

BLACKWORLD

Published Bi-Weekly by Students from the State University of New York at Stony Brook

November 2, 1994

ONE NATION

Volume 30, Number 3

Latino o Africano



¡Todos Somos Hermanos!

BLACKWORLD "KNOW THYSELF"

LAURISTINE GOMES
Editor-in-Chief

CAREY GRAY
Managing Editor

TOUFI
Production Manager

EDWIN ROMAIN
Business Manager

JACKIE HOWELL
MIKE PHILLIPS
Layout Editors

ANEU GREENE
CHARLES VALEMBRUN
Copy Editors

DANIEL L. HARTLEY
Creative Arts Editor

LISA SAMUDA
Secretary

DOROTHY JACKSON
Office Manager

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

TRACY N. HEDDAD
FELIX FERMIN
CYNTHIA E. MARQUEZ
JOSEPH EVERING
SUSAN Y. ARAUZ
ELLA TURENNE
NADINE ROBINSON
CHARLIE GOMEZ CASTRO
CARLOS MONTREVIL
JOANNE JOHNSON

The opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those shared by the Editorial staff. Articles, Viewpoints, Personals and Poetry should be submitted to STUDENT UNION Rm 072, or our Polity Mailbox. Some articles may be edited for length and/or grammar. Advertising policy does not necessarily reflect editorial policy. Editorials are the opinions of the majority of the Blackworld staff.

WE ARE ONE NATION!

editorial

Greetings and welcome to BLACKWORLD's Fall '94 issue number 3. The collective at BLACKWORLD wishes to express much gratitude to all of you who helped make this issue possible. Special thanks to all of the writers, our typist Abby (l_name), and to the members of the executive board. Carmen Vasquez (Director of Student Union and Activities) was also very helpful with this issue as she has always supported BLACKWORLD. Great appreciation must also be given to Jesse The Cuba Project in Manhattan, for faxing us the article on Cuba, despite the late notice. Once again, sincerest thanks to our writers, readers and those who give BLACKWORLD undying support.

In BLACKWORLD's struggle to bring the campus community up to date news and views concerning people of color we often run into difficulties. In this particular issue, our biggest problem was getting Latino's to Contribute. Many of the Latino students on campus do not feel obligated to support BLACKWORLD by writing articles. What ever the reason, what needs to be remem-

bered is that BLACKWORLD was created especially for Black and Latino students. Therefore, BLACKWORLD will be made ineffective if views shared by Latino students are not included in our paper. There is a devicive element in both the Black community and the Latino community. First, we must unify ourselves so that we may form a coalition with each other. BLACKWORLD has and will do anything possible to achieve our goal of voicing issues relevant to the minority population on campus. However, they must first address the specific concerns of Black and Latino students. This can only be done with your support. We encourage participation but also need feed back. Are we serving your needs? Please drop us a line on our progress in our mailbox in the Polity Suite, Room 258 in the Student Union.

In this issue, BLACKWORLD has several exclusive stories. Among them are: a report on the last weeks in Cuba, an interview with candidate for Treasurer Tameka Reid, and the review of the Hispanic Heritage Month exhibit in the Union Art Gallery. We are displeased how-

ever, that we were unable to bring you an article on Aristid's return to Haiti. Such a monumentus occasion deserved coverage, but with no steady writers, we could not do it justice. The collective will do its best to have it covered in the next issue, even as a retrospective piece.

Stay tuned for developments in BLACKWORLD's spoken word art contest, Coming soon in mid-November. All poets, rappers, and dance hall artists -- come out and show your skills! The tentative location for the contest is Colours Café in the Union basement. BLACKWORLD wants to program events for Fall and Spring '94-'95, and we hope that we can present interesting and educational programs that will be supported. If anyone has ideas for programs that BLACKWORLD can sponsor, or put on by itself, please contact us. Once again, writers are most needed by BLACKWORLD. Please drop off all articles or essays for submission to the BLACKWORLD mail box in Polity or stop by 072 in the Union during the office hours posted on the door. Come see use so that we can see and represent you clearly.

POLITY ELECTIONS COME OUT AND VOTE NOVEMBER 2nd & 3rd

Polling Stations

WEDNESDAY
Union
Javits
Library
H-Quad Cafe
Roth Cafe
Kelly Cafe

THURSDAY
Union
Javits
Library
Roth Cafe

Your Vote Counts!

“Una Luna Sobre Quisqueya”

Canto VI

U.S. involvement in the Dominican Republic has been “reluctantly” - extensive, deeply intricate, and at times pervasive. Nevertheless, its nature has always been to advance U.S. interests in the face of oppression, and its motivation has been to protect U.S. security in this hemisphere. “Facilitating this policy were political and financial manipulation, frequent threats and the occasional use of force, and the growing U.S. penetration of the private sector of the Dominican Republic.”

My discussion will mainly involve the political situations between U.S. occupation of the Dominican Republic in 1916, (through dictatorship), and coup d'état of the Bosch government on September 25, 1963.

In spite of independence since 1844, the Dominican Republic has never been able to pull free of the dominant influence of the U.S. Cynics may argue that at such close proximity to the United States, it is inevitable that the Dominican Republic will always be influenced by the Americans. True perhaps, but let us then recognize that there is not a fine line between influence and domination -

there is a chasm. The United States, through their foreign policy - with uncanny ability to metamorphosed - has continually bridged this rift.

American intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1965 should not have come as a surprise, if reflected upon within the context of earlier American relations with the Dominican Republic and the rest of the Caribbean. “The Dominican occupation of 1916 to 1924 was clearly part of a general pattern of expanding U.S. influence in the Caribbean.” Washington made it painfully clear how far it was willing to go to maintain control over the Third World.

Let us begin with the situation in the Dominican Republic at the turn of the century. Plagued by economic stagnation, huge debts to foreign banks and political chaos, revolts broke out in 1903 and again in 1904. The larger population had been hampered by widespread joblessness, poverty, and disillusionment with their leaders. In the following years between 1904 -1916, the U.S. moved from covert pressure, to economic pressure, to full scale Marine occupation. It is important to consider that the

“latifundistas” in the Dominican Republic at some point requested U.S. assistance, but one may be inclined to say that even given this to be true, the U.S. acted towards its own best interests. To protect American investment and to promote “American democracy.”

Indeed, the U.S. government seized the opportunity to expand their hemispheric opulence, “as American engagement increased with the expansion of U.S. private interests and the broadening of U.S. strategic horizons. “At the turn of the century, the establishment of the San Domingo Improvement Co. - organized to collect the Dominican government's debts to foreign bondholders - climaxed the steady advance of the U.S. towards complete commercial and economic dominance of the Dominican Republic.”

It seems clear that the U.S. not only influenced the Dominican Republic, it now attests to be aiming for control (domination) of the Dominican economy. With President Roosevelt at the helm, the U.S. government edged closer and closer to becoming the managers of the Dominican economy. While

vehemently supporting the claim of the San Domingo Improvement Co., the U.S. government gained access to collect customs charges at Dominican ports, with the pretext of insuring that the Dominican government would pay its debts to foreign lenders.

Soon after acquiring control of the Dominican customs, Americans demanded to execute final authority over the Dominican government's expenditure of revenue collected through the customs receivership. It would be important to note that beginning in 1905, “the U.S. had imposed customs receiverships to obtain financial and political control”, not only in the Dominican Republic, but also in Haiti and in Nicaragua. The U.S. government continued to demand and impose itself on the Dominican Republic, by insisting on the right to dictate specific policies to the Dominican government. One of these policies, which was of particular importance to the U.S. government, was the disbanding of the Dominican army and the establishment of a na-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Where are the rights of the students at Stony Brook?

I have been attending Stony Brook for three years and am so fed up with the dirty, underhanded, tactics and methods used by the higher ups in authority against students like myself. I am talking about being blackmailed, threatened and blocked by the various divisions at Stony Brook like Financial Aid, Office of Campus Residence and Chapin Apartments.

For example, I am a single, student-mother, and I depend on my grants and loans to make ends meet and to help with my tuition, rent, and other expenses, which are killing me. The people in Campus Residence know this, and yet when it is time to register for classes or for housing, they continually put a block on my bill. So every year I have to go to Al Devries with financial aid documentation to let him know I will be getting enough money to cover my expenses. He then

gives me approval via his computer to register.

The higher ups not only have devised a controlling, oppressive system against poor students, but have the nerve to threaten me also. They always want to instill fear with their threats. BITCHES! Every year they send me a letter stating that if I don't pay my bill they will change the locks on the door. I have a friend who didn't sign up for room selection on time and it actually happened to her and she has a child? Where is my right as a student against these threats? I want to be protected as a student from these people in administrative positions who run this school in a dictatorial fashion. I want to be treated with respect as a student because if it wasn't for students, these people in power with all their free perks and exorbitant paychecks wouldn't be in power. I want rights to

protect me and my child from being jerked by these bullies in positions of authority who abuse their authority by exerting it manipulatively against students. I am tired of it, and I know that I am not the only one. I am tired of being blocked and then having to scurry like a little mouse all over the place to get my bill cleared.

Students at Stony Brook are ready for a new administration and change to make the student's life easier, happier, and a thousand percent better. This school sucks the blood out of the students economically. We have no protection against authority, and when there is no protection, rules or regulations, then the people in power can do what they want. Hitler changed the laws to take away people's rights. You may say, is it that dramatic?

I say hell yes, the problem here is that

dramatic. If it's not think again, ask yourself how many people complain at this school about needless aggravations they encounter frequently at Stony Brook. Why don't students have rights at Stony Brook? Why don't we have a voice? Why aren't we respected and taken seriously? Who is there to protect us from being exploited economically, academically, and in all the divisions that we have to deal with? Who is there to fight for us and help us? We don't need another kiss-ass or snobby bourgeoisie who kisses the man's ass. We don't want any sell-outs or shallow, stupid people to represent of fight for us. We need someone who genuinely cares about our well-being at this God forsaken place.

Why don't students at Stony Brook have rights?

by JUDAH

Meet the Candidates for Polity Elections '94

The Polity election debates were held on Thursday, October 27th in the Student Union Auditorium. The candidates gave short speeches on their qualifications and objectives for their respective positions. Representatives from student newspapers asked questions to help the candidates clarify their thoughts on the position they wanted.

POLITY TREASURER:

Tameka Reid

Objectives:

- 1) To raise money for Polity
 - a) restructure Executive Director's position so he/she will have extensive knowledge on fund raising
 - b) raise money for administrative cost (which is currently 29% of polity council budget)
- 2) Put more money into student programming

Experience:

- 1) Public Relations Officer for AASO
- 2) Research assistant for Executive Director at Polity

3) Polity Assistant Treasurer for 3 years

4) PSE Treasurer for 2 years

CANDIDATES FOR FRESHMAN REPRESENTATIVE:

Laura Pace:

Objectives:

- 1) To get new students involved on campus
 - a) give more information on organizations, and how to become involved in campus life in orientation
- 2) To promote racial and religious tolerance through education and awareness

Experience:

- 1) Board member of FSA
- 2) Board member of ARA

Joseph Moran:

Objectives:

- Increase freshman leadership in government

Experience:

Polity Senator of Keller International

CANDIDATES FOR JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE:

Jessica Heist:

Objectives:

- 1) Work with administration to cut red tape for financial aid
 - a) increase financial aid counselors so they are more accessible
 - b) give more information on the process of getting financial aid
- 2) To have a more extensive job fair in order to bring more opportunity to Juniors
- 3) To work with Polity Alumni Network

Experience:

- 1) Helped fund raise for American Cancer Society
- 2) Helped fund raise for the Uprise Foundation
- 3) Helped with AIDS Quilt

CANDIDATES FOR U.S.S.A. REPRESENTATIVE:

Heather Olivos:

Objectives:

- 1) To get students more involved
- 2) Increase awareness of the group and it's objectives
- 3) Will go to every organization and find out what they want

Experience:

- 1) Alternate Senator for Baruch College

CANDIDATES FOR S.A.S.U. REPRESENTATIVE:

Neeja Soni:

Objectives:

- 1) Will try to get non-traditional students more involved with S.A.S.U.

Experience:

- 1) Member of Association for the State(High School)
- 2) Helped with S.A.S.U.'s Voter Registration drive

by Marie Josette Augustine and Dorothy Jackson

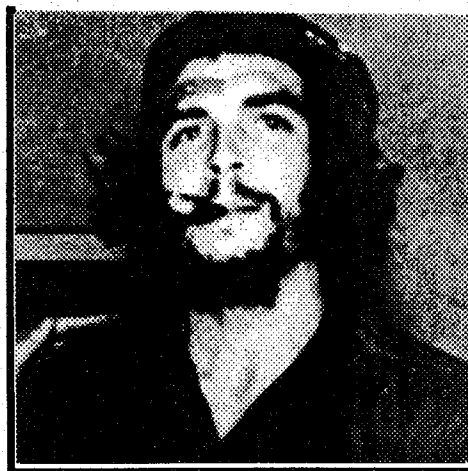
Who is Earnesto "Che" Guevara?

Earnesto Guevara was born in Rosario, Argentina on June 14, 1928. He attended medical school in Buenos Aires from 1945-1951 and earned his medical degree in 1953. Starting in 1954, he traveled across Latin America treating the sick and poor. That year he volunteered to fight the CIA backed invasion of Guatemala. In September, he became a doctor at the Central Hospital in Mexico City. By August of 1955 he had met and joined Fidel Castro as the third member of the guerrilla force to lead the Cuban revolutionary invasion from Mexico.

