

BLACKWORLD

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ONE NATION

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ITS ABOUT TIME !!!



BLACKWORLD

"KNOW THYSELF"

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WE ARE ONE NATION!

editorial

The Million Man March on Washington D.C. was an historic event in the existence of Black men in America. I feel proud to say that I was "one in a million." I should be more accurate, and say that I feel pride in saying that I was "one in a few million" Black men who answered the calls of our leaders; to rally together for our community. However, many different members of the media have refused to acknowledge this fact. The most popular false estimate of the march tally was a modest 400,000 offered up by many newspapers, and a majority of the television media. Did you ever wonder how these stations and papers came up with their total? Did they count each person from their helicopter as they hovered thousands of feet above the march? Did the single reporter that each paper sent to cover the march get a head count of all the individual from Capitol Hill all the way down to the monument. Why not accept the total of the organizers who had it at a modest (trust me) 1.5 million plus. After all they had at least a partially credible estimate considering they had registered many of

they men that came on buses, and in large groups. Why not at least use their numbers even though that was about a million short. Why do I believe the organizers numbers over that of the always reliable media; to put it quite simply, I was there. I was told by a march volunteer that they had 200,000 men at 4:00 am, and if you were there you would have believed him too. A perfect example of the ridiculous under count of the march would occur when you consider where our part of the Stony Brook contingent stood for most of the speeches. We struggled for hours to get into a spot where we had a great view, and could hear everything clearly. Our group was right on the hill. We could see security officers that appeared to be from the Nation Of Islam. We had an amazing view, and we were still about a hundred thousand people from actually seeing the stages where the speeches was originating from. Every one of us who went on the March knew that this was the biggest march in the history of Amerikkka, and no 20th century invention called television is going to take that away from us. In this issue the staff of Black World will bring you their thoughts on the March, and a more informative report on the march itself. We hope that this will offer a more concise explanation of the events that took place. The Polity elections are being held today. We hope that each student carefully considered the candidates running for each position, and make wise decisions in choosing the student representatives. However, when you get to yes or no vote for the referendum on mandatory activity fee; it should be unanimous vote in favor of the referendum. A no vote means most of the Polity funded organizations (ex. Black World, CSO, AASO, Uniti Culture Center, Gospel Choir etc.) will die because the funding will not be mandatory, and in all probability there would not be enough money to keep most of the organizations. Vote YES so that Stony Brook can at least still claim to be a center of academic development.

Carey Gray Editor in Chief

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A Million Men

The image of strong, unified Black men with their fists in the air sent chills down the every spine in Black America. On Monday, October 16, Black men from all over the country gathered on the Mall of Washington, D.C. . The crowd was officially estimated at 400,000 by the Parks Department (BLACKWORLD'S official estimate 1.5 million plus).

They came because the Black community is filled with violence and plagued with social despair. They came because 300,000 more Black men are in jail than are in college. They came because not all Black men are carjackers and thieves. They came because we, as Black people, are poorer, live shorter lives, are less educated, are more likely to be killed by another of our own race, are more likely to go to jail and fewer of our babies survive. The need for such a gathering and a call for unity was urgent and crucial.

However, not every Black person was in agreement over whether or not the 12-hour rally should have taken place. The march was opposed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and by many prominent Black women for it's exclusion of women. Many feared that the event would be too closely associated with Mr. Farrakhan. Several hateful, demeaning, anti-semitic, and male chauvinistic statements have been attributed to Mr. Farrakhan.

The throng brought Washington

to a near standstill, and it seemed as though every Black man felt the need to be there. I think 48 year old John Scott put it best "I came to be with the brothers".

Although the mood and intention of the day was unity, the diversity of

hood, and some came to become a part of history. The women were sometimes greeted with harsh words. Whenever a few women passed Fard Abdul Alim, from Philadelphia, he shouted "Women go home. This is a men's march, men's business. By being here you put the broth-

style squads which routinely shouted "I love Farrakhan, sir; sound off!" This order did not serve to subtract from a certain light heartedness that prevailed through the crowd. Many people flew kites, sang and danced, and others munched on food. Music was heard from everywhere and many took pictures and filmed the historical event on video camera. The crowd was relaxed and friendly.

The march seemed to attempt to heal all of the problems of the Black communities, including the problems between Black men and women. One man held up a sign that read: "Dear Black Women, we will never Disrespect you again." Despite the good intentions of the March, many still feared violence. Office buildings were locked and special security keys were used for entry. It was written in Newsday that a White business women was

afraid to walk the 3 blocks to her office. Another White woman, Wendy Bader said, "My mother told me to stay home from work. She was afraid of violence because she thought the crowd was going to be a lot of young Black males." And it was. "It's a sea of people as far as you can see; all the way to the capital",

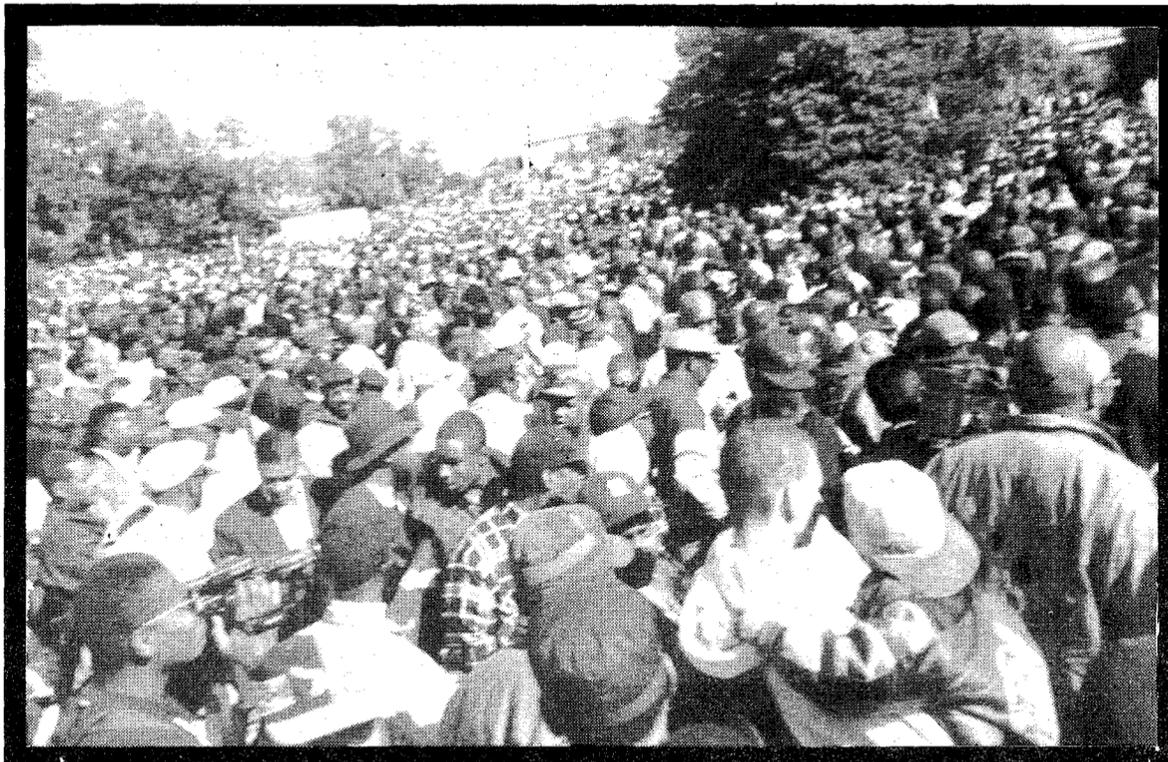


Photo by Carey Gray

the crowd was acknowledged and celebrated. Every age group seemed to be represented, from to teenagers to men in their 50's who remembered the March on Washington in 1963. Men were in their business suits and men were in their blue jeans. They came from every field of work, from athletes to masons to Pan-Africanists.

