

BLACKWORLD

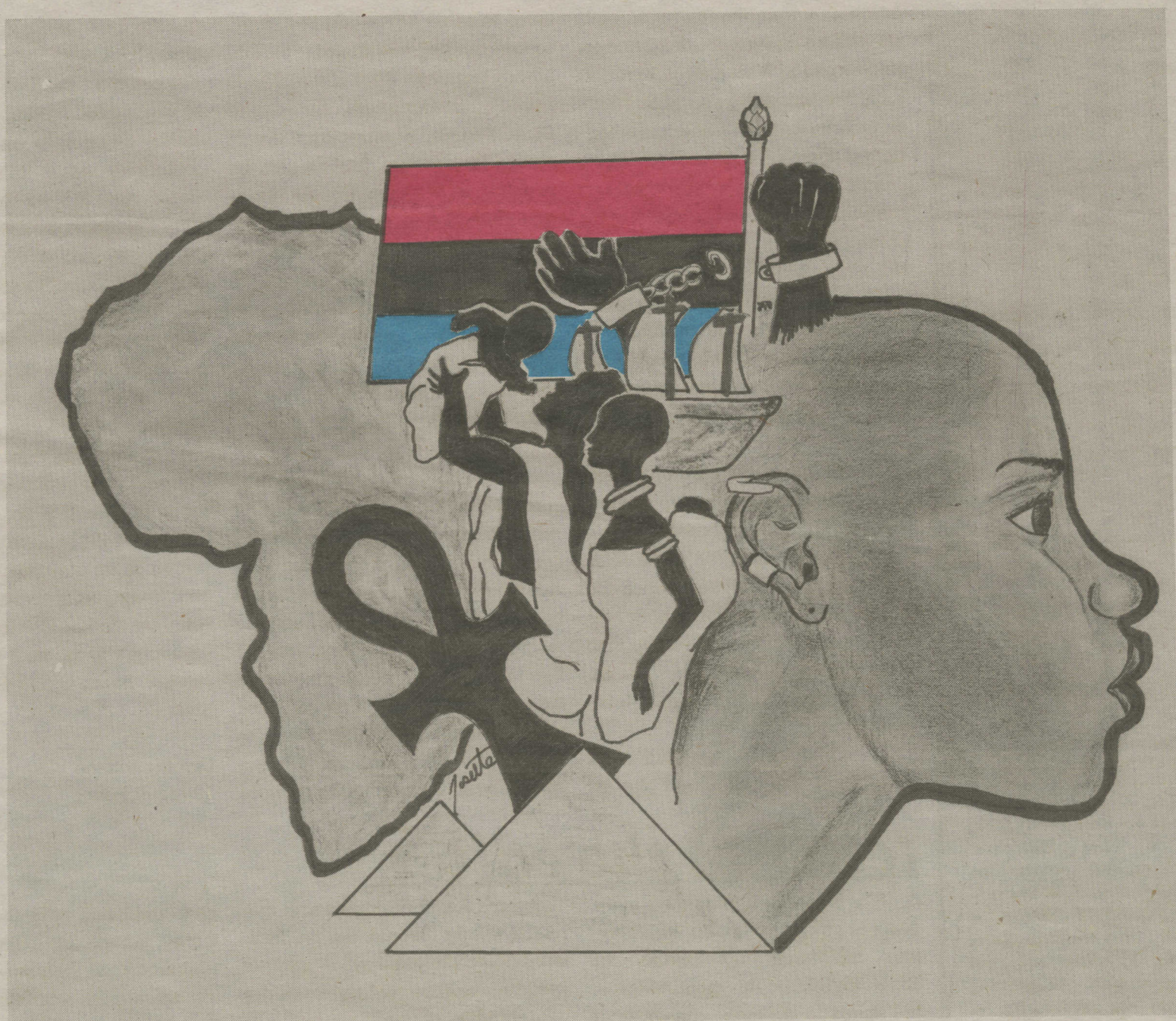
Published Bi-Weekly by Students from the State University of New York at Stony Brook

March 22, 1996

ONE NATION

Volume 33, Number 4

Women of Color:



Continuing the Legacy of
Life and Liberation

BLACKWORLD

**"KNOW
THYSELF"**

CAREY GRAY
Editor-in-Chief

DOROTHY JACKSON
Managing Editor

JACKIE HOWELL
Business Manager

SUDANI KAI MARTIN
MONIFA HEAVEN WILSON
Creative Arts Editors

CLAUDIA BLEMARD
Photography Editor

JAZMIN MONTES
Office Manager

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

AFS 283
DWIGHT R. BROWN
GABRIELA PARDO
CURTIS MORRIS
LORRAINE LOWE
JAMILA WRIGHT
CARLOS JESSE BENITEZ
IVAN LEE
EDWIN QULANES
MILKA RODRIGUEZ
ORPHELIA MORRIS

Computer Layout: JACKIE HOWELL
Cover Design: JOSETTE SMITH
Creative Arts Cover:
DENISE TROTMAN

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

Welcome to the fourth issue of BLACKWORLD. I hope you enjoy what we have put together for Women's History Month. There is an article written by Lorraine Lowe on a panel discussion held earlier this month. There have been, and will be many excellent panel discussions, presentations, etc. that should be attended by the Black community. Speaking of events, I am anticipating Black Womyn's Weekend. Every year it proves to be an outstanding community event which brings Black people together on this campus. Good luck to the committee.

I would like to bring up the issue of Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf. He is a point-guard of the National Basketball Association team the Denver Nuggets who refused to sing the National Anthem before a game. What is all of the ruckus about him not singing a song? So what's the problem if a Black man raised in Mississippi doesn't feel the need to sing his praises to a country which represents hundreds of years of mistreatment of his people? Do White people sing Britain's National Anthem? No. Yet the media, and regular citizens are saying that he has no respect for the country in which he lives. When the country in which Abdul-Rauf lives begins to have respect for him and his people, then there is an argument to be had. The simple fact that the N.B.A. rule book states that he must sing means nothing. Whatever happened to the Constitution? The last time I checked it said that it is a violation of one's civil rights to be forced to say anything which one does not wish to say. Once again it is being ignored in order to get the desired, unlawful results of the powers that be. Do we need another Civil Rights Movement?

On the protest note, I trust that we all know of Pataki's lovely plan for

us. We need to let him know that we won't stand for another increase in tuition, and decrease in services. Pretty soon we'll be paying \$10,000 in tuition alone. If you didn't support the Teach-Out, I suggest you write to your governor, mayor, congress-person, etc. Don't wait until it's too late. And don't expect everyone else to do it. Make a conscious decision to do something yourself. Polity, NYPIRG, SASU, and USSA are useful organizations which are more than willing to assist/inform you in any effort you may want to make. Apathy is rampant on this campus, don't let it get you too. DO SOMETHING!!!!!!

I feel the need to, and have been asked to by BLACKWORLD staff, respond to the response printed to the Editor-In-Chief by the Black History Month Semi-Formal Committee. The issue of BLACKWORLD wanting to use student activity fee money to fund our pleasure is ludicrous. We knew that the tickets were selling out, and could not find a time when the box office was open and selling semi-formal tickets. Therefore, we thought it might be possible for the staff to pay through an internal transfer. Not with activity fee money, but with money that we would personally put into the budget. We thought it might be an easier way to reserve a table.

As far as the way business is conducted in the REAL WORLD, I'm here to inform you that it is not conducted in the way in which the committee operated. Firstly, a business does not have to be informed of anything. They must do research to find out what they need, and how to realize their goals. So there goes the argument of being "informed" of the need for a formal request for the event to be taped. Secondly, whenever there is a catered event, all staff must be provided

with food. (I know this because I work for a catering company.) Thirdly, in the REAL WORLD whenever a company requests money from an investor, they must reciprocate in some way. Be it a business lunch, an ongoing golf relationship, or one or two complimentary tickets for the event that the investor (in this case all organizations on campus who contributed to the committee) in funding. Maybe trying to make it less of a hassle for that investor (BLACKWORLD) to attend the event that their money put together might be enough. In any case, in the REAL WORLD, you never get something for nothing. We didn't want to "get over", we expected courtesy.