He was arrested in Mexico, but released after several weeks, and by November of 1956 had set sail along with 82 revolutionaries to start the Cuban revolution. The Cubans nicknamed him Che, after an Argentine greeting. He lead rebels from their base in the Sierra Maestra mountain ranges, Cuba's largest. From 1956 to January 1, 1959, after numerous battles between the U.S. backed government and the revolutionary forces, victory was won. On February 9, 1959, Che was made a Cuban citizen. He trav-

eled throughout Europe, Africa, and Asia signing commercial, cultural, and technology treaties. He was appointed to head the government ministries of industry and agrarian reform in which Cuba nationalized U.S. owned companies.

In 1960, Che traveled to the U.S.S.R., East Germany, Czechoslovakia, China, and North Korea, filing reports to the Cuban people of the treaties he has signed. In 1961, during the CIA lead invasion of 1,500 mercenaries at the Bay of Pig's in Cuba, Che Guevara commanded troops at Pinar de Rio province. There he remained during Kennedy's "Cuban missile crisis" and threats of invasion.



In March of 1964, Che addressed the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in Geneva, Switzerland. In December he spoke to the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. Soon after, he began extensive travels in Africa, visiting Algeria, Mali, Congo, Guinea, Ghana, Dahomey, Tanzania, and Egypt.

In 1965, he left a farewell letter to Fidel Castro and went on an international mission. He lead revolutionary forces in the Congo against U.S. invasion and the killing of Patrice Lumumba

in 1965. He placed Cuba in the primary position to helping African liberation movements. Even today, it was Cuba that helped the Africans in Angola defeat the white South African army.

In 1967, the Organization of Latin American Solidarity, which supports revolutionary movements, elected Che Guevara Honorary Chairman. He was in Bolivia at the time, leading revolutionary forces. On October 8, 1967, Che was captured when his guerrilla forces were pinned down by thousands of government troops lead by U.S. advisors. He was murdered soon after.

Earnesto Che Guevara wrote extensively about revolutionary movements and international social responsibility. He actively sought to solve the post revolutionary social and economic problems of the Cuban people. His writing may be found in the book "Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution; Writing and Speeches of Earnesto Che Guevara".

By Carlos Montrevil

Tameka Reid;

One and Only for Treasurer

For 2 1/2 years, Tameka Reid has worked closely with Polity treasurer Corey Williams. Whether it be handing out checks, or helping club officers to understand the budgetary process -- Ms. Reid has done it all as assistant Treasurer. Ms. Reid's quiet and kind manner has always added to the way she interacts with those she helps. In the following interview, Ms. Reid reveals her reasons for becoming a candidate for Polity treasurer. Please take the time to read this interview. It will help in the decision making process when voting in Polity Elections on November 2nd and 3rd.

BLACKWORLD: Why did you decide to run for Polity treasurer?

Tameka Reid: I'm running for the job because I was PSC treasurer for 1 1/2 years and Polity assistant treasurer for 2 1/2 years -- so it seems to be a natural step.

BW: If elected as Polity treasurer what will you do to ensure that polities budget is spent in a proper fashion?

T.R.: In order to secure Polities budget, I

will make sure that treasurers are properly trained. This will ensure that all clubs' budgets will be properly handled. An Executive Director will also be hired so that Polity will function effectively.

BW: What qualities or qualifications do you posses that make you unique from other candidates who might consider running as a write-in candidate?

T.R.: I'm unique in the fact that I've been actively involved in campus activities since coming to Stony Brook. I have been involved on different levels -- as a club member, as an executive board member, and as a Polity member. So, I know what it is like to be on all ends (so to speak).

BW: What would you change (if anything) in the way Student Polity's budget is being spent?

T.R.: A treasurer can not change anything unless the body in which she serves (Stony Brook undergraduates) wants to change things, and that procedure is checked by our Senate and Judiciary.

BW: Do you have any new programs, workshops or ideas to offer Organiza-

tions in the upcoming year?

T.R.: If elected as Polity treasurer, I will maintain an open door policy for all clubs and organizations. I want to hear all of there specific needs that they feel the office of the treasurer can accommodate them with.

BW: Being a woman of color in office, might cause some conflicts with whites on campus. The treasurer's position is often stressful because of this. Can you handle it? If so, how?

T.R.: I've always been a woman of color and there have been white people that this has caused conflict with. That doesn't mean that I have been unable to overcome this because I can work with all people because I'm not the one who has the problem. I'm not going to let other peoples problems stop me from doing what I have to do. I'm a senior who has been involved in so many things, including my major of Political

Science which is predominantly white, and I can handle it.

BW: You were a member of AASO, right? What sort of work did you do with them?

T.R.: I was on the Board of Directors and I also served as the Communications Director. This made me the liaison to the other Black student unions.

BW: During your involvement with AASO, there were some problems involving a controversial speaker. Can you comment on that?

T.R.: Almost everyone knows about the controversy with Khalid Muhammad and Stony Brook. It was a controversy but people made it out to be like AASO was out for some kind of publicity stunt. All that it was was that those who thought they has the power to stop him from speaking couldn't.

BW: True. Thanks for giving me some time in your busy schedule to interview you. Do you have anything to say in parting?

T.R.: I just want to urge everyone to come out and vote in the polity elections Wednesday and Thursday. I am the best and only candidate for treasurer, and with your help, I can put my experience to good use.

by Lauristine Gomes

Midnight Madness

It's 10:45 p.m. on a Sunday night, and while most students at Stony Brook were preparing for the upcoming mid-term week, approximately 1,200 basketball enthusiasts, Seawolves supporters and some who were just plain curious, flocked to the Pritchard Gymnasium for what was promised to be an exciting and eventful evening.

Inside, with DJ Wicked on the one and two, spinning off the latest in hip-hop, and reggae, the crowd was animated with anticipation. The audience danced and mingled in the bleachers while waiting for the program to begin.

Though the game clock started the countdown to midnight at 11p.m., like everything else at Stony Brook, they started late. At 11:17 p.m. the announcer started the evening with one of many coca-cola giveaways which was sponsored by ARA. The kickline was next. The Seawolves mascot made a feeble attempt to follow their routine. He did suc-

ceed though in procuring a series of hand clapping, lung busting, foot stomping cheers from the audience.

There were more giveaways of coke and T-shirts sporting the new Seawolves logo and the countdown to Division I. Benedict college also won a free pizza party sponsored by Scott Law and the Residential Security Programs, for having the most people present. There was however, no reliable or accurate method used to determine this, so many may dispute it.

After the traditional cheerleaders, two tickets were drawn and the two contestants went down to the court to "crawl for cash," which was provided by Mark Newmark. The first individual won \$25, and when it appeared that the announcer was assisting the second contestant more than the first, the crowd yelled and booed showing their disapproval.

Following the Boosters, there was another contest, this one among the

sororities and fraternities. Participants had to spin around ten times with their forehead lowered on to a baseball bat on the ground, and then dribbled up court and to make a lay-up. Though probably a little embarrassing for the contestants, this proved to be very entertaining for the general audience, as several contestants toppled over after taking a few steps. A failed attempt to win a car by making two out of three shots from half court brought the first segment of the evening to an end, and the beginning of what most of us were awaiting---- the introduction of the teams.

The ladies' team and their coaches were introduced first. Coach Beckie Dickinson gave a short speech thanking us for our support and requesting more in the future. The men's team was introduced over a mixture of cheers and music. Coach Bernard Tomlin again thanked the audience and promised great things to come.

The team went through a series of warm-ups, fast-break and three point exhibitions before attempting to wow the crowd with 3pt and slam dunk contests. Neither was a complete failure, the slam dunk more than the 3pt. Although there were no supreme rim rockers, there were several which had potential, and one individual who did much better than the others and eventually won the contest.

The whole evening, which Coach Tomlin called a great success, is part of the sequence of events to facilitate the ascendance to Division I. This will be our last year of Division III basketball. Next year we will play in the Division II New England Collegiate Conference which is said to be the best Division II conference in the nation.

The men's basketball home opener is on November 19th at 2:30 p.m., please support our Seawolves.

by Kaye Messam

Argentina

Argentina is one of the largest and most industrialized countries in South America. It is counted among the ten most affluent nations of the world, with a population of 33.5 million people, a 94% literacy rate, and a Gross National Product of \$101.4 Billion. It's estimated 12 million products include motor vehicles, chemicals, grains, and mineral resources such as: lead, copper, manganese, oil and uranium. Its major trading partners are the U.S., Brazil, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Japan, and the former Soviet republics. Argentina refused to join the U.S. in its invasion against Haiti, but voted for an embargo.

Tragedy of the indigenous people.

The region has a long history predating Spain's colonial conquest. From 1492 to 1810 Spain held colonial control over the whole region that is now Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia and Chile. The indigenous peoples, like the Diaguitas and Calchaquians, in the Northwest mountains (now provinces of Jujuy, Catamarca, Tucuman, La Rioja, and Salta) were warriors under a chief. They built homes out of stone, farmed the land and made pottery. These people lived in densely populated villages and feasted on maize, peas, gourds, natives fruits and wild game. They are now extinct due to the slaughter of Spanish slavery.

The Matacos-Mataguayos, Chorotes, Guaycurues and Chiriguano were nomadic fishermen and hunters. They lived in the Gran Chaco forest regions. They excelled in textile manufacturing and made their canoes from tree trunks. The now extinct Timbues, Cainguas, Mocoretas, Agaces and Charruas made textiles and mostly hunted and fished. These peoples, especially the Querandies, Pulcheans and the Araucanians (who lived in the region that includes present day Buenos Aires), were technologically advanced and sophisticated in their own cultural aesthetic. They all lived in peaceful co-existence in the lower regions of South America. Due to Spain's Indian labor obligations (slavery) these people are no more, or very few in number today.

European conquest and mayhem

By Papal decree, the lands the Europeans just found out about were divided east and west of the Cape Verde Islands and given to Portugal and Spain, respectively. During this time, the European expansion in to the western hemisphere was beginning with the end of eight centuries of Moorish rule of the Iberian Peninsular and upper Spain. The Europeans emerged from the religious crusades and wars of reconquest technologically prepared for military confrontations, and with expansionistic aspirations.

Spain was the first to map the 200 islands in the South Atlantic east of the Strait of Magellan in 1522. The British were the first to land on these islands in 1690. For the British, these are the Falkland Islands. To Spain these were the Islas Malvinas and the Islas Malovines so called by French seal hunters. To this day the dispute continues between Argentina and England over the islands.

The Spanish Armada had been defeated at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. In 1808, Napoleon Bonaparte, fresh from being kicked out of Haiti by the African people under the leadership of General Jean-Jacques Dessalines, invaded Spain and captured King Ferdinand VII. In 1807 the British invaded Buenos Aires. The Criollo (second generation Spaniards born in the colony) had repelled them.

Now the Criollo wanted more autonomy. And soon anti colonial fervor with thoughts of freedom from Spanish rule swept Criollo society.

Rights discovered and freedom yearned.

European philosophy had just discovered "the rights of man", freedom and democracy. These ideas influenced and inspired Criollo intellectuals, such as Mariano Moreno, Bernardino Rivadavia, and Manuel Belgrano.

By May 25, 1910 these revolutionary elements in Criollo society were forcing the viceroyalty to resign. A political declaration of independence was not formalized until 1816, and it wasn't until 1853 that a constitution was put forth.

The revolutionary government of the May Revolution began to address the protection of the indigenous people in government positions, government services, agriculture, industry and trade. The country was fragmented by conflicts of interest between the revolutionary nationalists, the royalists, Criollos, Unitarians, peninsulars and federalists.

Buenos Aires became more dominant in its role. The Porteno movement, a broad coalition of interests in region, had formulated a "Plan of Operations" to bring independence under its political control. Their expansionism was checked by the regionalism which extended up in to Paraguay. Here Jose Gaspar de Francia repelled them, having declared independence on June 19, 1811.

Progressive policies good for the country

Under the influence of men like Rivadavia and Belgrano, progressive social change, such as the emancipation of slaves

and freedom of the press, was the rule in the region's political development. Jose de San Martin and Carlos M. de Alvear were both born in the colony and had military careers in Spain where they fought the French at the Iberian Peninsular. They both returned home to fight for their native land. They gained control of the fledgling government and called for a general congress of the people

elected by universal suffrage. The congress, called the Revolutionary Assembly, convened on January 31, 1813. They passed laws ending vassalage to the King, and the removal of all European

ans from government posts. They issued a national currency, passed freedom of commerce laws, granted freedom for the children of slaves, ended the Indian labor obligation, and stopped physical punishment of prisoners. They even instructed the Catholic church to pray for the people, not the king. The Assembly granted freedom of the press, established schools and systems of education.

However, the Assembly refused the delegation from Banda Oriental (the region that is now the country of Uruguay). Jose Gervasio Artigas who had royalist Montevideo surrounded, turned to advance on Buenos Aires. Alvear lasted three months in office and the Assembly was dissolved due to the turmoil the city experienced.

