

THE PAPER

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184

Friday, November 22, 1974

—Langston Hughes

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.

Sahelian Famine Portends International Dilemma

by Steve Rowland

The Black Studies and Political Science departments jointly sponsored a recent meeting to discuss the drought and famine situation in the Sahelian Zone — a 2500 mile long near-desert stretch running just south of the Sahara, extending through six West African nations.

The nations of the Sahelian Zone, Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger and Chad, are among the world's very poorest (the average income is less than 100 dollars). They are faced with an emergency famine situation which is affecting thousands of people.

The reason that there is limited awareness of this catastrophe and minimal U.S. aid, according to Professor Leonard Jeffries, Chairman of the Black Studies Department, is simply that all of the people native to this are Black.

The evening's main speaker was Mr. David Burgess, a senior officer of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Mr. Burgess began by disagreeing with those who claim that the nation's campuses are dead and that students are unwilling to help anybody anymore by saying they are willing to do so, "provided people have the facts."

The main cause of the famine, according to Burgess, is the small amount of rain over the past few years during normally heavy periods. This is further com-



Sahelian Famine Exhibit

The Paper/Stewart Jackson

pounded with the fact that nearly all the people in the area are nomads, and that the populations of both the people and their herds have been increasing at a phenomenal rate. The land simply cannot support this many people.

One effect of there being an enormous

number of animals has been the heavy destruction of vegetation, which in turn is vital in holding back the desert. Mr. Burgess says that the desert is moving south at a rate of thirty miles a year.

One of the most destructive elements of any famine, he said, is the physical

development of children. Malnutrition if not fatal, is most devastating in the first five years of life. Throughout the world during the next twelve months, 12 million children will starve to death, Mr. Burgess estimated.

Those who survive, may suffer three major crippling afflictions:

- First, dwarfing, along with improper development of the bones and teeth, and the lack of enough strength to resist disease.

- Second, and enormously prevalent, is blindness, caused by lack of vitamin A.

- Third, and probably most damaging, is brain damage stemming from improper growth of the brain itself.

"We do not know how many children even in our own country are permanently dulled by improper nutrition in the first five years of life," he said.

UNICEF's focus is to deal with the problems of the children of the countries it is working in. In emergency situations such as the present one, their first step is to deal with immediate needs, usually food. Their next step is to try to meet the ultimate needs of the situation. UNICEF is already at work in these countries providing a major food distribution program. The government of each country puts up a specified amount of money: up to two or three times the amount donated to that country by UNICEF. These countries have

(Continued on Page 2)

CCNY Report:

Comments

On

National

Elections

by Hugh Foster

Every result of the November 5th election centrifuges from inflation and Watergate, according to a random selection of City College black students interviewed on their reactions to the elections.

Mr. Louis Acosta, 22, a third year Journalism major said people were emotionally involved over Watergate. "They voted in a Democratic Congress that would move towards stemming inflation." Voters looked at no other issues and only "reacted emotionally," he said.

Despite her disinterest in politics, Ms. Doris Smith, a Business

Administration major, agreed, "Watergate corruption caused the Democratic landslide."

Mr. Toby Neal, 19, a freshman Liberal Arts student said, "I am apathetic about politics but feel that Nixon's Republicans and Watergate messed up the government causing voters to turn toward the Democratic Party in the November 5 elections."

Mr. Gladstone Yearwood, a New York University Film and Television graduate now enrolled in his first year of Graduate Studies at CCNY fortified the other's views, "The Democratic landslide was caused by two major evils as seen by the American

public, Watergate and inflation."

Mr. Acosta, who lives in Brooklyn Heights, voted for unsuccessful U.S. Senate candidate Ramsey Clark, whom he worked for during the campaign with New York governor-elect Hugh Carey. He was dissatisfied that Clark lost and in spite of how he cast his ballot said, "Carey was not the best man."

Nevertheless, Mr. Yearwood, who did not vote said that the election was important to him, because he wanted "to see if the American public was thinking . . . the American public proved unsophisticated in 1972 when they elected Richard Nixon, who

had a slew of transgressions." He wanted to observe what candidates they would elect on November 5. He said the Democratic and GOP platforms were the same, "which really means no platform at all."

Mr. Toby Neal did not vote either, "because my vote would not have counted."

Mr. Yearwood, a St. Albans, Queens resident conceded he was unaware who ran for his district at the local level but knew, "It was a white man." . . . Anyone associated with the Nixon Watergate stand was dropped. He cited incumbent New Jersey Congress-

(Continued on Page 7)

Nobel Laureate Speaks on America

by Ely A. Dorsey

Dr. Gunnar Myrdal, economist, commentator, Nobel Laureate, and Distinguished Professor at The City College, held a press conference on this campus last Tuesday.

With his perceptive sense of the social order, the author of the monumental *An American Dilemma*, reflected his views on the contrast between the latter New Deal America and today's Watergate America.

Citing the confidence of the Roosevelt era population in the institutions of America, the visiting lecturer noted the current skepticism of the American people. This skepticism, Dr. Myrdal implied, was a phenomenon of current political history, taxing the sensibilities of even the most patriotic citizens.

Part of this onus has to be borne by the professional economic community, for its lack of veracity and the level of its involvement in the politics of the country, implied Dr. Myrdal. Depicting his own dilemma, the political economist alluded to the weakness of democratic governments to stabilize economies and control inflation.

Further into the interview, Dr. Myrdal reflected on the basis of his reputation: the Black plight in America.

Speaking with a knowledgeable tongue, he testified that conditions still exist in America for an internal class struggle to occur. Citing that only a small segment of the Black population had joined the middle class, he pointed out that conditions for the mass of Blacks had not improved.

When asked for his opinion on the Shockley genetic theories, the social mover reflected the conservative view that, as in Sweden, a high correlation existed between class status and educational achievement. Proposing a direction for solution, he suggested priority be addressed to the home life of Blacks.

Queried on his impressions of City College, Dr. Myrdal lauded the Open Admissions experiment and wished it well, but added his view that America has never had educational standards for the nation as a whole to follow. This, he implied, should be a priority of any educational experiment.

He reflected on the isolation of Black Studies from the rest of campus life, but commented on the naturalness of this situation, with the obvious existence of racism in academia.

Speaking to the busing issue, he described the absorption and conditioning practices of his native Sweden. When the question was posed, "What if tomorrow, Sweden's population became 25% Black. Would you anticipate a busing problem?" The Nobel Laureate announced that he would in line with the apparent differences in world class and caste practices. Pursued further, he allowed that he saw differences in nature between class solutions to diseconomies and racial solutions to inequality, but he reinforced his class and caste analysis with both social phenomena.

The interview ended with the question: "Has Sweden changed its immigration laws to allow Blacks to migrate there?" The Nobel Laureate replied, "No."



The Paper/Norris Alford
Dr. Gunnar Myrdal

Harlem Children React To Academic and Arts Stimuli

by Stephanie Skinner

In April 1974 CCNY became the home of a YMCA project called the Mini-Academy. Conceived by Bill Burns, the program's extension director, the Mini-Academy grew out of his experiences with Harlem Prep and the Street Academics.

From many years of volunteer work in the Harlem community, Mr. Burns saw an urgent need for a program directed toward the very early school-aged youths. Determining that ages six to twelve are the most important years for socializing, the City College YMCA project was initiated to serve as a creative mechanism to promote a constructive and up-grading educational process.

The new-inventive minds of the Mini-Academy revolutionized the historical City College YMCA program. They have sought and developed unique approaches in educational expansion for the young in City College's surrounding community.

Such increasing statistics as; school drop-outs, low academic achievements for graduates, drug addiction, juvenile delinquency and poverty reflecting the failure of the New York public school system's failure to meet the needs and interest of its pupils.

The Mini-Academy hopes to meet the concrete needs of all poor, Blacks and Puerto Rican youths in the Harlem community. The summer experience has already led to the successful educational growth and development of 532 people; young and old. The highly advanced learning materials used for Art, History, Math, Reading and Science make the young people aware of the pleasures of such disciplines and their limitless wealth of knowledge.

The adults have found new approaches to teaching and reaching the youths. A significant development this summer was the understanding of one's culture and self-worth unveiled by some of the programs' innovative staff.

