

The Paper

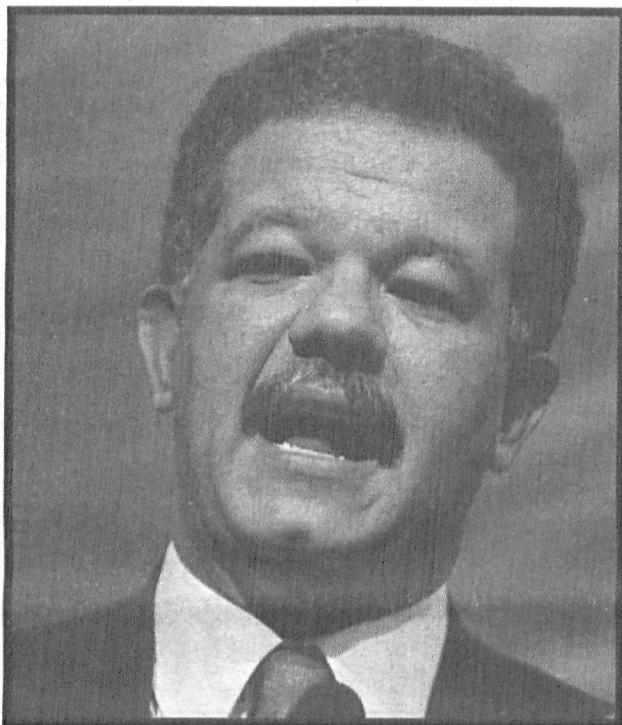
Medium For People Of African Descent

Volume 2

April-May 2005

"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

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PRESIDENT VISITS CCNY FOR ECONOMIC FORUM



by Maurice Selby

On Tuesday May 10th, President Leonel Fernandez of the Dominican Republic participated in an economic forum in Shepard Hall. President Fernandez expressed concerns about the approval of a free trade agreement between the United States and the Dominican Republic. The agreement, which is currently being negotiated, is vital to the country as the United States is the recipient of 85 percent of its exports.

"(if not this free trade agreement is not approved), it would mean that we lose our exporting capacity towards the United States, which would be detrimental for the future of the Dominican Republic," said Fernandez. If not approved, it would mean that we would lose our exporting capacity towards the

United States. "Therefore, only with the fact of being able to guarantee the permanent access of the North American market, I would say that already the Dominican Republic would be winning with that."

President Hernandez was accompanied by the President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Dominican Republic, Kevin Manning. The two of them contested that countries in Asia pay less to export commodities to the United States and as a result they are benefiting while countries of the Caribbean suffer.

PLACE
YOUR
AD
HERE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT'S NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT

by Maurice Selby

After a charged and spirited election, AAAA won executive positions across the board in the Undergraduate Student Government, with Seth Cutler leading the way. Seth Cutler was elected to serve as President for the 2005- 2006 school year. Other newly elected executive officers include: Charles Simpkins as Vice-President, Calvin Lee as Treasurer, and Tahmeed Ahmad as Ombudsperson. The newly elected executive officers of the USG are poised to accomplish goals that were stated in their campaigns. Some of these goals are increasing student space on campus, creating a professor guide to assist students in registering for classes, and providing more money for clubs and student activities through stipend cuts.

President Cutler and his administration plan to continue with some of the works already in progress by the current USG. Recently, the incumbent USG President, Redeemer "Reskq" Amedzekor and President-Elect Seth Cutler had a meeting

in which the two discussed: the current projects that the current administration has been working on and how they can make the transition for the new officers as smooth as possible.

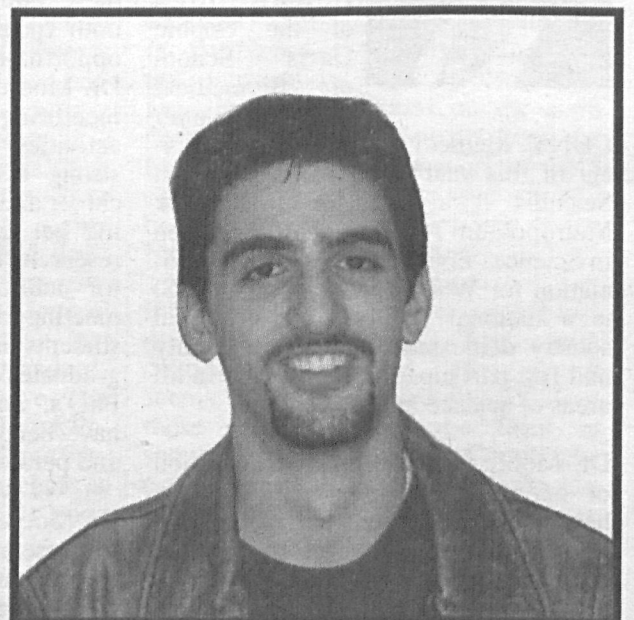
"I sat down with Reskq a couple of times and he has been very open with me about what he's been working on the past year", said Cutler.

"We had a meeting to discuss what is being done now and what needs to be done next year," said Amedzekor. "I told him everything he needs to know and I let him know that I will be there to support him, should he need help."

"Our working relationship after the election, has improved since before the election, and we actually had money left over in the budget and he (Amedzekor) is going to help pay for our supplies next year and save us some money," Cutler stated. The open door policy that makes the USG office more accessible to students, will also continue next year. Students will be

able to make copies, use computers and telephones in the office. "That was a policy that was in place when Lev (sviridov) was in office," said Cutler. "That is what student government is there for. You (all) pay for it. This isn't our office; it's more of the students' office."

One of the new administration's main goals is to establish a "professor guide" to help students pick the professor of his/her choice each semester. In addition to that the guide will have information on scholarships and other pertinent information to help students. CCNY Vice-President Maureen Powers suggested that the professor guide be put on CDs and distributed to students. Powers also stated that: "The most important thing



is the legislative committee and making sure the professor guide goes through".

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

POLICE BRUTALITY

PAGE 2

CHEATING CCNY

PAGE 4

HOLY HIP-HOP

PAGE 9

5 YEAR OLD
HANDCUFFED

PAGE 2

5-YEAR OLDS IN HANDCUFFS

On Monday, March 14, 2005, in St. Petersburg, Florida, a 5 year-old black kindergartner was handcuffed, arrested and placed in a police cruiser because she threw a tantrum and tore pictures off of a wall. The little girl also kicked a teacher and drew on walls. The tantrum began with during a math lesson when the students were counting jellybeans. Her teacher removed the candy and the little girl became disruptive. The Assistant Principal then removed her from the classroom. A short time later, the 40 pound little girl was handcuffed around her wrists and plastic ties were placed around her ankles.

Moments after her arrest the little girl said, "I don't want to go to jail." and her mother, Inda Akins, said, "they set my baby up."

Under the district's code of student conduct, students are to be suspended for 10 days and recommended for expulsion for unprovoked attacks, even if they don't result in serious injury. However, the district spokesman Ron Stone said that this rule didn't apply to kindergartners. Apparently for the 5

year old they needed a full arrest by 3 police officers.

This form of punishment is not localized to just Florida. On December 13th, 2004, Principal Sam Morgan in St. Louis, Detroit was placed on administrative leave after he ordered a 5-year-old black child to be handcuffed by the police and driven around the school in a police cruiser. According to CBS, Principal Morgan said he had police "put the handcuffs on one arm, put him in the back seat of their car and drive him around a little bit." Morgan, who was also a principal at East St. Louis High School in Illinois, worked for 8 years in the Department of Corrections.

The little boy's mother, Aroni Rucker, said, "They put handcuffs on my baby. 'That's for adults who murder and kill. He's 5. He's in kindergarten'."

The local authorities in both cities where the incidents occurred, said that they were investigating the actions taken by the police force. Both of the mothers are planning to sue for the actions taken by the schools and the police.

POLICE INJUSTICE IN CCNY?

by Orin Abel

The arrest of three undergraduate students and a faculty member of the City College Of New York have sparked debate as to their treatment by officers during the arrest. Protestors claim that the officers assaulted the students. Contrarily, School safety officers deny that they acted negligently. The students and the faculty member were part of a larger group of 20 protesters. The Peaceful protest held in the Baskerville hall on March 9, 2005 addressed military recruiters taking part in the career fair. The demonstrators were asked to leave the fair and did accordingly. However, the protesters remained outside the fair chanting and protesting.

Carol Lang is a secretary of the theatre department and the faculty member arrested in the incident. According to Lang the scene quickly escalated to violence when officers attacked Nickolas Bergreen, and Justino Rodriguez attempted to aide him. "Justino had his head bashed," said Lang and "Brian could not join the rest of the Group for a march on Saturday 19th because he had an MRI appointment on the same day."

The career fair attack raises pressing questions on the level of force used

by security and police officers and the need thereof of such force. This is not the first time that reports of excessive force against protestors or other civilians have surfaced either at CCNY or elsewhere recently.

The Career fair incident is still being investigated. The outcome of the incident will either mirror the police injustice present in New York City or will offer evidence of progression and change. Whatever the outcome of the career fair incident, the CCNY students will have to deal with the results. Not all students see the incident as a threat to their security and freedom. Herson Pleitez, an undergraduate student asserts that he did not see the need for such force but states, "Not all security officers act that way." Santos, an undergraduate student agrees, "I don't feel any less safe". Still, he asserts his lack of astonishment concerning the treatment of the protestors.

Is the excessive force many officers display, necessary for fulfilling their purpose? Officers should only use such force when there is a clear and present threat of danger. Until then, the students and faculty of the CCNY community cannot feel thoroughly secure in our officers when we need to be protected from them.

SCIENCE HEROINE

Department of Microbiology and Immun-ology of the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical



Carol Wood Moore, Ph.D., a faculty member of Department of Microbiology and Immun-ology of the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education /

enthusiastic mentor of both graduate and undergraduate students, especially those who are under-represented minorities and women. During her years earlier at the University of Rochester and more recently at Sophie Davis, these outreach efforts have included both formal and informal mentoring opportunities. The underlying basis of Dr. Moore's philosophy is to integrate mentoring with on-going research activities, providing students with a strong science background, offering career and leadership training and having her mentees do multidisciplinary research and then write up results for publications and presentations at meetings and seminars. Well over 100 students on all levels - undergraduates, graduates pursuing terminal Masters, PhD's, and post doctoral students - have benefited from this commitment and personal involvement.

