

The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Volume 10 May 2007

"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

So Close, Yet So Far AAA surpasses Diversity in USG Elections

By Maurice Selby

Just six votes separated candidates Nicholas Kanellopoulos of Academics, Activities, and Athletics (AAA) and Diversity's Andrea Ward in this year's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Presidential Election. Kanellopoulos edged Ward 463 votes to 457 votes in one of the closest student government elections in recent history. The race for the presidency wasn't the only close one as the margin separating victory and defeat was slim for nearly every position.

AAA captured the majority of the executive and senatorial positions including a sweep of Architecture and Sophie Davis senatorial positions. Aside from winning the battle for the presidency, AAA won the key executive positions of Treasurer and Vice President and this will essentially allow them to actively pursue the goals that they established in campaigning just a few weeks ago.

While AAA managed to take 5 out of



Members of the AAA slate following their narrow victory

nine executive spots, Diversity will without doubt have a strong presence in next year's USG as they won four spots on the executive government. Julian Lildharrie of Diversity will take office next fall as the Vice President of Academic Affairs while Herman Kam will assume the position of Campus Affairs Vice President. In addition to that Diversity's Alminar Sagar and Jose Villeneuve will take over as the Evening Affairs Vice President and University Affairs Vice President.

Diversity also achieved a modest

victory in the number of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Senators they pushed into office. Out of the nine CLAS Senatorial positions, Diversity secured all nine of them. Considering the fact that CLAS accounts for the majority of the students at CCNY, Diversity has the potential to carry out many of the objectives that they expressed in their campaign.

The Student Election Review Committee (SERC) seemed pleased with the competitiveness of the election, however,

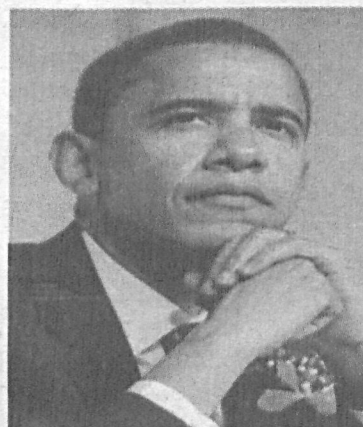
the committee must meet to officially certify the election and present the results to the President of the College, Dr. Gregory Williams. While they were satisfied with how close the elections were, the committee is still concerned with the problem of low voter turnout and has already discussed ways in which the problem can be improved. "This was a very close one and it shows that we had really good candidates running this year," said Christian Bijoux, Co-Chair of the SERC. "The thing we must focus on now is getting more students to participate in these elections, and they can do so by both running and voting."

It's Time for Independents for Obama

By Wayne Griffin

There are two popular myths about politics in America which it's time to challenge. One is that all Independent voters are white. And the other is that all black people are Democrats. A presidential election is a good moment to set the record straight, particularly since South Carolina is set to play an important role in the 2008 primaries and all voters – including Independents – can vote. Setting this record straight is connected to the political fortunes of one particular presidential candidate – Barack Obama.

I'm a fourth generation African



American here in the Palmetto state. I started voting independent in the late 1980s. Today, I'm the state chairman of the South Carolina Independence Party, a ballot-qualified party with roots in the Perot movement but

which is also part of an overall national effort to bring independent politics to black voters.

Roughly 35% of voting-age African Americans under 30 consider themselves Independents, not Democrats. They feel that the political process has become partisan and the Democratic Party has become unresponsive, so being an Independent is the only alternative, since the Republicans have never been especially hospitable to black people. (They're currently flying the confederate flag on statehouse grounds.)

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A little "Act Right"

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Editorial

By Lindsie Augustin

As the semester comes to end, I'm feeling an overwhelming sense of pride in *The Paper*. Many may not be aware but, this was my first year as Editor-in-Chief of *The Paper*, and although it has not always been easy, it has served as a true testament to what I am capable of. This year, we had a talented group of writers on staff that assisted in making this one of the most successful years for the publication since I've been a member.

As a whole we've come pretty far, but we seek to go further and we can only achieve this with the support of the student body. We were once known for our constant errors and lack of substance, but now we are so much more. *The Paper* may not be perfect, but we

are improving and to know that I am a part of its success renders me speechless. It's a feeling that I can't explain, but you can experience. *The Paper* is and has always been in search of dedicated individuals who are interested in writing and having their voices heard. If you fall into that category, know that you're always welcome here.

The Paper's journey to success has been a difficult one and it is far from over...but I'm looking forward to the challenge...are you?