And finally, as far as BLACKWORLD not coming out on a timely basis, we have given our apologies numerous times. However, it must be realized that without the community making an effort to get involved with something other than nights of elegance (not that we don't all need to party sometimes), the paper cannot magically appear through the tireless efforts of BLACKWORLD's small staff. So, if the Truth Seeking Members of the Black History Month Semi-Formal Committee are concerned about BLACKWORLD's ability to inform and unify (for your information, unity does not include threatening us with going to the STATESMAN with your letter of discontent) on a consistent and timely basis, I propose that you call 2-6494 to leave your name and number so we can assign you an article each week. That applies to all organizations, and students. We look forward to receiving a phone mail message! Remember, the number is 2-6494. Enjoy the paper!!

Dorothy Jackson
Managing Editor

letter to the editor

The following is in response to the editor-in-chief's editorial in the February 29/March 12 issue of BLACKWORLD. This opinion/view is not shared by the entire committee as some of the committee didn't deem it necessary to substantiate the editorial with response, while others had no comment.

The Black History Month Semi-Formal Committee would first like to take this opportunity to once again thank all the clubs and organizations on campus that helped us put the event together.

This year's Semiformal was a huge success. It was the first year that the Semiformal was entirely sold-out, all expenses were completely covered, and everything went according to plan.

However, we did have a few obstacles to overcome "behind the scenes." One of our obstacles was getting funding from organizations. According to BLACKWORLD's editor in chief, "all [we] wanted was loot." (Nice journalistic style.) It was ironic that the BLACKWORLD editor in-chief would also print, "I also know of a particular or-

ganization that gave the committee money, and later asked them to reserve a table for the organization but was refused. The organization was willing to pay for the table, but needed the table to be reserved before all the tables sold out." The irony here is that BLACKWORLD neglected to mention that they were the particular organization in question. Why would they not identify themselves, well here is the REAL story and you can judge for yourself...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Oprah: More Than A Talk Show

"Girl, look at me! Not even one month old and calling for a revolution. Truth be told, I was a revolution." If you were watching the 1995 Essence Awards, you would have heard the poetic celebration of Black womanhood, read by television's most successful woman, Oprah Winfrey. She gave a stunning performance of Khephra Burns' poem, "Essence 25", in celebration of 25 years of Essence magazine. It was a well thought out and written piece of art. The poem dealt with the struggles of the Women's Liberation Movement, and the products that were a result of it. The power of sisterhood, African Pride, the renaissance women, such as: Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, Ntozake Shange, Rita Dove, Alice Walker, Fannie Lou Hamer, Angela Davis, Shirley Chisholm, Gwendolyn Brooks, Terry McMillan, and the beat goes on.

There is an empire which came out of the women's liberation movement. Her name is Oprah Winfrey. When we hear that name we think of the talk show, or that woman whose weight was made a spectacle of by the media. Described by the poem she read, "I turned 400 years of pain into pride as for the first time I was loving the soft contours of my African nose, my full, luscious lips and the ample round behind that Black men call my onion cause it bring tears to their eyes." Despite these images, Oprah is not just the "talk show queen," she is the only Black woman to own her own company headquarters, HARPO Studios (which is her name arranged backwards). She is the wealthiest, most powerful woman in entertainment.

How did the fame and grace, the whole empire we so candidly refer to as Oprah begin? Well, Miss Winfrey was the bundle of joy produced by parents Vernita Lee and Vernon Winfrey. She was born on January 29, 1954 on a farm in Kaskiuska, Mississippi. Her parents wanted to name her Orpah, after Ruth's sister-in-law in the bible, but the midwife mistakenly rearranged the second and third letters on the birth certificate, and so she became Oprah. No harm done,

right?

Oprah's parents were unmarried at her birth, and soon separated. She spent her earliest years living with her maternal grandmother, who was very strict. She taught Oprah to read at age two. At that tender age, Oprah was learning how to become a public speaker. She addressed the congregation at church on the topic "Jesus Rose on Easter Day". Upon her enrollment in kindergarten she was promptly promoted to the first grade. The woman had immense intelligence.

The excelling didn't stop there. Oprah's skills garnered her honorary invitations to recite poetry at Black social clubs and church tea, where she was given the name 'little speaker'.

At age six, Oprah's life on the farm ended. she was sent to live up north with her mother and her two half brothers. In order to retain her familiar life on the farm where she had pets, Oprah turned to keeping cockroaches in a jar as substitute pets. It was during this time that the acts of sexual abuse began in her youthful life.

Oprah's mother had to struggle to make ends meet. The fifty dollar a month check she received, with whatever welfare was available, was what supplemented their needs. She had no time to devote to Oprah, and this made Oprah vulnerable to the society. She became the victim of repeated sexual abuse by a series of family trusted men. Each incident left her scared, guilty and confused. She was too afraid to even report the offenses.

As a result of the abuse and the impact it left on her, Oprah began to commit dramatic acts. She staged a robbery by ransacking the house, stealing her mother's purse and throwing her mother's jewelry out of the window. At that point, her mother handed her over to her father, who lived in Nashville with his wife. Oprah would later state that "my father saved my life". A very strict disciplinarian, Vernon provided his daughter with guidance, late night discussions and books. He refused to let her have dinner unless she added five new words

to her vocabulary. As a result of his strict upbringing Oprah excelled in school.

At age sixteen, she won an Elks club oratorical contest. This guaranteed her a full scholarship to Tennessee State University after her graduation from high school. That following year she was invited to a White House conference on youth. (Did y'all get all of that, the woman had a very dramatic life, the one you can't help but relate to on the soap opera's, or read about in a BLACKWORLD newspaper, only, there's more.) She was the winner in two collegiate beauty competitions. (I bet y'all didn't even know that, well, you know now.) It was her poise and talent that she relied on. Oprah stated that she relied on those traits because of her "fudge brownie" skin color. She thought it might conceivably handicap her in competitions with "ginger breads" and "vanilla creams." She would later on the 1995 Essence awards read, "Fact is, I was fine, and for the first time, I knew it. Knew that I was stunning in all my licorice black, cocoa - brown, caramel, and cafe au lait skin tones."

Let me cut to the chase and tell you about how Miss Winfrey really got to come into your and my living room at 4 o'clock in the evening. It was perhaps by the grace of God, or the calling of her by him I should say. After turning down an offer made by CBS television station twice, she said yes to the position of a co-anchor's chair with WTVF TV. She became Nashville's first Black woman to serve as co-anchor on the evening news. For the most part, she was also the first woman in that job. (She sure likes setting precedents as "firsts" I see.) Oprah was earning a cool \$15,000 a year while still a junior in college. I could say that's more than what I'm making, how about you? After graduation in 1976, she accepted a job offer from WJZ TV, an ABC affiliate in Baltimore, Maryland. She would also excel in the career she feels is "just like breathing". She was definitely cut out to talk. She was doing an A.M. Chicago series when she was spot-

ted by the general manager of WLS TV, also an ABC affiliate. Her program wasn't doing well initially, but soon the ratings topped that of Donahue. She was still ahead after three months, and its safe to say you know the rest.

In September 1985, the program became expanded to an hour, and was renamed the Oprah Winfrey show. From that time on, her legend was established. She would have her fellow talk show peers waiting in the wings for a very long time, waiting for their chance at an Emmy, cause Oprah just keeps racking them up.

Added to her name are various movie credits. Perhaps you remembered her in Alice Walker's "The Color Purple" as Sofia, or in Gloria Naylor's "The Women of Brewster's Place". She was also in "Native Son".

Oprah is a regular sister like you and me, very committed to her aspirations and very down to earth. She certainly has not forgotten her trials in life or where she came from. She shares her 53 million dollar paycheck generously with the United Negro College Fund, Morehouse College and Harold Washington library, and many more organizations. She fights passionately against child abuse, and has dedicated entire series of her show to children. She call upon experts to convey ways in which kids can deter strangers, prevent their own abuse, and help in finding missing or runaway kids. Oprah Winfrey is a remarkable woman and one who is truly recognized and appreciated by women every where. She gracefully finished the poem she read at the awards with superb class and grace, "I've given my own talent a two thumbs up, cause 25 years of raves right here say sister acts, in Claudine and Sounder, Malcolm X and the Color Purple.