Initially the Mini-Academy received an incomplete budget from the YMCA, and as a result, funds had to be constantly raised to make the Mini-Academy functional. In spite of the many obstacles the program has faced, such as; a retraction of the educational students from the Education Department, and inadequate funding from the YMCA, the Mini-Academy is still alive. Presently trying to get a grant, the Mini-Academy has received vitally needed donations from CCNY, faculty, the Riverside Church and Twelve Good Deeds.

The unstable funding situation is presently limiting the range of the programs' projected staff and participants. However, it is still successfully providing for fifty youngsters.

Implemented mainly by City College work-study students, the structure groups the children according to age.

They are individually tutored in their homework and spend much time developing their skills in the academy's art center.

Following the example of its summer program, the academy is now developing activities in films, dance, music, trips and special events. Many of the youths have even reached a level of engaging in group encounters to increase their personal development.



Children: They play and learn.

A parent would surely be impressed by the careful planning of the program's staff. Their daily activity reports and weekly individual student reports indi-

cate a real effort to encourage the social, educational and cultural development of one of the nation's most disadvantaged communities' youth.

The Paper/Mini Academy

Famine Ravages Sahelian Zone

(Continued from Page 1)

also formed an Interstate Committee to help each other, which is presently attending the World Food Conference in Rome.

Specifically, UNICEF is working on four major areas — feeding, accomplished by setting up temporary refugee camps; medicine, including drugs and intravenous feeding; obtaining water by well digging; and, the point on which he elaborated the least, working with governments to plan longer term rehabilitation. "This rehabilitation must include, putting more people on farms in order to grow their own grain, and reducing the number of herds," stated Burgess.

Mr. Burgess showed a ten minute film prepared by UNICEF in Ethiopia, which is in a very similar situation to the countries of the Sahelian Zone.

He then called on Americans to do something to change the collision course we are now running with this worldwide disaster.

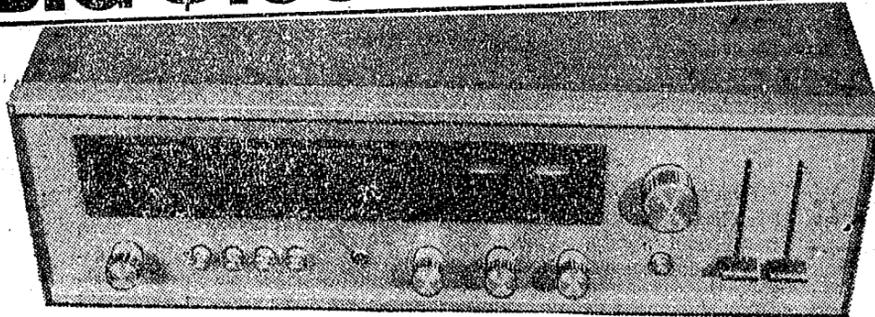
These changes must come in our waste of our disproportionate share of world resources. Basically we must eat less meat; it takes eight pounds of usable grain protein to produce one pound of the same meat protein. Our national priority of spending 90 billion dollars a year on the military while spending only three or four billion on foreign aid must change also," Burgess said.

The last important point he made was in response to a question. He said that we have a great deal to learn from the Chinese when it comes to food problems.

Citing an extremely favorable report by a U.S. team studying the medical, nutritional, and educational conditions of Chinese children, he added, "We are waiting for the country which has nearly reversed the terrible conditions of its starving peasants, to share their solutions with the rest of the world."

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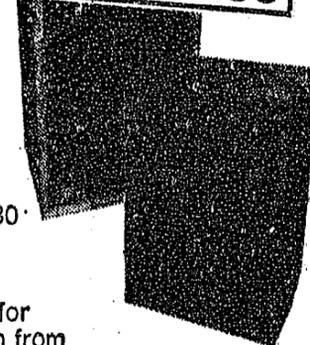
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Black Alumni's Move for Unity

by Sherry Lyons

There is an organization on the CCNY campus that deserves considerable amount of attention in terms of the types of activities it's engaged in conducting and pursuing in uplifting students' morale. This organization is the Black Alumni Association.

One of the activities the BAA is engaged in is a tutorial program which meets every Saturday between the hours of 10-11 in Wagner Hall. High school students from all over the city come every Saturday to be tutored in just about every subject that meets high school requirements.



The Paper/Norris Alford
Garrison Smith displays his cool.

Language art subjects such as reading comprehension, spelling, speed reading, vocabulary building, etc; are particularly emphasized in the program.

The BAA came into existence in 1972 as a result of a report which purportedly demonstrated the lack of minority interest

groups having little or no influence on the board of directors in the Alumni Association.

The report also indicated that there were hardly any programs geared to non-white students on the campus. In other words, there was a lack of representation in implementing ideas and programs for the growing population of non-white students. The BAA is funded by a budget allotment from the Alumni Association.

Garrison Smith, program coordinator of the Alumni Association said, "the report requested that certain areas be realized and programs be developed to represent interest groups." It wasn't until 1973 that programs started getting underway. Smith stated, "it took a lot of time and effort to contact former Black graduates and telling them of our plans. However, the response was overwhelming."

As program coordinator of the Black Alumni Association, Mr. Smith's responsibilities are to help set up programs for the various interest groups in the Alumni Association. Mr. Smith was responsible for holding a job fair for graduating seniors interested in business and science careers.

Industries from all over the country sent their representatives to discuss with the students the prospects of getting jobs in their industries. Another program that Smith was responsible in establishing was workshops held last year that sought to help students fill out their resumes. He stated, "I found out that lots of students have difficulty in filling out their resume. We teach them what and what not to include."

For 1975 Mr. Smith said that the BAA will be concerned with developing a directory of "Who's Who in Black Alumni." Garrison said that, "we need lawyers, physicians, and various other professional people to help us out. I'm very optimistic about the pro-

grams we're establishing." He contends however, that the only problem is getting more funds for our projects.

One of the ways the BAA is setting up funds for their program was the sponsoring of a Disco-Buffer at the Liquid Smoke on Nov. 3.

Monica Bobb, coordinator of the tutorial program feels that the program is very effective. Her major responsibility is placing students with tutors that can help them. She is also responsible for recruiting interested students who want to tutor.

According to Monica the program is very successful. "We're getting more students than we can handle. As of Oct. 5, we've had a total of thirty students, now it's close to eighty students. She desperately needs more tutors. Ideally the ratio was supposed to be two students to one tutor. However, there are presently seven students to one tutor.

Ms. Bobb is also very optimistic about the program becoming a success. "I'm very concerned about the program expanding. We feel that the program is highly rewarding."

The tutors are from the Black Alumni Association and from The School of Education. The tutors are also very satisfied with the program. Bernnetta Smith, a tutor from the Education Department who's a junior and tutors in math, states, "I enjoy tutoring and the students are very receptive."

Mobilization Against Racism

On December 14th there will be a national demonstration against racist violence in Boston, sponsored by the Emergency Committee for a National Mobilization Against Racism. A New York planning meeting has been called for 7 PM, Monday, November 25 at the Community Church, 40 East 35th Street.

The CCNY Committee will hold a planning meeting on Tuesday, November 26th at Noon, in Room 325, Finley Student Center.

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The Season's Sure Shot

One of the most important changes to take place within the Physical Education Department is that the Basketball Team has a new coach. After a poor showing for the last several years (aggravated by a 9-14 record last season) former Basketball Coach Jack Kaminer was replaced by Dr. Floyd Layne, a CCNY Alumnus and ex-player for the 1950-51 City College Championship Basketball Team.

In an interview last week, Head Coach Layne expressed cautious optimism for the coming season which is due to start on Nov. 30th. In his mind the coming season will be a time for testing the ability of not only the team, but himself as well.

As Coach Layne perceives the situation, one very important factor will be the amount of support which the students give to the team by attending the games. However, he stresses that it is also up to the team to prove itself to the College, noting that few people, if any, wishes to see a losing team.

"If it's an exciting and winning team, people will come," declared the coach.

Layne feels very strongly about the appearance the team will make for the College. "Teams represent the school," says the

coach. He further stated that CCNY has a fine group of players and said that he has "no complaints about any of the members of the team."

Floyd Layne has an outward appearance of cool (maybe even cold), calm, and methodical deliberation: a man who will react to a situation with the reaction the situation calls for. He portrays the inner strength of confidence and a rare trait of determination which just might carry him through all situations, against all odds.