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Addendum to CCNY in NOLA

By Easter Z. Wood
April 2007

In addition to the fundraising efforts mentioned in the article, the Gulf Coast Relief Society (GCRS) would like to recognize the generous grant they received from the Allianz Foundation as well as the donations they received from several private donors, including Eugene Marshalik, to whose memory the project was dedicated.

The GCRS is grateful to all of the donors for their support.



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The Paper

Wants to Hear from YOU!!

Articles and letters to the Editor are welcomed and can be submitted to *The Paper* for consideration. All submissions should be between 300-500 words. We look forward to reading what you have to say!

OUR MISSION

For over thirty years *The Paper* has served as a medium through which students, faculty 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.

Continued from front page

It's Time for Independents for Obama

There are many signs that a significant portion of black America is looking to break the mold on partisan politics. Right next door, in Augusta, Georgia, a black Independent, Helen Blocker-Adams, running for the state assembly garnered 32% of the vote against an incumbent black Democrat in 2006. In 2005, 47% of black voters walked away from the Democratic Party in the New York City mayoral election to back Independent/Republican Mike Bloomberg. And this is not just a "black thing." Polls show that 40% of all Americans are now Independents, and base their votes on the candidate, not the party. The question for us, for the Independents, is how to best use the new power that we have to influence the 2008 presidential elections.

Now, you might ask, what does any of this have to do with Barack Obama? I believe that Obama – and his campaign – are both products of the swing towards political independence. Here's what Senator Obama has to say about the cynicism and partisanship of American politics. He says restoring confidence in the political process is "the most difficult task that confronts us, even

harder than dealing with Iraq." He adds, "We have a sense that special interests and big money set the agenda, so there's reason for cynicism, but there's also reason for hope."

Those words are spoken by Independents every day of the week. And, the real hope lies in the fact that so many Americans – black and white – are waking up to the corruption of partisan politics and becoming Independents. If we can bring those two things together – the Obama candidacy and the independent movement – to develop a black and Independent voter alliance, there is real reason to think we can make serious changes for the good. Barack Obama is the presidential candidate who stands for that new politic. That's why I'll be voting for him in the Democratic primary. And that's why I'm forming South Carolina Independents for Obama. We'll be mobilizing Independents of all hues to vote for Barack Obama in the Democratic primary on January 29, 2008.

A new poll of Independent voters in the state over the last three weeks shows Obama to be the most popular presidential candidate with Independent voters. But, the pressure is on, particularly

in the black community, to back Hillary Clinton. The word out in the churches, for example, is that some ministers (the ones who are supporting Hillary) are unhappy that Obama is even running because, "It's not his time. It's Hillary's time."

Well, time is a funny thing. As the saying goes, time doesn't stand still. And neither does the political clock. When the moment for change comes, you've got to grab it, or it passes you by. Black people need to provide leadership to a new multiracial mass movement for reform. It's time for a black and Independent alliance. It's time for progressive change that brings Americans together. It's time to end the war in Iraq. That means it's time for South Carolina's Independents to support Barack Obama.

Wayne Griffin is a longtime Independent who was elected to the Greer City Council in 1998. He currently chairs the Independence Party of South Carolina.

In Our Own Backyard

By Lindsie Augustin

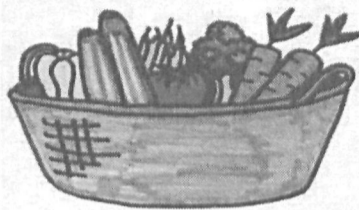
Horrible situations occur daily, and while as a human you have a predisposition to feel a sense of compassion for the victims, it's entirely different when a tragedy occurs in your own backyard. In the midst of the recent tragedy on the Virginia Tech (VT) campus on Friday April 20th, a female student at Columbia University just weeks away from graduation was attacked, raped, and tortured for 19 hours in her apartment, in the Hamilton Heights section of the city. Although the suspect, later identified as homeless ex-convict Robert Williams, ran free right in the neighborhood of the school, CCNY only several blocks away did nothing to warn or for that matter protect students from an attack that could've easily been repeated here.

There is a common misconception that because CCNY is located in the heart of Harlem, atrocious events such as attacks on campus by students or strangers could never happen here, however that is clearly not the case. As a CCNY student, its general knowledge that if you walk fast enough past security or slip through the many side doors, you can get into different buildings on campus without showing your ID to the few guards that actually ask for them.