Although women were not invited, some single mothers brought their sons to show them a fine example of man-

ers in a precarious situation." And Staci De Arman, a screen writer from Los Angeles said "You know women cause distraction wherever they go, Black women especially." These thoughts were not shared by everyone. Nicole Ellis, a 25 year old law student said, "I think it's completely appropriate, the uniting of these men is relevant to women because these are our fathers, and our sons."

Men of the Nation of Islam lined the Mall. Some of them formed military

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Polity Elections

Tuesday, November 7

Vote YES on the mandatory referendum...
or all our polity funded organizations will die

THE MILLION MAN MARCH

The air seemed to be alive with excitement, and anticipation of something bigger than all of us. We've heard so much about it, that it's just Louis Farrakhan propaganda. The idea of a million Black people congregating in one spot would be too tempting for "them" not to drop a bomb on us, that we can't along and may just destroy each other, and that women should stay home: well, here we stood, 45 deep at 2:30 am, for better or worse.

We arrived in Washington D.C. at about 9:30 am Monday the 16th of October, and parked our bus in the parking lot that the Nation of Islam had rented out. The other five women and I rallied outside and charted our plans: go to the March, then go to Howard University; where a day of activities in tribute to the March were planned. As women, we were already apprehensive of attending the March.

We walked through the parking lot in the midst of thousands of men. From the moment we stepped out of the parking space we received a great deal of attention. Many men called to us and asked us where we were from and what our names were. One man in a group walking behind told his men "See them? They're just here to distract us". Some men from the Nation of Islam, who were posted along the route, thanked us for coming out.

As we walked out of the parking lot we were shouted at by a boy to

Buy your Million Man March T-shirt, buttons, and yes, even hats." I thought to myself, "Nothing is sacred from capitalism".

larly that day.

Upon entering the park that was before the park, we noticed the large groups of older men from fraternities that

that we were here not to distract or find men, but to support them for coming together and working on the very real problems amongst Black men. As we started, bystanders stopped and took pictures of us and listened to our statements.

We didn't walk five steps before we were interviewed again, this time by a newspaper; and that's how the day went, one interview after another, one pose for a picture after another. Eventually, I told the other women that I would decline from doing any more interviews.

Finally, we continued on to the Capitol, from there we hoped to be able to see the platform. Well, if getting to the Capitol was like climbing Mt. Impossible, then the men who made rude comments were like a hail storm that blinded our view to the top. We heard comments such as, "Why aren't you home with the children?" and "I thought it was the Million Man March". Or just as disrespectful, "Hey Baby! What's your name?" and "Can we come with ya'll?"

By this time we had gotten as far as the crowd would let us, but we were still some distance from the steps and couldn't see very well. Now we could at least hear some of the speakers from the Nation of Islam. The Capitol really is on a hill so we had a good view of the March, and we saw men passing each other over the crowd like they would a beach ball. It was nice to see how people who were virtually strangers trusted each other to

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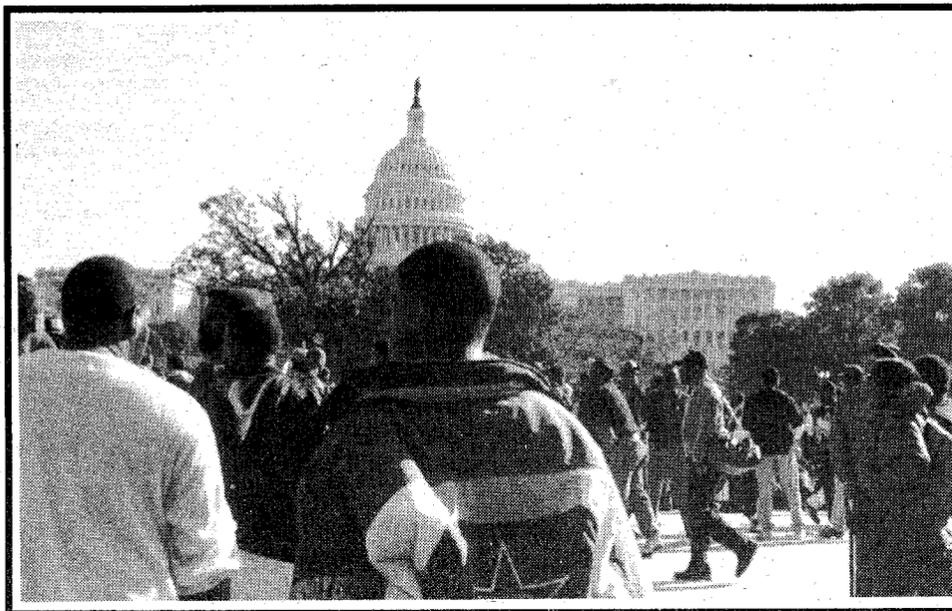


Photo by Jackie Howell

Downtown Washington was a swarm of men, many looking joyous to be a part of this monumental moment, others traveling in large groups talking and joking loudly. Everything was quiet for me though, because I felt the eyes of many of the marchers on us. I believe the crowd parted as we walked through, and almost immediately we heard "It". "They couldn't stay home for just one day" and "Black women are so hard-headed". Although these comments made me angry I refused to respond to them. I felt strongly about rising above any pettiness, particu-

were in attendance. I smiled to see how proudly they represented their organizations by yelling out their calls.

There were huge screens and large speakers for the thousands of people who were not close enough to the steps of the Capitol to hear the speakers.

Almost immediately into the rush of people we were approached by the press. A woman from ABC news came up and asked if we wouldn't mind doing an interview. The reporter asked why we showed up in spite of Farrakhan's call for a million men. We all responded

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"A MILLION MEN"

Gordon Alexander, 24. The crowd caused Maya Angelou, the critically acclaimed poet, to weep as she gazed out at the sea of faces while she recited a poem.

The crowd was charged by Jesse Jackson's speech. The following are excerpts from his speech:

"How good it is to hear the sounds of chains and shackles breaking from the ankles and minds of men. How beautiful it is to see the rejected stones stand up, become the cornerstone of a new spiritual and social order. The idea of a million man march has touched a nerve deep in the hearts of people yearning to breathe free. Big meetings were never allowed on the plantation. We've always yearned for a big big meeting. Today we've left the plantation. This is a big meeting. Raw nerves of ancient longing for a dignity have been touched."

President Clinton was in Texas on business but did speak out against racism on the day of the march. With no actual mention of names, Mr. Clinton made Louis Farrakhan and former Detective Mark Fuhrman of Los Angeles into the personification of racism and hatred for both sides of the fence. Clinton said "Our nation's motto was 'e pluribus unum', out of many one, whether we like it or not, we are one nation, one family, indivisible."

This was Farrakhan's reaction: I heard the President say today "'e pluribus unum', out of many comes one". But in the past, "out of many comes one" meant out of many Europeans come one people. The question today is out of many Asians, the many Arabs, the many Blacks, the many people of color who populate this country, do you mean for them to be made into the one? If so, truth has to be spoken to justice."

Senator Bob Dole was less tactful than President Clinton and did mention Farrakhan by name. "Farrakhan is a racist and anti-semitic, unhinged by hate. He has no place in American public life." He did however, make the distinction between message and messenger, and acknowledged that there were probably many "well-intentioned" Black men on the Mall.

By mid afternoon the crowd sprawled from the west steps of the Capital to the Washington Monument. There was a guest debate over how people actually attended the event. The number officially stands at 400,000, but when Louis Farrakhan spoke to the crowd he said there were a million and a half to two million people present. C Span, a news program that covered the event, had the crowd estimate at upwards of a million and a half people also. Supposedly

such discrepancies are common, because organizers usually just estimate the amount of people present, while the U.S. Park Service which handles demonstrations and gatherings on the Mall, takes aerial photographs and overlays the photo with a grid that helps them calculate crowd density and the number of square feet covered by the crowd. The number of subway riders, cars or buses in parking lots and traffic are also taken into account.

