

# THE PAPER

Volume 44—No. 3

Friday, November 5, 1976

—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.

## Writing Center Suffering from Cuts

by Diane M. Wilson

One of the major facilities at the College that has been severely affected by retrenchment and budget cuts is the Writing Center. Last semester the center was allocated \$14,000. Their operating budget for this semester has been drastically reduced to \$6,500.

As a result, the center can no longer accept students who seek tutoring in basic writing. Marvinna White, the center's director stated that, "so far this semester we've had to turn away more than thirty students."

The center's services are of special importance now since increases in class sizes at the College leave less time for instructors to confer with students and help them with writing problems.

The Writing Center, which is located on the basement floor of Harris Hall at North Campus, was originally established to primarily assist SEEK students who needed additional help with their basic writing courses, but the program expanded to provide space for a small percentage of non-SEEK students who also sought outside tutoring.

The Writing Center is largely funded by SEEK monies but some money is received from Open Admissions' funds to accommodate those non-SEEK students. The situation is so critical that Ms. White must consider reducing the amount of semester hours the center is open or firing many of the student aides that are employed there.

"This semester we got six legal pads and one and a half packages of pencils. We have no money for books, examination copies or supplies," Ms. White emphasized.

The center currently accommodates approximately 250 students 40 of which are non-SEEK. This is a rather minimal figure considering there are about 3400 students enrolled in basic writing courses this semester. An estimated



Marvinna White, the hard pressed Writing Center director, tries to make do with "six legal pads and one and a half packages of pencils."

25% of those students enrolled in Basic Writing I & 2 have to repeat it.

Ms. White pointed out that it is the non-SEEK student who suffers most as a result of the cuts, since funding to assist these students is limited and because "non-SEEK students don't have the supportive services that SEEK students do." One such supportive service is the SEEK Study Center. It too is being hampered as a result of SEEK cuts.

Approximately 60% of those non-SEEK students at the center are minorities and about 80% of the SEEK students are Black and Hispanic. Many ESL (English as a Second Language) students also turn to the Writing Center for assistance, but there are no facilities available at the center to accommodate the special needs of these students.

"It's a drag. You know you have a job to do but you can't do it and you don't know who to fight with," Ms. White commented.

Another problem exists in recruiting qualified tutors. Ms. White indicated that only "two out of 10 College Work Study undergraduates that apply at the center qualify to be tutors." Hiring graduate students is expensive and there is no source for such money at this time. There are currently only 25 tutors, who work from 10-15 hours a week, being employed at the center as 15 others were lost to the cuts.

Ms. White suggested that a tie needs to be established between the English department and the Writing Center if effective tutoring for services for non-SEEK services are

to last. Faculty members could volunteer some of their free time to train tutors and tutor students. At one time the center had 10-13 English faculty members tutoring at the center. Retrenchment has dwindled that figure to only 4-5 instructors this semester.

"The best way to tutor students is by having their basic writing teacher go over their work with them," Ms. White added. "The basic writing teachers can't expect the center to take care of all the students and even if we wanted to we don't have the money now. The only thing that is saving the writing center is SEEK, and they have also been affected by the cuts."

Ms. White further stressed the need for "pressure to be applied on the English department to raise monies for tutoring" if non-SEEK students are to continue receiving aid from the Writing Center. She suggested that a committee be formed within the department to research grants and other possible monetary sources.

Ms. White would some day like to see the Writing Center expand its program and offer tutoring services for the writing of term papers, preparation for the proficiency exam and helping students get started on class papers.

"Right now we need money, support and the understanding of the faculty."

The writing center director went on to conclude that "proficiency in writing is not just a small problem applicable to CUNY as some may think. It's a nationwide problem and that's why something has got to be done about it."

## Students and Officials To Balance Control

by Stephanie Skinner

Finalizations to form a City College Student Services Corporation, an organization to be composed of College administrators and students, to service the educational needs of the college, is now pending on an agreement between the Student Senate and the Policy Advisory Council around the governing by-laws.