Making no pretense about this season, Layne sees that "all the games are going to be tough." In particular, he views Columbia, NY Tech, Fordham, and CW Post as his hardest opponents.

Only five out of the sixteen-member team are returning veterans from previous seasons. The Coach feels he has a good team nonetheless for every player kept, he points out, 10 were cut or turned away. Although he has eight juniors, there is only one senior, along with four sophomores and two freshmen.

In addition to an assistant coach, Ralph Baker, Head Coach Layne also works with the J. V. Coach, Jeff Sartourious. Both men are Physical Education Department Instructors.

The City College Varsity Basketball Schedule: Fall 1974

DAY	TIME	OPPONENT	PLACE
Nov. 30	6 PM	Columbia	Home*
Dec. 4	6 PM	Wagner	Home
Dec. 7	8 PM	Pace	Away
Dec. 10	8 PM	Adelphi	Home
Dec. 14	8 PM	Brooklyn	Away
Dec. 18	8 PM	Fordham	Home

* Home Games will be played in Mahoney Gymnasium.

SPECIAL ORIENTATION FOR STUDENTS OF SPANISH-SPEAKING BACKGROUND

The Office of Puerto Rican Program Development and the Spanish student organizations of City College will sponsor an orientation at the city-wide level for college juniors and seniors of Spanish-speaking background. The orientation will be held on Saturday, November 23rd, 1974, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at City College, Science Building (room J3, first floor) 138th Street and Convent Avenue.

The main emphasis of the orientation is to assist students in every way possible and do away with their commonly held myth that they won't be accepted to certain universities.

The orientation will be in the form of workshops and will be quite informal. Guest speakers and recruiters from different colleges and academic fields will be present. The following workshops will be held on that date: Law/

Medicine/Sociology / Psychology / Education/Social Work.

It is important to continuously pressure colleges to respond to the needs of the Spanish-speaking communities. Therefore, the success of the orientation will depend on student turn out. The colleges can be pressured only if students are present and able to commit themselves to graduate studies, i.e., with appropriate financial support.

Again, the Office of Puerto Rican Program Development urges all students of Spanish-speaking background to attend this special orientation.

Contact: Carmen Alustiza, City College of New York, Office of Puerto Rican Program Development, Administration Building, Room 208, 138th Street & Convent Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10031. Or call 621-7112.

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Open Education?

From the sixties, the black student community has learned one vital lesson: that struggle caused by oppression is met with co-optation and with more severe repression.

There is much discussion and there has been some written words defining, scrutinizing and criticizing the present situation of **Open Admissions** on this campus, CCNY. These words generally go over how supposedly and pitifully the standards and quality of this college have fallen due to **Open Admissions**.

The obvious fiends or felons are insinuated to be the black youths who populate the hallways here and there on this campus while relating to an obvious semi-comatose state. That is the opinion and the observation, as they filter down to us, some average students. It is hearsay.

Yet, it is also the view that can be gained if students attempt to analyze the minority behavior on this campus.

Before **Open Admissions**, there was oppression in the Black communities of this country. Numerous revolts and demonstrations later proved fruitful to help some Blacks get into colleges, but the standards were so high — for Blacks — that only the best and most qualified Negroes were the ones to succeed.

Yet, that racism in reverse did show that minorities given a less than equal chance were succeeding.

In 1972, nationwide surveys showed a 20% hike in collegiate minorities even though the **Sloan Report** of recent years proved conclusively that the United States was institutionally racist. At that point, **Open Admissions** had been in existence for three years.

Now, **Open Admissions** has been in existence for some five years and percentages are indicating a change in student body. Minorities are coming to this campus and are being allowed to vallicate.

What was our duty to become excellent remains largely in the hands of academicians: the full time tenured faculty.

Still here — at least for now — some of the minority students must fight to get good grades against a system of tenure inequities; of tenured administrative red boondoggle; of tenured jive, anti-black disdain; of tenured racist policy and hiring of tenured white supremacy on this campus. Those who can't fight all that are already defined by their non-activity.

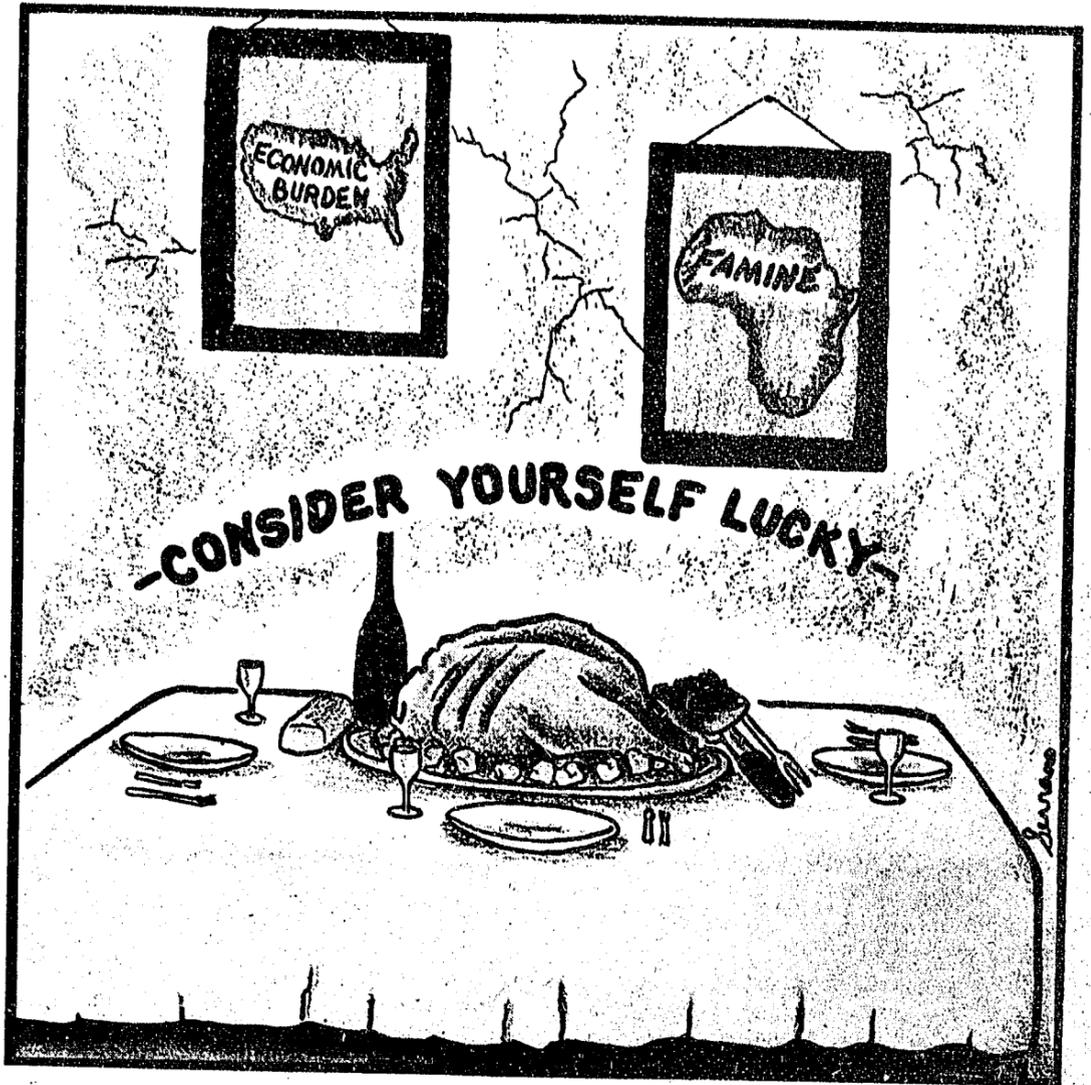
More than minorities are involved in remedial or bad situations, yet traditionally they remain the whipping boy. They are not the ones who lowered the standards; that power is denied them.

Although the sixties is known for Black eruptions causing change, the college community did not and will not voluntarily change. That is simply because of a creation of academic comfort called college tenure.

Still where there are oppression and 1930 depression figures in 1964, there is an overall oppression and greater depression in 1974. Some people remain so comfortable that they don't want to break that status quo of educational deficiency, yet it is in their interest to do so.