Not everyone agreed with the views of Farrakhan and other particulars of the event, but that this was a monumental occasion was undeniable. The gathering of Black men to reclaim was taken, to face what they turned away from and to give what they formerly held back will leave an indelible mark in history and all of our hearts.

by Margaret Seide

ONE IN A MILLION

October 16, 1995 was a day that will forever remain a constant within the boundaries of my mind. This day in history was the inaugural Million Man March for men of African descent. The tour bus packed with forty plus men and women rolled into the pre-designated parking lot in Robert F. Kennedy stadium, Washington D.C. at approximately 9:00 a.m. early Monday morning.

There were men of different sizes, shapes, and statures. For the twenty something year old (some younger) college inmates who managed to escape the maximum security penitentiary known as Stony Brook; we were witnessing the most important event in our young lives since our individual conceptions.

As we strolled through the friendly confines of R.F.K. stadium, the sea of chocolate people gave me an inspirational sugar rush. The members of our tour bus had now been split into a number of small contingents among the mass of Africans marching through America's capital. Within the first few hundred feet we were greeted by brothers from L.A. who were selling the "Juice is Loose" T-shirts to anyone who wanted to celebrate O.J. Simpson's return to civilian life. These T-shirts were just the first in an array of different colors and styles being sold by Black entrepreneurs.

Our group exited the stadium onto the streets of Washington where everyone's emotions appeared to ascend to another level. Many Black women who supported the march, and also respected the wishes of the organizers did not join in the march. Instead they lined the side walks; to cheer on their soldiers as we stomped our way to the capital. I do not view the word "soldier" as just a symbolic reference to describe the mood. All Black men were enlisted into this army at birth. Many of us have completed boot camp training in the simulated war zones of the inner city. However, the bright sunny day in October was the first time that all the inner city trained minority militia came together to have a

meeting with their generals. It was imperative that this meeting take place. There has to be organization before battle,

stayed with me was the unity that was displayed among the march participants, and the feeling of being apart of an ex-

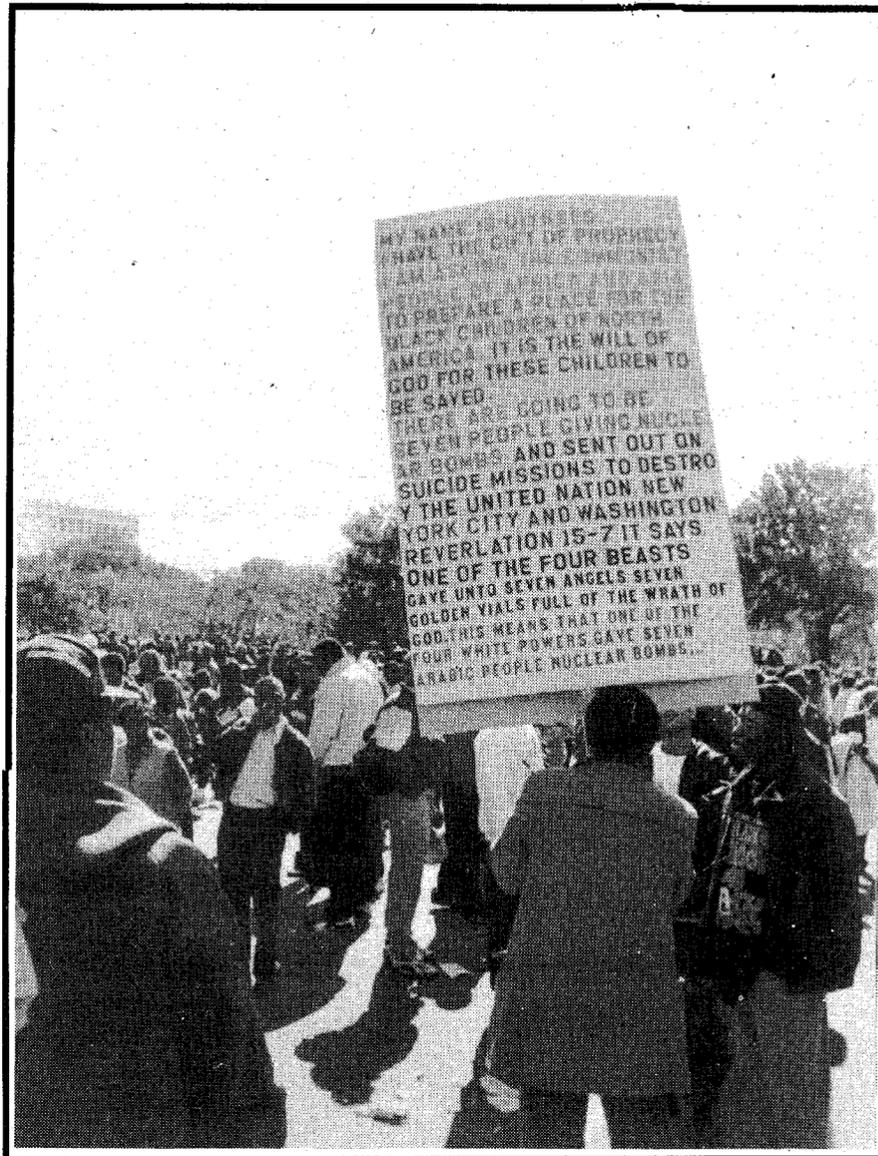


Photo by Carey Gray

and we were preparing for the most important war since the civil rights war. So the buses did not pull up to the steps of the capital; we marched to show our mothers, sisters, and daughters that we had the direction, desire, and dedication to lead ourselves and our people.

We arrived at the Capital around 10:00 a.m.; the events had already begun. I was personally in awe at the huge gathering. I knew that it was the Million March; but I was amazed at the turnout. As we made our way through the majority male crowd we witnessed many things that was lacking in the Black community. The two most notable that

tended family. There were men helping other men across structural boundaries so they would not get hurt. Everyone treated each other with proper respect. Many fathers attended the march with their young sons. The word "brother" was the popular word of the day. We had made our way to the lawn of the Capital just in time for the spiritual atonement prayers. The speaker asked each Black man present to atone for the wrong he has committed against his people. While these rituals were being conducted a few men and even one child was hoisted into the air, and passed down the slope of Capital Hill with only the hands of

Black men keeping each up. The congregation chanted "keep him up" as each man was transported down the declining hill. As each man went by our area, they steadily disappeared into the "sea of chocolate." Later on in the day there was a call for donations towards the cost of the march, and special foundations that would be set up to get the building of an economically strong Black community started. Donation boxes were distributed around the enormous area. People began passing money towards each box. Millions of men were exchanging money without fear of someone putting dollar bills in their pockets. It is conceivable to say that many of the men touched hundreds of dollars while delivering the funds safely to the donation boxes.

The day proceeded as planned with a number of prominent, and "regular" Black men conveying their hopes and dreams to the millions. As it came closer to the Minister Farrakhan's keynote address, the crowds excitement intensified. The Reverend Jesse Jackson delivered a pre-keynote address. Many of the marches famous remarks will come from his speech as well as Farrakhan's. It was an impressive display of intelligence, and one man's ability to stir the emotions of millions of people. Our group was standing adjacent from a circle of men who sounded like they were from the south. As Rev. Jackson's speech built up with intensity, their emotions rose with it. They began to cheer him on with comments including "Come on Jesse bring it home." When Jackson broke into his famous inspirational hook "Keep hope alive," the group of men who were silent at the beginning of the speech were now unable to stay still. Jesse Jackson's speech paved the way for the historical marathon address that would be given by Louis Farrakhan almost an hour later.

At 4:00 est, Louis Farrakhan gave the millions who had traveled millions of miles to the home of Congress

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SUPPORT YOUR CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS !!!

Multiculturalism, Diversity and Unity, Just Another Lie

Presently, there seems to be a rising awareness or a drive to instill or incorporate multiculturalism or cultural diversity into practically all aspects of life. Whether it's politics, education, employment, social activities, etc...it's in there. What I would like people to do first, is just examine the definitions of these terms and determine for themselves whether or not this is a new found hope for the future of race relations or just another idiotic notion derived to avoid dealing with the real issue at hand.

Multiculturalism is a term or philosophy so "new" its not in any dictionary prior to 1990. Multiculturalism simply means the study of or inclusion of various cultures. The second hottest term used in these intellectual spheres is cultural diversity, which is the acknowledgment of different cultures. Now just open your eyes a little bit and you should see how old this concept is.