Dr. Moore has had many reports about her research published, most recently in the journals Cellular and Molecular Biology (2001) and Free Radical Medicine and Biology (2002). She has received numerous awards including the National Technical Association's Top Women in the Sciences & Technology, Black Health Research Foundation Award, American Association for Cancer Research Service Award, as well as appointments as a fellow of the National Defense Education Act and of the Harvard University Interdisciplinary Program in Health.

CUNY Medical School, is a recipient of this year's Outstanding Women Scientist Award of the New York Metropolitan Association for Women in Science. Founded in 1971, the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is a national non-profit professional society dedicated to achieving equity and full participation for women in all areas of science and technology.

Dr. Moore was chosen in recognition of her accomplishments in the lab, her publications, and her mentorship activities. Using a yeast model, her research focuses on how cells respond to oxidative stress and insult from radiometric damage to cells and further studies to determine genetic, cellular and biochemical controls of these cellular responses. Findings from this research have been utilized to increase the understanding of the treatments of several cancers including leukemias, lymphomas, and fungal infections related to AIDS. Her research has received support from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the Aaron Diamond Foundation.

As a role model, Dr Moore has been an

LOVE NOT WAR!

STUDENT DORMS

by Maurice Selby

On May 5, 2005 Students, faculty, and administrators initiated construction of a new residence hall with a groundbreaking ceremony, and it was confirmed that by August 2006, CCNY students and faculty will have a place to call home on campus. Among those in attendance were CCNY President Dr. Gregory H. Williams, Senior Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Lois Cronholm, City University Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, and Undergraduate Student Government President Redeemer Amedzekor.

The new building, which will be situated on Nicholas Terrace and West 130th Street, will house approximately 600 students in fully furnished apartments that will be available in four types. These will range from studio, one bedroom, two bedroom and four bedroom apartments. Each dwelling will have a kitchen, a bathroom and will be complete with microwave ovens, sinks, cabinets and a host of other amenities. In addition, there will be a student lounge area, a seminar hall, a laundry room, and a conference room for student gatherings. Five of the living quarters will be used as apartments for faculty members and the facility's manager will also have living quarters in the building. According to President Williams, the residence hall will make City College "more attractive to students" and "the students who come as a result are more likely to live in New York after graduation and will contribute their talents toward building an even greater city."

The Dormitory Authority of New York (state) owns the land on which the dorms will rise. The land is being leased to Educational Housing Services Inc. and national student residence developer Capstone Development Corporation has been brought in to finance, design, construct,

and manage the building. The general contractor for the project is Turner Construction.

THE PAPER

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*SPECIAL THANKS TO PROFESSOR JONES AND MIAMAH RICHARDS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF POLICE NEGLIGENCE IN NEW YORK CITY

by Orin Abel

The following cases provide evidence where police negligence and in some cases outright brutality, have had detrimental effects on the victims in the past years. Yet, each listed case resulted in the acquittal of the accused officers and thus the continuation of a system in need of change. The examples are according to the partial list of 35 published accounts of fatalities in New York City. Many of the stories listed below were published in major news publications like the New York Times, New York Daily News, and The New York Post.

• Amadou Diallo was shot 41 times by 4 policemen

in February 1999. The policemen were later acquitted of the charges.

• Richard Watson was shot in the back in September 1999 after policemen tried to pull him from a livery cab, because he allegedly stiffed an earlier cabbie. The Officers were not indicted.

• In May 2000, Malcolm Ferguson, was shot by police in the head at close range. He was unarmed. The incident is labeled "accidental" and the cops were never prosecuted.

• An unarmed Timothy Stansbury Jr. was shot and killed by Officer Richard Neri on a Brooklyn rooftop in January 2004. The policeman was not indicted.

• During the attempted drug bust of the driver of a bus in July 2000, Police Officer Samuel Mercado shot passenger Charmene Pickering to death. Officer Mercado was not prosecuted.

• On January 22nd 1995, Hilton Vega and Anthony Rosario were shot to death in the Bronx after they had been subdued on the ground by police. The officers shot the two young men 14 times.

This short list offers a miniscule glimpse into a pressing issue that needs to be changed. According to the Village Voice, in May 2003, Police Officer Bryan Conroy shot an unarmed Ousmane Zongo, 43, at the Chelsea storage facility. More recently, in Janu-

ary 2004, Richard Neri shot Timothy Stansbury; another unarmed 19-year old, in the Bed-Stuy housing projects of Brooklyn. Although he is no longer on the beat, Neri is the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association delegate in Brooklyn North, and probably advises other cops when they are "on the scene". Moreover, in February 2003, policemen arrested and mistreated hundreds of anti-war protestors. Alex Vitale is a professor of Sociology and co-author of two reports with the NYCLU on the policing of demonstrations. In response to the policing of the February 15th anti war rally, he stated, "the NYPD needs to rethink its "war" footing. While the threat of terrorism is

real, so is the threat to our way of life from excessive security. Concerns about security should not be used to prevent peaceable assemblies..."

Still, the aforementioned examples offer only a small glance at the negligence of many policemen. In the past, incidents of police injustice have spurred the fury of students, which in time cooled. Will this incident result in merely a lot of outbursts but no definite change? This problem will remain unless a conscientious effort is made to prevent these or other acts of police negligence from ever occurring again.

UNITY

JOIN THE PAPER

NAC ROOM 1/118

INNOCENT CRIMINALS

by Maurice Selby

Four CCNY students were stopped and frisked by two NYPD detectives on Thursday April 7th, in what was described by the students as a classic case of racial profiling. This case of harassment by authorities comes a little more than a month after three students and a faculty member were arrested and allegedly beaten during a protest of the presence of military recruiters at a career fair in Shepherd Hall.

On their way back to the campus after a CSA meeting, Frank Vialva, Kellen Felmine, Jamal _____ and Anthony _____ were stopped outside of the new _____ (must find out the name of this store) by two NYPD detectives. While Felmine and _____ were still in the store making a purchase, an unmarked car pulled up and two white males jumped out and immediately told Vialva and _____ not to move and to cooperate. Vialva questioned one of the men and asked them why he was being searched. "I'll tell you after I find what I'm looking for said one of the men. At that point, Felmine and _____ were exited the store only to find their friends being patted down by the two detectives. Felmine then took a step forward to ask what was happening and one of the officers reached for his gun and cautioned Felmine to stop moving and mind his business. "

Academic Dishonesty!

by Tujuan Garner/Staff Writer

Academic Dishonesty and Cheating is an intentional act of deception where a student seeks credit for the work or efforts of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work. This behavior is a common concern amongst Professors and Teachers. If a student is caught there are penalties for those who choose to cheat. The most severe penalty is expulsion from school and a tarnished academic record. However the question still remains, "Does this activity take place on our college campus?"

Despite the consequences it would appear that academic dishonesty does occur at some level here at CCNY. A sophomore who would like to remain anonymous when asked about cheating responded, "Cheating is cool, it helps you get to where you want to get except its easier. The government cheats and we do not hold them accountable for their misbehavior, so why dwell on students' dishonesty when the whole country or world runs on dishonesty. Cheating is human nature, it's human trait and since we're all human and no one is perfect. We all cheat!" On the contrary, Sasha, a freshman explained "Students who work hard shouldn't be in the same category with those who cheat. I don't think its right, because they could end up getting a grade they damn well didn't deserve." Lastly a professor who also would like to remain anonymous said, "Creating honest citizens is point of the mission of the University so it is essential to root out cheating and students should see it as their responsibility to behave with integrity!"

According to the College of Health and Human Sciences Department at Oregon State University, some examples of academic dishonesty include copying off another person's exam or plagiarizing information for a term paper. Methods of cheating include fabrication, tampering, assisting, and Internet plagiarism. Fabrication entails falsification or creating data, or altering a

graded work without the prior consent of the course instructor. Tampering, is altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents. Assisting, is helping a person commit an act of academic dishonesty that includes bribing or paying someone to get or take an exam, and changing a persons grades. Another form of academic dishonesty is Internet Plagiarism, that is, using or misrepresenting someone else's work from the Internet as your own. There it is readers and fellow students! Try to refrain from committing any of the aforementioned descriptions of dishonest academic behavior.

In order to refrain from cheating, we must understand the reasons why students who cheat do what they do. One of the major reasons they cheat is because they feel pressured. People feel pressure from friends, their parents, faculty members, and society at large for fear of being looked at as a failure. Another reason students cheat is because they don't see the need to learn. Students see school as a medium used to obtain a job and don't see the need to take learning seriously. Franklin-Stokes, author of The Journal of Educational Psychology, states that students who strive for high standards of academic achievement have less trouble with not cheating. Franklin-Stokes explains that those students who study to learn are less likely to cheat as opposed to those who study for good grades.

Here are some tips for students who would like to curtail this type of behavior:

1. Manage your time efficiently.
2. Develop a repoire with your professor.
3. Cite sources properly and don't share assignments with other students.
4. Purchase an MLA guide.
5. Go to class!

Using these tactics students can avoid the risk of expulsion from school and the possibility of a tarnished academic record. Fellow students be wise, be smart, be intelligent, be brilliant, but most of all challenge yourself to think critically and analytically!

FLAKY ESCALATORS!



by Ernesto Johnson

Does anyone know why the Escalators in the NAC building never seem to work on a regular basis? Traveling on these stalled escalators could cost riders a mighty inconvenience, especially if they are not prepared to walk up escalators. Imagine having a class on the sixth floor. If you travel upwards from the first floor lobby, one or more of the 5 escalators you will use in your trip will be out of order. On either side of the NAC building, this will hold true.

Interestingly enough, for some years now, these escalators have been continuously serviced. However, it seems that the problems persist. Can these escalators truly be fixed or should they be replaced? Conversely, could it be that the escalators are just inadequately serviced?

Most of us avoid waiting 10 minutes for an elevator and the double staircase landings may be too much for most of us to handle. It is quite understandable that during off peak hours, escalators are off to save energy and lower its maintenance, but they are constantly off during peak hours as well. This is an inconvenience to both professors and students.

City College will be opening a new Residence Hall in 2006. Shepard Hall is also receiving a makeover. With the all of the remodeling and beautification measures taking place on campus, are there any immediate plans to re-haul our escalators?

Please fill out this survey and return it to the office of *The Paper* located in room 1/118, or email us at thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu. This survey is designed to measure the performance of instructors and professors to help ensure that every student is receiving a quality education here at CCNY. The results of this survey will be publicized to help students select the right professor.