I'm Diahann Carol and Diana Ross and Cicely Tyson and Whoopi Goldberg. I'm Halle Berry and Angela Bassett. I'm a Hollywood mogul and an entertainment empire. I'm Suzanne DePasse. I'm OPRAH WINFREY."

by Lorraine Lowe

JOIN BLACKWORLD!!!
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 632-6494 OR COME TO THE
GENERAL BODY MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 PM IN
THE STUDENT UNION ROOM 072

Barbara Jordan:

A Woman Before Her Time

We the people "— It is a very eloquent beginning. But when the Constitution of the United States was completed on the seventeenth of September in 1787, I was not indicated in that "We the people". I felt for many years that somehow George Washington and Alexander Hamilton just left me out by mistake. But through the process of amendments, interpretation and court decision, I have finally been included in the "We the people".

Today I am an inquisitor. I believe hyperbole would not be fictional and would not overstate the solemnness that I feel right now. My faith in the Constitution is whole. It is complete. It is total. I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator in the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution."

—Barbara Jordan
July 25, 1974

Often portrayed "with a voice like God", Barbara Jordan delivered this unforgettable speech to the Senate in favor of the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. She used all of her skills as a lawyer and as an orator to defend the constitutional issues she so firmly believed in. This nationally televised speech catapulted her into the public eye as nothing she had ever done before.

Barbara Charline Jordan was born on February 21, 1936 in Houston, Texas. She was the youngest of three daughters of Benjamin Jordan, a Black minister and Arlyne Jordan, a domestic worker. She attended Roberson Elementary and later Phylliss Wheatley High School. "I always wanted to be something unusual", Jordan told one reporter. "I never wanted to be run-of-the mill. For a while I thought about becoming a Pharmacist, but then I thought whoever heard of an outstanding pharmacist?" After hearing an address by Edith Sampson, a Black lawyer from Chicago at the high schools "Career Day" assembly, Jordan decided to become a lawyer.

Jordan graduated from Phylliss Wheatley High School ranking in the top 5% of her class. Later that same year she

attended Texas Southern University. A double major in Political Science and History, she accomplished her B.A. degree and graduated magna cum laude in 1956. Barbara Jordan earned her J.D. from Boston University in 1959. She was

"I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator in the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution."

one of only two Black women in a graduating class of 128. Shortly after graduation she passed both the Texas, and the Massachusetts bar exams.

The following year Jordan had her first hands on experience in politics working to organize the Black vote for the Kenny-Johnson presidential election. She successfully developed a highly organized Black worker program for the forty predominantly Black precincts of Harris county, and managed to get an eighty percent voter turn out. It was the most successful get-out -the vote campaign in Harres County that anyone could recall.

Jordan initially ran for a seat in the Texas House of Representatives in 1962, and again in 1964. Though she was defeated at both attempts she gained a significant amount of votes. She then turned her attention to the Texas Senate where in 1966 she defeated former state representative J.C. Whitefield, a White liberal, to become the first Black woman elected to the Senate since 1883. Jordan's six years in the Senate have been viewed as "somewhat of a phenomenon". On

March 21, 1967, she became the first Black elected official to preside over that body; she also was the first Black state senator to chair a major committee, the Labor and Management Committee, among others. She sponsored bills that

championed the cause of poor, Black and disadvantaged people. Jordan was also the first freshman senator ever named to the Texas Legislative Council, and was also chosen Senate president pro tempore in March 1972. On June 10, 1972 as the states traditional elected "governor for a day", she became the first Black chief executive in the country. But Barbara Jordan did not stop there. She decided to run for Congress and was elected in November 1972 to become the first African-American to be elected to Congress from Texas since the Reconstruction.

As in the Texas Senate, Jordan consistently sponsored legislation to raise the standard of living of impoverished Americans and protect their rights. She maintained a liberal voting record and cosponsored a bill to extend Social Security to homemakers. Jordan sponsored legislation to broaden the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to cover Mexican-Americans in Texas and other southwestern states to extend its authority to those states where minorities had been denied the right to vote or had had their rights restricted by unfair registration practices, such as lit-

eracy tests. Among these Jordan also supported bills to combat disease, increased federal aid to cities, increased aid to elementary and secondary schools and fought for environmental preservation.

In 1978, Jordan retired from public office and went on to become a visiting professor at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. In 1982 she was appointed to Lyndon B. Johnson Centennial Chair in National Policy where she served as a faculty advisor, a minority recruiter and teacher.

Throughout her life Barbara Jordan has earned numerous awards. Along with and because of her political accomplishments, she has received fifteen honorary doctorate degrees. She was named the Democratic Woman of the Year by the Women's National Democratic Club. Ladies Home Journal picked her as 1975 Woman of the Year in Politics. Time magazine recognized her that same year as one of its ten Women of the Year, and a poll conducted by Redbook (1979) magazine selected Jordan as one of the top women who could be President. In 1990, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. In 1994 she was honored with the 1994 Special Margaret Brent Woman Lawyer Achievement Award, and in August of that same year President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in honor of her long and productive career in public service.

On January 17, 1996, Barbara Charline Jordan died of pneumonia. She was 59 years old. "What makes Barbara so special? It's that along with all her superior intelligence and legislative skill she also has a certain moral authority and a ... presence, and it all comes together in a way that sort of grabs you.... What Barbara has is not something you learn and develop, it's something that God gave her and it's something you can't really describe".

—Congressman Charles Wilson (1975)

by Milka A. Rodriguez and Ophelia Morris

WAITING TO EXHALE, OR SAVE YOUR BREATH



As part of the Women's History month celebration, Professor Floris Cash of the Africana Studies Program program organized a panel to discuss with African American Gender issues. The theme of the event encircles the statement "waiting to exhale, or save your breath." This is concerning author Terry McMillan's novel *Waiting to Exhale*. The discussions surrounded the theme within the movie itself, in comparison/contrast with the novel.

The panelists agreed that the movie, which showed Black women as the main theme rather than "the other character", was unlike any typical Hollywood films that featured Blacks such as "Menace II Society", or "Boyz in the Hood".

The movie portrayed the four women in an elegant fashion. They were established middle class working women. They were intelligent, funny, and strong.

Sisterhood, friendship and female bonding were very evident.

The heat of the discussion was fueled when the "male bashing" suggestions which were initially made by the media was interjected into the discussion. Panelists N'Kenge Wilson - Ritter and Monique Maylor both felt that male insecurities led them to believe the movie movie was a male bashing film. Most members on the panel felt the same way.

The movie was more about women reinventing themselves, learning to look within themselves to find their true love, which is self love, rather than focusing on external things that they feel will make them complete. The panelists felt that the book was a much better representation of what I just stated, better than the movie's interpretation. Aquena Simon agreed, "I feel that Terry McMillan as a playwright was not experienced enough to go into trying to play-

wright a movie. I feel that she's better off in doing her book." The movie showed these beautiful and very smart sisters willing to put their lives on hold to find "Mr. Right", who might never even come. Future movies about Black women should center on political activism, and other daring and motivational aspirations. What about a movie showing the first Black female president? However, the glass ceiling in Hollywood would certainly never allow such a "fantasy". The whole point is that Black women shouldn't have to wait to exhale; we should find the love, security, appreciation and validation we seek from a relationship within ourselves first and foremost. As panelist Monique Maylor said, "When self is lost, all is lost."

The overwhelming agreement between the panelists had to do with the need for female to female relationships. There are sisters out there, and you know who you are, that prefer male friends to female friends. They feel that females tend to be too critical, jealous, and gossipy. Sisterhood is a way to combat this real tension that exists between women. The movie stressed that bond between the women. The Black family has been matriarchal from the days of slavery, and the ties between female slaves were very strong and what led Black people to freedom. The female slaves would help their fellow sisters during child birth, help with the cooking and child rearing. There was no need for jealousy or gossip. Somehow we were taught those dirty traits, and in

order for us to progress in this insane world, we need to cut those learned traits out before they are passed on to our daughters. These traits will plant poisonous roots in our generations.

As Blacks on a whole, we need to be united. Unity is the key to our power. First we have to begin to looking within ourselves, reclaim our power instead of surrendering it to people we feel should determine our fate and happiness. As panelist Wayne White said, "We need to be together not apart." A movie like *Waiting to Exhale* showed us many aspects of ourselves that we need to examine not criticize.