Upon hearing about the recent attacks a "lock down" should've been expected on campus yet surprisingly there was none. And what's more frightful is that unless a student watched or listened to the news, few were aware of the attack that happened a few miles away, but virtually all knew about the attack at VT. While no event was superior to the next, neither should've outweighed the other. But the questions remain: Why did the CCNY administration choose to ignore such a tragedy especially while Williams was running free? Was this an act of ignorance or misjudgment? Jessica Kim, a sophomore at CCNY stated, "I know it's not CCNY's responsibility to inform me with all the news that I've missed out on, but I think they should have informed the people around here, just because of the fact that it happened in this neighborhoodplenty of people have night classes...CCNY could have been more active with this issue considering Columbia is right next to us."

No one can predict nor assume why nothing was done on campus, however hopefully administration sees fit to clarify the confusion. In the meantime, CCNY students may rest easy in knowing Williams was arrested on April 20th and was officially charged in the Columbia student's rape and faces various charges including rape, attempted murder, criminal sex act, sex abuse, kidnapping, and arson.

Community Vision Council Farmers Market



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Commentary

Nappy or Straight

By Martina Bailey

A nappy is a diaper. A nappy is a type liquor. A nappy is a small, shallow glass dish for serving food. Nappy is kinky, fuzzy and small tight curls. Nappy is the hair of African American women, and as an adjective that can carry negative connotations. Straight is free of angles, curves or bends. Straight is also upright, correct and unaltered. Straight is the hair of African American women after we've had a relaxer applied. Why is it that we use this term to describe our hair? And why is it that we apply chemicals to our so-called nappy hair to undo what creation has perfected?

In the 19th century African American women realized that washing their hair with lye soap helped to straighten it and improve its manageability. This was the beginning of the hair relaxing revolution. Two centuries later women of color with "nappy" hair are still using relaxers to straighten and soften. And now we even have human and synthetic hair extensions to add instant length, texture and color.

In the book *Color Complex: The Politics of Skin Color among African Americans*, author Kathy Russell expounds on her theory that because of the racism that existed among African Americans and Europeans in the 19th century women of color desired to change their appearance. African Americans with straighter hair and lighter skin were treated better, therefore the women started relaxing their hair to resemble their oppressors and appear more prestigious in their eyes.

Ultimately this theory suggests that slavery and the oppression of African Americans, skin color and hair texture being the main targets, has destroyed the self image of African Americans. In an article entitled *A Hair Revolution??*, developed by Nebulation Studios, the author agrees with this theory and even goes on to comment that the women of the 21st century are not just carrying on a tradition from their ancestors, but are also now striving to fit into the mainstream popular culture of the time. This transition requires African American women to abandon their own cultural identity and take on that of the popular culture in the west.

So are women of color being plagued by a psychological disease known as Anti-African syndrome, as this anonymous author firmly believes? Are we indeed changing ourselves to resemble those of European origin, or to fit into the glamour and glitz of mainstream capitalist America? And does relaxing my hair mean that not only was my hair fuzzy, but my self image too?

Consider the following excerpt from the article *A Hair Revolution??* mentioned above, and feel free to email your opinions on "nappy hair" to thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu.

"Black females are beautiful from creation, and this includes the various hair textures and lengths. Black females need to truly understand that nature makes no mistakes. There is no reason for Black females to be chasing "beauty" around when it's already in their possession. Black females, you are the original goddess of the earth, so stand proud and reclaim your identity, dignity and heritage. There are plenty of natural hair styles out here to fit every Black female's personality. I know lots of Black females who believe that having a perm makes their hair easier to deal with. But the number of hours they spend trying to make their hair do something it will never do (look like White female's hair), they could spend creating their own natural style."

Events @ City

Music Majors Performance Workshop

Date: 5-16
 Time: 4:30pm
 Telephone: 212.650.5411
 Address: 160 Convent Ave./ Shepard Hall Rm. 95
 Admission: Free
 Description: If you sing, play an instrument, or just want to socialize with students, this is the workshop to attend.

Chamber Music & Collegium Musicum Concert

Date: 5-17
 Time: 12:30pm
 Telephone: 212.650.5411
 Address: 160 Convent Ave./ Shepard Hall Rm. 95
 Admission: Free
 Description: This concert is directed by Professor Alison Deane and Professor Janet Steele.

Health Insurance Fair

Date: 5-17
 Time: 11:00am – 2:00pm
 Telephone: 212.650.8222
 Address: 160 Convent Ave./ NAC Rotunda
 Admission: Free
 Description: Health Insurance information. Bring proof of age, address and income to expedite process.

35th Annual City Wide HS Spring Poetry Festival

Date: 5-18
 Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm
 Telephone: 212.650.6356
 Address: 133rd & Convent Ave./ Aaron Davis Hall
 Admission: Free
 Description: The Woodstock of the Spoken Word, an all-day, all-verse event has become New York's longest-running & most democratic poetry celebration.