City College Instructor Evaluation Questionnaire

Class _____ Instructor _____

1. Did you receive a written syllabus at the beginning of the class?
(A) Yes (B) No

INSTRUCTOR'S PERFORMANCE: Using the grading scale below, how would you rate the instructor's performance using the following dimensions?:

- (A) Excellent (B) Good (C) Fair (D) Poor (E) Unacceptable (F) Not Applicable

2. The clarity of information provided about the course requirements and assignments. ___
3. The promptness with which tests and assignments are graded and returned. ___
4. The instructor's knowledge of the subject matter of the class. ___
5. The instructor's ability to be understood when speaking. ___
6. The instructor's ability to stimulate interest in the subject. ___
7. The instructor's ability to encourage independent thinking. ___
8. The instructor's ability to generate effective class discussion. ___
9. The instructor's ability to organize ideas and materials for the class. ___
10. The instructor's ability to adhere to the time schedule of the class. ___
11. The instructor's willingness to listen to students' questions and answers. ___
12. The instructor's availability to students outside of class. ___

HOW WOULD YOU RATE:

13. The number of reading assignments in this class:
(A) Too many (B) Too few (C) Just right (D) Not applicable
14. The difficulty of reading assignments in this class:
(A) Too difficult (B) Too easy (C) Just right (D) Not applicable
15. The usefulness of reading assignments in this class:
(A) Useful (B) Not useful (C) Not applicable
16. The number of examinations in this class:
(A) Too many (B) Too few (C) Just right (D) Not applicable



by Security Officer Lee

I don't agree with people buying bootleg CDs or DVDs and I don't support the people that sell them. I don't blame the sellers as much as I blame the people that buy from them.

If consumers did not patronize the bootleggers then they would not exist, plain and simple. We, as a people, should support our brothers and sisters in the movies and in the music business because if we don't, who will? Buying the artist's CDs and DVDs in the street is not supporting them plus, these bootleg products are made on low quality diskettes; and you can't expect good quality for \$2.00.

Lots of people are losing money from these bootleggers and the artists are not making as much money as you may think.

I am a music lover and I shop at JR Music World. When I shop for music, I can easily spend anywhere to the upwards of \$100.00. I enjoy listening to the instruments in a song as clear as if I was sitting at the recording, not like the distorted bootleg version.

Tuesday through Saturday, Best Buy and Circuit City offer sales on new artists. DVD's are priced at about \$15.99 and the CD's \$9.99. If you can spend \$5.00, you can spend \$10.00; if you spend \$10.00, you can spend \$15.00. Its funny: people will go out there and buy \$250.00 jackets, \$150.00 boots, and \$200.00 sneakers. You will support NorthFace, Timberlands, and Michael Jordans, but not your sisters and brothers in the business? I went to the movies about a month ago to see one of Tyler Perry's films and the bootleggers were selling it on the train. That's killing his business. If you think Tyler Perry made a lot of money for his movie, think again!

The writer, Mr. Garner said that he buys the bootleg to see if he likes it, and if he does, he then goes to the movie to see it. Please, lets be for real, why go to the movies when you have the bootleg? When you go to the movies they have the previews for a reason. Seeing the preview helps you to decide if you will go see that movie. For me, if I am not feeling the movie, I will wait for it to come on cable. And if you go to Virgin Records on 14th Street, they have a system where you can listen to the music before you buy it.

Last point, someone I knew had to replace an expensive system because the bootleg DVDs messed up his system and he had to replace it.

CHEATING CCNY

by Orin Abel

With final exams approaching, the CCNY student body has begun preparing in one way or the other for finals. Amongst the mostly honorable students who plan to spend long nights and tiresome days studying endlessly. There are a few students who resort to more lucrative methods to obtain a choice grade.

Unfortunately for some, like me, that means sitting through an exam while dishonest students whisper and pass paper behind. Researches from over the past years have shown that cheating is much more common than we think. According to a 2004 documentary on the ABC news program "20/20", 74% of high school students admitted to cheating. But cheating is not only a high school. In April 2005 Academic Integrity surveyed 70 colleges questioning participants on cheating behavior of all sorts. Though many admitted to the lesser of the evils, paraphrasing or plagiarizing, a substantial amount admitted cheating on exams and tests. Altogether 74% of undergraduate students and 42% of graduate students admit to taking part in cheating activity of some sort.

The benefits of cheating appear to outweigh its moral cost. As one student summed it up on the "20/20" news program, "Grades can determine your future, and if you fail this . . . You're going to work at McDonald's and live out of a car". All in all one's decision to cheat ultimately depends on moral value. Students who cheat most times know of the consequences of stretching rubber bands to make the writing more legible, texting messages to disclose answers, or imprinting notes on the back labels of bottled water.

Regardless of the moral or rational viewpoint on cheating, the viewpoint of the City College of New York's faculty's is fixed. According to the CUNY "Policy on Academic Integrity", a student suspected of cheating faces grade reduction, suspension or expulsion. If there is any reliability in our education system, cheaters will be caught and consequently punished. Or at very least discouraged from cheating. Thus ensuring pleasant and peaceful final exams.

Professor Dyasi Close-Up



Professor Hubert Dyasi works with organizations that provide grants for underrepresented minorities in the science area of academia. He also aids in demystifying stigmas about the sciences in relation to students of color. One way he conveys this message is by examining everyday events in their lives through scientific research. He also advises undergraduate students in the sciences. Some of the programs he is apart of include: Peer Leadership, Tutoring Lab with Professor Gossar, the Thurgood Marshall Academy Project Inquiry.

FIRE DRILL STORY

by Maurice Selby

Fire drills, which are designed to prepare people for actual emergencies, have created a "boy that cried wolf situation" as some students and faculty show blatant disregard when alarms sound to indicate the evacuation of the building. Students and staff alike considered this to be a potentially dangerous problem, however, according to the Public Safety Department Director, George Crinnion, there is nothing to worry about, as his campus security agents will ensure the safe evacuation of any building on campus in the event of a fire.

Conducted four times a semester, fire drills are the direct responsibility of the Public Safety Department here at CCNY. Prior to the fire drill, one of the campus' fifteen buildings is designated as a concentration building in which the drill will take place. The alarms sound for eight minutes, which is the ideal time in which the building should be cleared. Mr. Crinnion stressed that during those eight minutes, campus

security agents drive people to leave the building. "When those bells ring for those eight minutes, I concentrate on that building and we evacuate that building as if it were on fire," stated Mr. Crinnion.

Recently, students voiced safety concerns after reports of faculty members completely ignoring alarms surfaced last semester. A junior and graphic design major who chooses to remain anonymous reported a similar situation when his professor closed the door and insisted that the class continue working despite the sounding of the bells from a student describing an occurren out fire drills in advance, and therefore know when the alarm will sound. "People know it's a drill, so they don't all cooperate." said Mr. Crinnion about the staff members that don't cooperate. "But we try our best to get people out of the building, and what we do at the end of a fire drill believe it or not, is we do a count of how many people complied."

This has been offered as an explanation

as to why a professor might disregard the bells and continue with their work. Knowing that the bells is going to be a fire drill at a specific time makes it easier for one discount the alarms and continue doing their work. After coming to that conclusion one may ask how can one distinguish an actual fire from the drills?

While there is no official way to alert people of an actual emergency, Mr. Crinnion said that everyone would know if there a true crisis requiring evacuation. "You'll know if there is a fire because we have a different way we approach you. As opposed to coming to you and saying hello this is a fire drill. We'll say there is a fire, get out of the building now!"

Despite the Public Safety Department having a general plan of action when evacuating buildings there are students that don't believe the plan is failsafe and they believe it leads to a false sense of security amongst the City College community.

SAME T.V. SHUNS STUDENTS

The Oasis Club, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and several students on campus, have been informed that they can no longer be apart of SAME TV or ask for any services that SAME TV provide, because of their affiliation with people on the A1 slate, during the Student Government Elections.

The NAACP has been exiled because the President Gregory Smiley ran for the position of Liberal Arts Senator with A1. Iti stated that she and SAME TV couldn't have affiliations with her enemies and people she does not associate with. During Champaign Gregory

made an appeal to the Student Election Review Committee (SERC) that City Unity was using a television owned by SAME TV which is against SERC rules, Iti

that SAME TV would not video tape our event because of my affiliation with A1. Key also informed me, that he no longer wanted me to conduct an interview for

be abused. As students, if 4 dollars of our hard earned money is being used for any reason whether to promote school spirit or personal gain! As paying customers/

"SAME TV is severing any and all ties with students and clubs who associate with people or groups they disapprove of"


received a copy of the appeal and stated that because Gregory put in an appeal that his my organization. NAACP and himself could no longer receive services from SAME TV.

Being that I, Deborah D. Rivera, ran for the position of Liberal Arts Senator under the Slate A1, myself and the Oasis Club, of which I am Vice-President have been informed

SAME TV, because of my affiliation with A1.

Other students have also been influenced by there decision to support A1 in the student government elections. It is very surprising that the College has not looked into this matter. It is somewhat irresponsible to have individuals and organizations on campus thinking as though student founded programs should and can

without worrying that they lose benefits of service, because of their associations or affiliations at City College. The administration, at City College, needs remind "SAME T.V." that they are given the Privilege to use student activity fees to promote positive work for the benefit of the student body and that students have the Right to gain access to these services.



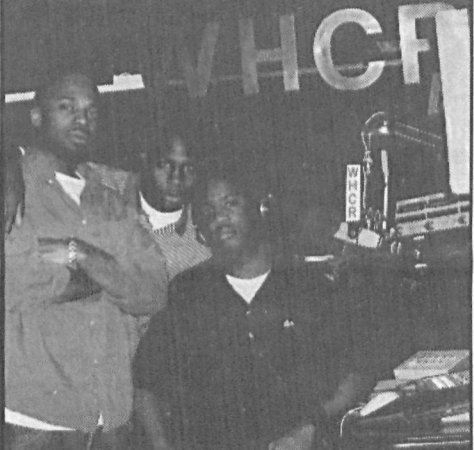
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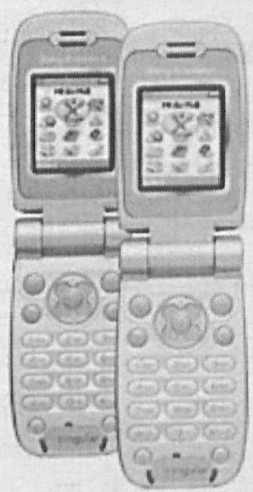


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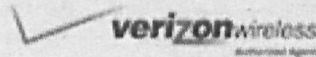





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AFFIRMATIVE ACTION A REPARATION?

by Deborah Rivera

Some say America has made attempts to bridge the gap by raising the playing field to the advantage of the African-Americans in the form of social programs, the most infamous being Affirmative Action. Many whites and blacks view existing social programs and political attempts to redress past injustices, including programs like affirmative action, as a form of reparations.