Buenos Aires becomes the capital

The Porteno movement had sought independence of the entire Rio de la Plata basin. In the elections of 1880, the Portenos were successful, after a brief civil war, in their drive to have Buenos Aires federalized. The provinces of Buenos Aires had the advantages of infrastructure, such as shipping ports and rail road lines. The federalization of Buenos Aires marked the beginning of a new era for Argentine society and its development.

The economy grew enormously with increased European demand. The provinces around Buenos Aires were able to increase export of sheep, pigs, cattle, cotton, wool, wheat, flax, corn, dyes, sugar, wine, wood, and after 1907, oil. The region be-

came an important breadbasket for the entire world.

Regional migration and European immigration from Italy, Spain, France, England, North America, Russia, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium, brought even greater diversity to the city and rendered it net positive effects nationwide. Also key to the countries development was that during W.W.I and W.W.II, Argentina remained neutral. The European market's demand for Argentine goods created post war booms and positive growth.

Radical politics versus conservative and military coups

Rapid industrialization unleashed powerful social forces. Labor movements, middle class discontent and military coups affected the country from the turn of the century to the pre and post cold war era. It was under these pressures that the government passed repressive laws, some allowing for the deportation of labor leaders.

The Union Civica Radical (UCR) was created by a coalition of the intellectual class, the middle class and the workers. The dissatisfaction with government corruption and regional favoritism as well as recent economic problems, such as low wages, unemployment and rapid urban growth opened the way for more radical political groups to win seats in the next elections. In 1916, the UCR, with its disparate group composition and ideas of redistribution of the nations export wealth, won one third of the seats in Congress while their presidential candidate, Hipolito Yrigoyen, won the presidency.

Hipolito Yrigoyen used his personal power over the middle class to increase public spending and passed laws reforming the universities and creating new ones. This was a continuation of the developing character of Argentine politics. The coalition governments continued to be more progressive while the military and conservative classes checked these left of center social policies. These policies often conflicted with the interest of the elite exporter class who had ties to foreign capital.

Social change with Juan Peron and Evita

By the 1940s the military and progressive forces found a presidential candidate in Juan Domingo Peron. Peron had an extensive military career as an instructor at the War College, military attaché to Chile and in 1939, and was a military observer to Italy. Peron traveled in Europe and had the opportunity to observe the corporate states and network with the professional classes there. He learned from the failures of the Fascists in Italy and returned home determined not to commit those mistakes. He was able to form an alliance between labor leaders and the military.

As the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare from 1943-46, he enacted laws against unfair job dismissal, provided pensions for nonunion and union workers, enacted rent control, strengthened the labor courts and passed measures regulating the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Eva Duarte de Perón

OGUN IN HAITI

Brown begins her essay stating that the Vodou religion of Ayiti is an urban religion, and because the spirits worshipped in Ayiti are of African descent. Ogou Feray (Ogun) is the principle deity of Vodou. It originates from the Gu (Ogou) religion of the Dahomean and Yoruba peoples. The slaves, transferred from this old world context therefore bringing with them Ogou themes such as ironwork, hunting, and the military. It was the military that took on importance in modern Ayiti.

The syncretism of Roman Catholicism into Vodou also was evident. Images and names of the saints are fused with images of Vodou spirits. Brown then uses the concept of the Ayitian Ogou as an example of syncretism of old world traditions to new world traditions, a complex socialization process.

Ogou, is the mediator between the two major "pantheon" of Vodou. One being that of Rada spirits (cool, ancestral, protective), the other being Petro (hot, aggressive, uncompassionate). It would seem that Ogou would fall under hot Petro, but he is also known as "Ogou Balendyo", a water spirit. The many faces of Ogou have definitely increased in number when worshipped in Ayiti. Another version is an Ogou affiliated with herbal healing. The most significant point about these two pantheons is their representation of the order of the cosmos, and Ayitian ideas of the relationship between foreigners (slave holders), and themselves. Needless to say appeals to the Petro spirits, are for individualistic reasons. Ogou is the mediating spirit between the two pantheons. When worshipping Rada one uses water. To worship

Petro, one uses fire, gunpowder, and Ogou uses rum "fiery water". For ceremonies each one must be in different rooms, and sometimes Ogou is placed in the room between the two. To stress further the separation of the two, there may be a break activities. It is necessary that one worship both Rada, and Petro spirits, with priority to the Rada pantheon. The basic mode of Vodou worship is the possession-performance, which is similar to its African counterpart.

The power of Ogou is epitomized by the effectiveness of the modern Ayitian soldiers. Politics and the military are therefore interrelated, and is an important part of the Vodou religion. The language of both popular and ceremonial songs also reflects this importance. Ayitian history, such as the veneration of figures like Toussaint L'Ouverture, is also

included in Vodou worship. The title "Feray", which means the steel, is also used when connecting Ogou with healing, and magic. The Steel is also very sacred. Ogou is frequently called upon to protect his devotees from harm, and to give them perseverance during trying times. Ogou can also turn against himself, this is reflected in the ritual dance of turning the sword within his own person. This self-destructive nature is illustrated in the story of Ogou Chango.

Brown concludes with a brief synopsis of modern Ayiti, and its socioeconomic situation. The depression of Ayitian economic life, and political strifes have led to a mass migration to New York. This Diaspora has further syncretized Ogou worship into New York's urban contemporary life.

by Nadine Robinson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"UNA LUNA SOBRE QUISQUEYA"

tional constabulary (Guardia Nacional) under U.S. supervision. Obviously, there were many in the Dominican Republic who dismissed demands of this sort as garbage, and refused to comply. The U.S. government now saw the opportunity to rationalize military intervention; enter the U.S. Marines.

Arriving the 1916, U.S. military occupation forces literally ran the country for eight years, ignoring even the fiction of a Dominican government. Once on Dominican soil the U.S. Marines immediately set up a military government. From that point on, for the next eight years, "American military and civilian personnel ruled the Dominican Republic directly, taking over every branch of public administration."

American officials induced a wide range of "new" programs into the Dominican Republic. First, the American military used its troops to impose order, and the Marine officers trained and commanded a Dominican constabulary (after dismantling the Dominican army). Then American engineers proceeded to construct adequate road networks and bridges. Americans also reformed the post office and educators attempted to expand and improve the republic's educational system. Significant changes also included "reforms of the Dominican treasury, the tax system, the courts and judiciary, the tariff structure, the land title system, the government agricultural service, and a host of other political, economic, and even social institutions."

Eventually, as a result of various forces against this occupation, the U.S. withdrew from the Dominican Republic in 1924, and an elected Dominican regime took office. Two important forces affecting this withdrawal were the guerrilla insurgency and the political-intellectual resistance. From shortly after occupation in 1917 until 1922, the peasants and sugar workers in the east engaged in guerrilla warfare, preventing the marines from gaining control of that area. Prolonged fighting frustrated American efforts and led to the brutalizing of Dominicans by the ma-

rines - both guerrillas and ordinary citizens. "This generated immense resentment against the marines and unfavorable publicity for the military government throughout Latin America and the United States."

A nationalist movement emerged, initiated by supporters of Francisco Henriquez y Carvajal, the Dominican president deposed in 1916. These Dominican nationalists advocated their struggle in the metropolises of Europe, Latin America and the United States. With the assistance of other "crusading intellectuals" the U.S. occupation of the Dominican Republic, "became a diplomatic cause celebre and an embarrassment to the State Department in Washington." As a result, the U.S. government went into negotiations for withdrawal.

The fact that while occupying the Dominican Republic the U.S. built an infrastructure and made reforms that in many ways certainly were beneficial to the republic should not be dismissed. Nevertheless, the military government of the U.S. left other legacies within Dominican society. To begin with, American officials did not intend for the reforms that they encouraged concerning land and landholding, looked upon as progressive at the time, [to strengthen] the system of plantation agriculture, which created an economic condition that condemned the Dominican population to one of the lowest standards of living in all of Latin America.

Also, we may cite another example of this "flip-side" of the American legacy - the Guardia Nacional Dominicana. This structure became the most organized and powerful force throughout the republic. However the American planners of this "efficient, and theoretically apolitical, constabulary", never considered the possibility of it serving as a vehicle for Rafael Trujillo's brutal thirty-one year dictatorship. As he ascended through the ranks, Trujillo clearly recognized the "one essential rule for gaining and sustaining political power in the republic - an understanding that the base of domestic power is rooted primarily in the United

States."

Trujillo created an extensive and repressive totalitarian regime. He designed more or less his own private fiefdom without any regard at all for human rights. The army was his own private instrument of coercion and terror. He organized and established a tyrannical regime, "which ranks among the most ruthless and efficient in the history of the entire world." Political opposition was eradicated through torture or assassination or manipulated by co-option, imprisonment or exile.

For thirty-one years, he appointed and disposed heads of state as he pleased; Trujillo himself was "De facto head", until his death in 1961. Trujillo was so inclined to disregard the democratic process, that at one point the votes were announced before they were even counted.

Overt U.S. involvement in the Dominican Republic decreased somewhat during the Trujillo period, from 1930-1961. It seems that while acquiring tremendous personal wealth and running an extremely inhumane dictatorship, Trujillo continued to make within the republic a favorable environment for American "big" business - which at that time was inextricably related to the sugar industry. "The United States watched and condoned all this without batting an eye[lash]....as Franklin D. Roosevelt put it, 'he may be and S.O.B., but he is our S.O.B.'" What seems also to have given the U.S. a favorable impression about Trujillo was that the dictator repaid the entire foreign debt.

The last year of the Trujillo era brought renewed American involvement in the Dominican Republic. Realizing that at this point he was on very bad diplomatic terms with the U.S., Trujillo sought alliance with "red" Eastern bloc countries, including the U.S.S.R. "He also reached a temporary understanding with Castro." These events prompted the U.S. to go beyond the diplomatic and economic sanctions of the OAS and to impose a special fee on the purchase of Dominican sugar. This strengthened the will

of Dominicans against Trujillo and once again brought the Americans into Dominican affairs. A number of clandestine opposition groups formed and the general Dominican environment was thought, in Washington, to be uncomfortably similar to that during the last days of Batista in Cuba. Thus, serious concerns developed in the Eisenhower administration that a sudden collapse of Trujillo's rule could lead to chaos and the emergence of a second Castro. "Batista is to Castro as Trujillo is to X", was the implicit assumption, and Washington wanted to ensure it could fill that blank. Hence, the U.S. began to search for a means of getting rid of Trujillo, but at the same time insuring a "responsible" successor.

The CIA then identified and encouraged a group of anti-Trujillo Dominicans, persuading them that the U.S. government would help them if they gained power. "According to some reports, U.S. agents may have materially aided the Dominican plot which culminated in Trujillo's assassination on May 30, 1961." The stage was set, the U.S. government was prepared once again to involve itself directly in the Dominican Republic. Trujillo's "rapacious rule, extending over three decades was the bitter legacy of intervention by the U.S." It might be easy to sum up the relationship between the United States and Trujillo by saying that, like Dr. Frankenstein, the Americans created an experiment that decided to venture out on its own, and defy the masters' will. As an obstacle to, rather than an instrument for, domination, the Great Benefactor had to be eliminated.

Clearly, the U.S. support for the OAS sanctions demonstrated how much Trujillo's American power-based had diminished. As a result of the dictators' drive for total control of the Dominican economy and massive corruption, American investments decreased during the late fifties. Most im-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

"Voices of a Sista"

by R.R.

How do I love thee Black Man. Let me count the ways! I love thy skin so smooth and brown or so black it glitters with the pure strength of you. I love your hands so strong and powerful. They are the hands that have built nations from the ground upwards. Hands callused by centuries of hard toil yet, when they caress, they are as smooth as freshly sanded wood. I long to retreat into the strength of those hands. To nestle in your familiar places, to be absorbed by you.

Instead, you hit me with the words BITCH, HOE, HOOKER, TRICK. Whoa! These words stop me dead in my tracks. You parade me in your videos half-naked. I have become merely butt and breasts and nothing in between. I say love, you say sex. I tell you I want to open up to you, be free with you. You say you want to get me open and be free to go when you're done. I say I love you and you decide to put a lock and key on your pocket. I say I hate you, and you raise your fist. Now I don't know what to do.

I walk down the street and you approach me with, "Yo baby, you got a man?" Yes, I have a man and a good one at that. "I bet I could treat you better than he does, I bet you don't even know what he's doing right now." I look at you Black Man in awe and amazement. I wonder why it is that you don't support black love. My reply to you is simple. Yes, I know what my man is doing, he's loving me, and he's doing it right! "well BITCH,

you didn't look all that good anyway."

I am saddened. It saddens me because I see that you have been brainwashed by the white power structure that once said and still says that Black people don't know how to love. You have allowed their lies to manipulate your actions to the point where you continue to perpetuate their myth.

They once separated us from each other, from our children, and they didn't think we had feelings enough to care. They have destroyed the Black family, made it so that we were afraid to love because we knew at any moment one of us could be sold off. They say that we are animals incapable of love. We are only capable of base lust. They are wrong. I know the kind of love that a Black woman and man can create. It is just as moving and as stirring as anyone else. It is powerful and passionate, and there is nothing like it. I witnessed it from my father and mother and now I see it in me.

Our love as man and woman, more importantly as Black man and woman, it transcends ordinary love. It does so because only you Black Man know my pain. You are the only one capable of understanding the Black Woman. You are the one that can see the scars that are otherwise invisible to others. You see them because you share them. What we share is a past that is rooted in pain. A history filled with savagery and sadness. Back then when I had nothing I had You.