There have been a multitude of cultures among the human existence prior to biblical times. I could tell there were differences in people before entering kindergarten. In the seventh grade I was taught about Asians, Europeans, American Indians, and even African culture. So the curriculum has been "multi" cultural or diverse for some time now, it just didn't use this terminology to describe it.

Okay, now lets deal with reality. One of the major reasons why there is an alleged "drive to incorporate the contributions made by other cultures to the world, is because public education in America is, has been, and always will be taught from a eurocentric perspective. As long as European Americans have the power to decide what education is, it will be from a eurocentric perspective. Not because they are white but because they can't afford to teach the whole truth. This is one reasons why non-whites are defined as minorities. (The truth of the matter, white people make up less than 15% of the world's population, yet they dominate the planet. The unjust means in which they have achieved this feat is another topic.)

In order for whites to remain supreme or in the upper echelon of the human family, they must continue teach the world's children how great whites are. There is an tremendous amount of historical data and

evidence that proves beyond doubt that the "non-white" ancient civilizations in Afrika, Asia and the Americas were well informed of the natural laws and sciences that govern the planet. Unfortunately, this information is purposely deleted. By limiting the focus of education to the positive contributions Europeans have made, they are promoting an inaccurate description of world history. See you don't have to teach someone they are inferior, (although this was done also) you just educate and socialize them to believe that you are greater than them, and they will discard there own culture and emulate that which "appears" to be superior. This inaccurate model leaves the majority of the world's population (whites included) confused and suffering from a identity crisis. (ex. Michael Jackson, white's who sun tan, but dislike people who naturally have a brown complexion).

The foundation, maintenance and present order of this country and the world depends on a eurocentric perspective of education, interest, social order and value system. If you are of any other culture, nationality or "race", and you are well informed of the history of your people, and still very much immersed in the beliefs and values of that culture, you may find Yourself in conflict with the eurocentric interpretation of life and purpose of education. You probably can sympathize with the fact that Western ideologies and beliefs have become embedded so deeply in your lifestyle, that it is sometimes painful to deal with this reality. As a result, studying history from a holistic perspective in search of truth and understanding becomes extremely challenging.

The major problem that exist in education is that whites have taught themselves and the world that they are superior. It has come to a point where there is no way America can truly educate the population without humiliating itself. Regardless of who it may offend, people of color need, want and have a right to know what has been omitted from their education. This is a major conflict of interest.

Just to show how deeply rooted the problem is, here is a few of the thousands of examples of the measures taken by Americans to incorporate their beliefs or interpretation of history on other Americans who

are the victims of it. Alright, We live in a capitalistic society in which everyone in it needs money in order to function. On every dollar bill or cent piece of American currency lies an American hero who is recognized for their outstanding contributions to the land of the free, home of the brave, the U.S. of A. Although you can use any president who is placed on currency of this country for an example, (especially Lincoln) lets look at George Washington. The founding father who may have never told a lie, but was a fourth generation owner of Africans (as slaves) and even traded a African women for a mere barrel of molasses. What is interesting is that we are constantly reminded of this and we are all forced to pay homage to him because his birthday is a national holiday. Why should Africans in America have to take a day off from work to celebrate the Declaration of Independence when the creator of the document held Africans as slaves and propagated their inferiority. Why do whites celebrate the activities of Christopher Columbus when he killed millions of indigenous peoples of the Caribbean Islands and North America. Are Jews forced to celebrate Hitler's birthday? Now you get my point.

So the question I ask is, "are American's really ready to look on the other side of the coin? Do they really want a multicultural curriculum and society? Are they prepared to teach the population of non whites about the revolutionaries who rose up against the oppressive ways of whites on a global scale? Can Americans genuinely celebrate Che Guevara, Patrice Lumumba, Nat Turner, Toussiant L'Overture, Pontiac, Mao-Tse Tung...? Should we rely or expect whites to teach or celebrate this things? Would a slave master teach a slave how to free him or herself, if the master needed the slave to make him..."the master?" Is it necessary for me to answer these questions?

Multiculturalism is just a new integration for the nineties. "Can't we all get along?" I have to admit that's a challenging question, and a good idea, but ideas are groundless without application. The reality of the matter is you can't have unity without truth, equality, understanding and respect for all humankind and American society doesn't reflect that.

by Armon S. Cummings

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be passed all over the crowd. People also passed money up to the front for charity. Can you imagine more than a million men passing up bills of money and no one taking it for themselves — it was a beautiful sight!?

We had been at the March for almost two and a half hours before we decided it was time to leave since we wanted to make it to Howard with ample time. The shopping area around Howard was plastered with signs that read, "Black Owned" or "We support the Million Man March". On arrival of Howard we discovered, to our disappointment, that the events scheduled for the Million Man March were canceled. Instead, we walked and did a tour of one of America's most prestigious Black Universities. We ended up in a on-campus restaurant where a large T.V. played the March. Since school

was canceled at Howard, quite a few of us huddled around the T.V. and listened to Jesse Jackson's speech.

Before we knew it, it was time to return to the bus. As we were walking to the Metro, (D.C.'s Rail System), some guys approached us and asked if we were going to the March After Party. You couldn't make this stuff up if you tried!

We arrived at the bus at about 5:45. Some of the men were back already and I asked them how it was. Every single one responded enthusiastically that they "loved it... were touched... never felt such a sense of brotherhood." Many of the men said they were embraced by the older men and were encouraged to keep doing positive things. Some claimed they saw people they hadn't seen in years or had deep conversations with people they had

never met before. The experience overall touched them almost spiritually and a few admitted to me they had hugged other men openly and cried.

Though my experience, as a woman, had not been nearly as spiritual, I was still touched because these men that I love, my Black men, were. Many people undoubtedly regarded women attending the March as disrespectful or as a distraction to men. However, in most every instance this was untrue, the women in attendance conducted themselves with a great deal of decorum. We were certainly more respectful than the men who expressed their discontent with our presence by making rude comments. Didn't that defeat the purpose of the March? Whether the March was called by a man for Black men, it was in part, about how Black men

should not treat their Black women.

Also, the idea that Black women could be a distraction to Black men is ludicrous — being that we were overwhelmingly in the minority, it should have been the other way around. Women are in no way responsible for Black men's lack of discipline. We managed to remain focused on our objective; not to be a part of the solution to the Black man's plight, but to support the problem solvers.

I'm very happy that I got a chance to make history and wouldn't have missed it for the world. I just hope that the aftermath of the March is just as positive for Black men. Now that we've made history, what about tomorrow? From D.C. to where?

by Monifa Heaven Wilson

"THE MILLION MAN MARCH"

INTERVIEW

In the recent months the Affirmative Action program has been criticized for its effectiveness. Many opponents of Affirmative Action argued that it is reverse discrimination and should be eliminated. Many proponents of the program argues it act as a safe guard for fairness in an unfair world. I had the chance to speak with Stony Brooks resident expert on the subject, Gary Mathews head of the Affirmative Action office.

BW: What is the exact definition of affirmative action?

GM: Affirmative Action is positive steps taken to undo past discrimination. There are a host of activities that we engage in here at the university that are examples of affirmative action. We recruit students in a positive way to increase diversity and opportunity.

BW: How long has USB had an affirmative action office?

GM: The affirmative action office has been at USB for roughly 19 years. It is a requirement by federal law that anyone having contracts with the federal government have affirmative action programs. SUNY decided that all campuses should an affirmative action office.

BW: What is the role of the affirmative action office?

GM: The role of the affirmative action office is to provide advise and support in providing a diverse community. The office also addresses complaints on regarding violations of of a persons civil rights. Whether it's sexual harassment, racism, sexual orientation, religious, or Aids discrimination. There is a variety of potential discrimination that can arise on a campus.

BW: How long have you been with the office?

GM: I have been with the office for roughly 2 1/2 years.

BW: Has there been any situations on campus where the Affirmative

Action office has been called in?