Affirmative Action in education is generally justified on two grounds: as a narrowly tailored remedy for specific past discrimination, and to enhance diversity. Reparation is making up for a wrong. In this case I believe that Affirmative Action is an attempt to mask the past, the original sin of America, SLAVERY; slavery is America's original sin, which continues to scar us all especially African-Americans.

According to Raymond Winbush, author and editor of "Should America Pay? Slavery and the Raging Debate on Reparations" Affirmative Action is the lemonade of civil rights, whereas reparations is the Jack Daniels. Affirmative Action is a mild, tepid form of reparations that's like putting iodine on a gaping wound. Reparations is a major surgery. On a civilrights scale of one to ten, I'd give Affirmative

Action a one or two and reparations a ten."

Noone who knows history can doubt that this nation owes a debt too enormous to calculate to African-America. Unfortunately, there are problems with reparations as a solution. Firstly, winning would be politically impossible. Secondly, winning would be legally impossible, and lastly, reparations would be an enormously bad idea, one virtually impossible to figure out.

Even if it could win, how would anyone decide who gets what? Who decides who is black and who is not? Whos is a victim and who is not? Would money be given to individuals, families, communities? Would Colin Powell qualify? What about Kobe or Shaq? What about Condoleezza Rice?

Randall Robinson, author of "The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks" says, Affirmative Action should it survive, will never come any where near to balancing he books here. While I can speak only for myself, I chooses not to spend my limited gifts and energy and time fighting for a penny due when a fortune is owed." Robinson believes that while Affirmative Action is necessary it is not nearly enough in terms of reparations. Instead of trying to create new trust, the government should donate to the United

Negro College Fund, black community resources and predominately black schools as part of its dues.

Reparations do not always have to be economic benefits, they can be cultural, for example changing the educational system so as to greater recognition to the atrocity of slavery and the contributions of blacks.

Some say that arguements for reparations and Affirmative Action require people to accept without objection that "blacks have been injured by whites and also that "blacks should be compensated by whites for the injury they have suffered."

I believe that Milton Henry said it best when he said, "No white person in this land can justify their indifference to the plight of the descendants of African slaves by saying, simply, "I never owned any."

You now voluntarily accept the present benefits of a system that you, with all your enlightenment, know dehumanized black folk, and are knowingly taking advantage of residuals that presently operate to the disadvantage of black folk every day."

A WORD ON BLACK FLESH

by Marsha Lewis
marshalewis@lycos.com

Dressed scantily for all to see is every man's fantasy: Cocoa-brown, cinnamon, butter-scotch, caramel, molasses, chestnut, with a touch of mocha. Thick thighs, crimson lips, teardrop-shaped hips. A fierce expression and an assassin's smile. Gyration for every one, even the guys who aren't her type. This delectable creature is known as a black woman. At least, seen through the eyes of the music world. Black women are associated with sexual deviance, seen as deficient in morality and mentally inferior. The roots of this image can be traced to Western white representations, and lead to the stages and lyrics of black music. The images of black women, created at an entirely different time and historical context, have taken on a modern-day minstrel significance, as evident in Black lyrics and videos. These descriptions have not yet been eradicated from memory, and influence how black people view themselves, in particular, black women.

Some critics may debate the belief, that this deep-rooted history of the naked black woman, stems from the white male's desire for her, his ownership of her reproductive organs, and her lack of control over her own body. Historically, black female slaves' bodies were examined by white males, which was how her worth was evaluated. Her role then, revolved around cooking, farming, breeding against her will and wet-nursing white babies. The image of black women was always associated with prostitution, pornography and deviant sexuality. Her image and particularly her body, was understood to represent that which could be dominated, possessed and used to a white man's sexual ends.

In Europe, 19th Century, a black woman's body represented three themed ideas: scientific evolution,

colonization and sexuality. Saarjie (AKA Sarah Baartman, or "Hottentot Venus") was a South African Khoi, who was coaxed from her family at age 19, to be displayed behind glass in London and Paris. Baartman was paid to display herself to the gawking public of the Piccadilly Circus. Some say that she was fully clothed, while others say that some sort of strip tease was performed by her, as she shed an animal's skin cover. Baartman's main feature to her audience, is her protruding buttocks, due to her condition, steatopygia, which is described as an over development of fatty tissue. She died at the age of 25, at which point, her body was dissected and reduced to its sexual organs, which remain in a jar, in a back room of a museum. The Exposition Universelle in Paris (1867) was the first of many huge fairs, which displayed Black women as spectacles, standing next to technological and industrial advances. Those fairs supported the notions that Black women were inferior. Unfortunately, Black women are subjecting themselves to these images, which make them partially responsible for creating the current platform, from which these images spring.

Audition halls for Rap and R&B perspective artists and agents, are swarming with would-be 'video hoes', lining up and auditioning for the chance to be the best freak in a video. They audition, as they would in an historical minstrel show: dancing in a way, as to demonstrate how capable they are, of shaking, giggling, and thrusting their asses. The decision to put themselves on display for the sexual amusement, and the pseudo-macho-ism of the Black male ego, is a willful one. All this, while white men sit back, enjoying the view.

The sad reality of Black music today is, without the Black woman in the background, wiggling, gyrating her hips, thrusting, pumping, and licking her lips, we are left with the ragged, hag-

gard image of the Black male: chanting inaudible words; much of it fabricated for the sake of the song, and money laid down for studio time. "Player" "Hustler" "Dog", "Soldier" "Pimp" and "Nigga" are some of the images they cling to. Without her in the background, we are left with a broken Black man (or men) appearing as if he has dressed in his big brothers' clothing. Drowning in jeans and giant jerseys. Cursing, threatening and egging on the viewer. Snoop Doggy-Dogg (as he prefers to be referred to) sports oversized clothes and pigtails, with partially nude Black women, gazing lustily into the camera, inviting the viewer, if possible, to her body. Nelly recently made a video where he was seen swiping a credit card down the crack of a Black woman's ass. Ludacris, 50 Cent, Baby, Lil' Wayne, The Game, Sir Mix-A-Lot, Ice T, Lil' John, The East Side Boys, Jay Z, Juvenile, Mannie Fresh, and Petey Pablo among many more, have collectively reinforced harmful images about black women, and ultimately, themselves. Recently, The Ying Yang Twins, came out with their "Whisper Song": "Hey how ya doin' mama, let me whisper in ya ear/Tell ya somethin' that ya might like to hear/Got a sexy ass body and yo ass look soft/Mind if I touch it and see if it's soft?..." The rest of the song is too graphic to print here. I viewed the video, and the entire song is whispered in a Black woman's ear. His invitation to bed is plain vulgar, but the Black woman listening to these words appears aroused and eager. Luke, a forty-something rapper has built his rap career on the thongs of Black women.