Professor Cash did an excellent job and so did the panelists. The people on were fellow Stony Brook students who are insightful and conscious.

They were :

Elizabeth Kudadjie - Gyamfi
(Psychology)
Wendy Watson (History)
Michelle Davis
Renee Gonsalves
Alisha Griffith
Monique Maylor
Jennifer Pucci
Aquena Simon
Denise Trotman
Wayne White
N'Kenge Wilson - Ritter
Troy Woodley

Great job Sisters and Brothers!!!!

by Lorraine Lowe



March, April, May... Are you running out of time to prepare your resume ???

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR RESUME PREPARED FOR YOU?

We offer different packages for your special needs:

- 1) Preparation of resumes and/or cover letters on your choice of paper.
- 2) Original laser copies of already prepared resumes on your choice of paper.

**SO FOR HELP PREPARING YOUR RESUME, CALL JACKIE AT
BLACKWORLD (516) 632 - 6494.**

Prices vary

The Blackness of Blackness

by Curtis Morris.

Welcome to something new! This is the humble, inaugural effort for a (hopefully) recurring column in the pages of Black World. Its explicit purpose is to challenge, motivate, enlighten and to some degree, entertain the readers of the only minority paper on campus.

First and foremost, the name of the column. (I know it must be buggin' you out.) The phrase, "the blackness of blackness" appears in the prologue of Ralph Ellison's illuminating novel, *Invisible Man*. When removed from its literary context, "the blackness of blackness" becomes more than just a clever pun; but rather, it is the essence of who we are as Black people. Think about it... "the blackness of blackness," or in other words, "What does it mean to be black?" Is it because you are a Dominican, or a Haitian, or a Jamaican? Is it because you are a Muslim, or a Catholic, or a Rasta? Maybe you are "black" because you smoke blunts, drink 40's and listen to rap music, or maybe because you are on welfare, or live in Harlem? No! In this country, skin color and the inherent politics of skin color (which is the "polite" way of saying racism) have always dictated the social, environmental, political and cultural agenda. Until we realize this and begin to understand the insidious effects of American racism, everything else that we "think" we know will only continue to confuse us.

Indeed, this is an election year and the Black community is deluged with sound bites from candidates regurgitating some variation of, "let's forget our differences and come together in order to make this Nation 'great' again." I like to call this the 1996 rendition of "cast your buckets down." A novel concept, this "coming together" because just as Langston Hughes "I, too, sing America;" however, I am also painfully aware that Black folks are far from being "co-workers in the kingdom of culture." My, your, our "blackness," or as W.E.B. DuBois so accurately describes it, "double-consciousness," prevents us from fully participating in the American dream. DuBois even compares "double-consciousness" to an opaque "veil" which ominously hangs between whites and blacks.

But what do we do about the "veil" and these "two warring ideals [Black and American] in one dark body?" Cross-over like Michael Jackson; no.

Sell-out like "Uncle" Clarence Thomas; no. Become radical like Ras the Exhorter; no. In order to step out of "the shadow of the veil," we must work from the inside, out! Simply stated, this means that in this age of being "P.C.," the first step toward accepting and thereby understanding the concept of "double-consciousness," is to embrace "the blackness of blackness." Our generation, Generation X if you please, seems to have drifted far away from the racial pride of the 1960's that was expressed through the writings of Nikki Giovanni, Amiri Baraka, or Stokely Carmichael to name but a few, and have now associated a negative connotation with "blackness." This is why we kill each other for Starter jackets or Air Jordans. This is why we sell "death" to our friends, neighbors and relatives in small plastic vials. This is why we mistakenly associate "intelligence" with "whiteness" and value our time in the club or on the court over the amount of time spent reading a book. Whatever happened to "Black is beautiful?" I'm not professing to have the solution to the many problems that are in the Black community; however, I do realize, "all we got is us" and that until we start treating each other "right," don't expect anyone else to give a damn.

So, by all means, "come together," achieve and succeed. (This is the land of opportunity you know.) But under no circumstances should we become so eager to assimilate into the American mainstream that we limit ourselves and suppress our wonderful "blackness." We are both Blacks and Americans. To deny or sacrifice one in favor of the other is the equivalent to committing murder - Just ask O.J. And hell no, being pro-Black does not mean that you are anti-white! Self-awareness and knowledge only promote a healthier and happier state of mine. Remember the words of Garvey because "any people without knowledge of their past, history, culture and origin is like a tree without roots - it can not grow" Besides, if we don't learn for ourselves about ourselves, we're inclined to believe that Jimi Hendrix is only "white people music" and that Abraham Lincoln actually freed the slaves. In order to find out more about W.E.B. DuBois and his theory of "double consciousness," which I strongly recommend, read *The Souls of Black Folk*. Until next time, consider the times

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The secretary of the Black History Month Semi-Formal Committee received two phone calls from BLACKWORLD staff members, one call was from Managing Editor and the other was from the Business Manager. Both informed her that BLACKWORLD would be allocating \$100 (of student activity fee money) from their budget (they had already donated the sum of \$250) in the form of another donation. In return they requested that the committee reserve 8-10 tickets to the event. Our secretary called the Polity bookkeeping department and asked if this was possible, since the money was not going directly to the box office. She was told that this would not be possible. Then our chair went to the treasurer of Polity and was also told that this was against Polity policy and in short.. illegal! Our secretary then relayed this information to BLACKWORLD and they insisted that we find a way to work it out.

This all boils down to BLACKWORLD, the paper that has alleged that the committee has a cancerous, "I am number one" attitude, is beginning to show its own metastasizing leprosy and wants to use student money to fund their own pleasure. If this is not true then it is a sad commentary again on BLACKWORLD, because that would mean that it would take 8-10 BLACKWORLD staff members to report on the Semi-formal. Why else would they use student activity fee money to pay for ALL their tickets? Hmm...Moving on, in regards to the allegations set forth in BLACKWORLD about the recording of the Semi-formal for the AFS Archives, we were not informed until 12:48 p.m. Friday, February 23, 1996 (the day before the Semi-formal) that a formal requisition was needed for the unsolicited video taping of the event. An AFS T.A. spoke to the co-chair of the committee and pleaded for any kind of written request. The T.A. dictated to the co-chair exactly what needed to be written. So if there are any "sarcastic undones" in the request they were given by the T.A., himself. The only additional request that was made was for the T.A. to submit to us the names of the individuals that would be accompanying him. This was so that we could have them put on our press list.

The reason that we couldn't guarantee that the T.A.'s would have a place to sit and eat was because at the time we were approached, the Semi-formal was entirely sold out. They were

however told that they could eat after all the paying students and faculty had one serving of food. What is the heinous crime that we committed? How were they treated like "cheap labor?" As far as the committee was concerned that is the way business is conducted in the REAL WORLD.

Speaking of how things work in the real world, maybe BLACKWORLD should take note of the rest of the media in the world and realize that sometimes you have to take some initiative. As for the treatment of the other newspapers, they weren't there to party, they were reporting and they had an assigned area in which to sit while Rev. Sharpton was speaking or whenever they chose to. They were also given the option to eat more than the cup of water and piece of bread that BLACKWORLD editor was worried that the Statesman staff person might not have gotten. As for the Statesmen staff person, she paid for her ticket and she had a seat at a table and so whatever way she chose to spend her evening was basically up to her. For the record, she opted to spend it for pleasure as opposed to business, because the Statesmen wasn't even there to cover the event.

BLACKWORLD should serve as a channel to inform and unify the Black community as opposed to belittling others and name calling that can only lead to division in our community. If people weren't always trying to "get over" - things might just "get done." Perhaps the BLACKWORLD staff, the editor-in chief in particular, should focus his energy on publishing a paper on a consistent and timely basis and keeping the campus community informed on upcoming events instead of rummaging around trying to point out his personal "problems" with events and organizations on campus.

To bring this to a close, it should be said that is important that everyone have their own opinion and should be able to voice it in an open forum...even if it is a slanderous, one-sided account that totally clouds an event that many people put an insurmountable amount of time and energy into, that intended to give the campus community an elegant evening of love, which is what they received. Always remember there is only one truth...and we are going to leave it at that....