To the minority students who want to really make it and become accredited experts, it is a good suggestion that they grit their teeth and get ready for a long, hard battle. A racist is a bigot; is a punk; is a little man with a big stick.

Very few are the people who are willing to further give up the warm home; the love there; the college degree; or the other creature comforts that aid us through life. But we must retain our integrity as people against all odds in order to get the things we want in the way we want them.



Observance of Black Solidarity Day

by Stephanie Skinner

Over ten years ago, Douglas Turner Ward, of the Negro Ensemble Company, had an experience which led to a profound awareness in his consciousness. It was the Montgomery bus boycott, which to him, exemplified the power Black people were capable of achieving by their mere absence alone. Since 99% of the riders were Black, white operators drove empty buses up and down the Montgomery streets.

This sight stuck in Ward's mind until he was able to successfully express the concept through his play, "Day of Absence." This satirical depiction of Blacks making their presence known by their absence, opened in New York in 1965. After running for two years, Carlos Russell actualized the basic idea of "Day of Absence" by establishing Black Solidarity Day in 1969.

Russell, in explaining the political ramifications of such a tactic, said that, "Blacks were the basic employees in our society and if all abstained from work, the economy would begin to crumble." Blacks play such functional roles in telephone companies, post offices, sanitation departments, hotels and transportation facilities that these vital services would be extremely affected by Black absence.

"Blacks could paralyze the country if their power was used constructively," Russell added further.

The objective of Black Solidarity Day was not only to dramatize the potential power Black people wield over the economy, but also for Blacks to have a spiritual interaction with their families. Russell pointed out the importance of having a certain time when the oppressed removed themselves from a regular working day to unify with their families.

Though initially Black Solidarity Day had significant re-

sponse from the Black community, it was and still is confined to the East Coast. Visible observance of Black Solidarity Day has declined even in this area, but there is evidence that the concept is still alive. Celebrations such as Puerto Rican Solidarity Day and the Muslims' Black Family Day, indicate an extension of the objectives of Black Solidarity Day.

Black Solidarity Day itself as well as other observances initiated since then, have not yet accomplished the objective of hampering the economy. Ward felt this objective is too much to expect from this kind of observance. He also stated that the fundamental concept was never quite evident to the masses of Black people anyway.

When asked what the Black Solidarity Day Committee planned to do to publicize the event, the chairman, Carlos Russell, stated, "If an idea is valid you need not publicize it..." Though this is true, in essence, Douglas

Ward's point that it was, "never quite evident," explains the decline in the observance of Black Solidarity Day. In addition, being saturated with so many "Days" diminishes the impact of each day.

Black Solidarity Day could definitely serve as a very viable tool in the overall struggle. In using this day to develop programs around the plight of Black people, Blacks could begin to use the experience in relation to their daily struggles. Particularly important is the need to enlighten the masses, in order to solidify the collective efforts of Black people.

If Black Solidarity Day could convince the people of its importance, and at the same time raise the general level of awareness, it would certainly serve as a means to an end. Perhaps, Black people will one day be able to look back on Black Solidarity Day as one of the small tactics used toward the liberation of Black people.

Harlem Scouts Seeking Guides

CCNY students and faculty have an opportunity to become involved in the Harlem community by being a volunteer in Scouting.

Scouting serves thousands of young men in New York City with an active program which helps them develop mentally, physically, and spiritually. Scouting offers the opportunity to get out of the city and into the woods.

You can help shape tomorrow's adults by serving as Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Scout Commissioners, and in many other ways, according to the time and ability

you think you have. No previous Scouting experience is necessary. Just the desire and enjoyment of working with young people.

For further information on how you become involved in the Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America, Scouting Program in Harlem, contact anyone of the following people:

Here at CCNY: Dr. Marjorie Henderson, in the Administration Building, Dr. Bernard Sohmer, Dean of Students at CCNY or Carterie Owens, Neighborhood Executive of Harlem District at 947-8400.

Excuse Me, Can You Give It Up? African Heritage Studies

Seeking Membership

by Barbara Wheeler
and Patriceya Duncan

The African Heritage Studies Association (AHSAs) is soliciting membership among Black students, faculty and staff at The City College.

The African Heritage Studies Association (AHSAs) is an association of scholars of African descent dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and cultural heritage of African peoples both on the ancestral soil of Africa and in a diaspora throughout the world.

This six-year-old international organization of Black students and scholars was formally created in Montreal in 1969, when a majority of the Black members voted to break their ties with the white-controlled African Studies Association (ASA). It had become apparent that ASA could not or would not recognize the Black demand for parity in studies related to African peoples.

Thus, the more than four hundred Black scholars and students voted for complete separation from ASA and resolved to expend all their energies toward building their own organization — (ASHA) The African Heritage Studies Association.

Since Montreal, AHSAs Conferences have been held annually in Washington, D.C. (1970), Baton Rouge, La. (1971), Chicago, Ill.

(1972), Baltimore, Md. (1973), and in New York in April, 1974, when students and faculty at the CUNY Colleges hosted the conference. In April, 1975, the AHSAs 7th Annual Conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

Black students and faculty at CCNY are urged to join the AHSAs New York Support Committee, which became a formal group in order to organize the Conference held here last April at the Statler Hilton Hotel. Because the conference was such a successful venture, the New York group voted to remain together, to undertake other ventures to support the national organization.

These activities include the support of the 1975 Conference; an annual testimonial dinner in honor of an outstanding Black contributor to the historical and cultural heritage of African peoples; a charter flight to Africa during the summer of 1975 and the establishment of an AHSAs Scholarship Fund.

Black folks at CCNY are encouraged to become members of AHSAs and to participate in their many ongoing projects. The student membership rate is \$5.00, faculty membership is \$10.00.

Applications and other information can be obtained in Goethals, Room 107. Ask for Jennifer Batchelor or Patriceya Duncan.

A person must have a strong sense of self awareness, to remain spiritually positive. The spirit is strong, but the mind is in a state of blue funk. To be stripped naked, all your defenses down. Hurt! pain penetrating through to your unsheathed soul. Attacking the nervous system, hot and cold flashes permeate your body. You want to scream, cry, can't breathe! must break something. Feel better? Not really.

Who will be consumed by the fire? Must there always be a sacrifice? Could love really be a misunderstanding between two fools? I tend to reject this philosophy as super paranoid. You can run but you can't hide. A thousand ships I will attack you with and sink your paranoia.

Depth of understanding, kindness, warmth, trust, and animal magnetism are the tools to be used. To build a hopefully lasting meaningful love. Ready? all systems go, flash contact and off you go. Give it up folks? for love ain't for keeping. Those of us who cop to the basic need to love and be loved. Love is not just a four letter word to be used lightly. I know! For a love taken lightly lies bleeding in my hands.

Open up, come out from behind your facade. Let us see the real you. You might find that real you is another lover. How can you go on any other way? Surrender, you are surrounded. Rise up out of your blue funk. Take my hand, here is a heart; can you handle the pressure? Can you give it up??

— TYKE

In these days and times, I sometimes wonder, does it pay to fall in love? When I say love, let me make it clear I mean a true, understanding, unlimited, pure love. The kind of love that, to coin a phrase — launched a thousand ships.

Love is a very dangerous emotion. Many people in my humble estimation have no idea what the true connotations of the word mean. Love has become a trite, hackneyed term. Love I love, love, love, love, love, you. Get the message?

I love, I know how to love and in turn be loved. It has been my experience, and let me tell you I have experience, that people's basic paranoia keeps them from taking a ride on the emotional merry-go-round love has come to be. Think about it!! He loves me; he loves me not. She loves me; she loves me not. Does she or does he really love me? Are you dizzy yet?

How many of you are willing to give it up? That special part of your self that you keep locked up, guarded by all your elaborate defense mechanism. Let's face the cold hard fact that it is not easy nor is it fun getting your sensitivity trampled by the rampaging herd. The world is full of insensitive people.

It takes a special brand of individual not to let all the cruel sucker-shot tactics get to him. I would like to believe that there are more than just a few of us out there. We who get knocked down, but not out. Those of us who have the strength and intestinal fortitude to bounce back stronger than before.

Intimate Notes: A Sensuous Man

A Sensuous Man

Nefertiti's Scratchbook

by T. Micell Kwell

Young love is probably the same everywhere.