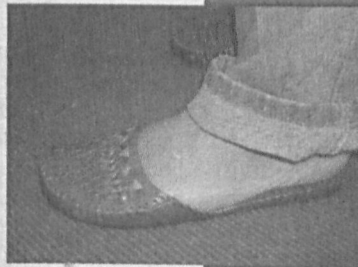
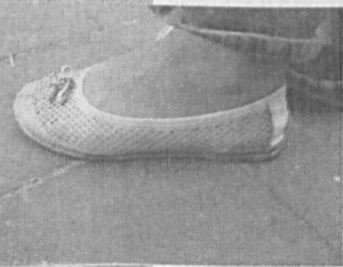
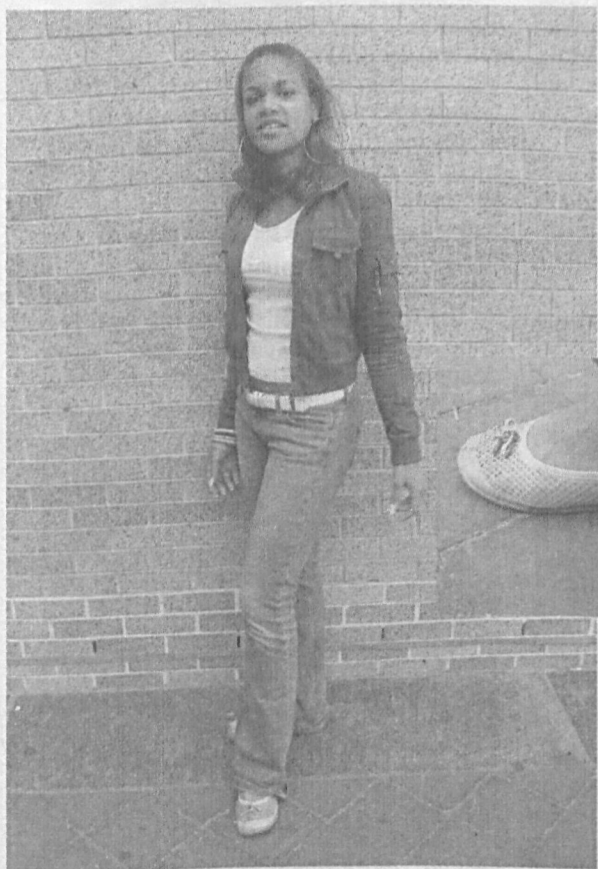
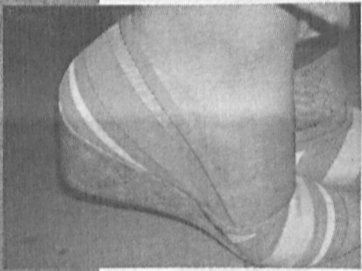
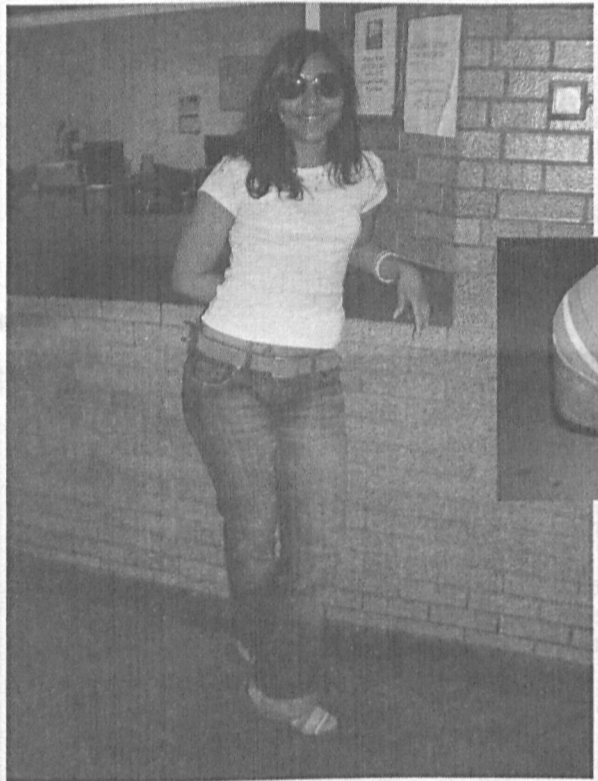
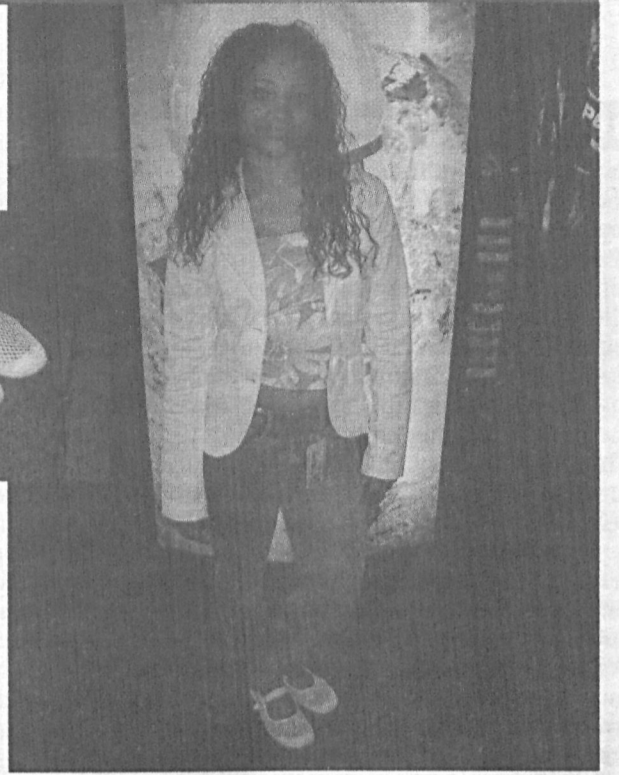
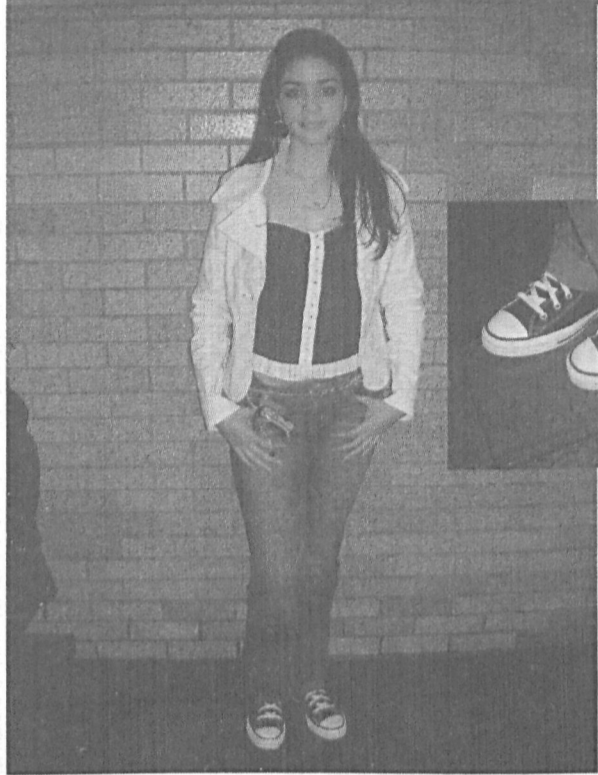
Black women who are in the music business, unfortunately have followed suit, supporting the "video-ho" image by representing it. According to the lyrics of Lil' Kim. Salt N' Peppa, Queen Pen, Foxy Brown, and Da Brat, their power can be found in their sexuality. In the mean time, with the volume

down, the message their writhing half-naked bodies portray, screams easy access, lacking any other value, besides that of the flesh. Artists like Destiny Child, Mariah Carey and Ciara are all valid artists. Unfortunately, even they have resorted to stripping down to the bare necessities, and even less, even though their voices can more than hold their viewers' interests. Lest we not forget Da Brat and MC Lyte, who were once portrayed themselves as masculine. They both gave up their power and dominance for flimsy clothing and lip gloss. An image of a strong black woman who is intellectual, just isn't sexy to the music world. Neither is it, to the record company owners, who are predominantly white.

In an essay "They Came To Stay", included in Brian Canker's *I Dream A World*, Maya Angelou states: "The larger society, observing the [Black] women's outrageous persistence in holding on, staying alive, thought it had no choice save to dissolve the perversity of the Black woman's life into a fabulous fiction of multiple personalities. They were seen as acquiescent, submissive Aunt Jemimas who showed grinning faces, plump laps, fat embracing arms, and brown jaws pouched in laughter. They were described as leering buxom wenches with round heels, open thighs, and insatiable sexual appetites. They were accused of being marauding matriarchs of stern demeanor, battering hands, unforgiving gazes, and castrating behavior."

Black women are trapped inside an extended wet dream. And while some of us cringe while others may drool, at the sight of a black woman "drop it like it's hot", "back it up", "roll with it", and "shake it like a tail feather", it is disappointing that the participants in this moral genocide are Black, and willing.

F A S H I O N



S P R I N G &

R E M W S U

HIP HOP'S LAST DAYS

by Joseph Lemaire Jr.

They say that dreams are the window to repressed desires, old haunting memories, or a forecast of an event soon to come. Well, I being a fan of hip-hop, hope the latter is not the case because that would mean the demise of hip-hop, as we know it. With its large allegiance of fans and a just as large legion of hatred of critics, hip-hop now leads a double life of being the ultimate marketing tool and the scapegoat of all the problems going on in the world. Those who find themselves criticizing the art form would lead others to believe that violence, misogyny and all types of anti-social behavior are a direct result of hip-hop's mainstream appeal. The media has accused hip-hop of influencing all types of mishaps. Michael Wilbon, an African-American Sports Journalist for the Washington Post and co-host of Pardon the Interruption on ESPN, specifically blamed Hip Hop for the Detroit Piston-Indiana Pacers brawl in the beginning the NBA season. Citing the players "selfish attitude and thuggery" as a perfect example of Hip-hop music's "macho bravado" burdening the professional image.

While the world snarls at hip-hop, entities like the NBA are laughing all the way to the bank. With the music's ability to sell anything from alcohol to Crunk Juice, it seems as though Hip-Hop has influenced the world to the point that people in Sri-Lanka would rather see 50 Cent then properly sit in a tuxedo clapping to the latest rendition of Beethoven's Symphony Number 9. Because of this gift and curse, it is easier for opportunist to point the finger at hip-hop for all the woes. However, is there proof? Well this is where my dream comes in.

I had a dream that there was a prayer to God for the end of rap music. (The term rap music is easier off the tongue for high class America then Hip-Hop.) In a big church, George Bush led a weekend long prayer to God begging that he smite hip-hop for its terroristic acts and weapons of mass destruction hidden in Marcy projects in Brooklyn, New York. Among the masses were Reverend Calvin Butts, C. Delores Tucker, Tipper Gore and of course everyone's favorite finger pointer, Bill O'Reilly. The rest of the congregation was filled with Red State euphoria. Middle State cries were heard throughout the world, "God kill rap music. It is putting our children in danger." Well to my surprise, God answered their prayers. Lo and behold with one swipe, God erased hip-hop from the world.

All of the sudden things started to disappear from history books. Eve never ate the apple. Satan remained in God's favor. Zeus decided to not impregnate yet another human being. Alexander the Great decided to stay home with mom and not conquer the world. Slavery ceased to exist, meaning there was no such thing as America. There were no guns. No knives. No holocaust. Women had equal rights throughout the world. They were not considered trophies. Domestic violence came to an end. Columbine never happened. The Berlin Wall was never built. Adolf Hit-

ler invited his Hebrew neighbors over for dinner. No world wars. No Vietnam Vets wondering why has the country he fought for chewed him up and spat him out. Tigers no longer hunted. We are the World was the number one song in the country. Everything was cool in the world.

Well, the world was glad that hip-hop was gone. Cause after all rap music is the reason why there is so much violence in the world. There was a major problem though. Because rap music never existed things changed. The NBA still wore tight shorts, because Michael Jordan did not mind wearing them. Sean Carter was eventually killed for drug dealing. Sean Combs worked at an office job he did not like. The absence of hip hop affected those outside of the rap community as well. Cadillac went out of business because the Escalade was considered to gaudy. Most alcoholic brands including Cristal and Dom Perignon were still a success, but something just did not seem right. Now with the economy falling apart and the banjo was again being the instrument of choice, something went wrong. The hole in the ozone layer was still growing. Children still cursed out their parents. Kids still fought at school. Mothers were still being left to take care of fatherless children. The government had to go find more weapons of mass destruction, because North Korea was paying for an invention that could blow up buildings. Women were still being trophied as opposed to being crowned. Racism came to pass again, because unfortunately thinking that one is superior to the other existed before Cool Herc was spinning records in the Bronx.

So with everything going awry, the government had to find something else to blame instead of looking in the mirror. They have not found it yet, but whatever it is, homeland security must stop it. Now of course this dream was fictitious and ridiculous, but that is exactly how it appears when hip-hop is at the forefront of conservative answers for problems in the country. I agree that negative images from hip-hop are sometimes drawn out. I can say that certain rappers are but caricatures of music industry standards, but to sit here and point the finger at this genre as if evil never existed before it, is downright illogical. Just as illogical as racism, class systems, stereotypes and everything else used to pacify ones ignorance for something they can't relate to.

Like yin and yang, everything has a good side and bad side. For every 50 Cent there's a Common. For every bitches and hoes there's a Bonita Appelbaum or a Dear Mama. Just like for every Knockin on Heaven's Door there is a Girls Girls Girls. Every music genre has its non kid -friendly songs. Just like TV shows and late night trips to the video store. Whether the congregation of Red State morality likes it or not, God might possibly be chillin' in heaven with a fitted cap and a pair of Timberlands.

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HARLEM ARCHITECTURE EXHIBIT OPENS

by Sergey Kadinsky

On March 14th, the Cohen Library of the City College was the scene of an exciting opening ceremony for "Changing Streetscapes- New Architecture and Open Space in Harlem." Built inside a plywood structure, the exhibit contains maps, plans, and images of everything architectural that is coming to Harlem. Built and designed by 15 members of the City College Architectural Center, including students, the exhibit provides a close look at a changing neighborhood. Participants include the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, Abyssinian Development Corporation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and a number of other groups.