GM: We receive complaints from the campus community on a routine basis. Any given week we may receive as many as 5 or 6 complaints from the campus community.

BW: Do you think that Affirmative Action programs on the college level such as EOP should be cut.

GM: No absolutely not! When you look the history of higher education you see that whole classes have been excluded. The EOP programs and similar programs, the HEOP programs at private institutions have really leveled the playing field. It provides access and opportunity to people that may not have been able to get access to colleges. I was an EOP student, and without that extra support, I would not have been able to achieve the level of success that I have.

BW: Which group receives the most help from affirmative action?

GM: Affirmative action in its present form is beneficial to everyone. We all benefit because it promotes diversity, and ideas can be shared from different cultural backgrounds. Everyone should be given equal understanding.

BW: What are your views on the recent attacks on Affirmative Action?

GM: I am dishearten by the recent attacks and it is pretty clear that there will be some changes in affirmative action. Much of the misunderstanding about affirmative action comes from a lack of knowledge. Most people tend to dwell on the negative, there has been some things that occurred in the guise of Affirmative Action such as quotas. We do not have quotas here at the institution. It's clear that quotas have not been received that well. Usually quotas are assigned by court because an agency or university has not lived up to the requirements of the law. It is the same with quotas for standardized test. Some of those test were biased against

students from non traditional backgrounds. Affirmative Action simply levels the playing field.

BW: Do you think the media is responsible for much the attacks on Affirmative Action?

GM: I think the media has helped portrayed this in a negative light. I think that the national print media has been less harsh than the television media. The political dimensions of the country is such that Affirmative Action appears to be an easy target for the ultra conservative right wing republican party. If you look at someone like Gov. Pete Wilson of California, he is now attacking Affirmative Action and eliminating some of the laws in California. He was a proponent of Affirmative Action and signed many bills into laws, now he has done a flip flop, why? I think there is a need to revise and strength Affirmative Action not abolish it.

BW: So you think it's just popular right now to bash Affirmative Action?

GM: Absolutely! I think that it's an easy target. The real root causes regarding some of the backlash against Affirmative Action stems from the economic condition of the country. Employment opportunity for everyone is limited with the decline in the economy. When you look at the awards that have been made to minority owned businesses, you will find that less than 2% of those businesses have had any meaningful gains in the last several years. So it's really not a situation that we have taken from one group to give to another.

BW: Do you think the program is working?

GM: I think that Affirmative action has worked but more needs to be done. I am not happy with the outreach attempts in private industries as well as university and colleges. Over 95% of the executive of major corporations are still white males. There is no rational reason for that.

BW: What effects do you think the

Contract With America has on Affirmative Action?

GM: The Contract With America has been used as a tool to further the individual interest of several ultra conservative groups, and individual in the Congress and Senate. It has been very detrimental to the Affirmative Action program.

BW: Do you think the program will be saved?

GM: I think it will be saved with tremendous changes. I think that so called minority set aside programs with contractors will be eliminated. I also believe that race based scholarships have already been attacked in several states, will either be greatly diminished or eliminated. That will be negative effect on students. Scholarships will then be based on scholastic achievement or need so that there is still opportunities for students.

BW: What do you think will happen if Affirmative Action is eliminated?

GM: I hoping that it is not eliminated. Many laws will have to be changed for it to be eliminated completely. I think if it is eliminated something positive will have to be put in its place. If that does not occur, I could see us going back to increase tension between the sexes and races. The United States is becoming far more diverse in its general population, and people have to become more tolerant and acceptant of others to make America a better nation. If Affirmative Action disappears I am afraid that the ruling class and the class structure that we have seen for so many years will continue to divide us.

BW: Do you have any final comments for the readers of BLACKWORLD?

GM: I would just like to say that the office of Affirmative Action is here to provide student, faculty, and staff with assistance not only to manage complaints but also to create ways of positive interaction.

To The Heart Of The Matter

by: T.N.H.

"To The Heart Of The Matter" is a column that was designed to deal with issues concerning relationships, sex, love, and personal problems. Past readers of my column should be accustomed to the format. I like to answer letters written by you, the reader. Also I will be addressing issues that I feel are relevant to us as young African American students on a college campus.

Don't get me wrong I may write a column on relationships for BLACKWORLD, but just like anyone else I have my own problems. I feel by writing for BLACKWORLD and dealing with the problems of individuals or groups of people, it helps me with my relationships with friends, and those of the opposite sex.

Just like anyone else I have cried over guys, I have dumped guys, and I have played guys. So for all you new time readers of my column, I don't want to view it as an advice column, I would like it viewed as a forum to discuss different ideas.

During the summer I gave a lot of thought as to what I wanted from my last year at Stony Brook. I thought what I wanted was to be happy, and I was set out to do anything to make that happen. I thought I needed a man to be in my life to make me achieve my goal of happiness. When I walk through the union or the academic mall, all the couples holding hands seem really happy. What's wrong for wanting that for myself?

So I began dating this one guy

who seemed really nice, and sweet. I thought to myself this is the guy that I want to chill with. Being with him will make me happy. When things did not work out (for reasons I will share later) I didn't want to jump in another emotionally tiring relationship. So I thought about the true meaning of happiness and what I could do to achieve it.

In my soul searching I came to the conclusion that happiness is something external. We are happy when we get a good test grade or a new outfit, or when we have money to spend. But as soon as the object or situation making us happy has changed, we are no longer happy. Depending on happiness to bring us fulfillment is depending on an unstable, and constantly changing environment to bring us a continuous high. Therefore sought an internal measure to fulfill me.

I sought to find joy instead of happiness. Joy is something internal, it cannot be robbed from you. Joy stays constant and steadfast. When you have joy in your life regardless of what is happening around you, you're able to walk around with your head up, a smile on your face, and a song in your heart.

Joy is untouchable. It is unhangable. No circumstance can take our joy away. Of course we get sad but with joy we know inwardly that trouble only lasts for a season, and we are able to deal with problems better. Therefore, this semester, instead of searching for happiness, I will be fixated on the joy which is in me, and unchanging.

Voices of a Sista

The so-called angry white man

by R.R.

Greetings to all. Welcome back to Voices of a Sista. Lets address the most powerful issues facing the African-American community today. The ones that I am referring to are, the Contract with Amerikkka, and the so-called angry White man. Lately, certain terms are being tossed around like, "reverse discrimination." It has gotten to the point where the president felt that it was necessary to address the issue of the so-called angry White man in one of his speeches. In it he said, "What we have done for women and minorities is a good thing, but we must respond to those who feel discriminated against... This is a psychologically difficult time for the so-called angry white man." The point of this speech was to address the issue of Affirmative Action, and the fact that whites feel that blacks are acquiring jobs because of their skin color and not because of skills necessarily. It seems that somewhere along the lines, certain whites feel that they are becoming the disenfranchised. Well, lets look into this issue shall we. Today, 46% of the American labor force is white; however, 95% of all senior management positions are occupied by White men. White men make up 80% of the Congress and nine-tenths of the Senate. You do the adding. Does this sound like a disenfranchised people to you? Contrarily, the white race still holds a death grip on most prominent employment and political positions.

There existed a time when we as blacks did not need Affirmative Action; then we needed Freedom. Back then; we clawed and scraped, and we had tunnel vision. The light at the end of that tunnel spelled Freedom. Today, Affirmative Action is a virtual thing of the past. Whites say that we should live in a color blind society, where color and the word racism has no home. Well, will someone please sell that crock of bull to Mark Furman, and all of his black hating colleagues. "Reverse discrimination, and the so-called angry white man are just technically disguised terms used to further perpetuate racism. If the white man is angry, it is not because of any injustices that he has had to suffer. It is because of injustices that he has perpetuated that have still failed to rid him of the black race. He has not had to live his life under a system that was built upon dehumanizing and controlling him, or has he? Maybe he is angry because when he goes into a store, the security guard follows him. Oh, wait, I know what it is. It must be the fact that he is suffering

under the indignation of this new disenfranchisement on top of all else that he has had to endure. Things such as, slavery, desegregation, Jim Crow, and the Ku Klux Klan, just to mention a few. Wait, hold up one minute, this is all sounding very familiar to me a Black person.