Although it may have been average or below average, we tend to remember it as being (hmm-hmm) fantastic. Some folks imagine that young love is the way they would like their next love to be.

I remember the way it was — that first time. We were just teenagers who figured we knew life because we were both fly and hip, and conceited. That's the way to play.

She was socially profound, and so was I. As it is with very social people, we both felt that each wouldn't really be interested in each other. We were both tired of having relationships of competitive ego. This lack of overconfidence was good because it meant we were dealing in a field of minus ego.

Everything was nice from the beginning to the end. What I mean is that she was a swell partner. And, the reason I know I had really loved her was because she was the first woman who ever made me talk to myself, asking whether or not I really loved her?

Any answer is irrelevant when you consider how few women actually make you talk to yourself while everybody else thinks you're babbling nonsense.

At any rate, both men and women are concerned about young love to the degree that we all would like to keep our love affairs vital and alive.

Although I still don't believe it, I've actually seen people try to build their relationships out of doctrinal codes like Marxism, Nkrumaism, Judaism, Islam or Christianity. I am sure such dogmas will ensure viable relationships but such beliefs do not ensure our partners will be erotic, loving, caring, intelligent, esoteric: that is, vital.

I had one friend for whom I can vouch that every woman I saw him with had loved him seriously. Our families were close, and from the way women physically adored him, I can better than assume he was one terrific lover.

This was true right up to the time he emerged as a homosexual.

When you play the odds, you stand to win or to lose. But for better play, let me explain the percentages. Most people want to achieve a triangle which is self-inclusive, or at least to get a deuce which stands some chance of getting better.

What this gambler's talk means is that there are three levels to relationships — friendship, loverships, and partnerships — and each of these three levels is built on the preceding one. An affair has vitality if it organically grows from one level to another.

In the beginning, there was creation. A man met a woman and they became friends, yet, it wasn't until that night that they became lovers (or deuces if you please). Then about two weeks later, she said this and he said "bet," and he said that and she said "ok": they became partners — maybe for life.

Many people don't know what

a percentage deal is. It's how much of a risk you are taking with yourself. And, that you care about. He/she who plays must pay.

You can be friends, lovers and partners if you both like it. You can be much less pressed and stressed if you know that all you got to do (if you don't like it) is walk away (and be lovers and friends, or friends, or maybe not friends at all).

The game of being vital is not one of just being erotic, sexual, sensual, mysterious or intelligent; sensual vitality is about being intelligent and sensitive enough to know that what you are actually dealing with is another person who is as sensitive as tender as you.

People who believe this are sometimes very aged and yet are more vital than your average twenty-year old. When you are used to playing the odds, you get skilled at it.

A Celebration of Womanhood

Saturday evening, November 23, 1974, Contemporary View Productions will present "A Celebration of Womanhood." This affair, for which the donation is \$3.00 will take place at Columbia University's Ferris Booth Hall (Lion's Den), and the location is 115th Street and Broadway.

Women will be admitted free of charge from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m., and there will be a special gift for the first 50 women to arrive.

For further information call: 782-1170, 627-0963 or 749-2305.

'Moms' Take Over Cinema

Amazing Grace, a superb and spirited film with stars ranging from "Moms" Mabley to Stepin Fetchit, centers on the rehabilitation of a mayoral candidate whose ambitions aren't kosher.

Grace Teasdale Grimes, portrayed by "Moms" Mabley, is at the core of the plot that starts in motion as Grace, following a long trip spent visiting her family, returns to Baltimore to find that her "new" neighbor is running for mayor. Troubled, Grace and her newly retired friend, Fortwith Wilson (Slappy White), set out to investigate their suspicious neighbors. Grace says "A Black man running for mayor in Baltimore, yea! But in this neighborhood? Na, na. This ain't right!"

As the story continues, Grace and her partner (Fortwith) start their investigation by bugging their neighbor's home. As a result, they discover that the mayoral candidate Welton J. Waters (Moses Gunn), is being used as a pawn. He anticipates heading a \$10 million Urban Renewal Program if he succeeds in a plot to take away votes from the front runner in the race. Everything is brought out in the open when Creola Waters (Rosalind Cash), in an intoxicated rage, attacks Grace. In a scene that seems to be humorous, Grace and Creola confront each other for the first time by having an argument, which consequently changes the aim of the characters. It is at this point that Waters decides that he wants to become the next mayor of Baltimore, and that he wants to do so by running a honest campaign.

Butterfly McQueen plays the part of Clarine, a lady who had very little bearings on the plot, but, however, she appeared in the most hilariously funny scene of the movie.

This movie, which is written and produced by Matt Robinson and directed by Stan Lathan, is highly recommended. In addition to being extremely humorous, it deals with very feasible situations while it lacks the elements of blaxploitation films. Its main theme is unity, the gathering together of Blacks to achieve a common goal.

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Issue Editors:

Theodore Fleming

T. Micell Kwell

Edwin Lake

News Editor: Rafaela Travesier

Features Editors:

Nadine Johnson

Sherry Lyons

Paula Parker

Production:

Diane Anderson

Phil Emanuel

Robert Knight

Kenneth Taylor

Black Liberation: Reactionary Nationalism vs. Marxism-Leninism.

Mao Tse-Tung Thought

For about two years now, Amiri Baraka, Chairman of the Congress of African People (CAP) and once the 'father' of cultural nationalism, has been coming out more and more for Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-Tung Thought. This is only one reflection of the major shift now happening in the ideological struggle between reactionary nationalism and Marxism-Leninism in the black liberation movement. What is the substance of this split? It is a question of consistently upholding everything that is progressive and revolutionary, and rejecting everything that is backward and reactionary. Reactionary nationalism refuses to see classes and class interests among Black people, upholding everything black, including Black reactionaries. Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-Tung Thought, however, always sees class struggle and imperialist (class) oppression, and works for the emancipation of all oppressed people through proletarian (working class) revolution. When it comes to national struggles, Marxism-Leninism supports all such struggles that weaken imperialism, and opposes all struggles that strengthen it. Marxism-Leninism, therefore, will not support all black folks, because some aid and collaborate with imperialism.

History of Black Liberation

A good part of Amiri's speech was spent tracing the progress of the black liberation struggle from the 1950's, beginning with the Civil Rights Movement. That movement was of course a just, mass struggle, a part of a worldwide black movement that had been coming (up) since World War II under the leadership of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois blacks (Nkrumah, Martin Luther King, etc.). At first opposed by the entire U.S. ruling class of Rockefellers, Kennedys and Morgans; it was later used and even led by liberal bourgeois figures such as the Kennedys, which, however, never altered the essentially just character of the movement.

By the late fifties, Robert Williams had introduced the idea of "self-defense." While that was not a very large trend, it added a qualitatively new dimension of militancy to black liberation.

The early sixties brought in Malcolm X and black nationalism. Malcolm declared that blacks were not Americans, with the rights of other Americans, but were oppressed nationally by America. 1964 saw the split between the two streams of thought that black nationalism had always carried, religion (Islam) and political struggle. In moving towards political struggle and revolutionary nationalism, understanding that black liberation was tied to the destruction of imperialism, Malcolm further raised the militancy and clarity of black liberation.

Then came Stokely and black power, raising the ideology and militancy yet another step. A simple idea, that black people need power, it is still an essential truth.

In the late sixties, Rap Brown and the Panthers openly upheld the violent riots and rebellion of the period and ushered in armed struggle. The Panthers, moreover, rejected reactionary cultural nationalism and began to propagate Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-Tung Thought, their most important contribution to the ideological struggle in the revolutionary movement. They resolutely supported all anti-imperialist struggles in the world, including, above all, the Vietnamese peoples. While always upholding black liberation and revolutionary nationalism, they fought for the emancipation of all oppressed people, Black and white, through proletarian revolution, creating a clear split between themselves and all reactionary non-class nationalism.

The struggle that began with prayers, sit-down demonstrations and marches was ten years later engaged in open rebellion and armed struggle. Its ideology had progressed from "non-violent resistance" and liberal reformism to proletarian revolution and Marxism-Leninism. Through Civil Rights, self-defense, black nationalism, black power and armed struggle, the rising militancy and ideological clarity are unmistakable.