Explaining the slight bend in the plywood structure, 4th year Architecture student Rodolfo Leyton explains that it was meant to reflect the turn on 125th Street as it approaches the Hudson River. This area, once known as Manhattanville is a former industrial valley now targeted by Columbia University for campus expansion. Library professor Charles Stuart was most impressed with the growth of institutions, including the Studio Museum, Museo Del Barrio, Harlem Health Center, and the Thurgood Marshall Academy.

3rd year Architecture student Laura Drawbaugh describes the new developments as "optimistic, bright, and in context with their surroundings." The majority of the buildings in this exhibit are residential.

What makes Harlem different from other gentrifying neighborhoods, such as the Lower East Side and Williamsburg is that the majority of new residential structures use similar designs, brickwork, and height as their older neighbors. In the other mentioned neighborhoods, older residents often complain about tall luxury towers that ruin the architectural character of a neighborhood. Some developments, such as 1 W. 121 Street are nothing more than abandoned buildings being given a new life. Speech professor Lelia Horkins was impressed that the cornices and vine sculptures above the entrance were preserved and restored.

Ibo Bolton, who represents the Manhattan Planning division of Hud explained that the reasons behind the designs are a result of community input, which demanded housing for all income levels. Lucille McEwen of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement credited the community boards for making sure that the new buildings fit in, and that abandoned buildings be restored.

Within the campus of CCNY, four developments are presented in the exhibit. The most anticipated is the reconstruction of the Y Building for the School of Architecture, by World Trade Center competition finalist Rafael Vinoly. The building is expected to open for class use by 2007. Another welcome development is a 600-bed Dormitory to be located at the southeastern corner of South Campus, by Design Collective and Gowshow Architects, to be completed by 2007. The expansion of the Structural Biology Center has already begun, and is expected to be finished by the end of the year.

Finally, a long-abandoned Romanesque curiosity on W. 135th Street and Covent Avenue, the old Croton Aqueduct Gatehouse is being restored for use as a theater for Aaron Davis Hall, with most of its landmarked exterior being preserved and restored by Rolfe Ohlhausen Dubois. The exhibit will run until June 30th.

At the Metro North station on Park Avenue and 125th Street, a hotel is being designed, to give the neighborhood its first large hotel since the closing of the Hotel Theresa in 1966. Next to the historic Apollo, the abandoned Victoria Theater will have a tower rising above it, and a block away, a newly-installed statue of Rev. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. watches over a neighborhood that represents urban African-American culture to the world. With new developments on almost every street, Harlem is ready for a second Renaissance, in the words of CCNY President Gregory H. Williams. With mixed-income housing, historic preservation, and cultural institution, Harlem's place in African-American history is sure to be preserved, maintained, and expanded.

CLUBBING

by Deborah D. Rivera

City College offers over 140 clubs for students to join on campus. These clubs are an important piece of the college puzzle. Not only does it assist in your communication and interaction with others, but also it looks great on your résumé.

Joining a club assists students "to enjoy their college experience. To make friends and increase social skills on campus, skills that will be necessary in the future real world. Also to take part in activities that focus on their skills, hobbies or personal interests," said Dion J. Powell, Vice President of University Affairs and Former President of the Sci-fi Games and Anime Club. Everyone studies, and most people have a job! What else did you do for the four years that you attended college? Being able to say that you were a part of a club on campus shows responsibility. It also shows that you can multitask and can manage your time efficiently. It says that you can handle multiple commitments.

"It is vital to be part of a club or organization while on campus because it looks good on the résumé and it shows the person that is interviewing you for a job that you have balance in your life. Joining a club can expand your horizons on what you want to do in life. It makes you a more diverse person. That is just one of many reasons to join a club or organization here on campus," said Andrew J. Chappell III, President of the Oasis Club.

Joining a club says that you can balance multiple commitments. Employers love this! They want to know that you can handle multiple responsibilities. Not that for four years you studied. Clubs also bring people together. Allowing them to explore the diversity of other members, and open their eyes to the views of the world.

"Clubs are important to unite individuals with same interest and to progress for the better," said Alexis Panesso, President of the Straight and Gay Alliance (SAGA).

Clubs can also improve the community. Some clubs are dedicated to community service, and improving the neighborhood. Other clubs, simply keep you off the street and out of trouble. Clubs are a positive environment where people with common ideas and backgrounds can unite. Where they can learn to be leaders and connect with others. Go out there and find a club. Become a part of something...Belong to a club!

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IMAGINE

by Lisa Reynolds

There was an unusual press in my spirit today to visit the house of God. Dressed in my Sunday best nylon thigh highs, red velour mini skirt and dungaree jacket-somebody told me that God says, "Come as you are."

Work last night on the street was not as fruitful as I expected it to be, but how lucky I was to have been working just a few blocks from a church. A church that I could walk to and not have to worry about having extra carfare to get to it. Just opposite the church there was an all night doughnut shop. After being on my feet for so long I figured I might as well relax there, before the morning service.

What was it about this day that made me want to draw closer to God when all of my past experiences in the church were so harmful? I vowed that I would never go back and be amongst the hypocrites and the holy rollers. But today I was ready for a change and nothing was going to stop me. Not even the remembrance of the preacher who pretended to hear from heaven during service, but after service his groping hands fondled and molested me while

mom tarried on the alter for the Holy Ghost. Today was a new day.

As I sat in the doughnut shop, a young man entered with his radio playing one of our cities top radio stations, and the topic of the morning was church bashing broadcast live over the air waves. Immediately I thought about the years that I spent bashing because of past hurt that I had experienced. Had I heard this broadcast two days ago, perhaps I would have been persuaded to pass on going to church at the mere mention of how bad the institution of church was, in the eyes of these DJ's. Nevertheless, my soul thirsted for more.

Imagine that the DJ's echoed some of my past views, but when they got to the part about how many "Hoochies" are in the church I had to stop and ponder on the purpose and relevance of the topic. Then it dawned on me. Indeed! We live in the "Land of the free" to say what you want. And the place where, "Anything goes." But on a deeper note some of us want more than just a superficial existence. So, since I am ready for my sins and past life to become the sign of my salvation thank you "Mr. DJ. for shouting me out!

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HOLY HIP-HOP

by Lisa Reynolds

All across the country the influence of "Street" hip-hop is being experienced in churches and places of worship. Mixed with a testimony and a beat, hundreds of young people are being drawn to Christ.

While the old hymns of the church remain standards, the youth of today cannot relate to the message. The Apostle Paul says, we must become all things to all people to save a few, so we must reach our young people where they are. (1 Corinthians 9:22)

The term "Gospel" hip-hop or, "Holy" hip-hop incorporates a style that says, "Come as you are, serve God and be real about it." Through moving to the beat, the clapping of hands and wrapping, God is praised. That's what young people desire most, to express true praise.

Radio station WLIU' DJ Flow says, "Christian hip-hop artists use rap just as a singer or instrumentalists would, to praise the Lord - and should not be neglectful because it is in hip-hop

form." Once deemed unacceptable, church ministries are now opening up to "Holy" hip-hop creating venues for worship and expanding on this theme.

New twists on an old theme include, Without Walls International Church "Club X" youth outreach Tampa, Florida - DJ Kurtis Blow and "The Hip-Hop Church" New York, NY and The Lord's Church "True Family" Bronx, NY. Club ambiance, loud music, rhythm's and rhymes, beaming lights, smoke screen stages, background dancers, over sized tee shirts and baseball caps, all in the name of the Lord. Times have changed.

With a mix of young and old worshipers it is important for they are to be a balance of musical styles and genres within the church. Music has the power to draw one straight into worship. Whether it is through hip-hop or the sound of pure gospel, the message is in the music. Pastor's and ministers recognize this connection and it's association with the drawing and saving of souls." Hip-hop is what young people see; it is what they hear, and what they relate to. "Holy hip-hop is acceptable and is what's happening today!

THE KING IS EXALTED!

JOHNNIE COCHRAN REMEMBERED

by Maurice Selby

Eleven years after the birth of his celebrity, renowned lawyer Johnnie Cochran died of a brain tumor in his Los Angeles home on Tuesday March 29. The 67-year-old defense attorney was catapulted to world fame when he led the defense team that had former football star O.J. Simpson acquitted in the murder case of his former wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Contrary to what those still angered by the Simpson verdict might believe, the announcement of Jonnie Cochran's death elicited feelings of sorrow and loss throughout the country. Celebrities and common fold alike mourned the loss of a man that many considered the most vivacious and convincing lawyer in recent history.

Johnnie Cochran established himself as a prominent attorney well before the O.J. Simpson murder trial. He was already known for representing victims of police brutality and a host of celebrities in a series of high profile trials. In 1964, he defended comedian Lenny Bruce when Mr. Bruce was being prosecuted on obscenity charges; and in 1981, Mr. Cochran represented the family of Ron Settles in a wrongful death lawsuit. According to police reports, Settles was found dead after he allegedly hung himself. Cochran contested these allegations and the body of Settles was exhumed to reveal that he had in fact been choked to death.

Born on October 2, 1937 in Shreveport, Louisiana, Johnnie Cochran exhibited the characteristics of a great lawyer: he loved to argue, and Thurgood Marshall was his idol. In 1949 his family moved to Los Angeles. He attended Los Angeles high school where he excelled on the debate team. After graduating high school, Cochran attended UCLA and later went on to earn a law degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. Within two years of passing the California bar in 1963, Cochran founded his firm, and almost immediately began serving both the wealthy and common people of Los Angeles. This ultimately led to him being considered by many to be one of the greatest trial lawyers to ever grace a courtroom. "He became the greatest trial lawyer since Thurgood Marshall," said the Reverend Jesse Jackson of Cochran. "We will miss him very much." "He was a skilled trial lawyer who brought style and intellect into the courtroom," said Los Angeles District Attorney Steven Cooley. "The justice system has lost a legal comet." Sanford Rubinstein, a former colleague of Cochran's was quoted in The Detroit News as saying, "[Cochran] was a brilliant strategist who never lost touch with the common man. He took particular pride in standing up for those who were wrongfully treated. He truly loved people and the public adored him."

HAVE FAITH!!

MY SPIRIT BECKONS

by Joseph Lemaire Jr.

What is a life-changing experience? When someone claims to have a spiritual experience, is it a blessing from a higher power or a religious opiate; leaving minds to chase after things unseen and stories from thousands of years ago. That has always been an issue for many. How do you trust what you do not see? How do you place faith in events older than personal existence and logic? Is faith in these religions, based on love or fear?

