

**SEEK:**

# Another Look at Open Admission

By GWEN DIXON

**Editor's Note:** This is the first of a series of articles dealing with the beginning of Open Admissions, its effect on S.E.E.K., and the present circumstance of both.

The plans for Open Admissions (O.A.) came about as a result of the Harlem Community's willingness to file suit against the City Universities for the violation of its 1847 Charter. The charter established "a free academy for the purpose of extending the benefits of education to persons who have been pupils in the common school system for the said city and county of New York."

Therefore, the charter of the City University applied to all those people who couldn't otherwise afford to attend college through normal means.

The doors of CCNY opened in 1849 to 202 students and had a budget of \$20,000. It is quite evident that the charter was di-

rected to whites only. There were no figures on minorities attending CUNY until 1950 and they remained 5% of the enrollees until 1965.

In 1964 the Board of Higher Education began to toy with the idea of O.A. The Board of Higher Education wanted to increase the enrollment and to build new facilities to accommodate the influx of students. Under the direction of Al Bowker, former Chancellor, CUNY instituted graduate centers for community colleges and four new senior colleges. He advocated and promoted Open Admissions.

In the sixties Blacks demanded equality from a racist system that had systematically harassed and denied them upward mobility.

Admission to the senior colleges prior to the implementation of O.A. was strictly based on the score of 800 and up on the College Entrance Examination, plus a high school average of 82 and better.

The above regulation restricted minorities because they attended the poorest of schools, and received commercial and general diplomas which were not accepted at the senior colleges. An academic diploma was the passport needed.

Besides that the educational system considered minorities to be illiterate, "expendable," and "uneducable." Blacks and Puerto Ricans had and still have an exceedingly high drop out rate. The educational system steered them into technical and commercial fields leaving them deficient in math, science and English.

The Harlem community finally put pressure on the State Legislature to provide quality education to minorities and to reform their construction bill to let minorities into the trade unions. The result was a pilot program to provide education for those who otherwise couldn't afford to attend through normal channels, in exchange to leave

the construction bill and unions alone.

In 1964 College Discovery was created to give financial help and remedial courses in the community colleges. In 1965 the Pre-Baccalaureate program began giving remedial courses in math, English, and social science, and financial aid to those attending the senior colleges. The program instituted in 1966 is better known as Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (S.E.E.K.) The bargain was to allow S.E.E.K. to exist for ten years or 10,000 graduates. After ten years it was to be phased out and O.A. phased in. S.E.E.K. started out at City College with 113 Black and Puerto Rican students.

In 1966 it was expanded to enroll 450 students, 190 attended CCNY and the rest were dispersed to Hunter, Queens and Brooklyn Colleges.

The original target date for O.A. was 1975 and the administrators set up four categories as follows:

- Senior Colleges
- Community Colleges
- Special Programs: S.E.E.K. and College Discovery
- Educational Centers

The Educational Centers were Urban Centers for all those who didn't qualify to be in the other categories. They would be trained for technical jobs such as Hotel Technology which is equated with a bell boy.

It was a one year course which would allow the student to enter a community college for an associate degree.

But Black and Puerto Rican students at CCNY realized that the administration was setting up a tracking system.

In the Spring of '69 they led demonstrations and seized South Campus in protest. They presented a list of five demands to the administrators and one stated "that all incoming freshmen reflect the ethnic composition of all high school students."

Thus, Open Admissions was accelerated to September of 1970.

## THE PAPER

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**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

### Drug Rehabilitation:

## Problems Grown to Huge Proportions

By DENNIS E. MACK

When drug rehabilitation programs were first incepted, centers would vie against each other for clients. Today, however, the drug problem has grown to such huge proportions that this is no longer the case.

One of the major vehicles for a drug abuser's drug free rehabilitation is the therapeutic community (TC).

In general drug abusers are not seen by therapeutic communities as chronically sick people in need of drug maintenance. A client's way of life is seen as sick or distorted.

Both are the result of free choice. No matter how negative a person's attitude may be, he still retains a positive side which must be brought out according to TC philosophy.

Therapeutic communities attempt to change the moral ethic of the user, with added emphasis on breaking the negative image characteristic of the user. The abuser/addict is encouraged to take on a positive image as a productive person. The major techniques em-

ployed in the therapeutic community include: support and discipline, group encounters; and/or confrontations, and progressive levels of responsibility.

