those coffee commercials where everyone wakes up with a smile because the aroma of coffee surrounds their house. Today the coffee business is ruling the world. With a Starbucks practically on every corner, and the new coffee drinks coming out, who would want to resist? For many Americans coffee consumption has become a part of everyday life, and because of that the research on it is never ending. But with the amount of individuals taking in coffee daily, researchers are out to determine if daily consumption is beneficial or detrimental to your health.

When an individual drinks a cup of coffee, they're ingesting caffeine, which is considered a drug. In short individuals can become addicted to coffee.

Researchers have found that those who drink daily coffee are more likely to have a heart attack, or stroke in the long run (www.painstudy.com/com/PainDrugs/p28.htm). Consumption of coffee and caffeine may also lead to diarrhea due to increased gastric motility. And like any other drug, coffee drinkers suffer from ill effects of not having it. Withdrawal from it may lead to dizziness, migraines, and irritability. After awhile individuals will have to increase

their dosage in order to achieve the same adrenaline effect they're use to.

But coffee lovers don't fear, new research has emerged, informing all of the benefits coffee has to offer. Studies have shown that drinking coffee actually decreases the chance of getting heart disease, Parkinson's disease, and gallstones. According to Dietician, Tara Miller, it may also aid in long-term weight loss, because



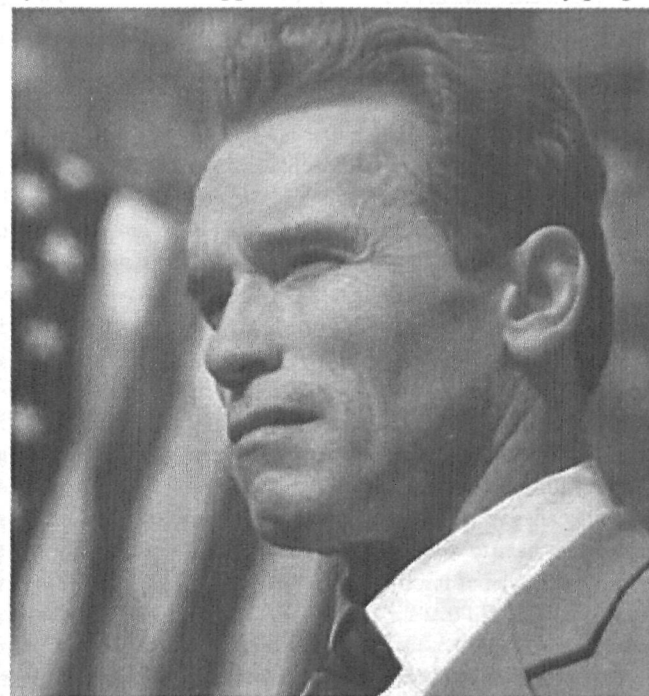
it has a way of killing your appetite. For example eating a hamburger with a cup of coffee, would "take up 40% of the iron alone." Coffee has also been linked to increasing your endurance during exercise.

Keep in mind, research on the benefits and negatives on coffee are still being conducted. So my advice is to drink coffee in moderation, if you're concerned about protecting your health; other than that enjoy.

Vote Terminator for President in 2008

By Lindsie Augustin

Imagine a world where the "Terminator" was the president of the United States. Well, if Sen. Orin Hatch, R-Utah gets his way this could become a reality. Hatch has proposed a bill suggesting foreign born citizens, who have lived in the United States for 20 years or more should be allowed to run for presidency. While Hatch stated he did not propose the bill in favor of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, he strongly believes individuals such as Schwarzenegger should at least have the opportunity to become president if they wanted to. Question is, what are chances Congress will amend the Constitution to tailor Hatch's request.



Arnold Schwarzenegger

As it stands now, in Section One Article II of the Constitution; in order to become president an individual must be a natural-born citizen of the United States. This concept has attracted an abundance of controversy. By a simple technicality, qualified individuals such as former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Madeleine Albright as well as others who have provided great service to the United States are not eligible to run for presidency. "I believe the time has come to address the antiquated provision of the constitution that requires our president to be a natural-born citizen_ it has long outlived its original purpose." said Hatch. Incidentally, Hatch is not the only one who feels its time to update the constitution. In fact, Hatch was not the first to propose this change, on September 15, 2004, Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-CA, also suggested a similar bill to congress.

Does every part of the constitution, which was written in 1787, still apply to

these days and times? Would it be so bad to have a president who was originally born in another country lead us? Maybe this is the type of change this country needs to truly become the great nation it is suppose to be. "There are so many people

in this country that are now from overseas, that are immigrants that are doing such a terrific job with their work, bringing business here, that there's no reason why not," said Schwarzenegger, who become a U. S. citizen in 1983.

Even if congress were to pass the suggested bill, it is ultimately up to the voters to elect the next president of the United States. So just by changing the constitution does not necessarily mean a foreign born individual will become president. There is no law preventing women from becoming president, and with qualified individuals such Condoleezza Rice and Hilary Clinton around, the country has yet to put a women in office.

All things must eventually change, and maybe its time for this to change. With the way this country is being run now, think about could a foreign leader really make things worst.

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