Obviously, none of the above are the real reasons behind his anger. The so-called angry white man's anger will not be abated until he has eradicated the black race. He is angry because after years of systematized victimization and brutality, we continue to exist and grow. He is angry because we will not just simply disappear. So, he does away with things like Affirmative Action which is still needed as long as racism exists. With the help of disillusioned blacks such as Clarence Thomas, he is able to succeed. He comes up with the Contract On Amerikkka, which is no more than a racist piece of ideology filtered out by elitist white men in their quest to subjugate the African-American population. With the help of such propaganda as , black women are welfare queens, and blacks are taking positions away from whites, this is also able to succeed.

While there exists people like Mark Furman, there will always exist the need for things like Affirmative Action. When 92% of the people on the Forbes 400 list of the riches people in the country are white, then there exists a need for Affirmative Action. Until these numbers become a more accurate and equal portrayal of our society, then there will always exist the need for Affirmative Action. The fact is that the numbers do not support the theory of "reverse discrimination" in employment areas or anywhere else. This term is just another cleverly coined phrase implemented by the powers that be to further incite antagonism among the races. What we have here is a call to arms on the part of blacks everywhere. Unless you have a couple of extra thousand lying around somewhere, then this issue affects you. Even if you did have it, this issue still affects you. If you intend on graduating and competing on the job market, then this issue affects you. Plain and simple, if you are Black, then this issue affects you. The actions you take or don't take now are going to have a permanent effect on your lives, not to mention the ones of your future children. As a people we need to stand up and say, To Hell With The Contract On Amerikkka, and The So-Called Angry White Man!

BLACKWORLD IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ANOTHER COLUMN. ALL THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD COME TO OUR GENERAL BODY MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 1-2PM IN THE STUDENT UNION ROOM 072.

Creative Arts



rhapsodies

IT TOOK ALL OF ME

Soldiers Standing
controlling, but not shooting.
Black men lying in the street
forced to stay there with their
backs facing upward as
their faces are pinned to the ground
Fear in their eyes
Is this a racial incident?
Who was hurting whom?
Why the need for force?
What has happened in this land?
Riots and rebellion must be put down
Washington
its genius politicians
Could they have started another foolish War?
our boys sent there for no reason
No reason at all once again
Is it all Mirroring the past

Vietnam

or could it be something different
Brothers, Fathers, Uncles, Grandfathers
Neighbors, Friends, Cousins
The Boy Down The Block
Loved ones period
for foolish reasons
if any at all
two wrongs can never make a right
Bless their souls
young and old
For Washington lacks direction and intelligence as a whole.
small country's political system turned to a mess once again
Former leader thrown
to the ground.
He can't fight, believes he needs help
hey, why not call on the
"good old boys" properly known as the "World Police"
My power, My throne
They'll fight hard for it,
get it back,
and deliver it to me.
What a great bunch of guys with nothing better to do than

WASTE

waste what? their creativity, enthusiasm, their talent
their family's lives, their lives in general
Everyday something happens
like this
Bail him out no longer
let him fight or help himself for now on.
Stay out of my backyard and I'll
Stay out of your backyard.
to be as one
WE must not fight each other
but Love one another.

By Penny Marohany

Your House

Rainy matinee
at your house
On a soft
Sunday morning
At your house
basking in a glow
Of your light
on a glossy
for a moment
soft cement
Not yet disturbed
by our fingers
We hold our breaths
and wait for forever

Okima Hodge



FOR TIA TINA: Loss 1991

You made the best pumpkin pie
Your sharp, outstanding hips twisting
from the kitchen stove, along the counter, to the dining table
You made the best jokes
Touching off beautiful laughter making joy the center
You danced and laughed and aspired
With that disease hiding in your body
To be revealed in your daughter

Oddly enough named
Destina – Destiny

And the secret was whispered over your casket
At that years family reunion
Barely heard over the sobs and the groans
Your mother roared
Because you had gone before her
And you should not outlive your children
Your sisters cried
Because there had been no time to show
That they loved you
The secret came out

As your four year old daughter
Slipped from our arms
Into your world of cinnamon scents
And comical outburst
All her questions are now answered
While one lingers here, living among us

Did you know the secret,
Tia Tina?

Susan Y. Arauz



SO LOVE A WOMAN

**A WOMAN IS A PALM TREE
BEARING FRUIT OF LIFE
BEING STRONG STANDING TALL
SO LOVE OF A WOMAN**

**LOVE OF A WOMAN
WITHOUT HER THERE WOULD BE
NO JOY, NO WARMTH, NO BEAUTY
ONLY EMPTINESS WITHOUT MEANING**

SIMONE ALLEN

An Angel's Dead

You tempt me
you pull me in your direction
my body walks the earth at night
in search of you

Depending upon how severe my
condition is
It doesn't take me long to hunt you down

Fluids bubble within me
uncontrollable desires take over

I need to tear into you like an animal
or wolf of some sort

You may ruin me
or
sentence me to destruction
I destroy myself

• Feelings that can no longer be boxed
in or stored away

When I bite you, I'm not satisfied
but when I slowly lick you
and taste you
I touch the sky
for I have reached my limit

Can't stand anymore
yet I must finish what I've started

I chew you-every last inch of you
gone

It's exquisite to know neither you
or I can get back.

By Penny Marohany



the L Session

Interview with L-Swift From rap group *Natural Elements*

by Sudani Kai Martin

The "Underground" other wise known as college radio has always delivered hot talents with music that has left a lot of tape decks broken from the abuse of late night recordings. People ignore the underground and fail to realize that it is the backbone of hip-hop. Hot 97.1 wouldn't be possible without Bobbito/Stretch on 89.9, Mayhem/Martin on 89.1, Jay Smooth/Underground Railroad on 99.5, and Ill sounds on 90.1. In the past I've personally made it my duty to visit some of these college radio stations. It was a rewarding experience to see and meet the people who exclusively promote upcoming cuts from talented artists striving to make it big! One artist named L-Swift from the group NATURAL ELEMENTS has been hitting the radio waves with his hot single "How Itz Goin Down". Fortunately I was able to present Stony Brook with an exclusive interview with L-Swift this time around.

Su: When did you first begin to rhyme?

L-Swift: I started to rhyme in the seventh grade. I had a boring ass class and s--t. I had a substitute and I just started writing.

Su: Where did you get the motivation to write lyrics?

L-Swift: You know, all the greats. Kane, KRS-One and Rakim influenced me to do what I gotta do.

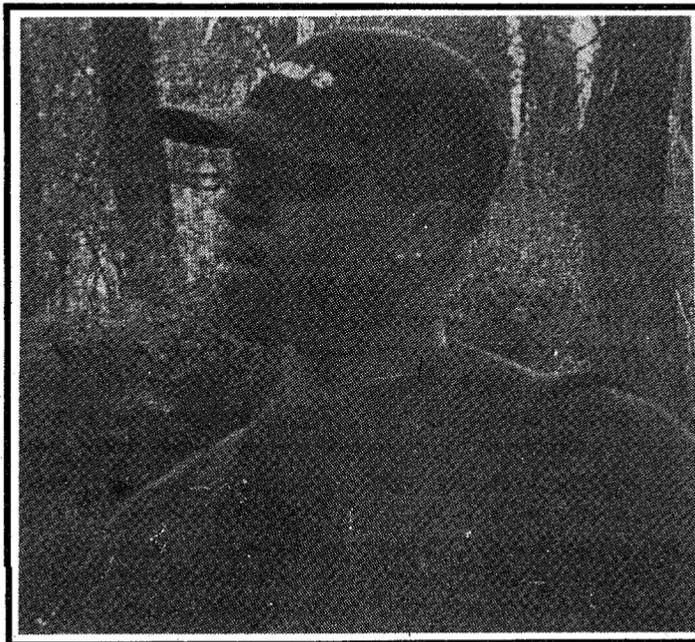
Su: How did you become associated with Fortress Records and producer Charlemagne?