These confrontations provide a means for members to confront each other regarding their behavioral attitudes and make a positive change.

A good example of the group confrontation is the Dynamite Youth Center, located at 1830 Coney Island Ave. in Brooklyn.

In the words of one Dynamite member: "Everything comes out in a confrontation."

Another example of encounter therapy is Daytop. Every Friday morning at 1:00 a.m., a 40-hr. marathon session, with four hours off for sleep, with three addicts and twelve professionals is commenced.

"In a very intensive group experience, you are suddenly put through a challenge to your own personal integrity and commitment by three ex-junkies of varied age range," states the literature.

Encounter Inc., a non-residential community, requires that

each member attend two group therapy sessions at night, a general meeting, a group, and a Saturday seminar. The groups deal not with the drug symptom itself, but with the problems underlying "Acting-Out" Behavior.

Addicts Rehabilitation Center is a classic example of the stage by stage progression required of a member. Each member progresses from Non-Resident to Resident, Probation, Pre-Employment, Employment, and finally Re-Entry.

The Way Rehabilitation Center utilizes a unique method to take people off drugs. Drugs are seen by the Way as the symptom, the real cause is a spiritual one.

Julio Santana, the Way's director, claims "People who get in contact with Christ undergo a complete change."

Since many people who use drugs are deeply religious to begin with, including some from the Nation of Islam, this cure can work.

However, for a person who is not brought up on religion,

it is an almost insurmountable task to convert him to religion.

Therapeutic communities were described in a recent Ford Foundation report as "more like a quasi-evangelical movement than a drug treatment modality."

Daytop boasts an 85% success rate, Odyssey House more than 70% success rate. The Ford Foundation report states "it would be surprising if more than 5% of the addicts who enter TC's are able to lead a drug free life. New York Post reporter Robert Bazell reports few hard core statistics are available regarding this matter.

How successful therapeutic communities really are is not important. What is important is that they do help people get off drugs, and must continue to be funded in order to enable more people to lead drug free lives.

Methadone maintenance is another major treatment for heroin addiction. It is a synthetic, highly addictive, medication manufactured in the laboratory. In most of its effects, it resembles heroin. Methadone

satisfies an addict's craving for narcotics, and, dependent on the dosage taken, can block the effects of heroin, should the addict decide to "shoot-up."

However, many addicts using methadone take other drugs. Dr. Robert Newman, head of the city methadone maintenance program, reiterates: "If you say success is having people abusing no drugs at all, then methadone probably has a 2% success rate."

Substituting one drug for another is not the answer, abstinence via the therapeutic community is. "America where are you now, don't you care about your sons and daughters? Don't you know we need you now, we can't fight alone against the monster." (Steppenwolf from the album Monster.)

The monster in this case is addiction, and if we cared about our sons and daughters we wouldn't promote methadone maintenance.

We must fight addiction in any way that utilizes abstinence. In short, we must conquer addiction before it conquers us.

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## News In Brief

By AYAD MOHAMED

### Suit Against Angela Davis Dropped

An attempted suit to prevent Angela Davis from returning to the University of Los Angeles (UCLA) was recently dropped by a LA court.

Miss Davis was fired from her post in 1969 because she was a member of the Communist Party.

Despite the fact that her dismissal was unconstitutional, the UCLA Board of Regents still refuses to rehire her since Miss Davis is still a member of the Communist Party.

### Ban Lifted In Jamaica

Jamaica's entry ban of Black militant leaders has been recently lifted.

For six years Jamaica has refused entry into the country to such people as Stokely Carmichael, Elijah Muhammad, the late Malcolm X (and his autobiography) and other such Bloods.

The ban started because the British government has had a great psychological influence on its prime minister in office six years ago.

### Panama Seeks Help From UN

Panamanian United Nations Ambassador Aquilino Boyd recently made an appeal to the UN to have a meeting (March 15-21) to discuss Panamanian control of its Canal Zone, now controlled by the US, which he termed as a colonial situation.

Such talks have been put off nearly five years for fear that American activity of the Canal Zone would be abolished.

### Deadly Dye Discovered

New York. A deadly red dye, which can be found in various food products was recently discovered to be dangerous.