This was my dilemma. I was a person that had personal issues with different religions. Every time I believed in something, another religion showed flaws and contradictions in that practice. Since every group attacked each others credibility, they cancelled each other out. Thus leaving a void in my personal spiritual understanding. Without anything to deem true, I found myself believing for the sake of believing. Not knowing what to pray to, but praying anyway. I couldn't find a pastor to act as a mentor. Most of them are to busy throwing oil and speaking in tongues to speak about what's going on in a young man's life.

Men Come Forth!! Nation of Jesus Men's Conference May 5-7, 2005 Concord, North Carolina

Those words screamed at me for a reason beyond my own logic. Seven days before seeing those words on Bishop Eddie Long's website, I was looking for his book *Gladiator*. A book that was supposed to help me find the warrior in me. I needed that. After all I have found myself knowing all the characters of *Sex and the City*. Existing in a low-crab beer social bend-over where we sit back and watch the world fall apart while we congratulate our rappers for getting their feet done. What the hell happen to MEN!!!!!! So I go off to my journey in North Carolina. I know no one there. Never been there. No money. I'm a student. Sacrificed a great paying job to get a bachelor's for guess what, a great paying job. Now here I am in search for something and nothing at the same time. Alas, this is Eddie Long. Who made me late to work consistently to watch his morning show on B.E.T. He's a pastor. NewBirth Ministries. A ministry that has an attendance of 40% men. A percentage, unfortunately, not necessarily seen in church. Maybe a strip club, party, jail. Well, to his credit he always seemed to have a sense of being one of us. Black man who is a pastor. Not the other way around.

I felt nervous when I finally reached there. Most of the town folk looked like they would have no problem calling me boy. I'm nervous, but I feel I am here for a reason. So here we go. Got in a cab, paid \$18 for the ride to the Cabarrus Event Center. This is after paying \$60 to get from the airport to my hotel. Thank God, family and friends looked out for me. When I reached the Center, there must have been thousands of men. Old, young, big, small, professionals with suits,

young teens with durags and gold teeth. It felt like a concert atmosphere. No women. Just men praising God. I was never really into screaming and hollering. So I sat down while everyone else stood and cheered. I felt out of place, then the conference started.

The best thing I ever did in my life started at May 5, 2005 around 7:30 p.m. Eddie Long came to the altar with his fellow pastors. He along with his "sons" who are pastors that he mentored, changed the lives of men that were in that blessed building. These men did not preach, but spoke to us like we were friends. A major example of this was Pastor Deron Cloud's "Man Up" Sermon, where he spoke about the flaws in black men. What kept everyone awake was the fact that he cursed. Yes Passa CURSED!!!! But there was reason behind it. His ability to speak to us man to man, made us understand our own personal problems. "How is it that I'm telling my wife get the f**k out my face, but coming to church on Sunday like nothing is wrong." "A man's wants to ejaculate everyday." He explained that we live for the "aah", because we want to escape from reality. His sermon is based on one man plays that catches the ear and the eye. He called for us to be soldiers of God. By the time he explain that Bitches talk Men fight, we all were ready to role out on anyone. Something "b**h made pastors" could never get us to do.

Eddie Long was praised by men throughout all walks of life. Along with Pastor Cloud, men claimed that they would defend the man they all called father. Eddie Long proved why he deserved that name. Religion was not a factor in his style. Bishop Long raised men. In fact he made this confused spiritual man, finally walk up to the altar and profess his new found life in God. I witness men with stories that would land them in jail, become righteous in hours. I saw men give up their cigarettes, condoms, credit card. I gave up my bottle opener, pledging to quit drinking smoking. Men cried, held each other up. Lock arms and form a line of power. Proved to me that there is strength in black men with a common cause.

I am happy that I stayed home Friday mornings to hear him speak. I am glad that I went down south to find myself. I am glad that I was able to look in the eyes of a Man of God, who went to South Africa to aid those in need. Who took inner city kids and made men out of them. Who most importantly, had the power to clear my over saturated Virgo mind with filled it with peace. I thank you Eddie Long and NewBirth Ministries for giving a damn about young black men. May this article fall in the hands of another who needs to find themselves. Don't thank me when that happens. Just thank the Lord that there is a group that still cares.

To find out more about Eddie Long and NewBirth Ministries go to www.newbirth.org

FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS

The issue of homelessness in New York City has been a prevalent and pertinent issue for years. Last month, The Department of Homeless Services (DHS) conducted a borough wide census in order to calculate the number of homeless that are living on the streets. They found currently 36,000 homeless people that are living on the streets. These numbers account only for the individuals that the team of volunteers visually saw, meaning there is a high probability that many people were left unaccounted for.

It is a crisis that is hard to ignore. Whether it is the individual begging for money on the train, or rustling through garbage bins looking for something to eat it is a problem that effects all New Yorkers.

There are many misconceptions about homeless people. Many homeless people were once doctors, businessmen and Wall Street workers. While giving immunization shots at a women's homeless shelter, Diane a medical student at Cornell Medical School found that many of the women were Ivy league college graduates and once held successful full time jobs or ran fortune 500 companies, "...somewhere along the way they got lost. For some it came from some kind of tragedy in their family or due to drug addiction." Sabrina, a young homeless woman and the youngest of two, ended up on the streets after her mother and sister died. "There is nobody left," she comments as she starts crying, "I don't do drugs. I am not a bad person. It is just me."

Although she never mentioned how she ended up on the streets it, the role of her family death played a significant role. There are a large percentage of homeless men and women in the homeless system that suffers from both mental issues and/or drug abuse. Some of these issues go unaddressed leading to them losing their homes, and ending up on the streets. The shelter system was created in order to provide temporary housing for homeless people to sleep has become a place in which many prefer to avoid due to safety issues. John Paul Ross, a member of the Underground Church (UGC) a church that on Wednesday nights hand out clothing, food and assistance states that, "there are some shelters that are exactly like jail. The only difference is you have choice to leave. There is no guarantee that what you enter wearing you will own when you leave in the morning.

You have to fight for what you own. I have heard stories about people having their sneakers stolen while they were sleeping. There is security at a majority of the shelters but they don't do anything. I have heard stories of security guards selling drugs to some of the people and of them trying to sleep with women at the co-ed shelters." Sabrina commented that she preferred sleeping in the Port Authority because it was safer. "I was stabbed in the back because I refused to give someone the shirt I was wearing off my back. I will never go back to a shelter." As tears ran down her face she spoke about the fact she has not taken a shower in a year. She freshens up each morning at the Port Authority. Her housing like many others consist of hard benches, sleeping in train stations, on trains, parks, or just sleeping on the concrete sidewalk.

Not all shelters have a bad reputation for being unsafe for example Bellevue Men's Shelter and HopeUSA on Ward's island yet there many who prefer staying on the streets. They do not want to a shelter because then they enter into the homeless system. Once they do this they lose their identity and become a number. Each individual that is part of the homeless system is taken to an intake center like Bellevue Men's Shelter for men or Franklin women's shelter for women in Queens. The intake takes approximately three days. They are given an HA number. This number will be their number in order to get a bed at a shelter and to get benefits. If someone does not have a HA number then they will be unable to sleep in a shelter even if there are beds. They have access to overnight shelters, which are open only for to sleep or in the event of an emergency. They are also assigned a case manager that will work with them to help them find a program to rehabilitate and put them back into society. Natalie Siregar, a senior at City College works with the Vibe a Christian group that hands out cloths, food and prayers found that, "there are some that prefer staying on the streets because going into a program means they have to give up their addiction."

Steps are being made by the city in order to end homelessness. Last year, Mayor Bloomberg announced the United for Solution beyond Shelters, a five- year plan to get people of the streets, reduce shelters and place them in long term permanent housing.

In a homeless policy address made by Bloomberg he discussed the upcoming goals of DHS, "Specifically, between now and the end of 2009, we must cut the size of the City's homeless shelter population by two- thirds, reduce the number of homeless men and women living on the streets in New York City and, by doing these things, make condition of chronic homelessness effectively extinct in New York."

Derek, a member of the UGC and runs a soup kitchen in Harlem states is not as optimistic of all the steps that DHS has done, "Although the city is doing much in order to help the issue of homelessness, they haven't gotten rid of the problem. All they have done is pushed the problem out of the city into other boroughs."

There is speculation in the motivation that lies behind the Bloomberg's crusade to end homelessness. Rent is rising here in New York City creating a type of standard. New York City is also in the bid for the 2012 Olympics. We cannot ignore the strides and goals that DHS has set to end homelessness. By 2008, there will be a new housing program built; it is a three billion initiative that will consist of 65,000 units of affordable housing. Twelve million dollars have been given to improve the Bronx intake center to better house the needs of those on the streets. There also will be more money allocated to prevention programs rather than the building new shelters. As rent is rising here in New York City the issue of homelessness is a down note.

KAAL: A Bollywood Review



KAAL

Director- Soham
Cast- Ajay Devgan, John Abraham, Esha Deol, Vivek Oberoi, Lara Dutta and Shah Rukh Khan (special appearance).

The industry is going through a major transition in terms of creativity. So

far we have had little luck with the releases of two biggies "LUCKY" and "WAQT". So does KAAL have what it takes to give Bollywood better luck? Let's find out.

In a nutshell, KAAL marks the birth of an accomplished storyteller in Soham.

SYNOPSIS-

Ace environmentalist Krish [John Abraham] and Riya [Esha Deol] are entrusted with the job of finding out the reason behind the mysterious deaths caused by man-eating tigers in the past two months.

Dev [Vivek Oberoi], with his group of friends [Kushal Punjabi, Vishal Malhotra] and girlfriend Ishika [Lara Dutta], set out for an adventure trip for the weekend. Destiny switches them from going to the farmhouse they had planned to visit and they are led towards Orbit Park, a jungle, for an unexpected ride.

The two groups bond together, but the same night the fear that revolved around the jungle comes alive. Now starts a

journey with fear, panic and trauma as death is felt in the air. The gang comes across Kali [Ajay Devgan], who takes the challenge of helping them escape out of the jungle. Together they must fight the unseen force in order to survive.

At some point, KAAL reminds you of Spielberg's masterpieces JAWS and JURASSIC PARK. Also, it holds a slight resemblance to three Hollywood films, THE GHOST AND THE DARKNESS, and WRONG TURN.

The entire cast gives a decent performance, but the one that should stand out is Ajay Devgan who gives a great one. Once the story is heading towards the climax, it loses its grip and falls way down the drain. You wonder how the story came to such a freeze when the film was going pretty stable.