-Truth Seeking Members of the Black History Month Semi-Formal Committee

Creative



Arts

Creative Arts

L Session

by Sudani Kai Martin

To all hip-hop listeners, pay attention and recognize the haps in the industry. It's a state of emergency! Late last month there was a conference held in concern for underground radio stations not being properly funded and unequal distribution of vinyls. The New York Radio Coalition formed a strong network of radio shows to protect themselves from dissimilar treatment and to form a better system of communication between shows. The executive board members consist of disk jockeys who hold it down for the underground world of New York City. A Stony Brook student named Lyric attended the meeting and is also a member of the coalition stated "I'm proud to be a part of this coalition that has a progressive agenda for the future of hip-hop."

Hip-hop music has come along way because in its first decade it was heard through only independent radio and sold at inadequate retail stores. The majority of artists during that time began their careers through the underground outlet. Therefore we must be aware of the underground's importance. With no direct compensation, independent programmers push on by their in depth rela-

tionship with the culture and music of our urban community. "In fact, underground radio has facilitated the search for talent by giving exposure to less recognized acts. It has also been a testing ground; giving record labels access to their perspective customers. However, the commercialization of hip-hop has set into motion an alarming chain of events which may in fact eventually mean the end of hip-hop."

Now hip-hop is so mainstream that it has become a universal language. It is left prey to the corporate level of capitalism. The quality of music is being short changed for quantity. The underground tries to emit the creativity that commercial radio stations don't. That is not to negate from commercial radio but they pull in million of dollars for less creativity. Independent programmers seem not to see much of that profit because some radio programs have resulted in extinction. In 1995 New York lost many underground shows such as: The Graveyard Shift, Underground Invasion, and H2O. Long Island really took a lost when WBAU went off the air last August, because L.I. didn't have many hip-hop shows to begin with. The New York Radio Coalition also voiced commercial

stations like Hot 97.1 receiving records in abundance from record label companies and underground stations not receiving or getting the same amount of records. Why are the underground stations getting shammed on? They only flood the air waves with the new buttas and serve as the backbone of the hip-hop industry.

N.Y.R.C. is vital to the life span of hip-hop in its efforts to insure hip-hop's foundation being secure and treated with equality. The coalition concludes:

"Individually endeavored to ensure the longevity for an art form which has only begun to grow. It is our hope that by coming together as a coalition in this era of corporate dominance we might be able to deal with companies both inside and outside the music industry on a level to which they can relate. The N.Y.R.C. will mediate between programs and companies in order to foster a stronger working relationship. It is our intent to restore the status of underground radio. In doing so, we hope to strengthen hip-hop's foundations before the entire tower comes crashing in upon itself." As a true hip-hop head, I definitely appreciate such an organization as N.Y.R.C. because I couldn't live without the music I was born on.

HIP-HOP TRIVIA



Who was the first female rapper to go platinum?

THE ANSWER TO LAST WEEKS QUESTION
IS PUBLIC ENEMY IN REBEL WITHOUT A
PAUSE

AFRICA ATUNBI:

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

This March, in conjunction with the 1996 African Literature Association World Conference, the Department of Theatre Arts presented *Africa Atunbi*. Developed and directed by Dr. John Cameron, *Africa Atunbi* is a new play which celebrates the rich cultural heritage of West Africa. The title itself is indicative of the play's theme considering that the word "atunbi" means rebirth. Incorporating both contemporary and traditional poetry, praise songs and folklore, *Africa Atunbi* dramatizes this rebirth through its central themes of tradition, family, and the cyclical nature of life.

The use traditional dance, costume, drumming and song make the play simply extraordinary and fascinating to watch. Combined with the wonderful performance given by an exceptional cast, *Africa Atunbi* is a splendid theatre experience that should not be missed.

Through the life of Tufa, the play's main character, *Atunbi* explores

the unceasing cycle of life, death and all that makes a life valuable. From birth, Tufa struggles; a girl, a wife, a mother, an individual — Tufa's strength illustrates the beauty of life available to anyone who chooses to see it. Even death is shown as a natural step in Tufa's growth which she embraces with a touching grace and dignity.

From the beginning, *Atunbi* presents community life and the importance of it in this particular culture. Camaraderie and fellowship among the villagers is as much a part of life as the food they eat or the songs they sing. This village's shared labors, joys and pitfalls only serve to bind them closer together, even if one of their own betrays the community. Tufa's dependence on her community does not take away from her sense of self; on the contrary, this social environment only helps her spirit blossom.

The beauty and importance of

communal life, of family life, is further exemplified by the three narrators who guide us through Tufa's life. Nana, Ekwefi and Oma are Tufa's ancestors and were once members of her village. Not only do they serve as guides for the audience, they're also the silent companions comforting Tufa through the trials of her life. Through them, it becomes clear just how continuous and universal the cycle of life really is.

While *Africa Atunbi* encompasses many themes the one that I found the most significant, especially in society such as ours, was the power of womanhood. Starting at birth, Tufa was put in a position of inferiority as a result of her sex. This is evident right away by her father's initial reaction to the fact that he had a daughter rather than a son. Tufa's "burden of femininity" reoccurs as she is circumcised and later gives birth. Considering all this pain that is inherent with

being female, one might think that femininity is, in fact, a burden. As a woman, I felt Tufa's pain and confusion at what was happening to her as her body changed. Then, one of the ancestors, Nana, put it all into perspective for me. When asked by another ancestor why woman experience such pain, Nana explained that it is only because of such pain that women are able to truly know and appreciate the joy life has to offer in a way that no man ever can. Although I can not remember the exact words she used, the message will remain with me forever.

Africa Atunbi was not only a thoroughly entertaining and beautifully done theatre experience, it was a learning experience. It exposes everyone who sees it to a culture that may be different, but which, despite its superficial differences embodies several universal truths and feelings common to all people.

by Gabriela Pardo

Ethereal Treasures

For some, it is a place across from the Polity suite. For others, it is just another room en route to cashing their biweekly student employment checks. However, the Stony Brook Union Art Gallery means much more than some people realize. From February 26th to March 7th, the student art exhibition entitled "Ethereal Treasures" featured the brilliance of two African American women, Kay Clarke and Ella Turenne. I had the esteem pleasure of speaking briefly with Clarke about the exhibition. Clarke's artwork dealt primarily with wood. When asked if this had any specific meaning, she expressed that "it signifies my love for wood. It's very organic. I like to make things look organic in my artwork. It smells good, it feels good. She continued, stating that wood "is a connection to my ancestry because I feel that African art deals with wood and wood work".

The catered reception presented the most fortunate opportunity of speaking with Ella Turenne. Greeted by a gentle smile and a pleasant demeanor, I immediately began with a barrage of inquiries. The word ethereal, defined as heavenly by Turenne, relates to the inspiration she receives from God.

The exhibition coincided with Black History Month and Women's History Month. Turenne stated that her work was relevant to both, however adding that she originally wanted it to fall sometime in the month of February. Content with the length of time that she was able to display her art, Turenne would have been pleased if the show lasted longer.

Turenne presented art implementing four different mediums: oil paint, linoleum print, paper works and ceramics. I was accompanied by Turenne as I viewed her art, paying close attention to detail. The piece *Interpretation of Embire*, an oil on canvas painting, reflected a Caribbean environment. Placed in an exotic setting, it involves a man, a woman, and a drummer. The colors were vibrant, enhancing the mood of dance and celebration.

Another beautiful work was an Arabic named piece, *Ajmal (Total - More Beautiful)*. Similar to puzzle pieces, the piece was intricately arranged to show the faces of a man and a woman met face to face. Turenne used four colors for the profiles: black, green, red, and yellow. The piece signifies that "even though they're together, they are separate beings; but together they are also one." This

strengthens the idea of unity amongst people of color. The dichotomy between men and women reoccurred throughout most of Turenne's featured works.

Continuing with the canvas works were the pieces *Tauqeer* (Arabic) and *Fulami* (Yoruba), *Honor and Respect Me*. The main focus is disunity amongst men and women of color. Turenne cites honor and respect as two fundamental ideas in any type of relationship.

One of the two untitled pieces, aesthetically dressed in kente cloth, involved the silhouette of three bodies. Each separately colored body, in high stride, glorifies women and celebrates their differences.