A special committee from the Student Senate body, after recommending several significant changes in writing, presented their revised copy of the by-laws to SCOP PAC at the suggestion of President Marshak. SCOP PAC, the steering committee of PAC, will make further deliberations with the Student Senate, then present the final recommendations before PAC at next Tuesday's meeting.

President Marshak's initial response to the student's changes was that students should have more control over student monies.

The by-laws, which were drawn up by the Board of Higher

Education's lawyers, state that the corporation "... shall be operated as an integral part of the college's educational program," in order to "... advance the educational program of City College by encouraging, generating and promoting good fellowship ... in relation with each other, with the members of staff, faculty, the alumni and the community." This non-profit organization will have a Board of Directors with one vote each, officers that will facilitate and establish guidelines for organizations and would control student fees and all revenue from the college book store, food services and intercollegiate funds.

In efforts to comply with a mandate from B.H.E. for the Student Services Corporation to be established before the start of this semester, Cheryl Rudder, President of the Student Senate, was asked to sign the document during the summer. However, after examining the by-laws, Ms. Rudder refused to sign until she and the other

members of the Student Senate could study it.

As a result, a five member committee, chaired by Ed Roberts of the Student Senate, were designated to review the by-laws and to come up with recommendations for changes.

Most of the changes dealt with the ratio of control and input between students and administrators. For example, under the item; Membership, seven students with voting power were included on the Board of Directors as opposed to eight voting members from the college administration (including the President of the College). The Student Senate's recommendation includes a student member of the Finley Board of Advisors, the Vice-President of Campus Affairs from the Day Student Senate and the creation of a new post; Vice President for the Student Services Corporation from the Day Student Senate. The result would be nine voting student members to seven faculty and administration persons.



Ed Roberts, Chairperson to special five-member committee.

Under the Executive Committee, which will exercise all powers of the Board, two students were included on the body of six. The alternative would have three voting students to one vote from the President and one vote from a faculty member.

The most significant change was under the item; Dissolution, which re-stated that in case the Corporation dissolved, the assets remaining after payments of its obligations will be transferred to the Day, Evening and Graduate Student Senates in direct proportion

to the number of students in each division in contrast to the original statement that the remaining assets be transferred to the B.H.E.

They also substituted the Vice-President for the Student Services Corporation, a new post to be created for a student, to act as Vice President instead of Mr. Kaplon, who is Vice President for Administrative Affairs.

Thus, the main objections of the Student Senate was that the administration and faculty would have a majority vote and an overall control over the Student Services Corporation, and would therefore be in charge of the student funds and consolidated fees. So that, the recommendations now place more of the responsibility into the hands of the students acting on the membership body.

The recommended changes by the Student Senate will challenge the question of students having more control over Student monies. The outcome of the resolutions around the changes will determine the amount of voice students really have in college matters and the amount of reliability administration will put, into the hands of students.