Seeing this, the ruling class did not sit still, but launched a two-sided offensive against the black movement. The broadening and deepening struggle of the sixties has been temporarily interrupted by both the stick and the carrot. On one side, with the stick, the best leadership has been either locked up, killed or exiled. Martin Luther King is dead. Robert Williams was exiled. Malcolm is dead. Rap is locked up, while George Jackson, Fred Hampton, Mark Clark and many others were all shot up. On the other side, with the carrot, much of the rest has been bought off, co-opted. Through the magic of "Buy Black," "Black Ownership," and "Black Capitalism," openly supported by Richard Nixon as early as 1968, a whole wave of "first niggers", of new black faces in high places, has appeared. These include such figures as Floyd McKissick, Jesse Jackson, and Roy Wilkins. With the deepening crisis of imperialism, these people are more and more exposing them-

selves as true friends and collaborators of imperialism and true enemies of the black people. It is a wave of new faces to strengthen imperialism, to better cover its crimes. In Newark, Atlanta, Detroit, the mayor is black, the police chief is black, but the oppression of the black masses goes on as before. For the vast majority of black people, nothing has changed. There is black everything, but nothing for the masses.

Attacks Cultural Nationalism

The major attack in Amiri's speech was against the reactionary cultural nationalism and reformism that he himself once pushed and that so many of these new faces still uphold. What is reactionary nationalism? It is nationalism that refuses to see class distinctions and class interests among black people, holding that all black people are the same with the same interests, whether a black worker or a Percy Sutton. It is nationalism that similarly equates all white people, whether working class white or Rockefeller and Kennedy. It is nationalism that thus refuses to see that most black people are working class people, that the friends and enemies of the black people have lined up along class and not race lines, that there are some blacks who collaborate with the ruling class and are no better than imperialism itself, while the white working class, when it clearly understands its class interests, is the surest ally of black working people. Reactionary nationalism has many other aspects that we cannot deal with now.

Does this Marxist-Leninist class viewpoint split the black community, split its ideology? Yes, definitely, but these are splits that already exist in reality, for as Amiri pointed out, black fingers have been pulling the triggers that are killing black people. Marxist-Leninists can at most be blamed for clearly pointing out these divisions.

In our experience at CCNY, opportunists like Tony Spencer push the very same reactionary nationalism. In his article of October 4th Spencer actually slanders Black students at CCNY, declaring that they spend all their time playing chess, partying, getting high and staying high. Spencer attacks Marxism-Leninism as "old socialist philosophy," without any relevance to black liberation struggle. Spencer tries to create divisions among the student body by pitting black students against Jewish students on the Bio-Med issue. We oppose Zionism, which is colonialist and racist, but in no way oppose the Jewish people or religion. Spencer finally comes out openly for a democratic governor. The American people, however, have learned from Watergate that it doesn't matter if it's a Republican, Democrat, Liberal or Conservative. From beginning to end, Mr. Spencer's article represents the interests of the monopoly capitalist class which rules this country with their servants in black communities, in the College, and in the College Administration.

Why Study Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-Tung Thought?

We see from Amiri's speech that the whole thrust of the movement of the sixties was approaching, and with the Panthers arrived at, open advocacy of proletarian revolution and Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-Tung Thought; that the struggle was temporarily interrupted by the stick and the carrot, which ripped off the very best leadership and set up a whole wave of black misleaders who pushed the most reactionary nationalism to manipulate the masses; that for several years these "first niggers" have been exposing themselves and their reactionary nationalism throughout the movement as at The City College, as friends of the ruling class and enemies of the black people; and that as they expose themselves, more and more honest people are turning to the working class viewpoint and its science, Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-Tung Thought. This is a major ideological shift now happening in the black movement. The Black Workers Congress (BWC), a Marxist-Leninist organization that stems from various black workers organization, clearly reflects this shift. As we know, it is also occurring in CAP. The African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC) and the Youth Organization of Black Unity (YOBU) have similarly gone through a sharp ideological struggle between the "race theory" and the "class theory," summarizing it in this way:

"Two lines have emerged in ALSC: On the executive committee, in the regions, and on the local level, they represent two different theoretical positions, two different sets of concrete programs and are based on two different class realities. One is pure race theory, the other is the theory of class struggle with a correct analysis or racial oppression, with a program of mass involvement based on the necessary leadership of the Black working class.

"Race Theory: This position holds that all Black people are the same, and race is the single most important fact of life. Since history is characterized by the

struggle of one race to dominate another, the racial factor is the basis of historical change. If there are any important distinctions that exist between Black people they are the degree to which Black people associate with white people.

"Also, this position believes that all white people are the same, equating the Rockefellers, Mellons, Morgans, and DuPonts with the average white working class.

"On the question of imperialism: This race approach attacks the foreign extension of imperialism while ignoring its primary base as monopoly capitalism is the U.S.A. Some Black Congressmen will make speeches against the role of U.S. corporations in Southern Africa, but will refuse to condemn their practices at home and be friendly beneficiaries of campaign funds from those same corporations.

"Theory of Class Struggle: This line holds that the motive force of history is the class struggle. Classes are large groups of people united by common interests based upon having the same relationships to the means of production — land and technology. Some folks own the land and technology (Capitalists) while others must work for them in order to get wages to live (Workers). The class struggle is based on the irreconcilable conflict of the Capitalists' efforts to maintain the highest level of exploitation of the Workers to reap profits, while Workers struggle to increase wages and get better working conditions.

"Black people are organized into classes as are all people in a Capitalist society. The small minority of Black businessmen constitute the Capitalist class while the vast majority of Black people are wage-salaried Workers. Being a little Black Capitalist does not alter the situation: The profit motive is still the driving force of any Capitalist, especially since increasing the exploitation of labor is the basis for increasing profits.

"Moreover, class struggle takes on different forms: Classes in conflict within a Capitalist society, colonized peoples in conflict with a colonizing country, and oppressed nations in conflict with oppressor nations. The essence of these conflicts in the struggle against exploitation, due to the fact that racial and national factors are instruments of class exploitation. The critical issue here is how the Capitalists, specifically the Monopoly Capitalists, are able to reap super-profits by compounding the exploitation of Black Workers with racism. Racism does two things: (1) It pits the white masses against Black people because of a perceived threat to their economic security (and, due to white supremacist propaganda, because of a perceived threat to their person, children, home, etc.); (2) It pits the Black masses against all white people because racism had taken an almost "Apartheid" form until the 1960's, and lingers til this day for the Black working class, including less work, less pay for harder work, and poorer living conditions (education, health, housing, and food). So racism pits the two broad masses of working people against each other; and in the process the ruling class profits even more by this and gets away without answering to any charges."

We must add that all national, racial and class oppression can be resolved only through proletarian revolution and socialism. Socialism is the dictatorship of the proletariat, a long historical period during which revolution must continue to completely eliminate all oppression. The ALSC concludes:

"These two lines reflect the basic tendencies of the total Black liberation struggle at this time, and therefore the fundamental issue is larger than ALSC. These two lines reflect a long historical struggle that goes back over two hundred years, and involves all areas of life. There are manifestations of these lines in economics, politics, education, Africa, the World Revolution, etc. Therefore we must understand each tendency and struggle to unite all who can be united."

In conclusion, at this time when we are beginning to come out of the ideological confusion of the past few years, when reactionary nationalism is not yet thoroughly understood and exposed, when we have not even begun to replace the ideological and practical leadership of the sixties, the thing that will accelerate all this is a serious study of Marxism-Leninism, for this is the science that summarizes and explains the worldwide revolutionary experiences. All of the organizations mentioned earlier have in varying degrees recognized this and take it up. By seriously studying this science we can most quickly and thoroughly clear up the confusion, understanding and defeating all reactionary nationalism in our movement.

HOLD HIGH THE BANNER OF MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT!

— Black Students Collective

Coach Moves His Team

by Brian Warner

The Beavers' swimming team will start a new season on November 23, 1974 with first year coach Marcelino Rodriguez. Even though this is Rodriguez's premiere as coach for City, he has widespread experience in the field of coaching.

Marcelino Rodriguez is known throughout the city for his coaching ability. He has successfully coached many High School and A.A.U. champs, and even a few All-Americans. Currently coach Rodriguez is the Principal of P.S.



The Paper/Phil Emanuel
In the swim of the season, Coach Rodriguez moves on.

72 in East Harlem. He also serves as city-wide coordinator of swimming for the New York City Department of Recreation.