Electronic Design and Multimedia BFA Exhibition

Date: 5-21 – 6-1
 Time: -----
 Telephone: 212.650.7406
 Address: 160 Convent Ave./ Compton Goethals Rm. 133
 Admission: Free
 Description: Come see the achievements of our EDM students in the annual exhibition. Celebrate with the Art Department as we eat and drink to their success in the exhibition reception on May 24th, from 5pm to 7pm.

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 NAC 1/118**

CARIBBEAN BEAT

By Martina Bailey

Greetings from the Caribbean! This section is dedicated to keeping you up to date with the politics and cultural happenings of the West Indies and gives you facts and portions of history from those countries.

St. Vincent & The Grenadines

Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr Ralph Gonsalves, was in a car accident last month. He and his driver, Zaccheus Parris both suffered injuries from the collision near the city of Kingstown. They traveled to Cuba for medical attention and Dr Gonsalves was reported to have spent two weeks in recovery.

On another note, the Prime Minister recently voiced his opinion on currency in the region. He feels that the region is not ready for the use and circulation of a single currency. A single currency for the Eastern Caribbean is possible, but other issues such as improved healthcare, security and international cooperation need to be addressed first.

(*Caribbean Life*, April 25, 2007)

Bet You Didn't Know...

St. Vincent and the Grenadines consist of over 32 islands. Of these, eight are inhabited. St. Vincent is the largest island with an area of 133 square miles.

St. Lucia

Deputy Speaker of the House, Marcus Nichols was arrested last month for not obeying police orders when pulled over by officers. A female companion of Nichols was driving the vehicle and when they were pulled over and asked for license and registration, Nichols refused to cooperate. And by his stern request, the woman sped off

from the officer. Prior to this instance, another member of St. Lucia's Parliament was arrested for driving without a proper license plate.

St. Lucia is currently suffering from a decrease in tourism due to an increase in airfares. This is a huge blow to the country, since a large portion of its income comes directly from tourism. There is a reported 40 percent decrease in the amount of people who have visited the island and a 100 percent increase in airfares. The airfares are not just from the United States, but from other islands such as Barbados, Trinidad and Martinique. Two competing airlines, Liat and Caribbean Star, are partly to blame.

(*Caribbean Life*, April 25, 2007)

Bet You Didn't Know...

Due to an early French influence, most inhabitants of St. Lucia are Roman Catholic. And although the official language is English, French patois or Creole is widely spoken.

Guyana

After just nine years of marriage, President Bharrat Jagdeo has announced that he and his wife, Varshine, have 'grown apart'. The two made statements in which they gave their reason for ending their marriage, that is the distance between them, and they gave thanks to those who have been supportive through this difficult time. Mrs. Jagdeo, in a separate statement, expressed her feeling of "honor and privilege to serve Guyana in the capacity of First Lady." The two have not been seen together at public events for about two weeks, which prompted the media's attention, and forced President Jagdeo to tell all about his marital status.

(*Caribbean Daylight*, April 17, 2007)

Bet You Didn't Know...

Along with Brazil and Suriname, Guyana is one of the three non-Spanish speaking countries on the continent of South America. Having a similar culture to the rest of the English speaking Caribbean, Guyana is accepted as a West Indian country. It is the home to CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Secretariat, which is the group's headquarters.

Jamaica

The goal of this year's National Labour Day project in Jamaica is to restore the Bath Botanical Gardens in St. Thomas. Minister of Information and Development, Donald Buchanan, is in charge of the project and he is urging Jamaicans to get involved in similar projects. The goal is to promote peace and unity, and to show appreciation to the foundations of the labor environment that was laid by Jamaican ancestors. The project was launched on April 26, 2007 on the lawn of Jamaica House. Jamaica will be celebrating two hundred years since the end of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the rising of the working class. May 23, 1961 was the first Labour Day in Jamaica.

(*The Jamaica Observer*, April 28, 2007)

Bet You Didn't Know...

Jamaica is the third largest Caribbean island and is split up into 14 parishes that are then divided into three counties. Home of the Blue Mountains and surrounded by coastal plains, it was originally named Xaymaca: 'Land of Springs' or 'Land of Wood and Water'.

If you're representing the Caribbean or if you're just interested in information about a particular country and would like to see its news and history from country, write us at
 thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu.