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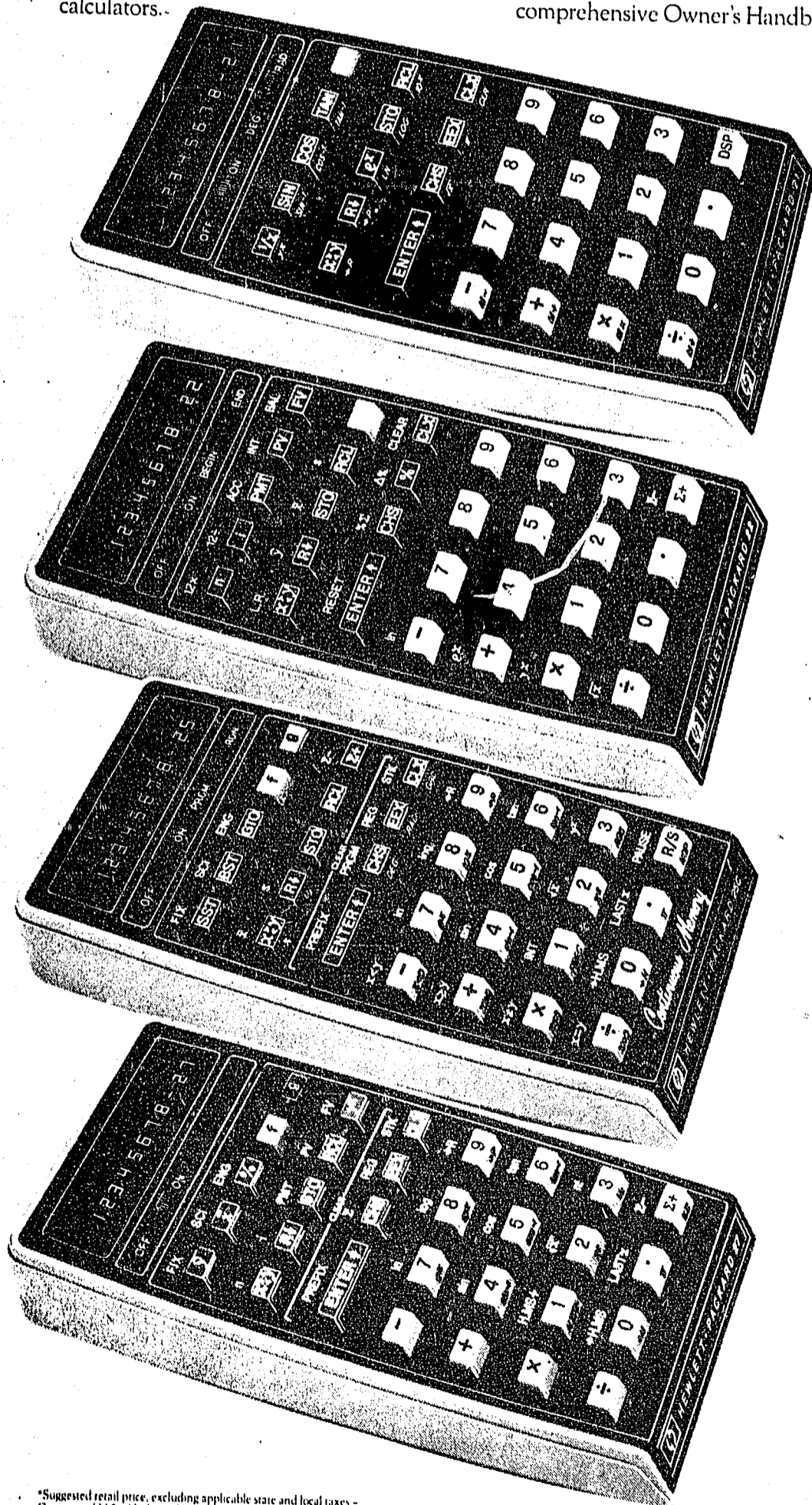
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**Commentary:**

by Selwyn Carter

There is a difference between an offensive struggle and a defensive struggle.

At City College, in the Spring of 1969, a student-community group of Blacks and Puerto Ricans engaged themselves in a struggle that made it possible for thousands of "Third World", as well as poor white students to subsequently attend CUNY. That was an offensive struggle that required months of dedicated organizing to lead the struggle to such a high level.

Most of the concessions, granted in 1969, have now been taken back. The main reason why those gains were so easily taken away is because of the student body, in particular Black Students. Black students have not demonstrated the necessary dedication to organize and maintain this offensive struggle. The struggle is not a disco-party, or a term paper, or a love story; it just is not that simple or nice. The struggle is very volatile in its nature, but is the only means through which exploited people can express their human needs.

We cannot just run to the Administration Building every day and demand loans, books etc. These acts, while they sometimes fulfill our day to day needs, do nothing towards changing the inhuman conditions to which we are subjected. These unorganized, spontaneous acts constitute a defensive struggle.

At City college, UNITED PEOPLES, an organization made up of primarily Black students has committed itself to the long, educating and organizing process necessary to wage an offensive struggle. They have realized what it will take to bring back free tuition, open access, and the like; in short, to transform CUNY into The University of the People.