Coach Rodriguez, who grew up in the South Bronx, attended St. Mary's Catholic School. There he was first encouraged to join the

swimming team by coach Charlie Young. Coach Rodriguez, recalling Young's encouragement, asserted that "Charlie gave me something to do. If not for him I might have been in jail like many other people I knew."

Upon leaving St. Mary's, Rodriguez then went on to swim for Taft High School in the Bronx. He's a graduate of New York University and is the recipient of a degree in Administration and Supervision from Fordham University.

When questioned about the low involvement of Blacks and Puerto Ricans in swimming, the coach remarked, "The best swimmers in this country are from the west coast. This situation occurs for a number of reasons, first of which is, the lack of proper facilities. Unfortunately, there's not one 50 yard pool designed for swimming in New York City. Secondly, swimming has never been the 'bus-pass' out of the ghetto like other sports, baseball, basketball and football."

Added to that is the fact that swimming is a more expensive sport than most people realize. "Swimmers must meet all expenses for meets and transportation." Coach Rodriguez went on to say that "Whites considered swimming a safe sport (free from minority involvement). A situation that made the practice of racial discrimination easier."

Coach Rodriguez was only hired on a part time basis, but after the swimming team petitioned the administration on his behalf, he was given a full time berth. The swimmers knew of his ability since he has coached several of them before.

National Elections...

(Continued from Page 1)

man Sandman as an example. But neither the Democratic controlled Congress or President Ford for that matter, "offered any alternatives to inflation or institutionalized corruption."

"Black people cannot change the system from outside, any change must come from within," was Mr. Acosta's belief on the question of Black influence on American politics. "From the November 5th elections one could still assume that Blacks believed in the American political system. Idealism will not work for Blacks . . . Black people have to get more involved and more unified. . ."

Masters degree candidate Mr. Yearwood, thought it viable a few years ago for U.S. Blacks to have their own state but now questions whether or not Blacks want to move in this direction. "American Blacks are not revo-

lutionary and this political system is the only one they know. They had become staunch believers in the U.S. system and had the same aspirations as white Americans. Therefore Black Congressmen did not have a peculiar philosophy but indeed the same as their fellow white officeholders."

Mr. Toby Neal dissented, "the November 5 elections showed that because of Watergate and corruption few people, black or white, still believed in the system. The government should clean up."

"The more Blacks in Congress the more Blacks will vote," Ms. Doris Smith contended.

"Minorities are forcing the system to open up," says Mr. Acosta. "Women are waking up to their womanhood . . . with Governor-elect Ellen Grasso in Massachusetts and State Senator Mary Krupsak as the first woman Lieutenant Governor of New York."

Mr. Yearwood questioned whether, "the American political system had come to such a point that the exclusion of minorities would be detrimental. However, minority representation in the system is miniscule and the system still oppresses minorities."

"A curbing of Presidential power and a cut down of war goods can be expected from the new Congress, although Congress' first priority will be stabilization of the economy," Mr. Acosta predicted.

However, Mr. Yearwood said, "I see no radical changes coming from the new Congress."

"In campaigns, promises were always made but not usually fulfilled," said Mr. Toby Neal.

Coach Rodriguez is very enthusiastic about the team's coming season. Last year's team finished with a record of 7 wins and 6 defeats. This year the new coach hopes the team will finish with either a 12-1 or 11-2 record. This is a goal both he and the team feel is very possible.

At the afternoon practice, the coach has several community swimmers come down to practice with the team. He feels that this interaction with college students will encourage the community swimmers to go on to receive a college education.

Over the years coach Rodriguez has had ninety percent of his swimmers go on to college, several by scholarships.

Focusing on New York, Ms. Doris Smith said she believed another reason Congressman Hugh Carey was elected Governor of New York was because "Governor Nelson Rockefeller has Vice Presidential nomination problems."

Mr. Yearwood and Mr. Acosta were more superfluous on Carey's governorship. The former said, "although New York was ungovernable, it helps to have a person with a strong personality like Carey's in the Governor's chair. Dichotomies are too severe in this state . . . Already this can be seen with upstate Democrat Crangle being superceded in an important party post by Bronx Democrat Cunningham on Carey's investigation." Mr. Acosta said, "because Carey was New York City born as opposed to former Governor Wilson he would be more sympathetic toward issues such as the transit fare and the continuance of the free tuition system at City University."

"Hopefully then more funds would become allocated to the SEEK program here," Ms Doris stated.

The persons interviewed agreed that the election of the Democratic Governor would be beneficial to City College.

Announcement

The City College School of Nursing invites students to PLAN FOR TOMORROW TODAY. They can meet prospective nursing employers at CAREER DAY, Friday, December 6th, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M., in the Finley Center Ballroom. Should there be any questions, please feel free to call 621-7291. Your help and cooperation will be appreciated.

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Gil Scott-Heron Vibrates Columbia

by Victor Manuel Rosa

The audience waited two hours for the concert to get under way at McMillin Theater at Columbia University. It had been scheduled for 8:00 PM (October 26). Finally, after a heated debate ensued between the promoters of the affair and the audience as to whether refunds were forthcoming, at 10:00 Gil Scott-Heron showed his tall, lean, dashikied figure on stage and the restlessness abated.

Brother Heron's diverse talents as songwriter, singer, and musician (he played the electric piano), were quite evident during his performance, but it was clear he is principally a poet. Whether chanting, vociferating, or reciting his compositions, the emphasis is always on their lyric content.

His songs (and/or poems) covered quite a range of issues, opening the set with a rousing number called "Johannesburg," an Afro-American's expression of solidarity with his brothers and sisters struggling

for liberation in South Africa.

"Home is Where the Hatred is," a Black junkie's tale aimed at those who don't understand why, was accentuated by Omar Abdullah's pungent saxophone and buoyed by the incessant rhythms of Bob Adams' (traps) and two brothers adept in the use of various percussion instruments, among them the calabash, cow bell and congas.

Brian Jackson's sharp, angular piano work on "Lady Day and John Coltrane" complimented Brother Abdullah's energized melodic lines, as Brother Heron intoned the tribute to the late, great vocalist (Billie Holiday) and saxophonist.

The music of Brother Jackson (who sometimes co-composes with Brother Heron) and Midnight, the band, could be roughly described as a brand of blues/jazz/R&B, if one were inclined toward categorization, but it is really an example of vibrant contemporary Black music.

From "Sharing," a love song sung by Midnight's second vocalist, a brother who

is reminiscent of the Beltop voices of the 40's and 50's (for instance, Billie Eckstine) to "Western Sunrise" which is based on a passage from the Koran (the sacred scriptures of Islam), with its free-form tenor break and African drum chorus, the enthusiasm and empathy of this group were clearly present.

Special mention should be made of the rock-solid bass work of Danny Bowen, who anchored the group nicely, and of Omar Abdullah who, with an arsenal of horns that included flute and harmonica, contributed sublime moments to the night's proceedings.

As a bard, Brother Heron is a social critic, commenting on the vicissitudes of Black people's lives in the United States; his is a sensitive young man's perspective of this society from the special stratum he is part of.

At one point during the concert Brother Heron said that people ask us why we (the group) sing these types of songs and not "the other kind." The reason, said He-

ron, is "because the Black experience is 360 degrees and we want to cover more than a small segment of it."

While presenting a holistic view of that experience, they are bearers of its cultural heritage. Aware of their rich musical tradition and turbulent political history, they are able to synthesize this duality of their past into a relevant message of today, so that figures like Malcolm X and Charlie Parker are both heroes with high regard.

Along with other Black music units like Mtumo's Umoja (Unity Ensemble and Gary Bartz' NTU Troop), Gil-Scott Heron, Brian Jackson and Midnight are providing an alternative to what seems at times the myopic "top 40" music which the Media constantly exposes, mostly to the exclusion of that produced by the subjects of this review and other musicians like them. (Announcers like Felipe Luciano and "The Communicator," on WRVR-FM, are attempting to remedy this situation).

Harlem Players Depict Black Middle Class

by Sherry Lyons

For many years, Harlemites have unceasingly tried to establish a theatre with which the whole community could identify and feel a part of: a theatre that the community could feel proud to have in its midst, one to keep our rich culture and heritage intact. The New Heritage Theatre, located at 43 E. 125th Street, certainly exemplifies that long cherished goal. It's a small, struggling theatre that definitely needs the support from the community in order to survive so that it can remain viable.