The linoleum print *Blood and Water* possesses historical undertones relating to slavery. The other work of this medium, *Dread*, symbolizes unity, as explained by Turenne. Incorporating the four colors mentioned earlier, Turenne hoped to draw the attention of Black people. Often, people of African descent identify with these Afro centric hues. Turenne wants her people in particular to identify with her work.

The ceramic sculpture *Manou* (Creole) illustrates all that Turenne

learned while taking a ceramics course. For her final project, Turenne decided to do a self portrait. She sculpted a crab, related directly to the zodiac sign for Cancer. Turenne explains that her sign reflects her personality a great deal and alludes to who she is.

Mwiya (Arabic), or *The Essence of Life* epitomizes unity and togetherness. It is a ceramic, glazed work with the bodies of a man and woman intertwined. The piece as Turenne explains, suggests "roots, trees, nature, going back to basics". "Sometimes, you must return to what is really basic and necessary." Furthermore, the essence of life would be "that union, togetherness and love."

Turenne expressed that "if you are a [black] woman in the art, if you don't make stuff about black people, they don't look at your work."

Nonetheless, these talented women produce art rooted in the abstract. As Clarke stated, "Black people are the originators of abstraction. Our art, when it all comes down to it, is coming out of that base, that root." These roots of abstraction give rise to the expression of self and the communication of culture.

by d l hartley

rhapsodies

THE LIE

TODAY, YOU THREATEN TO LEAVE ME,
I HOLD CURSES, IN MY MOUTH,
WHICH COULD FLOOD YOUR PATH, SEAR
BOTTOMLESS CHASMS IN YOUR ROAD.

I KEEP, BEHIND MY LIPS,
INVECTIVES CAPABLE OF TEARING
THE SEPTUM FROM YOUR
NOSTRILS AND THE SKIN FROM YOUR
BACK.

TEARS, COPIOUS AS A SPRING RAIN,
ARE CHECKED IN DUCTS
AND SCREAMS ARE CROWDED IN A COR-
NER
OF MY THROAT.

YOU ARE LEAVING.....ME?

ALoud, I SAY:
I'LL HELP YOU PACK, BUT IT'S GETTING
LATE,
I HAVE TO HURRY OR I'LL BE GONE.
DO DROP A LINE OR A TELEPHONE.

My Black Queen

My Black Queen You Are Love
I See It In The Earth
Around Me.

My Black Queen You Are Love
I Feel It In The Sky
Above Me.

My Black Queen You Are Love
All Nature Doth
Agree.

But The Greatest Proof Of That Love
Is My Sweet Love For Thee.

---Laddi Davies



The day the magic died

It all stopped
Dreams and thoughts dropped
in mid stride
Kisses turned rancid
And dances no longer
glided in my soul
Heart and mind collided
And fate
after delicate deliberation
decided the victor

--- d l hartley

THE ORGASM

What is an Orgasm?

Is IT a 2 - minute brother's, hour of ecstasy
- The fake noise of a woman, as she looks at me

Is IT an ego boast, That makes me feel like a man
or is IT The strenuous work, produced by my left hand

Is IT a Tingling feeling That is produced from a stinger
Or is IT The way a man should do IT, as she uses her finger

Are These Orgasms?

hmmmm.....

Or is IT The Uhh, Uhh from The grunt of a man
Or is IT The Ohh, Ohh from The cries of a woman

An Orgasm, is That what we call IT

hmmmm.....

Is IT mental ecstasy as you're in The arms of your lover
Or is IT The build up of passion, That occurs To each other

Is IT a woman's way To earn a nickel or a dollar
Or is IT a way To make a man feel good, as she takes her holler

The Orgasm, The Orgasm, is IT good or is IT bad
Yeah, for 10 seconds you're happy, BUT later you might be mad

My Brother, My Brother, Think with The right head
Don't dwell on That Orgasm, or HIV will make you dead

My Sister, My Sister, Think now, or you'll soon discover
Because of That Orgasm,
your beautiful baby will only have a mother

Remember The love, The peace, and all That commotion
Yeah, Because of That Orgasm, That love, you had an abortion

So Take word To This message, need I say more
Forget The desk, The elevator, The bed, nor The floor

Oh yeah, IT could be bad, BUT don't forget IT may be good
BUT are we ready for The responsibilities, most important parenthood

The O-R-G-A-S-M

Think about IT

Is IT our enemy, or is IT our friend.....

--- Edwin Quianes

TWO IS ONE AND ONE IS HALF

I journey far from thou
With a weight of grief
but without a doubt
that the tears you shed
show not but mood
crying out for love - wanting to be soothed.
If though at first you thought it haste
and figured my judgement was made with distaste
let me state my behalf which may be brief but the words that
follow you can truly believe.
I often speak past - present - and future
but when I think of us it's always the future.
My thoughts are filled with dandy delights of so many trips
and beautiful sights.
I think of you not greedy nor poor but pure
living in a home with me that is all yours.
To envision the coming is great
but not all for the comings for do'ers and dreamers they fall.
A unique fate I hope we shall overcome
for minorities - failure strikes many & success goes to some.
So we must try hard to achieve,
there be it succeed
a future for us worth living we can both agree.
If what I say is not false but true
It is only rational that my future needs you
so that together we may walk in one straight path
for two is one and one is half.

by Carlos Jesse Benitez

AN EXAMPLE OF EXODUS

QUESTING FOR A MATE IN AN ASYLUM OF MONOTONY
I COME UPON NO DISCOVERY
FOR I FIND NO ATTRACTION TO CLONES
DUPLICATES
OF A FALSE MADONNA ARE SENT AS DECOYS
IN HOPES THAT I WILL FORSAKE MY EVE
TRAPPED AND CLAUSTROPHOBIC
I BEGIN TO PLAY WITH A RAZOR
THAT IS UNTIL...

PIERCING SHARD OF EBONY SLICES THROUGH MELODRAMATIC
FEELINGS OF MELANCHOLY
NEPERTITI IT'S ORIGIN EMITTING HOPE
WHICH STRIKES ME CIRCULATING A WAVE OF ECSTASY
THOUGH MY BEING
I CLENCH MY ARMS TIGHT TO MY BODY IN ATTEMPT TO CON-
TAIN MY EUPHORIA
EYES STRAY NOT FROM THE SOURCE OF PLEASURE
EVERY BLINK A MILLENNIA OF PERSECUTION
NO DISTRACTION WILL AVERT MY GAZE
ADDICTED TO HER SMILE LIKE FREEBASE
BEAUTY IS THE HEROIN OF THE EYE.

-IVAN LEE

Girls on 'The End'

Men with their filthy ways
speak poorly of us on these days
What the hell does he know
from this he too did flow

Out, into this nasty planet
With screams of fear and panic
Into disgust his fear matures
through it all our love endures

Could it be that he remembers when
he laid, in a sanctuary without sin
In agony we forced him out
into this world full of doubt

Poor Baby I betrayed you
poor baby BIG ASS baby

Yeah, I'm a girl on 'the end'
what did that ever mean to men?
'No, I'm not coming by
'cause you on that so why?

Please I don't need this rhetoric
Go somewhere else to put your —
Sticks and stones may break my bones
but 'filthy' and 'nasty' words will
Never harm me

the fluid that runs like trains
will one day fill warriors' veins

Even now it fills the weak-minded brother
if you don't believe it go ask his mother
please restrain yourself from laughter
the topic is for now, not after

The fact is, we should take pride
in being a rib from Adam's side
men often have false tongues
notice who's happier when it comes

My mood swings in a direction
with much love and affection
to young sisters on the rise
that wake up with red thighs

Don't be ashamed of what you see
girls on 'the end' were meant to be
the vessel of miracles
untarnished by common fools

The eyes of nature see the need
for me to, again, pass a useless seed
but him in a selfish fashion
gives seeds in fits of passion

Tell you who's better, who's right, you dare implore?
the answer lies in 28 days or more
For me, uncertainty does not exist because
He too will

Benefit
Like
Everyone
Else
Does

- Josette Smith



health and fitness

EVOLUTION OF THE PILL

Birth control is a very important part of women's history. It means a certain amount of freedom, and it introduced a sexual revolution. The revolution was brought about because sex no longer had to bear the consequence of pregnancy. Most women, at some point in their lives come to a point when they must ask themselves which birth control method right for them. This, of course, is by no means a modern phenomena. This question has plagued women and medical doctors for centuries. Ancient Egyptians used a kind of sticky gum to block the cervix from sperm entry. Similarly, the twentieth-century American rubber diaphragm utilizes the exact same concept and works in much the same way. However, some important technological advances have

been made, and the pill has been on the forefront of most of these changes.