Suggested Summer Reading

Compiled by Easter Z. Wood

Hung: A Meditation on the Measure of Black Men in America

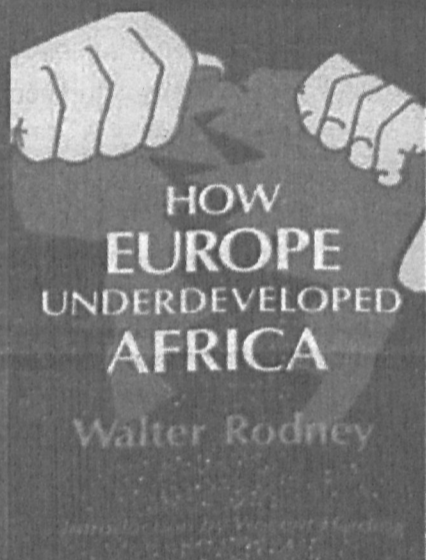
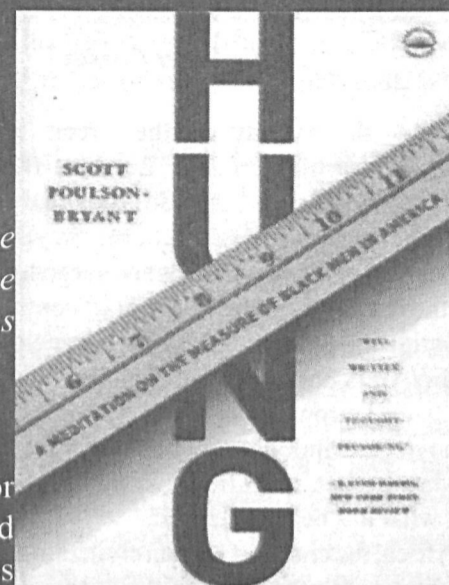
Scott Poulson-Bryant

From the publisher:

"Hung" is a double entendre, referring not only to penis size but to the fact that black men were once literally hung from trees, often for their perceived sexual prowess and the supposed risk it posed to white women. As a poignant reminder, he begins his book with a letter to Emmett Till, the teenager who was lynched in Mississippi in the mid-1950s for whistling at a white woman.

My take:

This is an ABSOLUTE must-read for Black men and women in America. It's also a must-read for non-Blacks and non-Americans as it gives unparalleled insight into American's society's opinions and expectations of men of color. Poulson-Bryant is candid and pulls no punches with his analysis, which is at once humorous and sobering.



How Europe Underdeveloped Africa

Walter Rodney

From the publisher:

Africa, the second largest continent on earth, is among the least developed. In a penetrating and perceptive analysis, Walter Rodney examines this phenomenon in *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, delving into the European and African past showing how the present came into being, and what the trends are for the near future.

In simple language, the author illuminates the concept of development and underdevelopment; shows us the growth of Africa before the coming of the Europeans (using concrete examples); then illustrates how Africa contributed to European capitalist development, both in the pre-colonial and colonial periods.

My take:

This book has been assigned reading in two of my Black Studies courses, and with good reason. Rodney gives an in-depth accounting of the European domination of Africa and really addresses the issue of underdevelopment in Africa as no one else has. Although some scholars have criticized the book for "oversimplifying" the issue, Rodney deserves major kudos for having courage to "go there" and at least attempt to tell the truth in candid terms rather than continuing the propaganda that the poor and underdeveloped nations of the world got that way by their own doing and through no fault of the imperialists.

Mama Day

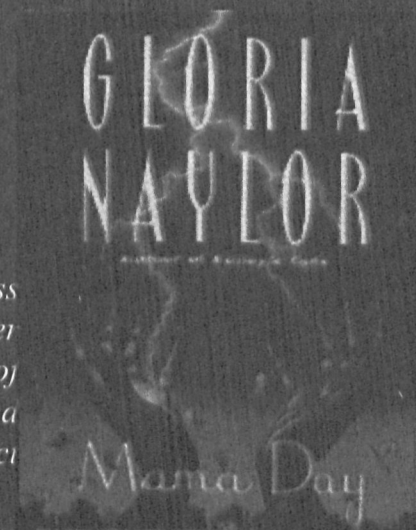
Gloria Naylor

From the publisher:

In *Mama Day*, Gloria Naylor has created a work that is at once a contemporary love story, a timeless generational saga, a chillingly believable tale of the supernatural, and an homage to the redemptive power of African-American tradition. It is a novel that spans two worlds. One is the southern barrier island of Willow Springs, inhabited solely by the descendants of slaves, a place exempt from the laws of nature and the often racist laws of man. The other world is New York City: polyglot, multi-racial, and governed by strict and seemingly heartless codes of love and survival.