L-Swift: Well, its a family thing because my aunt works with Charlemagne's mother and we hooked up like that. We also share a background from St. Lucia.

Su: Was there an official contract drawn

between you and Fortress Records?

L-Swift: We're just working together and whatever comes out of it will be appreciated. There was never a discussion of



percentages meaning loot wise. We're just doing it, hitting yall in the head!

Su: Frankly speaking, what are your feelings towards Charlemagne's production?

L-Swift: There's no question. Charlemagne is the illest. He has unique sounds. I don't think any producer can mess with him. A matter of fact, here's one of his beats in the background.

Su: Could you explain to Stony the origin of the name NATURAL ELEMENTS?

L-Swift: We were NATURAL ELEMENTS for years then KA thought we should individually pick an element to represent ourselves. I'm water because of my flow. KA is fire because he's the type of nigga that heats s--t up.

Su: After forming the group NATURAL ELEMENTS with Mr. Voo-Doo and KA

were there any progressive movements?

L-Swift: We're negotiating something right now that I don't want to talk about. Something is gonna come out of it but I

don't want to talk about it.

Su: L, you're weak. How come you won't speak about it?

L-Swift: I don't like jumping to conclusions. I know shit is going to happen and when it does it does. Right now I don't want to gas anyone up.

Su: Working with Charlemagne, what was your favorite cut?

L-Swift: I would have to say the first joint out on record "Live The Life".

Su: Why would you consider "Live The Life" the best in comparison to all the other cuts?

L-Swift: The excitement and the energy hyped me up, while laying the track out in the studio.

Su: Now that you have gained experi-

ence in the rap game, how would you describe the work load?

L-Swift: It's a lot of hard work and I'm not seeing loot out of this shit yet.

Su: Who are your favorite artists?

L-Swift: The Wu, Biggie, and the rest of the New York niggas. Also, I like 2Pac.

Su: I'm shocked, do you have love for the west coast?

L-Swift: Yeah. No doubt! Dog Pound and Snoop are a few. Whoever has good music will be heard where ever they come from. A true artist does music for the masses.

Su: How would you describe your style as a rap artist?

L-Swift: My style is laid back, getting money s--t. I'm simply representing my clique.

Su: With all respects to rap genres, do you feel that hip-hop today has been more progressive?

L-Swift: Rap has come along way. Hip-Hop videos are played 24-7 on MTV therefore it reaches a white audience. Artists are going platinum, double platinum, triple platinum and brothers aren't making music for one community. It came along way.

Su: I agree. Rap is a universal language. Nowadays you'll see Asian kids nodding their Dreadlocks to raspy hip-hop beats. It's all good!

Su: Do you have any messages for the black youth of today?

L-Swift: Yes. Whatever occupation you choose stick with it and make it happen no matter what!

SHORT STORIES, POETRY, DRAWINGS, PROSE AND ALL OTHER CREATIVE WRITING ARE BEING ACCEPTED. ALL SUBMISSIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE BLACKWORLD OFFICE ROOM 072 IN THE STUDENT UNION. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 2-6494.

Tuesday October 4, 1995 1:08 PM

Eastern Standard Time

After all the rhetoric, arguments, "mountain of evidence," biased media coverage and intense emotion, the trial of the century has finally ended. The jury needed less than four hours to acquit the accused in the case of California vs. Simpson. As lead defense attorney Johnnie Cochran embraced his relieved client, I watched and smiled as a Black man in Los Angeles finally received some justice.

Speaking of Johnnie Cochran...there has been much debate over the attorney's brilliant closing argument; more specifically, Mr. Cochran "playing the race card" and making a symbolic reference of his client's plight and "the greatest crime in human history." For all of the Fred Goldman's and media instigators who were so upset over the eloquently spoken attorney's comments, I have two reply's: 1) Mr. Cochran did not create racist police officers, but rather, it is merely his burden as a person of color to unfortunately suffer them. 2) The Holocaust was indeed a very tragic event, but no crime will ever be greater than the African slave trade where some 60 to 100 million lives were lost in the Middle Passage alone.

The Simpson trial contained so many complex issues, that it is almost overwhelming when you reflect on them. Some of which were: Two people were brutally murdered on June 12, 1994; Mr. Simpson's nine and five year old children have not seen "daddy" in over a year because the police said that he killed "mommy"; and last, but certainly not least, once again the entire country had a chance to learn of how fucked-up the

LAPD is internally. Certainly, these are but a few. Well, now the final curtain in Judge Ito's courtroom has, depending on your perspective, either vindicatingly or remorsefully closed on all the issues. It is now "pay back" time.

This is not a call for revenge; although, Mark Furhman (and the rest of his fellow pigs) should have his "lying, perjuring, genocidal racist," punk-ass thoroughly kicked, I am specifically referring to the acquitted Mr. Orenthal James Simpson paying "US" back! The US being the Black community. There is a passage in the Bible that reads, "For whom much is given, much is expected." Many Black students here on campus "high fived" each other in the Student Union when they heard the verdict. When the court clerk read "not guilty," the gathering of Black people at the First AME Baptist Church in Los Angeles leaped from their seats and cheered as if O.J. had just scored a touchdown. Mr. Simpson doesn't even attend First AME, yet, here they were embracing O.J. like he was their very own prodigal son. As a whole, the Black community throughout this country has embraced O.J. during his incarceration. Consistently, polls taken showed, some by as much as 70%, Black folks supporting O.J. Despite our personal feelings concerning his guilt or innocence, his domestic violence filled past, O.J.'s apparent preference for white women once he became successful, and his conspicuous absence in the struggle for Black equality and his lack of support for Black issues and the Black community, we were with him. Sympathetic with his battle

against LAPD racism, Black folks gave support to Simpson in the same manner that they gave Rodney King. Truly? we have given O.J. Simpson much and now it is time for him to pay US back.

While the Black community rallied around our "lost" brother, the very same white people that O.J. surrounded himself with, put through college, flew around the world on exotic vacations, loaned money to and bought an infinite number of birthday, anniversary, graduation and Christmas presents for, were now calling him a murderer. My grandmother often reminded me that? "If you lie down with dogs, you're going to get up with fleas." Since his acquittal, I would hope that O.J. would, at the very least, do some of the following: 1) Try dating some "Sisters" for a change. 2) Attend some National Association for the Advancement of Colored People meetings - I'm sure his past absence has been due to scheduling conflicts. 3) Publicly thank the Black Community and specifically acknowledge the Nation of Islam for providing Mr. Cochran with security after he received death threats. 4) Drive that white, Ford Bronco outside the comforts of Brentwood and visit the masses down in South Central. 5) Finally, O.J., remember that money can buy speech and diction classes which will change the way you sound, and money will change your San Francisco ghetto into a L.A. mansion, but nothing will ever change your Black skin. Anticipating Mr. Simpson's return, let me be the first to say, "Welcome back Black man!"

by Curtis Morris

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"ONE IN A MILLION"

what they had been requesting for minutes before. He delivered his keynote address to the antsy troops. I will not dwell on the speech itself because I believe that many of us have seen the speech and know exactly what was said. However, I do wish to comment about how he presented his message, and what I believe is his role in the crusade for Black equality.

Louis Farrakhan has been called a racist of everyone but Blacks. Many of the politicians (some Black) urged their constituents not to attend the march. Many of the Black politicians including potential Presidential candidate Colin Powell chose not to attend. Many organizations including the NAACP did not give official support, but as Farrakhan stated in his speech many members of the different organizations did attend to show their support. With all the negative publicity surrounding him and the

march; it left me to wonder how he was able to convince millions of people to attend anyway. Two things came to mind; one was the promotion of the event which said that it was not about any one individual, but rather it was about the survival of our people, and the other reason that came to mind occurred after I heard him speak. He is a charismatic individual who can convince people that what he is telling is the truth. When I finally heard his speech in its entirety (we had to leave early), I began to compare him with the other great Black leaders of recent times; Malcolm, Martin, and Jesse. These were all leaders who rose to prominence because of their special ability to rally great numbers of people to action, and after the Million Man March it was clear that Farrakhan belonged among them. Rev Dr. Martin Luther King JR. and Rev. Jackson are both from the same school

of public speaking. Both are Christian ministers from the south, whose sermons fill the heart of the congregation mobilizing them to action. The speeches of King and Jackson instill excitement and hope in the heart, and minds of the audience. Malcolm X was different in his method of public speaking. His background was a harsh one that was filled with enormous racial injustice conducted against him and his family. His younger adult life was a series of crimes, and offenses against "society." Malcolm's life experiences led him to deliver speeches of power. Unlike many speakers Malcolm did not build up for an emotional ending. He gave it to you raw from word one. Every word said in a speech was meant to have an impact. He challenged the intellect of the his audience, baiting them to prove him wrong so that they could show how right he really was.