The dye, chemically known as **amaranth**, and as **Red No. 2w**, is a source of food coloring of red and orange things including hot dogs, soft drinks, ice cream, chewing gum, lipstick, and rouge. Rouge would include any variety of cosmetics to color the cheeks, lips red; a red powder consisting of ferric oxide used in polishing glass, metal, or gems and used as a pigment; and red compartments in roulette.

Amaranth is also combined with other dyes to produce the color for ice cream, processed cheese, luncheon meat, dry cereals, pickles, canned fruits, salad dressing, jellies, jams, candies, gelatins, pet foods, and other food products.

The harmful effects of Red No. 2w were detected during a three-year experiment (started in 1970) conducted in Russia with rats, mice, and rabbits. The experiment resulted in defected ovaries of female animals and would kill animal fetus (or malformed fetus should it live).

The Soviets recommended that a 132-pound person not take more than 4.5 milligrams of red dye per day. (One can of cherry soda has 62 milligrams of this substance.)

Despite all these damaging effects, the Food and Drug Administration refuses to ban this dye or ban such products which contain it.

### Pillsbury Biscuit Account Transferred to Black-Owned Advertising Co.

The "Hungry Jack" biscuit account has been recently transferred to Black-owned Vanguard Advertising Associated (Minneapolis, Minn.) from the New York office of Batten, Barton, Durstine, & Osborn (BBD&S).

Under the leadership of Thomas H. Tipton, Vanguard's project involved advertising in Black consumer markets.

Vanguard has in the past conducted a series of studies in various cities to determine the acceptance of Land-O-Lakes brand butter in the various Black communities.

## Caught in The Middle

By VICKY HUNTER

I can't party with abandon anymore. I arrive late and leave early.

Partying is a tradition with Black folks. We do it like it's a ritual — every Friday and Saturday night. The music is loud, and if the party's a goody, wine is flowing like water and the reefer is being passed around in the back room. The food's in the kitchen and the couples are tearing up the dance floor. The room is alive with laughter and quiet conversation. Everybody is having a good time, or so it seems.

The last party was different. It seemed like people were struggling to have a good time. There were people there I hadn't seen in years. One brother who'd grown up on the same block with me was telling me how things would be a lot better if he had a job. He said there was just nothing out there, and though he'd taken the civil service test for the transit authority, he was still on the waiting list. Meanwhile he's got a wife and baby to support.

No, I can't party like I used to anymore. Maybe it's old age setting in or maybe it's just me. I try to dance and my mind wanders. James Brown's record is blasting and he's wailing, "I've got ants in my pants and I need a dance!" and all I can think about is the nagging problems begging for remedies.

I see the schools that look two days older than water. I see the tinder boxes we call our homes. I see all those strong, able bodied Black men with their wine bottles. They just standing on the corners or sitting on the stoops because they have no jobs to go to. I see the long lines of Black and Puerto Rican women waiting outside the welfare office. I see the Black manchild in multiples of tens moving menacingly along the streets.

They've got problems at home, problems at school and the looks on their faces. . . . They're angry at the world and are ripe recruits for the groups who are picking off police. "What have I got to lose? I'll probably end up in jail anyway why not take one of them whitey's before I go?" some of them might reason. And now it's the budget cuts for programs we need.

Still Black folks party, but now I've learned to be selective about which ones I go to. Used to be a time when I'd go just to be going. It didn't matter who was giving it, the only question in my mind was, "Where's the party tonight?" So, we party while others plan the latest offensive against niggers. Or worse, continue their program of "benign neglect."

Was a state office building in Harlem more needed than the rehabilitation of the housing surrounding it? By who's list of priorities? Certainly not by ours. Is aid to Viet Nam a bigger priority than that same aid being directed to American citizens? The Temptations say, "You better think about it, think about it, think about it. . . ."

And you better. Pardon this cliché but "If you're not part of the solution you're part of the problem." No, I just can't party with abandon anymore.

## Open Letter:

## To Black Personnel

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Many of you Brothers and Sisters of the City College personnel have a nonchalant attitude towards Black students. Why? Maybe because you all are so busy with your responsibilities, or because some of you have a superiority complex. There seems to be a communication gap between us.

Some of you instructors are under the myth that your only responsibility is to teach and that's it. Perhaps you think that you are better than us because of your degree.

The only conversation that you might have with a student (if he's lucky) is pertaining to any given course. It seems that whenever I try to have a casual conversation with you, you overshadow me.