My take:

Take a break from the "street novels" and treat yourself to this literary masterpiece! Gloria Naylor (also author of *The Women of Brewster Place* and other novels) paints a beautiful picture of life complete with love, magic, and death and poignantly captures how one person can be torn between two worlds.



Commentary

The Africa I Know

By Madi Ceesay

Ask anybody on the streets of New York, Washington DC, London, Berlin, Madrid, Stockholm, Riyadh, Baghdad or Oslo, what comes to their minds whenever they here the noun "Africa", and you would not be surprised to here these same descriptive adjectives: dark continent, shackled continent, poorest continent, hopeless continent, HIV/AIDS continent and war-torn continent.

I strongly believe, however, that none of the above descriptions truly fit the Africa that I know of today. In fact, the Africa I know is the total opposite of what has been described.

Africa, the cradle of human civilization, is the second largest continent, next to Asia, and is composed of fifty two independent nation states. It has a land area of 11,608,000 square miles and population of approximately 887 million people.

It is not hard to believe that Africa is the continent of the twenty-first century. Since the dawn of this century, this continent has registered remarkable economic, technological and political advancement. Several free and fair multi-party democratic elections have been held, the most recent of which were in the Republics of Senegal and Mauritania. No world-class leader has been more impressed by the positive developments in the African continent than British Prime Minister, Tony Blair. "Africa," he says "is changing and for the better." He was perfectly right. However, the way most western newspapers and televisions tell it, there is little going on in Africa, except poverty, famine, diseases, and genocide. But there is more to Africa than hardship.

In 2005 alone Africa's economy grew by 5.4%; in 2006 by 5.7% and is projected to grow 5.8% in 2007 on average, according to the United Nations (UN) reports published for the given years. According to the recently-released UN Economic Commission for Africa report, the West African nation Mauritania has the fastest growing economy on the continent with a growth rate of 19.8% last year, followed by Angola, a southern African nation, whose growth rate rose to 17.6% in 2006 from 14% in 2005 and Mozambique is third with a 7.9% growth rate last year. Ghana's stock exchange is regularly one of the highest performing markets in the world. In fact, according to one analyst, in 2003, it was #

one, gaining 144%.

The Africa continent contributes significantly to the strength and stability of the economy of the United States. In 2005, exports from thirty-seven African countries to the USA jumped 88% to \$26.6 billion. Yes, billions, not millions! Jeans made in Lesotho are sold in US stores.

Nigeria, the world's fifth supplier of oil, has a daily production of 2.2 million barrels and it has an oil reserve of 25 billion barrels. The United States remains Nigeria's largest consumer of crude oil accounting for 40% of the country's export. Nigeria provides seven to nine percent of the United States oil imports.

South Africa, Africa's super power is the world's largest producer and exporter of gold and platinum. It is one of United States' major trading partners.

Africa's technological advancement is second to none. According to the United Nations, the use of cell phones and the Internet is growing faster in Africa than anywhere else in the world.

The success story of Africa goes far beyond booming economies and fast-spread of technology. The political picture is also attractive. Over the past years, democratic elections have swept across the continent. Consequently, today, most African Presidents are democratically elected. This progress compelled, Robert Guest, Africa editor, of the The Economist magazine, and author of: The Shackled Continent: Africa's Past, Present and Future, to predict that "most African countries will remain stable including the two most important ones--Nigeria and South Africa."

Liberia's current President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, is among the few heads of state in the world today. In late 2006, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) a mineral-rich country held its first free and fair multi-party elections since independence.

On education, many African countries now offer free basic education for both boys and girls. Also, this continent is home to countless respected world leaders and academic intellectuals. One of the most successful United Nations Secretary Generals, Kofi Annan, who left the post late last year, is a native of Ghana where he had received a substantial part of his education.

And here in the United States, apparently

the most powerful force of political change, and the likely first Black President of this nation, Barack Obama, is patrilineally an African (his father came from Kenya in East Africa).

The literacy rate in South Africa is 80 %.

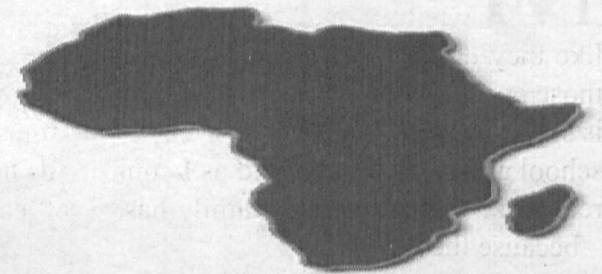
The Africa that I know is not synonymous to HIV/AIDS. A United Nations report on the global pandemic released in November 2006 stated that over the past two years the virus spread fastest in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Not Africa! About 70 % new infections were registered in these two regions. This is not to say that HI/AIDS does not exist in Africa. Of course, it does, but UN officials were encouraged by the infection decline rate between 2000 and 2005 in Botswana, Burundi, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Believe or leave, the year 2005 was dubbed "The Year of Africa" by the international community. On a continental tour of Africa the World Bank president was so impressed with what he saw that he remarked "Africa is a continent on the move. Everywhere, I found people who had a willingness to work hard, intelligence, energy and can-do attitude".