As expected, they have made some mistakes. For instance, U.P. has admitted that the boycott failed due to insufficient organizing and has subsequently funneled its energies into continuing and uplifting their student education program. Their forum, "The Black Condition At City College", which took place on Thurs. Oct. 21st, was an effort to unify the Black academic community and educate Blacks to the severe situation.

What this continuing effort does reveal is that underneath the supposedly smooth functioning of this institution there is a growing force of angry students who are sick and tired of turning the other cheek. This force, developing in the midst of an overfrustrated Harlem community, will soon erupt like a mighty volcano. A force so violent, that no power, however great, will be able to hold it back.



Ken Jones

**In Observance Of Black Solidarity Day**

**Special to the Paper**

The East, a Black cultural and educational institution in Brooklyn, sponsored a program in observance of Black Solidarity Day, last Sunday at their Uhuru Sasa (Freedom Now) School. The theme for this year's program was, "In Solidarity with Black Southern Afrika."

The moderator, Brother Basir from the East, explained that many of the people who formerly sponsored Black Solidarity Day events are no longer doing so because they can no longer make a profit from it.

The program began with the showing of the film "Last Grave at Dimbaza." This documentary highlighted the sharp contradictions between the life styles and living conditions of Black and white families in Southern Africa.

The International Afrikan-American Ballet group followed. This rhythmic ballet, backed by African drums, is unlike any ballet known to Europeans. It is filled with memoirs of the rich African culture once lost to many Africans in diaspora.

The next performance featured two sisters singing to the accompaniment of their guitars. Their name, SISTRUM was derived from an instrument used in Egypt and Ethiopia.

Several speakers followed. First,

Kasisi Jitu Weusi spoke on behalf of the East and explained the historical significance of Black Solidarity Day. According to Weusi, the first rallies for Black Solidarity Day in 1970 and 1971 were very successful, primarily because they brought together many diverse elements of the Black Community (Marxists, Garveyites, Muslims, Nationalists, etc.). For him, Black Solidarity Day held out one main vision, "that one day we can have a solid Black United Front." He expanded on this idea and stressed the need for family unity among Black people.

Next was Guinea's Ambassador to China, who called for increased unity among the Black Liberation forces world-wide, ending with the statement, "Our struggle is one."

Following, was a representative of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO), also calling for solidarity among all Africans. He explained that Black Solidarity Day is an instrument for demonstrating togetherness and his speaking to Africans in America reinforces this. He also pointed out that there is no possibility of a peaceful solution in Africa. "It is armed struggle which has brought Africa to this stage of development," he said. Perhaps the most important aspect of his speech was, "only when Africa is free will Black

people anywhere, including the U.S. be free."

Judge William Booth, whose opening remarks were, "Until we do unite, our efforts...we will not get our piece of the pie." He related his first hand experiences in South Africa and denounced its government as well as their false talks of independence. He referred to the Anglo-American power structure as "slave holders of the past trying to maintain slavery even though it was abolished."

The final speaker was a representative of the Pan Afrikan Congress of South Africa. He said that the republic of South Africa was a political myth and that "Azania is the true name of our country. He also explained the the people of Azania are not fighting for concession from the white oppressors. "We want full control of the land which is ours", he said.

The Black New York Action Committee also commemorated Black Solidarity Day with a political and cultural program on Monday, November 1, at IS 201 in Harlem.

They explained that life for Black people in New York City, and in the United States is getting worse everyday, and now, more than ever, there is a serious need for Black Solidarity.

**The New York Zoological Society**  
presents two lectures

**Dr. Edward O. Wilson,**  
author of *Sociobiology: The New Synthesis*,  
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# African Art Exhibit Very Educational

by Beverly Smith

The African-American Institute is currently running an exhibit entitled, "African Women/African Art", depicting the different roles that African women portray within their society. This is the ninth exhibition to be organized by the Institute since it began in 1973.

The exhibition is small, but proves to be very interesting as well as educational. The artists have definitely captured the strong status of the African women in roles of maternity, fertility, economy, and religion. The observer is able to see that there is something substantial and concrete in the culture of Africa, and not that of the backward, jungle stereotypes that have been embedded in Americans' minds for so long.