You tried your best to protect me

To The Heart Of the Matter

by Tracy N. Heddad

As women of color in the 90's there are certain types of guys we refuse to take seriously. Such as guys with processed hair, guys living with their mothers at age thirty, or even guys with a drug problem. Yet how about a guy with a child, do you take him seriously?

In our society it is evident that there are a lot of children whose parents are unwed, young, and living separately thus creating "the baby's mother" and "the baby's father." Thus what do you do when you are attracted to this guy, and everything seems to be in order, but he has a child? Obviously there are two avenues in which you can travel. First is to let him pass by, and the second is to go out with him. Let us explore the second avenue from the female perspective.

To date a man who has a child is really no different from dating a man who is childless. For the most part there is a stigma attached to dating a man with a child. I believe this stigma dwells in the insecurity we have about the baby's mother. When you get into a relationship with this man you have to be aware of the fact that the baby's mother is still in his life. If the child is living with the

mother, he has to see her to be in contact with his child. This is a hard obstacle to overcome, since no woman wants to be with a man who is in constant contact with his former girlfriend. Yet you have to understand that he will always have a place for her in his heart, though his feelings for her may have changed. This does not necessarily mean that they have something extra on the side. What it simply means is that there are two people who were unable to reconcile their differences, but who have had a child together, and they are trying to raise this child the best they can separately.

The man you are involved with has a legal, parental, and moral obligation to this child. You may have to cancel plans because the baby got sick, or the child just wants to see his father. To cope with this remember that you are second in his life when it comes to his child. Being put second to the child is what you have to encounter, however do not look at this as competition for his time. This is his flesh and blood - his little "pickney". His utmost responsibility is to his child. However, he is capable of loving you, and of being loved.

and I love you for it. Now, I need something else from you. I need you to respect me. Stop pimping, using, and abusing me. There is something else that I need. I need you to respond to this ar-

ticle. I'm interested in what you think and what you have to say. If this article struck a chord within you, then drop me a line or two in BLACKWORLD mailbox in Polity.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

"ARGENTINA"

work of minors and giving paid vacations and New Year's bonuses.

The military came to distrust Peron and his progressive policies. He was arrested despite being the Vice President in 1945. A mass rally at the Plaza de Mayo in front of the presidential palace, by the descamisados (the shirtless ones, who were the poor people that formed the bulk of Peron's supporters), was organized by his mistress Eva Duarte. Labor leaders also packed the plaza. Peron was released within six days and began to organize for the presidential elections of the following year.

Peronist; party or cult of personality?

Peron formed the Labor Party and made a coalition with the UCR renovating Junta.. These two parties merged after his election to become the Unified Party of the National Revolution. In 1947, it was renamed the Peronist Party. Peron was opposed by some groups who were backed by United States foreign interest. The U.S. ambassador Spruille Braden circulated rumors of Nazi in-

fluence in Argentina in the "Blue Book". Peron responded with the "Blue and White Book" so named for the national colors of the country, and it denounced U.S. involvement in Argentine political affairs. During the election campaigns, the Peronist chanted "Peron or Braden".

The Catholic church had to be placated and so Peron pledged allegiance to the official state church and duly married Eva Peron in 1945.

Peron's government

On February 24, 1946 fair and orderly elections swept Peron into the presidency. His party and allies won mostly all the seats in congress and most of the governor posts. Before his inauguration, Peron had the departing president nationalize the central bank and its foreign assets. Also, the Argentine Trade Promotion Institute was created and empowered to set agricultural prices, and use revenues generated by exports for the promotion of industry. Peron established a national airline, used some of the \$1.4 bil-

lion of the country's gold and hard currency to purchase British owned railroads, hotels, meat-packing plants and large tracts of land. Peron's first state of the union address emphasized industrialization and government cooperation.

Evita, the peoples angel

The personification of the peoples revolutionary aspirations was Eva Duarte de Peron. Evita came from a poor family and was uncomfortable among the elites in the government. She met daily with hundreds of common people at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. There they came for help, to thank her, or to make contributions to her Eva Peron Foundation. Today, these very offices are the headquarters of the General Labor Confederation, the AFL-CIO of Argentina.

Through her foundation she provided services to the needy and helped shape progressive political and social programs. She was politically active, encouraged women to enter politics and helped form the Women's Peronist Party. Evita was an emotive public speaker, preeminently positioned

in the political hierarchy. She incited the people to adore her husband.

In June 1952, Peron came began his second term and unfortunately Evita died of cancer in July, at the age of 33. As she laid dying, the Argentine Congress proclaimed her the Spiritual Leader of the Nation.

Today, Argentina is still full of passion and love for their Saint Evita. Recently movie mogul, Oliver Stone, sought to make a film about Evita based on the Broadway play "Evita, Cry Argentina". The Argentine people regard the play as blasphemous and President Carlos Menem refused to cooperate.

With Evita's death an important phase of Peronism ended. While the standards of living for the masses improved because of the policies of Juan and Eva Peron, social forces unleashed by an economic slump and the close control exerted by the Peronist government lead to an anti-Peronist front among some groups. The Peron government

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Cuba Action

U.S.-Cuban Relations: The Latest Chapter

On Wednesday, August 10, I returned from a 10 day trip to Havana. I had heard reports of people leaving the island illegally in boats and knew something about the July 13 incident where 32 people had drowned, but I hoped to get more details and a better understanding of what was happening.

The situation took on new dimensions when on Friday, August 5 a "riot", "near-riot", or "disturbance" (Depending on whose report you read) occurred in Havana, specifically in Old Havana and Central Havana. But before reporting on the events of August 5, here is a quick review of the boat incidents up to that point.

Boat #1 - Very early on the morning of Wednesday, July 13 the tug boat "March 10th" is stolen from the port of Havana. A person working that night got past the night watchman by mixing thorazine (a drug used to treat insomnia) into his juice and putting him to sleep while the boat was stolen. This officer and the captain of another tug boat proceed to put their families and friends on the boat, a total of 63 people. The wooden boat they took was built in 1879 and was constructed and outfitted for four people (there were only four lifesaving devices on the boat). The last inspection of the boat (in May, 1994) indicated that it should only be used within the port itself, that it was not in condition to be taken out on the high seas. The chase by three other Cuban tug boats to stop the stolen boat started inside the harbor and lasted for about seven miles beyond. These boats used their fire extinguishing equipment to try to stop the stolen boat. Just before 5 a.m. an accident occurred when one of the pursuing tug boats crashed into the stolen boat, causing it to sink. 32 of the 63 people on board drowned and the others were rescued by the Cuban Coast Guard.

The U.S. government uses Radio Marti and other stations to broadcast its position that the Cuban government says that this was a terrible accident and that they did everything possible to save lives. Their investigations indicate that there was no intent to hurt anyone.

The incident, and especially the deaths of so many people, is very upsetting to people in Havana.

Boat #2 - On Tuesday, July 26, one of the ferries that carries people across the port of Havana is taken over by a group of people. (There are two ferry lines that each carries about 12,000 people a day back and forth.) The people who take over the boat are armed with knives and perhaps one pistol and there are between 80 and 100 people on the boat, several of whom are thrown overboard by the hijackers. This boat is allowed to leave Havana and it is eventually picked up by the U.S. Coast guard. More than half

of the passengers leave the ferry for the U.S. and the rest return to Cuba. The ferry boat itself is also returned to Cuba.

Boat #3 - On Wednesday, August 3, at about 12 noon, another ferry boat in the port of Havana is taken over and stolen by 15 people. They have a pistol, revolver, hand grenade, bayonet and machetes with them.

"Since 1991, Cuba has had a policy of allowing people to leave the country."

Seven of the passengers jump off the boat before it leaves the port. There were 80 people on the Cuban boat, including 10 infants. Two Coast Guard and two other Cuban civilian boats followed at a distance and picked up the people who either jumped or were thrown off the boat but, but they did not attempt to stop the boat in the light of the terrible accident on July 13. This boat also makes it out to the high seas and is eventually picked up by the U.S. Coast Guard. Again, some of the people on the boat stay in Florida and others return to Cuba.

Boat #4 - On the evening of Thursday, August 4 a ferry boat is again taken by force of arms. (This is actually the same boat that was taken on July 26). Because of the previous incidents, the ferries now have police guards on them and [people are searched for weapons before they go on board. In this instance, the two pistols used in the hijacking of the ferry were smuggled on board inside a cake. In the course of a fight with the hijackers, one police officer, 19 year old Gabriel Lamoth Caballero, was pushed overboard and drowned. Another police officer was reportedly shot and thrown overboard but his body has not been found. While still in Cuban territorial waters, the boat runs out of gas and is taken into custody by the Cuban Coast Guard on Saturday, August 6th. NO one else was hurt and everyone returns to Cuba.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5 - ACTION ON THE STREETS

Starting Thursday night, there are rumors floating that another boat will be leaving Cuba and people start gathering either out of curiosity or wanting to leave. By Friday morning all of the ferries are suspended. Hundreds of people have shown up expecting to board the ferries as usual and are upset that they cannot use them. Two docked freighters (one Canadian and one Chinese) are boarded by people and the Cuban police and dock workers get them off. Around the whole port area security is tightened.

By 1 p.m. thousands of people are circulating on foot and bicycle near the port, and along the Malecon (the sea wall) in the area near Old Havana and Central Havana. Many of them say they have heard rumors of

boats coming to pick up people and that they want to leave. At one point calls of "lancha, lancha" (ferry) are heard and people move toward the port. But there is no boat for them to board and eventually crowds start moving back into the streets of Old Havana and Central Havana, where rock throwing and vandalism begin.

Throughout the afternoon groups of people, mostly young men, move through these neighborhoods. Windows are broken, a few stores are looted, some trash bins are overturned, the Hotel Deauville is hit with rocks. While no one has an exact count, estimates run as high as over 5,000 people participated. (The U.S. State Department says between 20 and 30,000 and Granma International- the publication of the Cuban Communist Party- reports 700. In addition to rock-throwers and looters, many young people who are out of school for summer or out of work are on the streets watching the "show".) At one point someone tries to get the crowd to leave this area. There is a constant back and forth with the police, who are far outnumbered by the people in the streets.

By 5:30 hundreds, perhaps thousands, of members of the rapid response brigades are backing up the police. For the most part these people are unarmed, although some have sticks or clubs. In addition, people are leaving work and returning to their homes in these neighborhoods and they start marching in support of the government and confronting the rioters. President Fidel Castro and other top governmental leaders arrive by jeep and walk the streets, leading the pro-government people.

By 8 or 9 p.m. the situation is well under control. The police, rapid response brigades, members of the Union of Young Communists (whose national headquarters is located where this was all taking place) and others have regained control of the streets without using the army. The government reported that 35 people were injured, including 10 police officers.

While there have been no official reports of arrests, estimated are that as many as 700 people were picked up by the police.

At 9 p.m. that evening Fidel Castro goes on TV, on both of Cuba's national TV stations. He talks to the nation for the next one-and-a-half hours through a question and answer format with four reporters. During this presentation he explains Cuba's analysis of the situation and squarely lays the blame of the United States. These are some of the highlights and major points he makes:

- Since 1991, Cuba has had a policy of allowing people to leave the country.

- The U.S. is deliberately blocking legal immigration and stimulating illegal immigration. While this was first done for propaganda

reasons it has now become subversion.

"If the United States does not take rapid and efficient measures to stop stimulating illegal immigration from the country then we will feel compelled to give instructions to the (Cuban) Coast Guard not to stop any boat that wants to leave Cuba, as long as it is not stolen. We will not obstruct boats that want to go to the United States and not to obstruct the entry of boats that want to come from the United States to pick up relatives of Cuban citizens here." [He repeats this point several times throughout his talk.]

Fidel then reads from the transcript of a conversation between the head of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, John Sullivan and the Cuban Foreign Ministry. Sullivan said that if a grave situation is created, if the Commandante talks on TV tonight the same way he did this afternoon in an interview on the street (where he said the same thing as quoted above) that the U.S. will take measures to stop the arrival of boats in Florida. Sullivan goes on to say that if Fidel thinks this is a problem for the U.S. that the Cubans need to take into account that there will be problems for them as well and that the U.S. will take all measures needed to stop another Mariel boat lift. Sullivan also indicated that if there is an announcement that all Cubans are free to leave in boats that there will be chaos that will provoke deaths and many problems and the U.S. does not want this to happen.

"The U.S. is deliberately blocking legal immigration and stimulating illegal immigration. While this was first done for propaganda reasons it has now become subversion."

-Fidel insists that Cuba will not be threatened by the United States, who stimulated this situation in the first place.

In the 35 years since the Revolution came to power there has not been as large a protest action in Cuba. Life in Cuba is extremely hard these days, and some people are quite angry about the situation and at the government. At the same time, these events should not be taken as a sign that the present leadership is about to fall or that major social upheaval is underway. While important, the meaning of these events should not be overstated.

THE NEXT FEW DAYS

On Friday, Saturday and Monday nights I drove through the neighborhoods where the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

poesía

Poem for Latina Sisters Back in the 'Hood.

Maria
your eyes
shine
so brightly,
so lonely,
so only
i do not
wish to cry.