You wouldn't even pay me any common courtesy. Whenever I hold the door, you wouldn't even say "thank you."

I'll tell you about incidents I had with a Sister a few months ago. I was in a classroom after one of my classes was over and this Sister entered the room (I didn't know she was a teacher at the time). I greeted her politely several times until she finally answered; just barely opening her mouth. Then I asked her why she didn't speak. "I know I don't know you," I said, "but you could have answered me." Whereupon she answered abruptly, "Look, I don't have to answer or speak if I don't want to . . . and if you want to further press the issue you won't get anywhere!"

Another time I gave her a copy of a campus newspaper (THE PAPER) and she refused. Once while I was distributing papers in her class she told me I was disrupting her class. But her class hadn't even started yet.

Some of our brother teachers talk to their students in a harsh and disrespectful way. They even grade them in such a manner.

Sometimes many of the Black secretaries treat us with undue coldness and harshness. Whenever we ask some of them a question their common response is "I don't know." Another time I told some secretaries of a particular department that "My instructor gave me his phone number and I lost it. Could I please have it?" Their response was, "We are not allowed to give students instructors' phone numbers." These same individuals generate a hostile attitude towards us whenever we try to be friendly.

A lot of our cashiers at the cafeteria in Shepard Hall and our janitors are found guilty of the same faults as our secretaries.

A word to all such personnel: Dig yourselves! We are all the same people despite our various jobs and positions. I know your work might be hard, but please, don't let your frustrations out on us. Show a little more concern for us because you are able to help. Most of all, courtesy does make life a little more enjoyable.

From one who cares,  
Ayad Mohamed

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# Freshman Viewpoint

By MICHAEL SMITH

Upon entering City College last fall, I was part of the many confused students seeking the "correct" sources to make my studies on this campus more meaningful and more productive.

As a new member on the "campus scene" I must admit that my confusion has been diminished through constant reading of *The Paper*.

An example of this was the September 26th issue which dedicated the entire back page to "Freshmen Only." The page had information on the Child Care Center, helpful hints on dropping courses, and information about politically active Third World organizations.

I was pleased to see the uniqueness of *The Paper* in turning the freshman onto counselling in the academic and extra-curricular activities, social functions, and possible so-

lutions to many other personal problems.

In another sense, *The Paper* provides an alternative for Black students as opposed to the traditional sources which not only "blow up" their pictures, but major news events as well.

For example, we all know of the unprofessional manner in which *The Daily News*, and other dailies, boldly made claims of "hostages throats being slashed by rebelling inmates" at Attica, when, in fact, Governor Rockefeller was and is still responsible for the murders of inmates and hostages.

We have seen how, in the past and still today, controlled media report events affecting Black people making the victim look like the criminal and the criminal, the victim.

As I see it, *The Paper* doesn't slander its news events, but exposes Amerikkka for what it really is. If we read between the lines *The Paper* doesn't just

report news events but it gives us a progressive political ideology that can be interpreted for one's own meaning, which is so necessary in order for any people to gain their freedom.

When we sit down to read a paper, we shouldn't, like a sponge, soak in news articles. We should look at a concrete event and judge it for ourselves and then can see who is really the criminal.

We, not only as Freshmen, but as students, should take seriously the job of a Black Consciousness newspaper: to inform people of the major issues surrounding the everyday lives of Black people on and off the college campus.

I feel *The Paper* is doing a good job on campus of informing students of different things that are going on whether it be on a campus level, community level or throughout the world.

Let a righteous paper be the voice of the people.

Two selections merit special consideration: "Poinciana" and "Skylark."

Sonny Rollins does to Ahmad Jamal's "Poinciana" what John Coltrane did to "My Favorite Things." Rollins takes the listener on a steadily ascending trip into the realm of interpretation, improvisation and superb musicianship which is truly jazz.

"Skylark," perhaps better than any other cut on the album illustrates the greatness of Rollins. Mr. Rollins — the brother deserves respect — solos for most of the song in a truly spellbinding performance.

Rollins is unique among jazz performers and one only wishes that he will stay on the music scene, for his presence is sorely needed. Rating: E.

"Prelude" by Emir Deodato is also considered jazz, but is representative of the commercial

segment (is this really jazz?), featuring a dynamic and funky interpretation of the tune, "Also Sprach," by Strauss. But after this selection everything sounds the same and tends to become monotonous; diversity is virtually non-existent. Rating: F.