The Africa I know has all the resources and the brains to lead the world someday if the western imperialists stop meddling in to the internal affairs of the continent. In fact, I am of the conviction that, Africa would have ruled the world today, had it not innocently suffered from the legacy of European colonialism---- humans and material exploitation.

And like any other continent, Africa is just getting its fair share of the current global problems. Poverty, war and HIV/AIDS are not peculiar to Africa. None of the seven continents is without all three!

I would describe the Africa I know as the shiny continent, not dark, the continent of hope, not hopeless, and the continent of prosperity, not poorest.



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Medium For People Of African Descent

"So We Stand Here On The Edge Of Harlem And Look Out On The World And Wonder What We're Gonna Do In The Face Of What We Remember..." -Langston Hughes

Current Issue: March 1, 2

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Dr. Petioni Speaks at IRADAC
by Maurice Selby in News

On Thursday February 22, the Minority Association of Pre-health Students (MAPS) was honored to have Harlem Hospital's Dr. Muriel Petioni as a guest at one of the club's general meetings. It was more than seventy years ago that Dr

classmates.com

I graduated in:

1959 or before

1960-69

1970-79

1980-89

 Wilson High (985)

 Jefferson High (1054)

 Commerce High

Special Commentary On: Students Behaving Badly

Library Low Lives

By Maurice Selby

“(had sex) IN THIS ROOM :)!” There it was, boastfully scrawled on the wall with a smiley face that presumably indicated what a pleasurable experience it was. But apparently, the act itself wasn’t gratifying enough as this person seemed to want to broadcast to the world the fact that “hey I’m down for PDA (public display of affection) and I’ll do it anywhere. Forget anyone else that might have to use this space.”

As I sat there faced with transcending the conceptual barriers that lay before me and a thorough understanding of chemistry and the laws of this world, all I could think of was... sex. As a young man in his early twenties, I have a keen interest in sex and the mentioning of it is at times enough to send my mind off in a million different tangents. After pondering for a minute, what might have taken place in days passed room, I frantically slammed my books shut, grabbed my things and got out of there. It wasn’t the sex that grossed me out, it was the by products. The sweat, semen, pubic hair, and vaginal discharge that could’ve been strewn about that room would’ve been enough to make anyone move, and for good reason, it’s disgusting.

There was a time when the private study rooms in the library had doors, but when rumors surfaced of students engaging in sexual activity in the rooms, the administration had the doors removed. However, it seems that more drastic measures must be taken as there are still reports of coitus taking place in the library and other places on campus. “I’ve heard rumors of things going on in those rooms, but I never saw anything first hand,” said Shaniqua Lyles, a senior political science major that works in the library.

“There are couples that get in there and get close, really close, but I never saw any of them going at it,” said biology major Daryush

Nourbaha. “As a biology major I think it’s a beautiful thing, but then again, it’s gross. That’s just the wrong place for something like that, why not rent a room?”

The exchange of genetic material, yes, that is how I viewed it at first. I figured it was normal. You have a bunch of healthy young people with raging hormones in one place, something was bound to happen between some students. But that all changed one day.

Weary and frazzled from a long day of work and classes, I sighed long and hard as I patiently awaited the elevator in the NAC Cohen Library. I was on my way to the library to do what I yearned to do all day, study. I settled into one of the rooms on the fifth floor and immediately went to work. Just five minutes later, two gentlemen strolling by stopped took a step back and told me that I shouldn’t study in the room. I asked them why and they said in response that an “accident” had occurred. Out of curiosity (and fear of what might have transpired before my entering the room) I asked them what kind of accident and they simply replied “a sexual one.” As to what a “sexual accident” is, I have no idea, but that was enough to cause me to leave the room and consequently write this article. One thing students need to understand is that this school and all of the facilities here are used by countless people, and it is selfish to do such disgusting things all the while knowing that someone else is going to use the space after them. This isn’t just a message for the horny toads out there, but for anyone that likes to pick their nose and wipe it one the wall, leave snotty tissues scattered about, let their dandruff blanket a study space after brushing their hair, make disruptive noise in quiet areas, and a host of others. REMEMBER, THE LIBRARY IS NOT A PLACE TO SATISFY YOUR SEXUAL APPETITE, IT IS THE PLACE WHERE YOU MUST GET INTIMATE WITH YOUR STUDIES, NOT YOUR BUDDIES (I KNOW THIS IS CORNY BUT YOU ALL GET THE POINT).