Carmen
In your
Harlem nights
the skies
glow so pale
the streets
are hard
as work
ripped hands
as broke
angry friends
as our own
selfish hearts

Nancy
the adult world
is so mistaken
and always taken
in search of a cure
to their self
inflicted pain
and they
cut themselves
wet themselves
again and
again
But you are what?
now 12
going on 80.

Lourdes
forgive our mothers
for they hurt too
and do
what they do
only God
knows why

Julia
why is it
that when we
grow up
we then forget
to cry.

--- Carlos Montrevil

¿SABEIS MI OTRO APELLIDO, EL QUE ME VIENE
DE AQUELLA TIERRA ENORME, EL APELLIDO
SANGRIENTO Y CAPTURADO, QUE PASO SOBRE EL MAR
ENTRE CADENAS, QUE PASO ENTRE CADENAS SOBRE EL MAR?

AH, NO PODEIS RECORDARLO
LO HABEIS DISUELTO EN TINTA INMEMORIAL
LO HABEIS ROBADO A UN POBRE NEGRO INDEFENSO.
LOS ESCONDISTEIS, CREYENDO
QUE IBA A BAJAR LOS OJOS YO DE LA VERGUENZA.
GRACIAS!
OS LO AGRADEZCO!
GENTILES GENTES, THANK YOU!

DO YOU KNOW MY OTHER LAST NAME, THE ONE THAT COMES
TO ME FROM THAT ENORMOUS LAND, THE CAPTURED,
BLOODY LAST NAME, THAT CAME ACROSS THE SEA
IN CHAINS, WHICH CAME IN CHAINS ACROSS THE SEA.

AH, YOU CAN'T REMEMBER IT!
YOU HAVE DISSOLVED IT IN IMMEMORIAL INK.
YOU STOLE IT FROM A POOR, DEFENSELESS BLACK.
YOU HID IT, THINKING THAT I WOULD
LOWER MY EYES IN SHAME.
THANK YOU!
I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU!
NOBLE PEOPLE, THANKS!

--- NICOLÁS GUILLÉN

EXCERPT FROM:

EL APELLIDO - ELEGIA FAMILIAR
MY LAST NAME - A FAMILY ELEGY

Daba saltos desesperados
y me quedaba en el aire,
buscándote.
Luego bajaba tambaleando
sobre los bordes de la tierra
y me asomaba al abismo
sólo para convencerme
de que no habías caído.
Creí haberte oído
en el llanto de la soledad
cuando está sola.
Creí haberte visto
detrás del reflejo del agua
que se ahoga en mis ojos.
Creí sentirte
caminar sobre mí
con tus huellas de verso cansado.
No eras tú,
eran tus pasos,
tu resonancia.

I WAS JUMPING DESPERATELY
AND I HUNG IN THE AIR
SEARCHING FOR YOU.
THEN I DESCENDED STAGGERING
UPON THE EDGE OF THE EARTH
CATCHING A GLIMPSE OF THE ABYSS
ONLY TO CONVINCE MYSELF
THAT YOU HAVE NOT FALLEN.
I THOUGHT I HEARD YOUR VOICE
IN THE CRY OF SOLITUDE'S LONELINESS
I THOUGHT I SAW YOU
BEHIND THE REFLEX OF THE WATER
THAT DRAWS IN MY EYES.
I THOUGHT I FELT YOU
WALKING ALL OVER ME
WITH YOUR FOOTPRINTS OF TIRED VERSES
IT WAS NOT YOU
IT WAS ONLY YOUR STEPS
ONLY YOUR RESONANCE.

--- CHARLIE GÓMEZ CASTRO

Flava

(para Tula y Ninito)

Latin flavor comes in all kinds of
vainilla, canela, coco, chocolate, azúcar
kind of flavor

DingDingDingDing Piraguas! DingDingDingDing Piraguas!
Helados on hundred degree Bronx days
THOOM-THOOM THOOM-THOOM of the two train mamboing along the el
Horns screaming under the crackling static of an AM misora
Faintly heard over the raspy voices of old men in the bodega doorway
Taste ALL of Latin America in a city barrio
"Deja de hablar mierda. Nosotros hablamos el español mas puro, brothehr"

Doña Tula and her small kitchen radio
Hands molding a tortilla into a perfect circle
Hips and feet re-living days of bailes where the band tocando
touched her
and wouldn't let her miss "ni un paso"
¡GUEPAI

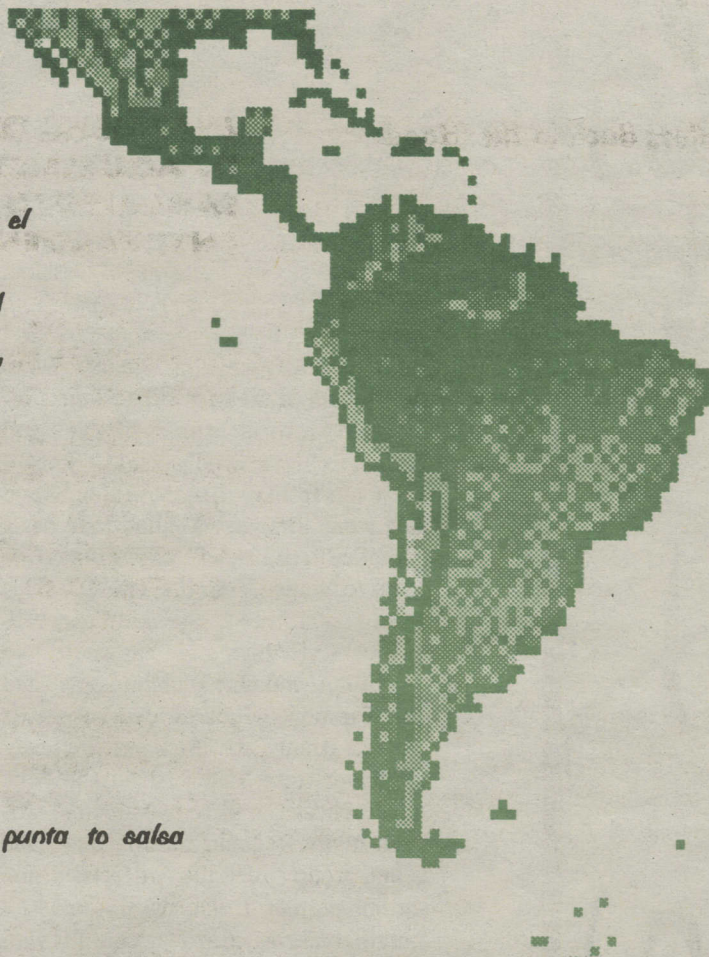
And when we left the Bronx the music faded into,
"You spanish? You don't look spanish"
And I had never known that I didn't look it
Since I'd been surrounded by Hondureños and wiggled my hips from punta to salsa
And bought my piraguas in spanish
Never getting a second glance
"Tenga, mami. Cuidado no echartelo ensima. -- Piraguas ..."
DingDingDingDing "... Piraguas "

I watched Tula
Machucando platanos for tapado singing with Celia Cruz
And she was browner than the leading ladies on novelas
But she was spanish (And I use that term loosely)

Then Ninito came in and grabbed Tula's hand
And the kitchen became a Saturday night baile
As they twirled and wiggled to Celia's ritmo
And I smiled
Because people have a lot to learn about the mixtures of
vainilla, canela, coco, chocolate and azúcar
That make latin flavor Sabroso

¡GUEPAI

---Susan Y. Arauz



BLACK INDIAN AND SPANIARD

I'm the face of three
But what is the pain?

I'm the formation that carries the burden of
progeny.
But what is the pain?

I'm full of thoughts, promise and hope.
But what is the pain?

I'm the result of one man's dream.
But what is the pain?

I'm the making of a five hundred year oppres-
sion.
But what is the pain?

Can the pain be the color of my skin.
The structure of my face.
The texture of my hair.
Or can the pain be the unity of three?

Always
Deep & Eternal

rhapsodies

Creative Arts

The L Session

Welcome to the next L session. This time I'll be talking about some more of hip hop's underground sound. Like I said in the last session, October '94 is the "Month of the Man". Def Jam is releasing Method Man's "Tical" and Redman's "Dare iz a Darkside". I heard a few cuts from each of these albums and they were all phat. Method Man has a cut called "All I Need", a song that gives props to women. The title cut, "Tical" is a song about weed. Speaking of weed, let's get to Redman. He has tracks like "A Million and One Buddha Spots" and "the Promo", which is also known as "Smoka Blunt Too". So if you are ready for flavor from Staten Island and New Jersey, check out these two albums. Coincidentally, Redman's cousin Tame One is in a group called the Artifacts. Tame and his partner, L the sensai, are MC's that still breakdance and tag up walls with graffiti, staying true to the basic elements of hip hop. The first single of their album was "Wrong Side of the Tracks", and now they have a single called "Come On Wit Da Git Down" featuring the infamous Busta Rhymes.

There are a couple of new albums out that are butter. One of them is Common Sense's "resurrection". Common Sense has metaphors for days and if you are fast enough to follow his flow, it easy to see that this MC has crazy skill. I already spoke about the first single "i used to love h.e.r." and the b side "Communism". The rest of the album is phat too. The titles are mad ill but they match the flow of the songs. "Resurrection" has titles like "watermelon", "chapter 13 (rich man vs. poor man)", and "thisisme". There are a few guests, like No I.D., that make special appearances on the album. The biggest surprise is the appearance of Common Sense's father on "pop's rap". I think the best cuts are the title track and "sum shit I wrote".

Another album that is phat is O.C.'s "Word Life". O.C. was first introduced to the hip hop world on wax on Organized Konfusion's "Fudge Pudge". He had a small part on the remix of M.C. Serch's "Back to the Grill", but it wasn't until O.C. released "Times Up" did people take notice. It has a bare

bones beat and O.C. dropped science, trying to prepare heads for the album. Well, the album is here, word life. My favorite cut is "O-zone". But O.C. kicks flavor on tracks like "Constables", "Born to Live", and the title cut "Word Life". O.C. also has a parent on the album, his mother sings on the cut "Ma Dukes". With both Common Sense and O.C., the emphasis is on lyrics.

The most "beautifullest" thing in the world right now is the Keith Murray single. Look out for his appearance on Redman's album and anything Keith does. Kurious Jorge has a new video featuring Sadat X from Brand Nubian and Mike G from the Jungle Bros. It was the b side to his last single but "Mansion and a Yacht" is a cool track. Brand Nubian also has a new single "Word is Bond". Nas has a new video, "One Love" and a new single, "Life's a Bitch". Well, it's the end of another session. Don't forget to tune in to "Ill Sounds" on Thursdays from 2-4 a.m. Thanks for the support. Peace.
by BIG JOE

I LIKE IT LIKE THAT

A Movie Review

I LIKE IT LIKE THAT bursts on the scene with the pulsating rhythm of a Tito Puente percussion solo, bringing the latino's struggle in life and love to the silver screen.

I mean, Al Pacino was all of that in CARLITO'S WAY, but an Italian playing a Hispanic?! His Spanish accent made me cringe. I didn't see MI VIDA LOCA because I was sure I wouldn't be able to relate to a West coast tale of latina gang members.

This film was written, directed, and produced by new-comer Darnell Martin. It takes place on the East coast, more specifically, in the Bronx. The story revolves around the relationship of Chino and Lisette Linares, who are played by Jon Seda and Lauren Velez, respectively. In the course of their ups and downs, many issues are addressed. This is no glossed over, body-double necessary kind of love story. It is the story of man and wife trying to keep themselves and their family together in the midst of money

problems, nosy neighbors, and the every day challenges of city living.

Lisette has to keep Magdalena away from her husband, Chino. Chino takes pride in his ability to make love for 89 minutes straight! Little Chino looks to assert his manhood by making his own money in the fastest way that a little boy in the Bronx can. Alex, Lisette's brother/sister, taunts his/her sister for not being sexual and tries to show her how. The running joke is Lisette's lack of tetas, making it seem that chest size never stops being important. The story takes a turn after a black-out occurs and the action doesn't never slows down again. These situations are dealt with in a comic way that movie goers will enjoy, but there are issues underlying these situations.

One of the issues addressed is that of gender roles in Latino families; Man as the head of his house and woman as cook and responsible for child care. Manhood is defined by the man's role as

provider and womanhood is defined by the woman's physical attributes. Lisette is forced from her expected role when a situation arises that calls for her to work out of the household. She acquires a sense of purpose and gains an identity other than that of wife of Chino and mother of Little Chino and Minnie.

Romantic relationships aren't the only focus, but family ties are also explored. The love of parent and child and that between siblings is given equal attention in this film. A couple of the supporting cast members, Rita Moreno (Chino's mom) and Jesse Borrego (Lisette's sibling) show how loving and exasperating family members can be. Regardless, they are important influences on the lives of the characters... sometimes for the worse and sometimes for the better.

There are those who criticize the numerous situations going on and the non-stop action, but anyone who has ever

THE SPIRIT OF THE LACANDON MAYA

From October 17 - November 2, Kelynn Alder brought the Spirit of the Lacandon Maya to the Union Art Gallery. Alder, who is part Caucasian and part Mexican, went to live among the Mayan people to observe their culture, their customs, and the way they live. This essence she would try to capture on paper.