On Friday, October 25, the theatre presented a play called, "Strivers Row," written by Abram Hill and directed by Roger Furman. The play was originally produced in 1939. Mr. Hill is a playwright/director and a co-founder of the American Negro Theatre. While attending Lincoln University, he became interested in English drama, which subsequently led to him winning the Charles W. Conway prize in English. After completing school, Mr. Hill became involved in the Federal Theatre Project. He also taught at Lincoln University from 1950 to 1955. Presently, he's teaching English at a New York Public School in Queens.

Roger Furman, a director and producer, is the founder of the New York Heritage Theatre. He has worked very hard in bringing theatre into the Harlem community. Among the plays he has directed are "Wine in the Wilderness," "Mojo," by Alice Childress and "Madam Odum." He has taught History of Black Theatre at New York University and Rutgers University. He is also co-author of "The Black Book."

"Strivers Row" satirically depicts the Black middle-class family desperately striving to gain social status and acceptance from the ruling class. The family in the play (the Van Strivers) typically epitomizes the behaviors and mannerisms associated with the so-called "upper class people." The family is on the verge of renting rooms because Mrs. Van Striver has overspent the money on trips traveling throughout the country and Europe. They are social climbers, totally oblivious of the plight of their neighbors whose lives as

Mrs. Van Striven put it, "are in the same square but we travel in different circles." According to her, society is only for the "chosen few to enjoy."

The plot concerns itself with the Van Strivers celebrating Cobina's (their daughter) introduction into society by throwing a debutante party. However, Cobina (Laurie Carlos) is not at all satisfied with the party nor her future husband chosen by the family. She's deeply in love with Chuck (Obaka Adedunyo), a poor, hardworking fellow and an aspiring boxer who caters her party.

Mrs. Van Strivers (Zaida Coles) primary concern is inviting only the best to the party. She has invited the local doctor, judge, lawyer, professor, etc. to make appearances at the party. The conflict arises when she discovers to her dismay that Mrs. Tillie Petunia has dissuaded most of Mrs. Van Strivers' guests from going to the party. Mrs. Petunia invites the common folk to disrupt the party, thus creating a scandal so that she can proudly write about it in her newspaper.

As the play unfolds we witness the types of characters that superbly demonstrate the behavior, attitudes, morals, inherent and reflective of the Bourgeoisie mentality. They are vicious, deceptive, power-ridden, money-loving people whose values revolve around who has the most material gains and wealth. Moreover, their outlook on life is the same as the white models they try desperately to emulate.

Tillie Petunia (Loyse Anderson) is the editor of a newspaper called the Black Dispatch. She abhors social climbers like Mrs. Van Strivers, who, according to her, is making it on a shoe string. Mrs. Petunia buys the latest cars, wears the latest furs, which make her above and distinct from the others. Because she can't stand the Van Strivers, she seeks to destroy their reputation to in turn enhance her position.

Perhaps the most amusing and revealing character is Sophie (Claudia Smith), Mrs. Van Strivers' maid. She's a down to earth woman who sees through the superficiality of those so-called "high class folk." She doesn't

succumb to the demands of Mrs. Van Strivers. According to Sophie, they all can go to . . . with their idiosyncratic ways.

Glen Johnson, who plays Oscar Van Strivers, is especially interesting as the frustrated father who is beset by the gross financial problems his wife has caused.

All the characters convincingly portray the prevailing attitudes that was reminiscent of the Black Bourgeoisie during the 40's, 50's and 60's — i.e., the pretentiousness of feeling above the masses, the lack of identity. Mr. Hill's concept of the Black middle class is quite similar to E. Franklin Frazier's, "Black Bourgeoisie." Frazier describes the Black Bourgeoisie best when he says:

"Lacking a cultural tradition and rejecting identification with the Negro masses on the one hand, and suffering from the contempt of the white world on the other, The Black Bourgeoisie has developed a deep seated inferiority complex. The Black Bourgeoisie has created in its isolation what might be described as a world of make-believe in which it attempts to escape the disdain of whites and fulfill its wishes for status in American life."

The resolution is probably the most disturbing aspect of the play. It ends when the family decides to accept Cobina's boyfriend (Chuck) as her husband, and Mrs. Jackson, a poor, innocent, but loving woman hits the number and decides to buy a home near the Van Strivers. She feels that Mrs. Van Strivers can introduce her to all the Socialites. However, the family has only accepted Chuck because there's a great possibility of him becoming financially successful as a boxer.

It would have been more convincing and effective if the writer would have left us with the impression that the Van Strivers were basically the type of people portrayed in the play, instead of ending it with a Hollywood version of the rich finally accepts the poor, downtrodden, unfortunate people of the world.

Still, the play is worth seeing. There are characters in it that everyone could identify with. The play will continue performances as long as there's an audience that will support it.

Family Funks at Finley

by Greg Lewis Gaynor

Finley Ballroom was the scene of one of the best shows at City College recently (Tuesday, Nov. 12). A little after 2:00 p.m. Al Davis led his group Family Funk through a show that had people in Finley Ballroom clapping their hands, stomping their feet, and singing along with the music.

The group, composed of Al Davis on lead guitar; Rhoda Davis, base guitar and vocals; Herman Wright, flute, tenor sax, alto sax; Sista' Davis, tambourine and vocals; Kim Smith, trumpet; Ron Colon, drums; and Sharlene Jackson, group secretary and alto sax, has been in existence for 6 years.

The Family Funk performance was in two parts. The first consisted of an assortment of such songs as "Family Affair," "Change of Mind," "Down by the River," and many more. The group really exposed the funky, overwhelming talents of their ensemble. Intermission found persons in the audience parting from the ballroom, with an equal number coming in.

The ballroom was less than half packed, due to a delay caused by transportation trouble. Al Davis, strummed out the cosmic "Voodoo Child," in tribute to the late Jimi Hendrix, and the rock started to roll for part two. The second half found the audience moved by the voice of Rhoda Davis, student of City College, singing a variety of songs including the deeply moving "I'd Like To Make It With You." The second half also saw Pierre "Pepi" Williams, another student, Ronnie Muller, and two members of a group called "Something Special," doing their thing with the musicians of Family Funk for a background, on the O'Jay's past

hit, "Put Your Hands Together." Herman Wright, who displayed an amazing talent on the alto and tenor sax, and the flute, along with the other members of Family Funk, was joined on the drums by his brother, Paris Wright, for a short number.

For a little over an hour and a half the audience dug Family Funk bellowing out Kool and the Gang's "Hollywood Swingers," and the Isley Brothers' "Who's That Lady." Still going strong, Sista' Davis slacked up on her rhythmic tambourine, just long enough to sweetly soothe the audience's mind with her own soulful version of "Midnight Train To Georgia." Much applause and many heart pounding beats afterward, Al Davis, brother of Rhoda and Sista' Davis, tried his hand at swooning the women with a medley of Barry White's songs, including "Can't Get Enough," as well as some by James Brown.

The show ended at 5:40 p.m., with the audience making their way to the doors. At that time I had the opportunity to rap with Al Davis, and William Scott, business manager of Family Funk, who gave the impression of deeply respecting and admiring the talents of the group. I would like to thank Family Funk on behalf of the audience for a fantastically moving display of talent.

Announcements

On Monday, November 25, there will be a Veterans Workshop at Buttenweiser Lounge from 12-8 PM. This will enable evening division students to attend also. There will be information concerning: The War Service Scholarships, Tests, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Discharge Review, Tutorial Assistance, Matriculation, Jobs, Financial Aid.

In addition there will be "Rap Groups" discussing: The Post Vietnam Syndrome, Amnesty, The G.I. Bill, Single Type Discharges.

Refreshments will be served. This Workshop is being sponsored by the CCNY Veterans Club.

The people of the Philosophy Department have recently formed a Philosophy Society. We figure that comfortable, friendly surroundings make for good talks and the Society has already become a student forum for departmental issues, (three Society members are actively seeking two seats on the department Executive Committee).

A small office has been converted into a lounge — the coffee stinks but the chairs will bear your weight. You are all cordially invited to sniff the airs in the Philo building, just inside the 133rd street gate — we meet on Thursdays at about 12:30 p.m.