The pill consists of one or both of a family of hormones known as estrogen and progestin. The level of these hormones naturally becomes altered in your body during pregnancy. Therefore the introduction of these hormones by an outside source causes the body to mimic the effects of pregnancy. For example, cervical mucus becomes impenetrable to sperm and implantation of fertilized eggs in the endometrium (lining of the uterus) becomes impossible.

Unfortunately, these are not the only effects of these hormones. In the 1940's and 1950's, when the pill was first introduced, the early formulations of the high-dose birth-control pill literally

waged war on the female body. It caused blood clots and increased the risk of stroke and other side effects. There was also some speculation that the pill increased the risk of breast cancer.

Today, there are new low dose versions of the pill that satisfies all the skeptics. Today's pill typically has one milligram of progestin and 35 micrograms of estrogen. The original pill had 10 milligrams of progestin and 150 micrograms of estrogen. Today's pill is actually beneficial. Women who take the pill have a 40% lower chance of developing ovarian cancer and protection seems to increase with prolonged use. Pill users also cut their risk of endometrial cancer in half. Impressively enough, protection against both cancers last for at least 15 years.

Women also no longer have to worry about the pill effecting their chances of getting pregnant after they decide to discontinue use of the pill. The pill actually protects fertility by thickening cervical mucus which can protect against miscarriages and create a more formidable barrier against harmful microorganisms which can cause acute pelvic inflammatory disease. And by reducing menstrual flow, the pill also lowers the incidence of iron-deficiency anemia.

Apparently, the benefits of taking the pill far outweigh the risks. However, if you are over 35 and smoke, have poorly controlled diabetes or have high blood pressure you should explore other options of birth control.

by Margaret Seide

My Experiences With Lupus

Systematic lupus erythematosus (SLE), more commonly known as lupus, is a chronic disease involving the body's immune system. Individuals who are afflicted with this illness can suffer a myriad of symptoms. Affecting almost any part of the body. The symptoms can range from minimal to extreme. They can appear and disappear, lasting anywhere from a few hours to several months or years. There are three types of lupus: systemic (most common), discoid, and drug induced lupus. More often than not, many people who suffer from systemic lupus also suffer from discoid lupus. Discoid being a rash like lupus. Drug induced is having lupus like symptoms caused by drugs. But, will cease once the medication is stopped.

The funny thing about lupus is that it is so difficult to diagnose. There is no one particular symptom which hallmarks the onset of the disease. Thus, making it exceedingly difficult for physicians to diagnose. Often times, doctors make misdiagnosis, and it is not uncommon for patients, especially in milder cases to be diagnosed with neurosis or as chronic complainers. It's funny, because initially I started to believe that I was going crazy or was a hypochondriac. And my doctors were unable to come up with a specific diagnoses. Between my

rhematologist, neurologist, cardiologist, gastroenterologist, and gynecologist, I was getting dizzy and frustrated. Finally, my mind was put to rest. At the recommendation of my gastroenterologist. I went to see an infectious disease doctor. I was tested for everything from Lyme disease to cancer. Finally, my ANA test came back positive in accordance with other symptoms, which were related to lupus. Ever since then I've been receiving treatment from my rheumatologist. I must say, that I have been blessed with not only supporting family and friends, but with supporting doctors. And for that I am truly grateful.

It is estimated that there are more than 500,000 people who are affected with lupus. As with many other diseases, there are some criterion which hallmark the onset of lupus. There are eleven criteria, a patient should meet at least four to be diagnosed with lupus:

1. Facial redness or a rash on the face. Usually appearing in the form of a butterfly and is flat.
2. A more extensive skin rash, blotches, or raised scaly lesions.
3. Photosensitivity.
4. Arthritis like symptoms in two or more joints.
5. Pericarditis-inflammation of the sac

surrounding the heart

Pleurisy-inflammation of the membrane that lines the inside of the chest cavity surrounding the lungs.

6. Kidney problems. Excessive protein in the urine.
7. The existence of ulcers in the mouth, nose, or throat.
8. Occurrence of a neurological disorder. Ex. Convulsions, seizures, or psychotic behavior.
9. Blood disorder.
10. A disorder in your immune system.
11. The production of antinuclear antibodies (AA)

I had a big question: who was most susceptible to acquiring this disease? There are many determining factors: such as age, race, and gender. There seems to be a strong incidence in African-Americans, Hispanics, and Orientals. More women than men are diagnosed with lupus. A very high percentage of individuals diagnosed with lupus are women in their childbearing years.

I was diagnosed on January 19, 1995. When I was first diagnosed, it felt unreal. As if I was in a dream - disoriented. I didn't know what lupus was? How it would effect me? I experienced a variety of emotions, ranging from sad-

ness and anxiety to anger, frustration, and despair. Though, I must say that I never questioned the fact that I got it, I never said: "Why me?"

Yet, I must say that I have had to change my lifestyle, somewhat. There are limits to what I can do. Often times my stubborn pride would not allow me to seek, nor accept help. This, I think has been the most difficult adjustment for me to make. Illness can create changes in any relationship. Whether it be your family, friends, or mate, it is still difficult. Illness can often create ambivalent feelings in not only yourself, but in those who care about you. Even though I have lost some friends over it I have accepted the fact that not everyone is understanding. I also realized that it was their own ignorance and they were never really my friends, in the first place. So I was glad, this was a true test of friendship. I kind of cut my losses.

Yet, I learned to accept others help; not out of pity but out of love. But as all things in life I believe that there is nothing that me and the Lord cannot handle together. I believe that my faith and my new understanding have helped a great deal in living my new life.

Information compiled by Aquena Simon

Women Unite TAKE BACK THE NIGHT



MARCH FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY



Tuesday, March 26, 1996

The march will begin at 9:00pm on
Benedict college steps and will end in
Roth Quad.

All Are Welcome

Why Are We Marching?

We are marching to make people aware that rape is the fastest growing violent crime in the United States. A rape is reported every nine minutes, but even this is an underrepresentation since the vast majority of rapes go unreported.

We are marching to change the attitudes which promote violence against women. Forty-four percent of all women are sexually assaulted at some time during their lives. Although men can be sexually assaulted too, most rape victims are women and most rapists are men.

We are marching because rape is a growing problem on college campuses. Many rapes have occurred on SUNY campuses both in the streets and in the dorms. The problem is growing worse.

We are marching to make people aware that rape is a crime of violence and an act of power and hostility, not sexual desire. Rapists use sexuality to control, degrade, and punish their victims.

We march at night to signify that the streets are especially dangerous for women at night, but we are also vulnerable to sexual assault during the day, in our dorms and homes. Most of the time the victim knows the rapist. Over fifty percent of the time, sexual assault occurs in the victim's or assailant's home, car, or dorm room.

We are marching against rape and for the streets, homes, and dorms where we can walk and live unafraid of sexual assault.

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT AND WIN THE DAY!

The Sophisticated Ladies

of

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA

Sorority, Inc.