Alder's work seems to focus mainly on the children, although she does have several adults, mostly elderly, included in her pieces. From an artistic point of view, her work is literally breathtaking. A number of her pieces are larger than life, and the emotions captured in these pieces are extraordinary. The piece that stands out most in my mind is "Brothers", which is 49" x 72". This piece is of two of the Mayan children, brothers, just standing next to each other. A simple enough painting. It is the feelings and emotions which are elicited that make this piece stand out. The expressions on these two boys' faces are priceless. They seem shy, innocent of the world, and seem to want something - help, or love, or both. These two boys are dressed in the typical Mayan attire, a long white garment. It resembles an oversized shirt. The two

boys both have long hair and at first glance may appear to be little girls. The artist leaves nothing unaccounted for in her paintings. Her brush strokes are warm and bring life to each of her paintings. She also has a few sculptures in the show. The one that is the most eye-catching is the one that has been situated in the center of the room. It is called Xtabay. The sculpture is of a snake with a head in its mouth. This piece stems from a myth about a god nymph. She would lure men into the forest and hypnotize them. When this happened, she would turn into a snake and swallow them.

The expressions on the faces of the children she depicted may be priceless, but the pieces themselves are surely not. "Brothers" is priced at over \$9,000, and Xtabay is priced at over \$6,000. So it seems that this rare, almost extinct community of people is worth more than even they themselves know. The portrayal of these people raises many important questions. First of all, the artist is not of Mayan decent. She stayed with them for a time in their homeland, which is on the border of Guatemala and Mexico. She

says she went there because she felt the need to be involved with that side of her heritage. Even though her work is exceptional, there are some disturbing questions that need to be addressed. Why is it that these children were only depicted in a way that seems to lend itself toward sadness and helplessness? These are children, after all, and there is something about the portrayal of these children that makes one almost feel sorry for them, instead of seeing the portrayal of just a child. This could have to do with the fact that it is an outsider who has portrayed them and not one of their own. It may be hard for an outsider to understand their ways and their culture. If one of their own had tried to depict them, maybe a different picture would have been painted and not one of such darkness and desperation.

The artist is not currently living with the Mayan people. One reason is that she is pregnant. Her permanent residency, where she lives with her husband, is in California. She says she will be going back there, to do more work, after her child is born. She seemed so enthusiastic about these people, and so I asked her

if she would want to raise her children amongst the Mayan people. She quickly responded with a "no". It is easy to be an outsider looking into a culture, but not so easy to really be a part of it or to feel it in one's heart, no matter what connection you may have. Her depiction of these people is not as deep as it could be and it would be better coming from one who actually lives and experiences with them, not for a few months, but as a way of life. This woman is, after all, white. This makes her depiction not as pure as a native's depiction would have been. She is, in a way torn between two worlds. The outside world, which has for the most part left these people untouched. She identifies with this the most, having been brought up in modern society. She longs for their world, innocent and natural, which she feels she has a connection to. This woman's connection to these people has been lost throughout time, though, and she has made a valiant effort to regain it. To truly understand the spirit of these people, one has to have been born immersed in it. They, the Mayan, are the only ones who can truly portray that spirit.

by Ella Turenne

"SOMETIMES GHOSTS WON'T LET YOU FORGET"

A CRITIQUE ON THE MOVIE "JASON'S LYRIC"

So often, we hold on to memories. We all seem to carry a great deal of baggage into every relationship. At times, the baggage is so heavy that we allow it to take control. But what happens when the baggage isn't coming from a previous boyfriend or girlfriend? What happens when the baggage is a family member, or members that can't seem to let you go, or vice-versa?

I'll tell you what happens; you get a provocative new movie. Jason's Lyric, finds a way to deal with so many of today's issues. Love and family in the Black community. You get passion, violence and social issues that are affecting the community on a daily basis.

Jason's Lyric comes to life in a way that no other African-American love story has. Come to think of it, I can't think of the last African-American love

story I saw. Well, at least not like this one. It isn't often that the African-American man is put on the screen, and when he is, he's never portrayed as a "man." He's usually a cold hearted brutal killer. I think that it's about time someone informs the rest of the world that not all African American men are brutal, sadistic money hungry killers.

Thank God for small favors. We finally get to see a Black man that can be tender and caring, without all that "gangsta s--t!" I've never had anything personal against all the other movies, "New Jack City," and "Juice," "Boyz in the Hood", and of course, my all time favorite, "Menace II Society." They are all breakthroughs in film making. Many of the portrayals are authentic and heart jerking. However, none of these were love stories. These are films about gang

violence, inner city youth and ultimate survival. But what are we surviving for?

These movies reinforce society's belief that African-Americans are incapable of love and monogamous relationships. Are we, and our society, being led to believe that there is no such thing as "Black Love?" Through previous movies, most people would think that, but I hope that we know better. As far as many of us are concerned, "Black Love" is alive.

Jason's Lyric, is an all around productive movie, showing that Forest Whitaker can truly act. He's no longer taking a back seat and maintaining a supporting role. Jada Pinkett and Allen Payne portrayed their characters Lyric and Jason, respectively, with passion and sincerity.

Now that I've given it a rave

review, I have to take a moment to make note of the one disturbing topic that was subtly implemented. There was a racial undertone to the whole movie. Jason, was considered "light skinned" and Joshua, played by Bokeem Woodbine, was "darker-skinned." This played on the stereotyped role that "lighter-skinned" people are superior to "darker-skinned" people. This is a topic that is often all too prevalent in the Black community. Two of the "darker-skinned" characters Joshua and Treach, of Naughty by Nature, were portrayed as "gangstas" that didn't care about anything else but money. These types of subtle messages are what reinforce stereotypes. Instead, what needs to be shown, is that all "Black love" is alive in the community.

by Lisa Samuda



The Caribbean Students Organization

All ah we is one family



The Caribbean Students Organization Minutes

On Friday November 11 is **Caribbean Day**.

* Fireside lounge from 11am-5pm

- vendors

- food

- live entertainment

- CARIBBEAN JEOPARDY!!

* **FREE** Cultural show in the Union Auditorium at 7pm

- dancing

- singing

- skits

- RAFFLE with FREE GIVE-A-WAYS!!

* PARTY TO FOLLOW IN THE BALLROOM

On Thursday November 17 poet Oku Onoura will be performing in Humanities Poetry Center at 7pm.

C.S.O GENERAL BODY MEETINGS ARE EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT AT 9PM IN THE UNITY CULTURAL CENTER.

The Caribbean Students Organization would like to thank all the models, volunteers, acts and participants who helped to make our fashion show a success.

Erika Lampkin
Venil Wattkis
Claudine Nicaisse
Brendon Paul
Josette Smith
Anthony Davis
Adeyinka Sapara

Antoinette Thomas
Marcus Antoine
Winston Byndloss
Sunny Fungcap
Carline Saintilien
Natalia Brown

Ayanna Cush
Teresa Rowe
Podessa Ross
Gem Alexander
Greg Coleman
Christopher Carter

Juan Hernandez
Rachelle Jean-Louis
Nathasha Christopher
Dayna M. Jonhson
Kutuchia Lamarre
Shawn Smith

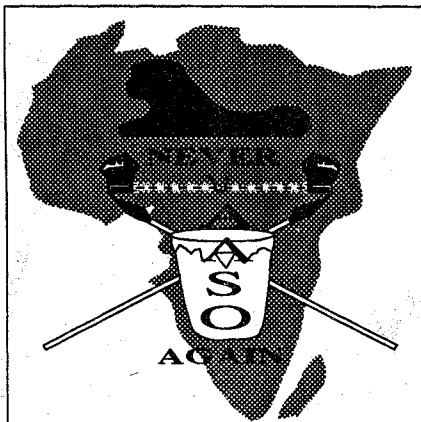
Special thanks to the African Students Union for sponsoring our african scene.

We would like to send an extra special **BIG-UP** to our cultural officers for their undying effort to create a wicked fashion show.

Rhonda Joseph
Mahalia Williams
Natasha Nicholson

We love you!

Sincerely,
Alicia Leonard
CSO Secretary



**REMEMBER, REBUILD
REMEMBER, REBUILD
REMEMBER, REBUILD
REMEMBER, REBUILD**

**AND ARISE!
AND ARISE!
AND ARISE!
AND ARISE!**

AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION • STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONY BROOK
STUDENT UNION, POLITY SUITE 258 • STONY BROOK, NY 11794
(516) 632-3456

**AASO
PRESENTS
BLACK SOLIDARITY WEEK**

MONDAY	BLACK LOVE IN THE 90'S
TUESDAY	AFRICAN VENDORS
WEDNESDAY	CLOTHING DRIVE, CULTURE EXPO, TRIPLE BLACK DRESS CODE ALL DAY
FRIDAY	BLACK ACTIVITIES FAIR
SATURDAY	PARTY TO BENEFIT HOMELESS

**ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
BLACK POWER TO BLACK PEOPLE!**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

CUBA ACTIONS

events occurred on Friday, including the port and along the Malecon. Things were quiet and while there was some presence of police and the rapid response brigades everything appeared normal, except for the fact that here were significantly less people than usual hanging out on the Malecon.

On Sunday, August 7 the body of the police officer killed on Thursday, Gabriel Lamoth Caballero, laid in state for public viewing in the offices of the Ministry of the Interior. People started lining up at 5:30 a.m. and throughout the day tens of thousands of people, including most of the national leadership of the country, paid their respects. At 6 p.m. a massive rally was held in the Plaza de la Revolution. It is estimated that somewhere between 500,000 and 600,000 people participated in the days activities - all in homage to the killed police officer and in support of the government.

On Monday, August 8 the body was taken to Guantanamo, where the young man was born and raised, for the funeral. Another rally was held with upwards of 150,000 people participating in that one.

Just as things seemed to be calming down, another boat was hijacked on Monday, August 8. This boat, a small naval transport vessel, was taken at 4:50 p.m. from the Mariel port with force of arms. A naval officer was shot and fell overboard, but his body was not found until Thursday, August 11. Three other navy personnel were forced to jump overboard. The hijackers took the boat to another dock and picked up family and friends and with a total of 26 people they left, headed for the United States.

The Cuban Coast Guard sent a message to the U.S. Coast Guard, indicating the type of boat (and the fact that without a com-

munication system or lighting it was not capable of making the trip on its own) and informing them that the boat was taken by force and that one person was murdered. They gave the U.S. Coast Guard the exact location and speed of the boat.

The U.S. Coast Guard picked up the boat, brought everyone to Florida and proceeded to issue reports to the media that they had no confirmation that anyone had been murdered. As far as I know, these people all remain in Florida and no one has been turned over to the Cuban government of the murder.

At 11 p.m. on Thursday, August 11 President Fidel Castro again went on TV in Cuba. In great detail he explained what happened with this boat and again laid blame on the United States. As he said the week before, Fidel called on the U.S. to take quick, efficient and serious steps to solve this problem. And he repeated that any Cuban who wants to leave can do so.

Forty hours after the incident, the body of Ship Lieutenant Roberto Aguilar Reyes was found with two bullet wounds. In the next few days, thousands of Cubans participated in a memorial rally in Mariel, where the boat hijacking and murder had occurred, and in the funeral service held in Camaguey, the hometown of the young man.

On August 15 several hundred people voluntarily left an oil tanker, also in Mariel port, which they had boarded the day before. They had boarded the boat in the hope of being taken to the United States by the tanker's Greed captain. The boat, which flies under a Maltese flag, was in Cuba to unload fuel. This incident, the largest group effort up to that point since the Mariel boat lift in 1980, came just a day after U.S. Secretary of

State Warren Christopher said that the U.S. could continue to take in Cubans who emigrated illegally.

BALSEROS: MASSIVE EXODUS OF CUBANS BY RAFTS AND DRAMATIC SHIFTS IN U.S. POLICY

In the next few days, scores of Cubans (known as balseros) began to take to the seas in homemade rafts. It was clear that the Cuban government was not stopping people, as long as they took their own boats or rafts; armed hijackings, heft and other violent actions would not be tolerated. It was also clear that any Cuban making it to the shores of Florida would be welcomed. What started as hundreds of people leaving each day in mid-august quickly grew to thousands, except for a few days of bad weather.

While only ninety miles of Key West, Florida, the trip from the northern coast of Cuba is treacherous, as so many Haitians have experienced. the currents in the Straits of Florida are powerful and on a small raft there is no protection from the unrelenting August sun. In the best of conditions, it can take four days to make the journey. And, of course, not everyone who tries makes it. No one knows for sure how many have died trying. The difficulty of the trip in large part accounts for the fact that so many of the rafters are young men.

On August 19th, President Clinton ordered an end to the U.S. policy of welcoming Cubans who have arrived illegally, a policy which had been in place since the Cuban Adjustment Act took effect in 1966. Coast Guard and Navy ships picking up Cubans rafters would immediately begin taking these Cubans to the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, where at least 15,000 Hai-

tian refugees are awaiting their fate.

In his announcement of the new policy, which the NY times called an "Abrupt Policy Change" President Clinton said, "Let me be clear: the Cuban Government will not succeed in any attempt to dictate American immigration policy." He then went on to say, "The real problem is the stubborn refusal of the Castro regime to have an open democracy and an open economy, and I think the policies we are following will hasten the day when that occurs..." (Italics added.)

On that same day, Clinton met with right-wing Cuban Americans, including Jorge Mas Canosa, the president of the well-financed and politically powerful Cuban American National Foundation. Clinton chose to meet with some of the very same right-wing forces which have dominated Washington's Cuba policies for three decades.