It is unfortunate, but many jazz artists are following this lead by commercializing their music though in most cases through necessity. Money, the "almighty dollar," mandates this necessity.

Jazz is in a precarious state and one can only hope that the true art form will prevail.

### QUICK RATINGS:

- P — Poor
  - F — Fair
  - G — Good
  - VG — Very Good
  - E — Excellent
- 1) Talking Book by Stevie Wonder ..... VG
  - 2) New Directions by the Temptations ..... G
  - 3) Wild Flower by Hubert Laws ..... E
  - 4) Cymande by Cymande ..... G
  - 5) Legendary Profile by The Modern Jazz Quartet ..... E

### PAGEANT NOTES

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## Jazz

JAZZ — did someone say jazz? The next two albums to be reviewed are classified as jazz but, are diametric opposites.

Sonny Rollins' Next Album by Sonny Rollins is magnificent. For anyone even remotely interested in the Black art form called jazz, this album is a must!

This is Rollins' first album since his return from a self-imposed five-year absence. It is evident that he hasn't lost any of his "excellence" and, in fact, has moved onto a higher level.

Selections in the album are "Playin' In the Yard," "The Everywhere Calypso" (both featuring the Reggae musical struction; "Skylark," "Keep Hold of Yourself," and "Poinciana."

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Van Peebles:**Out There...!**

By DENISE L. MITCHELL  
"Out There By Your Lonesome," is a cold place to be, especially, if you're on the stage of the posh Philharmonic Hall. But Melvin Van Peebles was out there last Sunday night. I mean the brother was really OUT THERE, and his audience went right along with him for a foot stomping, hand clapping evening of rapping about "pimps and politics, rats and revolution."

The audience rocked to the funky tunes and really got into the soulful philosophy all written, composed and performed by Van Peebles in a one-man concert. It was like church, all that syncopation of rhythms and good vibrations in a program that consisted of songs and monologues from Van Peebles' two Broadway

plays, "Ain't Supposed To Die A Natural Death" and "Don't Play Us Cheap," with some selections from his Brer Soul album.

Van Peebles was resplendent in denim jacket and corn rowed braids. He quickly answered the question, "Just what is he going to do by himself?" We got a sampling of the comic Van Peebles, doing a take-off on the old James Brown act of singing hard and collapsing on stage while being assisted into an outrageously gaudy, sequined cape. The renditions of "Tenth and Greenwich," and "Lilly Done The Zampoughi Every Time I Pulled Her Coat-tail" — songs of love lost and won — were poignantly and convincingly performed.

As with most playwrights who perform their own work,

Van Peebles' performance of the very moving and disturbing soliloquy "Three Boxes of Longs Please," fell far short of that given by Albert Hall in "Ain't Supposed To Die A Natural Death." The high point of the evening, however, was "Put A Curse On You," originally performed by Minnie Gentry, in which the plague of dope, head whippings and other forms of ghetto oppression are tossed back from whence they came.

At the end of the evening, some people were probably still convinced that Van Peebles was crazy, but they also had to admit that Van Peebles is a genius, proving the two are not mutually exclusive. Genius or lunatic, Melvin Van Peebles proved that he was one of us while he sang, danced, and did his own unadulterated thing.

**An Everyday Lesson**

Today I went down to pick up my pay check and on the way to having it cashed I saw three men standing along the 42nd street library waiting with their shoeshine boxes for prospective clients.

Walking down 42nd street from Fifth Avenue, I thought about having my shoes shined, reminiscing about the times my father would not allow me to go shine shoes when everyone was doing it.

I passed up the first two, and as I approached the third

I stopped, hesitating, wondering whether or not it was ethical to pass up the first two men. I decided that there was no qualitative difference among the three, so it was the third man who got to shine my shoes.

When I approached him, he didn't at first take me seriously: I was wearing ankle high work boots. I assured him that I did want my boots shined, and I sat in the chair. As I put my foot up on the rest I became self-conscious.

I became conscious of the

stereotype that I was mocking. I picked up one of my books to try to hide my grin and embarrassment. It didn't work and I resolved to ask him about his work.

I found out that it was a fairly slow day. He was leaving after he finished my shoes.

He told me that I kept my boots better than some people kept their shoes.

When he was through I felt good:

I had just received my first professional shoe shine. But more importantly I learned a little more humility.

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