A Little “Act Right” Goes a Long Way

By Easter Z. Wood

Manners. Couth. “Home Training.” Whatever you call it, it pains me to see that many students here at City College – most of whom would vehemently consider themselves “grown” – act like they don’t have any of the above. I know some of you, particularly those guilty of the infractions I’m about to highlight, may be saying “who is she to criticize what I do?” Well, who I am is a concerned citizen of the school and of the world, and as I consider us here at City to be a family, I recognize that sometimes family has to tell each other about themselves – because they care.

On a serious note, poor manners and other forms of bad behavior can have a lot more serious consequences than someone like me writing a commentary about it for the newspaper. Being rude, slovenly, and inconsiderate can have high costs, especially in an academic and business climate where networking and making connections are of dire importance. That professor who’s class you’re sleeping through? He or she may hold the key to an important scholarship or internship you want. That girl you didn’t hold the door for? She may be the president of the club or association you’re so desperate to join. That lady who just saw you drop paper towels on the floor in the bathroom? She may be the same one behind the desk in the career services office, think she’s going to keep your resume at the top of the pile or refer you for the best jobs? Think again.

Whether it’s fair or not, you are constantly being judged by those around you. Since not everyone has a chance to get to know you on a personal level, people can only go by behaviors they observe. It only takes a person about 15 seconds to decide on their first impression about you and as the old adage goes, “you never get a second chance to make a first impression.” This being the case – it’s prudent to be on your best behavior

all the time, not just when you think someone is watching.

That said, here are a few rules of thumb when deciding how to conduct yourself around school. I know they may seem like common sense, but as someone once said – the problem with common sense is that, well, it’s not so common. This list is by no means exhaustive, just a little something to get you started:

STAY ALERT! We all come to school a little tired from time to time but putting your head down on the desk and going to sleep (and in some cases, actually snoring like the guy I was sitting next to the other day) is about the rudest thing you can do. **While you’re at it:** don’t write on or otherwise deface desks or other school property – didn’t tagging desks go out in like the 6th grade anyway?

Throw your trash... in the trash! Why do people think it’s perfectly fine to throw paper towels, tissue and in extreme cases USED sanitary products on the floor when they have to go past the trashcan to get out of the restroom? Rude, disgusting and unhygienic to the max! **While you’re at it:** The underside of a table is not the place for your gum, tear a corner off a piece of paper and wrap it up so I don’t have to touch it later – thanks!

Stand to the right, walk to the left. This is standard escalator etiquette worldwide, it is a consideration to those who may be in a hurry. **While you’re at it:** please, let people exit the elevator before you try to enter. Things go much smoother that way.

Eat between classes, not during. Ok, a bag of chips or a candy bar perhaps if you’re starving, but that plate of pernil that reeks of garlic or the fish sandwich that stinks like hell and is making the entire class’ stomach churn is not a good look. **While you’re at it:** The sound of crinkling paper is quite annoying when folks are trying to pay attention so unwrap your candy and open your chips in the hallway before you come in.



Sports

*Upcoming Games
(All Games are Schedule to be Change)*

Men's Track – Outdoor

5-17	ECAC ¹	9:00am	(A)
	Championships		
5-18	ECAC ¹	9:00am	(A)
	Championships		
5-24	NCAA ¹	9:00am	(A)
	Championships		
5-26	NCAA ¹	9:00am	(A)
	Championships		
5-27	NCAA ¹	9:00am	(A)
	Championships		

Women's Track – Outdoor

5-17	ECAC ¹	9:00am	(A)
	Championships		
5-18	ECAC ¹	9:00am	(A)
	Championships		
5-24	NCAA ¹	9:00am	(A)
	Championships		
5-25	NCAA ¹	9:00am	(A)
	Championships		
5-26	NCAA ¹	9:00am	(A)
	Championships		

1	CUNYAC
2	Double Header Game
3	Hudson Valley Conference
4	EWFC (Eastern Women's Fencing Conference)

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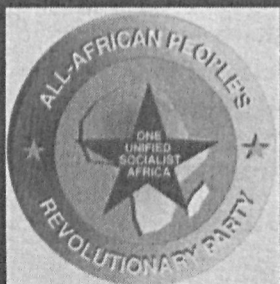
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