However, Farrakhan is different from all three of these great leaders. I would describe his method as being sarcasm on reality. He takes issues that plague the community; and through his sarcastic approach, which is really an aspect of his charismatic nature, he dissects those issues to show how they can be overcome. He has the ability to pick apart the opposition in his speeches with confidence and style that is unparalleled. In his speech he spoke about the concept of "White Supremacy," and how ridiculous that concept sounds. In the relaxed demeanor of all his speeches he took each word, and in a premeditated fashion he deliberated the theory of "White Supremacy." After he was finished with his verbal assault on the subject, every person present cheered in agreement. Louis Farrakhan just smiled because he already knew what the outcome was going to be.

Midnight Madness: A Basketball Preview

The 1995-1996 Stony Brook Seawolves Basketball teams are about

for the arrival and emergence of their 1995-1996 Seawolves basketball teams,

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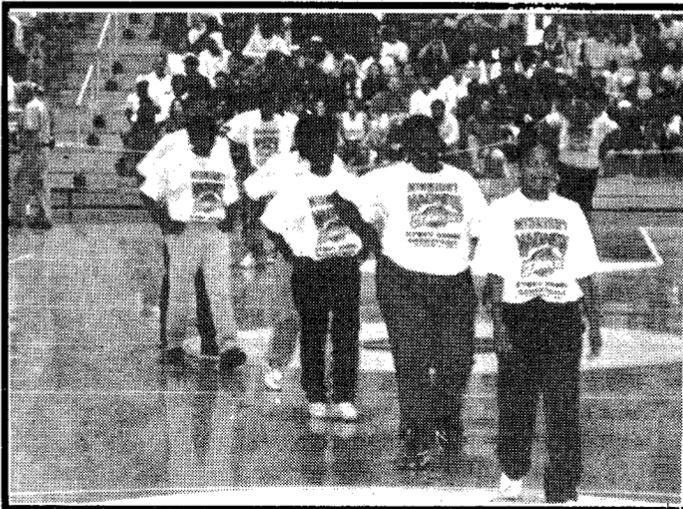


Photo by Jackie Howell

could have set the wheels of destiny spinning faster into a flurry of anticipation and excitement as Midnight Madness did on October 14. Midnight Madness '95 will go down in Stony Brook history as one of the biggest indoor events this school has ever seen. "The Madness" as I have heard many people refer to it, brought in over 4,000 attendants. However, what made this such a special and unique crowd was the diversity of people and ethnic groupings that came to support this historical event. Among "The Madness" attendants were students, faculty, people from the surrounding community and people of all ethnicities. For the first time since I've been here, I felt as though the campus was a strong and powerful entity capable of moving on to the next level and gaining the recognition and glory on the collegiate level of sports that it deserves. It is just this kind of support and unity that the Stony Brook Seawolves will need to represent this campus at that next level.

The intensity of the fans' wait

for the arrival and emergence of their 1995-1996 Seawolves basketball teams, was matched by the anticipation in the hearts of the players and coaches as the minutes ticked away towards the beginning of Stony Brook Basketball history. The men and women players were introduced first, followed by the coaches. The teams then stood on the sidelines and watched a fireworks display which sent a chill down the spines of those who have been here long enough to see how far Stony Brook has come. Marc Newmarc, who runs the concession stands at the Sports Complex, and has been at Stony Brook since 1975, said, "School spirit was at a peak... this was the height of school spirit since I've been here." Men's basketball coach Bernard Tomlin said, "This is the most exciting basketball that we've had since I've been coach [here]." After the display of fireworks, the fans were treated to a series of drills and scrimmages by the men's and women's teams. The women's team delighted the fans with an exciting down to the wire three-point competition. Senior, and co-captain for the men's Seawolves, Ron Duckett, maintained his three-point title, while freshman Bobby Mahoney won the slam dunk competition for the 'Wolves.

Thus, Midnight Madness was a success. The fans were entertained and campus unity was at its peak. However, "The Madness" would not have been possible without the culmination of years of foresight and dedication by those who believed in the infinite potential of Stony Brook Basketball. Two men whom I'd like to bring to the forefront are Gregg Economou and Rick Cole. They were the chief engineers of "The Madness", and led an army of volunteer students to get the word out to the campus and the surrounding community. Rick Cole, who is in his first year working for Stony Brook athletics said, "We tried to understand what the student's wanted...this was one of the largest, if not the largest indoor events." Rick staged a multi-dimensional strategy of getting the word out. This ranged from contacting sponsors, plastering the campus with posters and flyers, and even visiting dorms in order to familiarize the student body with the 1995-1996 Seawolves. Gregg Economou knew that an attendance of this magnitude was essential in pointing Stony Brook in the right direction, and giving this campus and community teams that they could be proud of and call their own. Gregg commented, "Without this kind of support, it would be hard to get to the next level...this wasn't for me or Rick, it

was for the student body and the community." Equally important behind the scenes of making "The Madness" a success were the coaches and assistant coaches who put the players through a rigorous conditioning program in order to prepare them for the upcoming season.

Thus the stage is set. The Stony Brook Basketball teams enter a new division, a new conference, and a new chapter in Stony Brook history. Coach Tomlin commented, "It seems like it's a beginning of a new era for Stony Brook Basketball." Indeed, it is. The Seawolves will be in for tougher competition and higher expectations. They are up to the challenge, but they can't do it alone. They will need the same energy and support that was generated at Midnight Madness in order to make the season one which will go down in Stony Brook history and

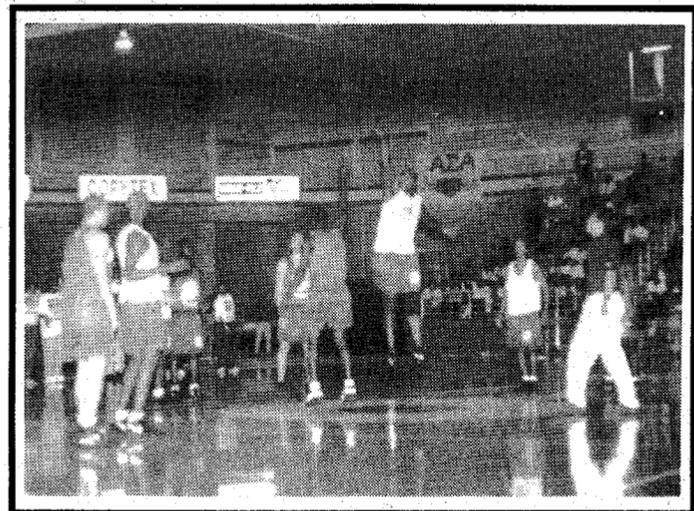


Photo by Claudia Blemard

never be forgotten.

by Marc Y. Blot

*Editor's note- As the writer is a member of the men's basketball team, he was unable to comment on the events which preceded the teams' arrival on the court.

**SUPPORT YOUR
SEAWOLVES
SPORTS TEAMS !!!**

QUOTABLE

“Why are we here today? We’re despised. Racists attack us for sport to win votes. We’re attacked for sport to make money. But, I tell you today, rabbit hunting ain’t fun when the rabbits stop running and start fighting back.....Why do we march? Because we’re trapped with second class schools and first class jails.”

Reverend Jesse Jackson

Million Man March, October 16, 1995

THE MESSAGE

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