The next day, August 20th, Clinton announced yet more changes in U.S. policy, changes designed to further increase the economic crisis Cuba is grappling with. The NY Times summed it up in their lead story's sub-head-line on Sunday, August 21st: Policy Responding to the Tide of refugees May Increase the misery of Cubans.

U.S. citizens, including Cuban Americans, are now prohibited from sending money to Cuba. The estimated millions of dollars that have been sent to Cubans in the last few years in the form of family visits (either Cuban Americans going to the island or Cubans coming to the U.S. to visit their families) was stooped, effective immediately. In addition, the already restricted right

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"ARGENTINA"

faced discontented elements in the middle class, the conservative elites, the Roman Catholic church, and the armed forces. Also, the United States' increased presence in Latin America brought negative political and economic pressures.

Anti-Peronist coups and brief return

In 1955, at a church organized celebration, the anti-Peronist air force attacked 100,000 people at Plaza de Mayo and Casa Rosada. More than 200 people were killed. In September of that year, the Navy revolted with the support of army battalions in the interior. A military junta took control of the government in Buenos Aires and Peron fled to exile in Spain. The new government imprisoned, tortured and executed members of the Peronist party. Peronist organizations were banned, as was the use of words associated with the Peronist regime.

Growing labor unrest and a declining economy plagued the ruling coalition of military juntas and conservative elites. Elections were held, and the new governments struggled with austerity and instituted a succession of repressive measures. Several military coups and successive repressive governments marked the period before, amid high expectations, Peron returned in 1973. These were unfulfilled and led to political unrest when his third wife, Maria Estela (Isabel)

Martinez de Peron became president upon his death in 1974.

By 1976, coming to power from a succession of coups, the military junta had instituted a war against communism. Called the "dirty war" it caused over 30,000 people to disappear within three years time. Political unrest through labor strikes and student protests were problematic to the junta. Seeking to rally patriotic support, the military government went to war with England over the Falkland/Malvinas Islands in 1982. The government controlled press never revealed the poor battle readiness of the military apparatus, nor the internal corruption which led to their surrender in June of that year. The military shamefully returned power to civilian authorities and democratic rule.

New era of the political character

Raul Alfonsin, who was born in a small town in Buenos Aires in 1926, was a political insider who joined the UCR at the age of 17 and was elected president in 1983. His party, the UCR, won a majority of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies. The Alfonsin government limited the power of the armed forces and sanctioned them for past abuses. In what was called Argentina's Nuremberg Trials, nine members of the

former military junta were put on trial for their part in the "dirty war". When a military tribunal found them innocent, the government ordered a civil trial in the Federal Appeals Court. Terrorist acts of violence and death threats were used against over 1,000 witnesses and rumors of a coup plagued the Alfonsin government. He purged more military commanders and proceeded with the trials. However, economic problems again resurfaced as the more important issue facing the country.

During this time, unemployment, low wages, high consumer prices, as well as foreign debt and inflation (the depreciation of the currency) threatened Alfonsin's popularity and his government. He instituted austerity measures, price and wage freezes, reductions in government social spending and ceased the printing of money. Also, the Austral, a new currency that replaced the peso, was introduced. The public remained in support of the measures in spite of the lower wages and fewer jobs (a result of falling consumer prices). The government gained better control of its spending and borrowed less money. Soon the country was able to obtain a \$13.9 billion debt rescheduling from the IMF and a \$4.2 billion pledge in new loans.

Argentina Today

Inflation induced riots in 1989

caused the Alfonsin government to step down 6 months early in favor of the Peronist Carlos Menem. In 1990, a group of army officers attempted a coup. Most of the military supported the elected government.

Although Argentina remains burdened by a \$48 billion debt today, it continues to be a country with first world aspirations. Infrastructural problems such as dirty streets, power failures and blackouts, and an unreliable postal service has hurt the economic vitality of the country.

President Carlos Saul Menem, elected in 1989, has tried to stabilize the economy by selling off (privatization) state own utilities and services. Despite Argentina's broad avenues, serene parks and stylish restaurants and homes, the social fabric is in minor disarray. Now people throw trash in the street and do not curb their dogs in the grand city of Buenos Aires. Even though the telephone systems fails during rainstorms and the postal service is slightly worse than that of America, the Argentine people still have high expectations for their country. Carlos E. Zanero Fidalgo, a professor of engineering at the University of Belgrano in Buenos Aires pointed out that the infrastructure problems are the result of large scale migration from the country side. He was optimistic that things would improve as Argentines continued "to expect more, demand more and... get more".

by Carlos Montrevil

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

CUBA ACTIONS

to travel to Cuba would be further tightened, making it that much harder for any U.S. citizen to visit the island.

The President also announced that the U.S. would expand the numbers of hours of radio and TV broadcast to Cuba (this propaganda war has been a long standing part of the U.S. strategy against the island), and that his Administration would take their complaints about Cuba to the U.N. Security Council. It will be interesting to see if they pursue this tactic, especially in light of the fact that twice in the past two years the UN General Assembly has voted overwhelmingly in favor of resolutions brought by the Cuban government condemning the U.S. economic blockade.

On the next day, Sunday, August 21, Leon Panetta, the White House Chief of Staff indicated that the U.S. might even consider a naval blockade of Cuba. Reaction to this came swiftly and in a matter of days Secretary of State Warren Christopher publicly rejected such an idea, saying that such a move would be an act of war, something the U.S. was not interested in. Given the administration's intentions to invade Haiti (which might even happen by the time you read this article), as well as other factors, it seems unlikely that the U.S. will escalate to a military confrontation with Cuba. Of course, we can never completely rule out a military action when considering foreign policy options the Administration has at its disposal. And remember, As of Sept. 1st the U.S. had 70 Coast Guard and Navy ships in the waters between Cuba and Florida picking up and transporting Cuban rafters.

The Cuban government called for broad talks, on the immigration issue and on the full range of issues between the two countries, on August 24. According to Roberto

Robaina, Cuba's Foreign minister, "We (the Cuban government) are willing to talk with the United States with one condition, which is that there be no conditions." The next day the Clinton Administration says no - they will only agree to talks specifically focused on the immigration issue! Members of congress and editorials in cores of newspapers disagree with this position and call on Clinton to engage in broad discussions. In fact, throughout this period there are countless editorials in the mainstream press calling for a rethinking of the U.S. policies toward Cuba - the new ones and the long-standing ones.

Speaking of the media, here is an interesting observation. On Friday, August 26th the NY times starting placing its Cuba stories in the international section of the paper. Up until, aside from the front page beginnings of some article, their Cuba stories were always to be found in the national section.

After some back and forth about possible direct negotiations, the U.S. and Cuban governments agreed to open talks on the immigration issue on Sept. 1st in New York City. The Cubans repeated over again that any long term solution to the immigration problems would have to be linked to a resolution of the other issues between the two countries. They also indicated that they would raise those other concerns - such as the U.S. economic blockade of the island - at the New York meetings.

On September 1st, Cuba and the U.S. met for six hours at the U.S. Mission to the UN, and on Sept. 2nd they met for 8 hours at the Cuban Mission to the UN in the opening round of talks. After eight days of discussions, the two governments announced an agreement on Friday, September (. (See page 3.) What is not yet clear is whether this

round of talks might be first step toward other direct talks on the many outstanding issues.

CUBAN PERSPECTIVE ON U.S. ROLE IN CREATING & STIMULATING THIS PROBLEM

The Cubans have a very clear analysis of the role of the U.S. in this present situation.

1) First and foremost, the economic blockade, and especially the tightening of the blockade with the implementation of the Torricelli Bill, is an effort to create tension and difficulties inside Cuba. through hunger and sickness the U.S. is pressuring for changes inside Cuba. The Torricelli Bill (Cuban Democracy Act of 1992) ended subsidiary trade with Cuba, trade which accounted for 70% of Cubans food and medicine imports. The legislation (strongly supported by presidential candidate and then President Bill Clinton) also makes it illegal for any vessel, from any country, to dock at a U.S. port, thus driving shipping costs extremely high.

2) Over the past few years there have been thousands of hours of radio broadcasts from the U.S. (both on the U.S. government owned Radio Marti and on privately owned stations) calling on people in Cuba to protest, to leave the country illegally, to engage in crimes and acts of sabotage.

3) The Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966, which is the only law of its kind in the United States, granted Cubans arriving in the United States immediate legal status. For almost three decades it encouraged people to leave Cuba and arrive in the United States through extra legal means, since every Cuban knew about the special status they would automatically receive upon entering the United States. There is no other country in the world from which illegal immigrants have been given legal status. The president's August 19th announcements that the Cuban

rafters would not be allowed into the United States effectively ended the Cuban Adjustment Act.

4) In 1984 the United States and Cuba signed an Immigration Accord. The U.S. agreed that up to 20,000 Cubans, plus 3,000 political prisoners would be accepted as legal immigrants into the United States each year. The U.S. has never granted that many legal entry visas to Cubans and estimates are that an average that an average of 2,500 are actually given out each year. This issue is at the heart of the proposal taken to the early September meeting from the United States. According to press reports, the U.S. seems to be willing to grant the full amount of visas. Again, we will know more once the round of NYC talks are completed.

5) The U.S. has neither turned over or prosecuted any Cuban who has a boat (or a plane) upon arrival in the U.S. By not punishing anyone, the U.S. has sent a message that such means of getting into the country are acceptable. In the '60s, when several planes were hijacked to Cuba, the Cuban government arrested and convicted people for those crimes, there by sending a strong message that such action would not be tolerated. The U.S. has never done anything like this with Cubans arriving in hijacked boats or planes.

WHAT'S BEHIND THE NEW POLICY SHIFTS: FL GOV LAWTON CHILES, JORGE MAS CANOSA, FLORIDA'S ELECTORAL VOTES

There are at least two major aspects of the new Cuba policy: what to do with the thousands of people leaving the island and finding new ways to increase the economic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

"UNA LUNA SOBRE QUISQUEYA"

portantly, however, was Washington's preoccupation with revolutionary Cuba; it provided the incentive for a change in policy. In order to alter, to metamorphosed, the traditional nonintervention policy of the OAS and legitimize the destruction of Castro's "dictatorship", a precedent for hemispheric intervention would first be established through Trujillo's regime.

In order to strike at Castro, the U.S. policy makers intended to use Trujillo's regime as a vehicle towards the rearrangement of their Latin American policy of nonintervention. "It was Castro, not Trujillo, who was Washington's primary target. It was Castro, not Trujillo, whom the U.S. had foremost in mind when it withdrew its ardent support of the doctrine of nonintervention and proclaimed [that] the Dominican Republic would be bound to continue its 'aggressive policy' as long as it was ruled by a dictator."

After having engineered the disposal of Trujillo, the U.S. now had to confront the colossal task of maintaining order and preventing civil war in the republic. President John F. Kennedy was now in the White House, and this burden fell upon the shoulders of his administration. Nevertheless, what was to eventuate as "new" policy was in actuality the continuation of Eisenhower's policy, cloaked in new rhetoric. The dilemma in Washington now, was the choice between maintaining order through support for the remaining authoritarian apparatus and hated Trujillo supporters, or gambling on democratic and social change by supporting the anti-Trujillo forces. In President Kennedy's opinion, there were "three possibilities in descending order of preference: a decent democratic order, a continuation of the Trujillo regime or a Castro regime. We ought to aim for the first, but we really can't renounce the second until we are sure that we can avoid the third."

Of course the U.S. preferred a democratic regime, but there was wide apprehension that democracy would not be successful. Not in accord with the Trujillos, but also considering that their departure would lead to chaos, the Americans were also afraid that a populist movement would rise out of the ruin and lead to the triumph of Castroism. The Kennedy administration found [itself] in a very awkward situation - considering also, the failure of the Bay of Pigs. "A prisoner of it's own contradiction, (the Kennedy administration) it was doomed to pursue a tentative and unsure policy that seemed to change daily."

Nevertheless, the first priority was to maintain order, thus domination through stabilization. In essence, the U.S. attempted to maintain order while simultaneously encouraging democratization and minor social change. Again, not even fifty years later, Dominican interests were submerged under North American needs.

For nearly a year the U.S. hesitated to dismantle the Trujillo structure which was now administered by his figurehead president, Juan Balaguer. The Kennedy administration seemed to have postponed moving against the Trujillistas until the U.S. military, the CIA and other organizations could penetrate the Dominican Republic's fragmented infrastructure, create an alternative conservative regime, and eventually control events again.

After the assassination of Trujillo,

political organization in the republic was mainly represented through the Union Civica Nacional (UCN). This political party was primarily made up of petty bourgeois and professionals who were anti-Trujillo. In order to gain support among the youth and intellectuals, the UCN went into alliance with a strongly nationalist party called the 14th of June Movement (IJ4). This alliance disintegrated in January 1962, and was replaced by the U.S. backed interim Consejo de Estado (Council of State) government which was, under U.S. supervision, responsible for maintaining stability and holding elections that following December. In an act of support for this council, the U.S. lifted economic sanctions, resumed diplomatic relations, restored military assistance, extended \$25 million in emergency credit and authorized the purchase of additional sugar under the premium quota price. There was however, a fundamental realization that the UCN and other successive governments had to address - the distribution of the Trujillo properties. These were represented by almost 65% of the Dominican industry, 35% of the arable land, and 30% of the animal husbandry.