To take a piece of wood, or bark of a tree and begin whittling away to create such fine art is a clear indication of these artists' multi-talented skills. Unfortunately, the artists' names are unknown, but it's fortunate for us that the AAI has provided the public with this particular exhibit.

The sculptures were made available to the Institute by various museums in the New York area and by collectors who receive their sculptures through dealers in Europe and the United States.

These sculptures when made, weren't intended as an art piece, but were made as symbols of African families of tribes. They were usually displayed upon mantels of homes in Africa, or left outside for the tribes to respect. This was especially true of sculptures of religion.

It's difficult to make generalizations

about the sculptures on exhibit because each countries' style, tradition, and way of life vary. The dealers formulate a particular trend of the different cultures in Africa, and are able to distinguish where each sculpture derived.

The AAI is trying to share their knowledge about Africa with the public.



Mwana Po Mask from the Angola collection of Harold Rome

and I feel that they are well on their way. The "African Women/African Art" exhibition will be at the AAI through December 31, 1976. The African-American Institute is located at 833 UN Plaza, and 47th Street. The Institute is open weekdays, 9-5; and Saturdays, 12-5.

## Book Review

# Poets In Motion

by Darryl Alladice

Writing poetry isn't easy as A-B-C, nor is it something that can be learned by taking creative writing courses. It's something that is natural the moment one leaves the womb.

*Poets In Motion* is a collection of poetry recently published by Shamal Books, Inc., a fairly new publishing company. In it are the works of poets who are very gifted and also very new. It is edited by Louis R. Rivera who says in his introduction, "We are not merely poets, but rather, we are people engaged in an ever present process of motion." The poets enable the reader, indeed, to participate in the "motions" with them.

"Once A Twice," "Blossom of A Rose," and "Still Talkin'" by Mr. Rivera takes the reader throughout "motions" of the street: the bumping into one another during rush-hour or the hanging out on the corner searching for an "in" identity. Carolyn S. Williams' "Prison Freedom" and "Good Night, My Love" takes the reader beyond the "motions" of the system and deals with the reality behind the darkness which surrounds the walls of prisons that deny "to give me freedom" because the Blackman's "existence remains anchored."

What really held me, though, was Sophie Johnson's "Love's Magnetic Field" when she writes "If I consume the kinetic energy emanating from his eyes I could ignite a million day dreams . . ." and "If I dared touch his arm inert in fitful sleep circuit/breakers might overload." Her metaphorical use is very unique and allows one to be taken to a dimension which is extremely titillating. Ms. Johnson's "He Has A Poem Coming To Him" is also good and vibrant as she caresses you with such lines as "his velvet eyes emblazoned set like

stones within the creamy gentleness of an unlined face . . ."

The other poets in the collection are strong but not strong enough in holding the reader through the 70 pages. But they are energetic and gifted, and with time their voices will certainly be heard.

*Poets In Motion*, as I understand, is one of the first collections that these artists' writings ever appeared in. In a way, they are still "panhandling" their "way through verses and rhymes for a meal" or at least for recognition.

## Brown Grace

Hands of brown grace  
move in circular form  
peeling away the years  
cracking at the pores;  
beige turned fingers  
scrub away at dirt,  
rinsing chipped worn  
dishes ready for use again  
as hungry eyes beneath  
the table scold a steady  
pace:  
red calloused  
palms hurrying to quiet  
pulsing bellies;  
short broken  
nails, pricked from  
nervous bites, serving  
scrapes from another's day's  
feast, turn to point and  
shake away the children's  
maddening rush;  
satisfying the young ones' thirsts  
these graceful, thinning hands  
wipe away at sweaty tears  
in longing for the giver  
of those children left behind.

by Louis Reyes Rivera

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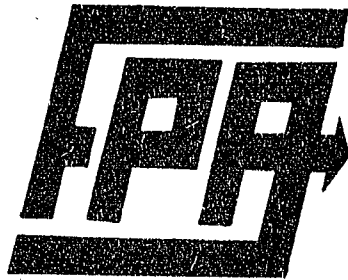
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