As the writer of the film, Soham deserves huge credit for giving us something daringly different. But even something like KAAL can't give the cinema what it really needs- a hit.

Now to the songs. The songs have been put in the correct order as far as the story goes. They go well with the story. Especially the Shah Rukh-Malaika track. (kaal Dhamaal). Which comes in the beginning of the movie. Tauba Tauba is also worth a mention for its mind blowing music and mind excellent choreography.

On the whole, KAAL is just your typical average Bollywood thriller. This is definitely Dharma Productions biggest failure film. One may wonder how Karan Johar actually wrote such a script. Nothing interesting to look forward to. I recommend this movie to the fans of Ajay Devgan. The rest of you, should just wait till the DVD releases.

AMBER'S RATING - ** out of 4

by: Amber Rabbani

READ MORE!!

THE END OF ANALOG TV

by Margaret Cook

Imagine watching Dick Clark on December 31st, 2006 and at the stroke of midnight your television sets shuts off. Congress passed a requirement ten years ago for analog broadcast to be shut down forever in favor of a digital signal on December 31st, 2006. Only those who have a HDTV television set or digital cable will receive television service. Congress fully expected with the appeal of the HDTV set, that consumers would experience an urge to run out and update their equipment. It started when the Japanese introduced the high definition technology. American companies responded by forming an alliance and introducing digital high definition. However, in order for the American version of HDTV, all broadcast television would have to switch over to digital. This would make those television sets without a digital signal obsolete. It is estimated that there are over 1400 broadcasters who transmit in digital and analog.

The bad news is that consumers did not run out and buy a HDTV sets. The only HDTV sets available have been high priced, with big screens and an even bigger price tag. Out of several hundred million sets, there are only an estimated 30 million sets with digital receivers nationwide. For predominately lower-income and disproportionately black and Hispanic who are still purchasing analog TV sets, and for those without digital cable service; the cut-off from analog broadcasting will be horrible news.

Congress left a loophole in the law to be able to extend the cut off date to provide consumers time to purchase digital converters. Another option is to provide low-income households with free or subsidized converters. In any event, lobbyists for the multimedia are pushing for a decision of any kind before the deadline date. In 1996, when the digital television transition was first proposed, media analyst Gary Arlen said, "it will be easier for Congress to take away Social Security than television sets." They may accomplish both.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS (N.S.B.E.) AT THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

by Wendy Beaussejour

We just came back from our National Convention (March 23rd -27th) in Boston ya'll!! It was all good and it was held by Region I, our region; the region with the most international members, the region with the most West Indians, the region with the most flair. See, NSBE is divided into 6 regions. Region 6 "Six House", Region 5 "Region 4



"Four Solid," Region 3 "The Powerhouse," Region 2 "2222 Hype!," and us... Region 1 "One Fiyah, Mo' Fiyah!"

The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) boasts more than 10,000 members, nationally as well as internationally (Africa, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Canada, and expanding to Europe). NSBE

is by far the largest student-managed organization in the country. NSBE is comprised of more than 270 chapters on college and university campuses, 75 Alumni Extension chapters nationwide and 75 Pre-College chapters. These chapters are geographically divided into six regions, as mentioned earlier. NSBE's mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, suc

"NEW FACES" OR GENTRIFICATION

Recently, in the Morris Cohen Library located in the NAC building, an exhibit with photos and corresponding historical texts was assembled by William Gibbons, a professor at city college. This was done in response to the Architectural history of midtown Manhattan, more specifically, Harlem. In this exhibit, one can learn of past and present of inhabitable albeit abandoned buildings. In addition to that one can learn of new habitable buildings in low rent communities as well as open deserted vacant land to occupied land, all located in Harlem. Throughout the history of Manhattan, the significance of the name Harlem has varied from Dutch to Jewish to Irish to Negro. Of these changes, the "Negro" had the swiftest landing. Throughout black America, from Massachusetts to Mississippi, and across the continent to Los Angeles and Seattle, its name, which as late as fifteen years ago had scarcely been heard, now signifies the black metropolis. In the make-up of New York, Harlem is not only an

African-American community, it is a city within a city, the move to midtown Manhattan by Harleimers was the result of the opportunity to get into newer and better housing.

Around the dawn of the 20th century, during the 1900's, the migration to Harlem began for the same reason. Harlem had been overbuilt with large and new housing developments. Recently Harlem has been undergoing new development within vacant areas such as lots, and ruins. These are the locations where rent is probably the lowest it can be due to the lack of attention to the neighborhood from past to current tenants or even perhaps owners. Due to the new buildings and homes that are appearing in the Harlem location, it introduces an opportunity to bring Harlem to a higher level of urban development, which in return attracts more businesses. This off set may result in an increase of occupied land value or properly value. Thus, increasing rent for ten-

ants in that given location. The exhibit in the Morris Cohen Library illustrates the idea of "new faces" being that Harlem is, in one way or another undergoing, an Architectural makeover. However, some people may question what Harlem is really undergoing. Is it a makeover or perhaps a method to expel low-income classes residents to bring in a more lucrative population of upper middle-class residents. In theory, this may be true when considering current activities such as giving Harlem a face-lift. But one may also challenge the idea of using Harlem's hidden potential of being a thriving economical and a more beautiful and habitable architectural city that is within a city.

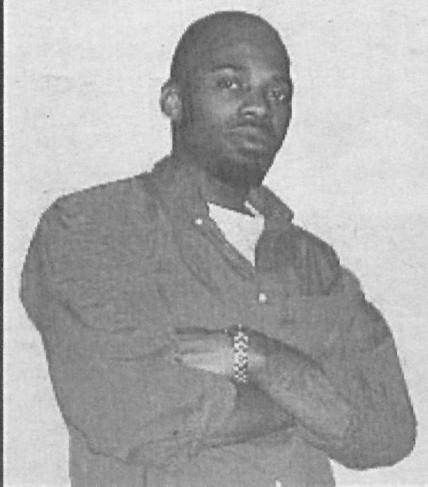
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ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE RECENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ELECTION? WHY OR WHY NOT?

by Ernesto Johnson



Mabel Jijon (Biomedical Education)

I am not happy with the elections, because I felt more comfortable with the Student Government last year. Hopefully, they will prove me wrong and be better the last year's officers



Jason Peralta

Truthfully the recent Undergraduate Student election is so out of touch with the student population, I could care less. Also the two main parties were so pre-occupied with making the other look bad, I only could see the bad in both. I did not vote this year nor (wilt I change) I will never care.



Tathiana Montes De Oca (International Studies and Jewish Studies)

No I am not happy with the outcome of the election. The process was unfair and biased; City Unity was not given a full opportunity to represent themselves, therefore not winning the election.



Carolina Trujillo (International Studies and Jewish Studies)

No, I'm appalled by the outcome, I had voted for City Unity, who in my opinion, had much more to offer and contribute to the school, on an academic and individual level. Piaget would have been a great representative, taking in consideration not a lot has changed during my time at City College.



Sorangel De Los Santos

No, because they do not have the spirit to serve the student. They are only going to help out their friends and student government. They are supposed to serve every student



Shaniqua Lyles (Political Science)

No, I feel that the New Student Government is not informed enough. They don't know how the Brood operates and it will take them a year to figure it out. Therefore they will be unable to accomplish many of the things they promised. Leading to another unproductive year of broken and empty promises.



DJ Boy

I was surprised but happy wit the results. I know that the newly elected people will make changes. The last government in office did not do anything relevant since they started.



Simone Dunston (Broadcast Journalism)

I usually vote for A1 and I'm shocked that they did not win this round. Hopefully, I hip that the current President will do what needs to be done to run City College smoothly. Also I hope that the students get what they need and what they want.



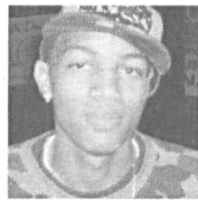
Natasha Anglin (English)

I am not happy with the recent student elections because there was not enough outreach to students on campus. Campaign members involved badgered other members to win elections. The president and his other student body did not attempt to run a professional campaign. We live in a society where we need to eliminate the badgering of other campaign members & create a positive atmosphere where students can become encouraged to vote by healthy competition.



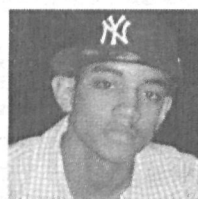
Denekqua Demetrius

MCA Advertising & Public Relations
No, because A1 representatives are students of the Honors College and they can not relate to the needs and desires of (regular admission) Undergraduate Students. Their education is paid for. I don't feel represented by this political party



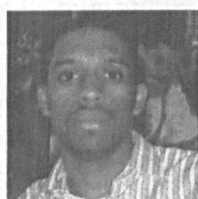
Jelani Varmah (Computer Science)

Yes I am. I feel that AAA will do a very good job leading the Undergraduate Student Body. With the great leadership skills of Seth Cutler, I feel that the USG will do great things for the student body



Yohan Bartlette (Liberal Arts)

No, I wanted to see new things happening in our student government. I think that the government does not represent the actual student body. I would of liked to see somebody who is more connected to the students in office. I was not satisfied.



Omar Abdullah (Black Studies)

Hell no, I voted in the other direction. A1 has helped me out a lot on campus. I have never seen AAA on campus. I think things will soon go down.



Jelani Pinnock

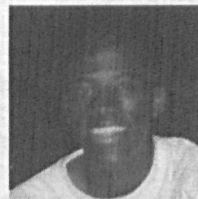
I am guess I am not ecstatic about the outcome. More so pleasantly surprised, because all I strive for is equality. I don't believe that A1, with the research I've done on my own, was about equality at all.

IS MICHAEL JACKSON GUILTY OF CHILD MOLESTATION? WHY OR WHY NOT?



Dexter Wilson (EDM)

I believe that he is guilty, but there won't be anytime spent in jail, because he's beloved and he's rich. The years of accusations has been overlooked for so long. I believe that he had to have done something.



Shane Aspirail (Biomedical Engineering)

I do not think Michael Jackson is guilty of any child molestation. Personally, I think people are bringing up these phony charges against the star, mainly for money. It's unfortunate that a good-hearted star has to go through this incident.



Jola Jegede-Jide (English Lit)

No, there is no actual proof that he did it. Just accusations.



Tasha (Psychology/Jewish Studies Major)

Yes, he is guilty because who the hell would take off their clothes in front of children. I say all the evidence is against him. I think that his behavior is totally unacceptable yet he see nothing wrong with what he's done. The world is messed up as it is, I'm not surprised that this has happened.