Nevertheless, the U.S. backed UCN remained adherent to their promise of free elections. The holding of elections was guaranteed by the manipulation of the U.S. government. In response to these appeals of "democratic free elections", the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) returned to the republic after having been exiled during the Trujillo regime. During the 1962 electoral campaign, the PRD headed by Juan Bosch, one of the party's founders, presented a platform that in some respect was totally novel. This platform advocated the distribution of Trujillo land to landless campesinos, the formation of cooperatives, an increase in agricultural wages, construction of small town communal eating halls, public works, and the development of new industry around untapped mineral resources to reduce unemployment. The main objective of this plan was agricultural diversity and the creation of a consumer economy.

"Bosch and the PRD could claim victory by a landslide, as they received about 60% of the vote on December 1962. The UCN and its conservative supporters, not to mention the U.S., were caught by surprise."

The Kennedy policy did not at first support Juan Bosch, but when Bosch proved in a free and fair election that his people were overwhelmingly behind him, Kennedy decided to support him. Yet, Kennedy's policy was double-faceted, it offered support for Bosch, but at the same time supported the old military establishment. "In effect the State Dept. gave aid and comfort to Bosch, and the Pentagon took care of the Dominican armed forces."

While Bosch was considered by many as strongly in the progressive, democratic tradition, he may have been too determined in the eyes of the North American policy makers. Bosch however, knew that his brand of "progress" would be a hindrance to U.S. interests and declared openly to his people that their newly elected government would be dismantled on the pretext of it being Communist oriented. In spite of this awareness, Bosch continued with his agenda, towards financial independence. "As a skeptical business community looked on, Bosch

negotiated a \$150 million line of credit from a Zurich-based consortium to finance his larger development projects, a departure from the usual U.S. sources. Next he canceled an oil refinery contract, which Esso, Texaco, and Shell had negotiated with Trujillo and (later) the Consejo, because of the large profits which would leave the country." Many in the United States attacked this new administration because it proposed a "revolutionary constitution" and land reforms which would of course restrict the operations of U.S. owned sugar companies.

As Bosch had predicted, there were many who while preaching democracy, were not really in accordance with Dominican independence, its total independence, financially, economically or socially. This, in relation to the fact that many, whether foreign or Dominican who were part of the privileged elite, would lose this clout under the Bosch administration, hastened the destruction of the Bosch government.

The Dominican military, the most privileged organization in the republic, with U.S. backing decided to oust Bosch. Colonel Elias Wessin y Wessin, one of the leaders of the coup announced that Bosch was leading the country into Communism. This was the alibi for the coup. It did not take long for the propaganda machine to reach the illiterate masses in the countryside with the message that the "Communists were coming to kill their sons and take their land." This anti-Communism began to undermine Bosch's legitimacy, and [made] it easier for the military leaders to receive U.S. assistance and force Bosch to step down. As noted earlier, the Kennedy administration never fully attested to completely infiltrating and controlling the PRD; they wanted to keep their options open. In what seems in retrospect a schizophrenic policy, Kennedy, while supporting Bosch, simultaneously encouraged the growth of anti-reformist forces. These forces consequently lead to the overthrow of the Bosch government.

The main concern that united the military against Bosch was the issue of growing Communist influences in his government. Nevertheless, these allegations have never been proven. Actually, they may have been discredited. Led by the Air Force tank commander, Elias Wessin y Wessin, the armed forces deposed Bosch on September 25, 1963. It should not come as a surprise, pending all the above mentioned, that these military officials acted under U.S. approval. This coup, however, would not be as sloppy as the assassination of Trujillo. The schizophrenic policy mentioned above, was much more intricate than our policy makers would lead us to believe. "Aiding the training of anti-Bosch unionists was the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), a bizarre hybrid of AFL-CIO, big business, and U.S. government interests."

With the assassination of John F. Kennedy of November 22, 1963, the hopes of peaceful social reform in the Dominican Republic, arguably all of Latin America, were weakened. Anti-Communism was much more important in the minds of many, than was social change. We have already noted that the Caribbean policy of the U.S. during this period was dominated by the reoccupation of Fidel Castro's revolution. "Another Cuba", was to be avoided at all

costs.

Although in some ways Bosch anticipated a coup from the military ranks, he never really prepared for it; thus, he was virtually defenseless. Bosch's labor confederations and peasant support was weakened by CIA backed, U.S. trained organizers. They successfully cut him off from his most effective force against a coup attempt: a mass-based movement which at any time could be armed to counteract the military. Nevertheless, Bosch was loyal to his own ideology, and did not attempt to use violence as a means. He left the republic with his family and some supporters, to continue his struggle from elsewhere.

In conclusion, I wish to say that U.S. foreign policy, with the pretext of promoting democracy, has continually been a major factor in the development of internal chaos in the Dominican Republic. This foreign policy never lost sight of its intrinsic objective, manipulation and domination. This manipulation and domination has taken on many forms: through occupation, through dictatorship, through infiltration.

The consequences of these policies gravely affected Dominican society. As a result, centrifugal forces further alienated the youth from the traditional political leadership with its ties to the United States. Evidently, for most Dominicans, at present, anti-American sentiments are more than justified. The official policy of nonintervention in the internal affairs of Latin America, which had been interpreted accordingly different with each administration in Washington since 1933, had been rearranged, inverted and rendered unapplicable. It became clear that democracy, social progress, and independence in the Dominican Republic became disposable if they in any way hindered U.S. authority.

The future of democratic progress in the Dominican Republic depends on the political, corporate, and military structures of North American society. Those who wish to understand the problems in Latin America as conditions external to that of the United States and attempt to work from this standpoint, will only be preserving U.S. domination. It is of more than intellectual interests to view our relationships with the rest of the world, in particular Latin America, as homogeneous. It is no longer (in fact it never has been), as easy as "Democracy vs. Communism". The U.S. is multicultural and we will inherit these conditions, therefore understanding of historical events must be taken seriously. North American citizens can no longer look upon foreign affairs as unambiguous sporting events, that end quietly somewhere else in the world.

We must dig deeper into the abyss of information available to us, and foster a historical grievances in order to understand "new sensitivity" in foreign policy. At present, we are confronted with the challenge of promoting democracy, while at the same time considering other countries' pursuit of national interests. After all, has not that always been the objective? Latin America is inflated with example upon example of how the U.S. has betrayed these ideals. The cold war is over, there is no "Iron Curtain" to hide behind. To become oblivious to this fact is to run a political fallacy. Will we let these fallacies continue?

Quotable

"This is not only a land of Cubans. It is a land of revolutionaries, and the revolutionaries of this Hemisphere, including US revolutionaries have the right to consider themselves our brothers. Some leaders like Robert Williams, who were brutally persecuted there, found asylum in this land. And like Williams, all those who are persecuted by the reactionaries and exploiters there, can find asylum here. This is the homeland of the revolutionaries of this Hemisphere, just as the United States is the inevitable haven of all thugs, all the embezzlers, all the exploiters and all the reactionaries of this Hemisphere."

FIDEL CASTRO

NEWS BRIEFS

LOCAL BRIEFS

Rev. Al Sharpton has filed a \$2 million law suit against the city government in connection with his arrest on Friday, October 21, which he believed to be "malicious" and "politically motivated." Sharpton was arrested while selling Bibles in front of his Harlem office on 125th Street. He was supposedly arrested because he defied an executive order barring vendors from operating on the 125th commercial strip. However, Sharpton feels that the act was intentional on the part of Giuliani and Bratton to target him for exercising his first amendment rights.

Carver Federal Savings Bank, the nations largest Black-owned and operated banking institution, began trading on the NASDAQ National Market System on October 25, under the symbol CARV. This conversion of the largest Black-owned banking institution from a mutual to a stock company was announced by Richard T. Greene, Carver's president and CEO. As part of the conversion, Carver Federal Savings Bank sold 2,314,375 shares of common stock at \$10 per share in a subscription and community offering. Carver stock can now be purchased through any stockbroker.

Mario Cuomo, a politician who has a great amount of Black supporters, is now raising doubts in the community. The reason for these doubts is Rudy Giuliani's endorsement for Cuomo's reelection bid. The fact that Giuliani strongly supports Cuomo raises questions about the mayor's motivation and the governor's political philosophy. According to Colin Moore, Brooklyn's activist attorney, "A politician does not cross party lines and endorse candidates of opposing side unless there are compelling circumstances." Assemblyman Keith Wright says he hopes that if Cuomo wins, that he is not totally grateful to Giuliani for his victory, and that he stays loyal to the African - American electorate who always supported him.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

In Washington D.C. on Saturday, Oct. 29, a Colorado man opened fire on the White House. The gunman, 26 year old Martin Duran, got off 20 - 30 shots and was trying to reload when bystanders tackled him and seized the SKS semi-automatic rifle. No one was hurt in the incident. When taken in for interrogation, Martin Duran refused to reveal his motive, and demanded a lawyer.

Benjamin Chavis, former head of the NAACP, has accepted far less than desired to resolve his split from the NAACP, because the dispute over his firing was hurting his family. In an interview, Chavis says he believed that the NAACP never intended to settle his wrongful firing claims. Chavis sued in August, seeking the rest of his \$200,000 per year salary and a variety of benefits. Under a settlement last week, the NAACP will pay \$7,400 to cover two mortgage payments on his house in Ellicott City, MD and extend medical and life insurance until April. For his part, Chavis will pay back \$76,000 lent him on a down payment on his \$478,000 home.

WORLD BRIEFS

In Port-au-Prince, Haiti, President Aristide will name as prime minister a businessman and former commerce minister whom he fired in 1991, Smarck Michel. He will nominate Michel in reaction to pressure from political opponents and business leaders. Aristide's first choice for this post was interim foreign minister Claudette Werleigh, but her beliefs were considered too radical for Haiti's wealthy elite.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

CUBA ACTIONS

pressure on the Cuban government. Given the fact that so many of the people leaving Cuba have relatives in Southern Florida, people who would help them housing, food, clothes, etc., it is a little hard to believe that this wave of immigrants could not be integrated into life in this country. What was behind Clinton's decision to reverse a policy of 28 years and not allow illegal Cuban immigrants into the United States?

Whatever the particulars related to our nation's policy toward Cuba it is important to place this present crisis in the context of the Haitian situation with the thousands of refugees from that country seeking asylum here, as well as the more general anti-immigrant attitude sweeping across the U.S. But there are some particulars that are unique to the Cuban situation.

Florida Governor Lawton Chiles is in the middle of a tight re-election campaign. His fear of a wave of unwelcomed immigrants into Florida at this moment led him to pres-

sure Clinton to take swift and comprehensive action to cut off the influx of people. The reelection of this Democratic governor is important in Clinton's calculations as he thinks ahead to his own election efforts in 1996. He lost Florida last time, but narrowly, and hopes to expand his popular support in this state rich in electoral votes.

At the same time, for many years Washington's thinking about Cuba has been heavily influenced by the rich, right-wing Cuban American community based in Florida and led by Jorge Mas Canosa. Evidence of their continued influence was shown by the fact that Clinton met with these forces on August 19th. While the right-wing Cuban American community has always encouraged and welcomed illegal Cuban immigrants to Florida, their leadership agreed to accept the new plan to send the people picked up at sea to Guantanamo as part of the package deal: cut off family remittances, even more se-

verely restrict travel to Cuba, increase the radio and TV broadcasts and take the issue to the UN Security Council. They know full well that the first two measures will only mean greater hardships for the Cuban people, some of whom are their own families. But they seem willing to accept that because they believe it will increase the internal pressure on the Castro government.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The economic crisis in Cuba is far from over. There are severe shortages of food and medicines, and just about everything else. The "Special Period in the Time of Peace" will last for some time to come, with some Cuban officials estimating another five years before things are significantly better. Daily life for most Cubans is very, very difficult.

In this context, it is understandable that some, even many, people would want to leave. Ending the longest and most comprehensive embargo in U.S. history is a neces-

sary step toward helping Cuba turn around its economy, but it will not solve everything. The Cubans continue to face a major battle to insure adequate supplies of food and medicines, let alone other items for production and consumption.

Our work to completely end the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba and to normalize relations between our two countries has taken on new meaning. Washington's handling of this crisis has helped many see how out-of-date and inhuman our policies toward Cuba really are. We must take advantage of the new level of interest in Cuba and mobilize the broadest constituencies possible to bring our collective pressure to bear. Simply put, while our work is far from over, perhaps the decades-old struggle to change U.S. policy will begin to make some headway.

by Leslie Cagan, Director of the Cuba Information Project

JOIN BLACKWORLD

GET INVOLVED AND
LEARN HOW TO RUN A NEWSPAPER.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PHOTOGRA-
PHERS, WRITERS, ARTISTS, AND
PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN
COMPUTERS AND LAYOUT.

IF INTERESTED CALL 2 - 6494
OR COME TO THE MEETINGS ON
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT 1:00
IN THE STUDENT UNION ROOM 072.

*IF YOU WOULD JUST LIKE TO CON-
TRIBUTE SOME OF YOUR WORK, ALL
POETRY, OPINIONS, LETTERS, DRAW-
INGS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES
CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE
BLACKWORLD OFFICE (RM. 072 IN
THE STUDENT UNION).*