Omicron Upsilon Chapter

**In Celebration of Women's History Month
Presents**

**The 2nd Annual Forum on
Domestic Violence**

**Tuesday, March 26th
7PM in the U.C.C.**

All are encouraged to attend

another xmu design

**MALIK SIGMA PSI FRATERNITY
INCORPORATED WILL SOON
BE GRANTING THE EL-HAJJ
MALIK EL-SHABAZZ AWARD.
THIS AWARD OF \$200.00 WILL
BE GIVEN TO A FRESHMAN OR
SOPHOMORE STUDENT WHO
HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE
BLACK AND LATINO
COMMUNITY. APPLICATIONS
AND FURTHER INFORMATION
WILL BE POSTED
THIS WEEK.**

*A Collage
Celebrating Our
Nubian Queens
of Storybrook*

COLLAGE BY CLAUDIA BLEMARO



The Women Who Paved The Way

1. This woman was the promoter who fought for the desegregation of Central High in Little Rock, Arkansas.
2. The first lady of Civil Rights.
3. The first Black to appear on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House.
4. One way that this colorful entertainer shattered racial boundaries was by refusing to perform anywhere that barred Blacks as patrons.
5. This playwright achieved two honors when she published her novel "A Raisin in the Sun". She became the first Black author to win the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for best play. She also became the first Black woman to have a play on Broadway.
6. Referred to as the "Mother of Civil Rights". This woman filed a lawsuit against the San Francisco Street Car Co. and as a result she won Blacks the right to testify in court.
7. She was the first Black woman to serve in a state legislature.
8. This Michigan resident was the first Black woman in the nation to be elected a state senator.
9. This woman broke barriers in two areas of segregation. She was the first Black to win an Oscar. She was also the first Black woman to have her own nationally broadcasted radio show.
10. She was the first Black woman in U.S. history to be elected into Congress.
11. When she was elected chancellor of the University of Colorado, she became the first Black woman to head a major university in America.
12. This distinguished lady was a driving force behind the Thompson restaurant lawsuit. The suit resulted in the 1953 Supreme Court ruling which prohibited the segregation of public accommodations in the nations capital.
13. This lady, along with other prominent Blacks, signed the 1909 call for the meeting that was the precursor for the formation of the NAACP.
14. Her powerful contralto voice earned the title of America's Greatest Gospel Singer.
15. She is the number one female singer in the world. She was awarded the first New York Cultural Award as an honor for exceptional achievement in the performing or creative arts.

ANSWERS

1. Daisy Bates 2. Fannie Lou Hamer 3. Marian Anderson 4. Josephine Baker 5. Lorraine Vivian Hansberry 6. Mary Ellen Pleasant ("Mammy" Pleasant) 7. Crystal Bird Fauset 8. Cora M. Brown 9. Hatie "Beulah" McDaniel 10. Shirley Chisholm 11. Dr. Mary F. Berry 12. Mary Church Terrell 13. Ida B. Wells 14. Mahalia Jackson 15. Ella Fitzgerald

M.P.B. BLOWOUT

The end of the semester is near and MPB, with your participation, is going to go out in style. We have two huge events planned that incorporate all of the minority organizations:

THE SECOND ANNUAL CULTURAL FEST ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH

held in the Fine Arts Plaza. We need dance, theatrical, traditional, etc. performances from all of the cultural organizations for the Campus Life Time, Cultural-Fest Show. And we need to know whether or not you would like to set up a table to sell some of your group's T-shirts, ethnic food, informational pamphlets, etc. These tables will be set up around the perimeter of the Fine Arts Plaza to give the day a real festive atmosphere. Please fill-out a registration form today.

M.P.B.-BALL TOURNAMENT AND BAR-B-Q ON SATURDAY, MAY 4TH

held behind the gym on the basketball courts. It is going to be C.S.O. versus C.A.S.B. and L.G.B.A. versus Destiny (hypothetically speaking) in an all out tournament of NBA (very) Hopefuls. Win \$200 dollars toward your next semester's budget and gifts & prizes for your team. The registration fee of \$5 for your team of 3 players can be made by an internal transfer from your Polity account to MPB. Fill-out a registration form today and start practicing your "ups" tomorrow.

ATTENTION POETS:

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL POEMS AND CREATIVE ARTS WORK IS
TYPED BEFORE IT IS SUBMITTED. DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE
YOUR NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER!!!!!!!

*thank you,
Monifa and Sudani*

Signs of Passion

(first six printed in previous issue)



LIBRA, THE SCALES September 23 to October 23

Libra's decisiveness will drive you crazy!!!! This sign is one of the kinkiest of the kinky, especially the Libran woman. The symbolism is scales, which usually means weighing the pros and cons of life and sex.

The Libra man has the art of making love down to a fine science, he sometimes gets lost in the foreplay, forgetting about the "play." But don't rush the man, because Librans love to play in bed all day and most of the night. He can be dramatic in his approach; he'll begin with an intimate candlelight dinner, (which he's prepared!) and champagne, followed by a bath with you, massage, and "dessert."

The woman of this sign will take it slow and easy, while she explores your body. In bed, she's willing and ready to do what's needed, she'll try anything once.

The opposite sign of Libra is Aries, and the Aries/Libra combination is "hot to trot" in the bedroom, but unless this pair comes up with something stimulating, a long-term commitment is not in the cards. They are most compatible with Leos, Sagittarians, Aquarians, and Gemini.

SCORPIO, THE SCORPION October 24 to November 21

If you're looking for exciting sex, you've come to the right person, but you better understand what you're getting into, because there's no turning back once you're involved with a Scorpion. While most people are satisfied with two orgasms, a Scorpion wants twelve!

"Sex" is the key word here. The Scorpion man or woman is totally obsessed with it. By that I mean how to get it and more of it, how to keep it, and how to improve on it. Nothing is taboo to them, and once aroused, they'll perform anytime and anyplace. When in bed, they mean business, and they must satisfy their insatiable appetite for sex. Soft caresses

are out, he's an animal in bed and she'll scratch 'till you holler.

One male Scorpion told me that he makes preparations for sexual encounters weeks in advance, choosing just the right music and lighting.

The goal of a Scorpion is to totally possess his mate, both physically and mentally, so proceed with caution.

The Scorpion woman is daring and experimental, and she'll do anything to prolong sex. Boring routines and methodical schedules are not her cup of tea because she brings intensity to all her sexual encounters. A Scorpion's best bet is someone born under the sign of Cancer, Pisces, Capricorn, or Virgo.

SAGITTARIUS, THE ARCHER November 22 to December 21

Never think you can totally possess a Sagittarian. They are flirts by nature and will move from person to person without a thought. They are adventurous and free-spirited. Their erogenous zones are hips, thighs, and all areas in between.

The males of this sign are happy-go-lucky types who view sex as play. They have a liberal attitude toward life and love. I once knew a dentist who had very little sex as a teenager, so, as an adult, he saw nothing wrong with carrying on two or three affairs at the same time. Let's get something straight now, a Sag man is his own person and will always be a bachelor, even when he's married.

The Sagittarian woman likes the appetizers, but she wants to move as quickly as possible to the main course; once at the table, however, she likes to linger over the entree. She doesn't like to experiment, and frequently moves from man to man in her search for sexual gratification. Her free spirit can lead her to lesbianism and bestiality.

Compatible signs are Libra, Leo, Aquarius, and Aries.

CAPRICORN, THE GOAT December 22 to January 19

Capricorns are self-absorbed and are more interested in the sexual act itself than in the sexual partner. They want to dominate in bed because control is important to them. Outwardly, they seem quite cold, but that's only a defense mechanism; once aroused, they are rough and sadistic.

A Capricorn woman doesn't like to be surprised in bed; she wants to know what to expect. And don't worry about a lot of preliminaries, because getting her aroused requires just a few nibbles of the ears and navel. She has a strong sex drive likes prolonged lovemaking. As her partner, you're in for a very long night!

The Capricorn man prides himself on his stamina and his ability to satisfy a woman. Don't make the mistake, however, of trying to lead the goat, because he won't tolerate it. Instead, let him take the lead. This man is easily aroused when everything is in place: slow, seductive music, soft lights turned low, and an exotic setting. Be careful though, he can be sadistic.

She/he mates best with Virgo, Taurus, Pisces, or Scorpio.

AQUARIUS, THE WATER BEARER

January 20 to February 18

Men and women of this sign are highly experimental, and will add bisexuality, homosexuality, and lesbianism to their repertoire. They move slowly in a relationship, but don't let that fool you; once these innovators of the sex world are aroused, watch out!!!! They will do anything to please their lovers, even setting their own pleasure aside in order to please their mates. Like the Scorpion, nothing is taboo to the Aquarian.

The Aquarius male can get bogged down in foreplay because he's a slow, considerate lover. He's a "no holds barred" kind of man, who quickly gets bored with routine sex.

The woman is a slow starter, but, once aroused, she's extremely creative and imaginative because she

loves variety. She is very sympathetic and giving in a relationship, so is sometimes attracted to impotent men, lonely women, and unhappy husbands. Idealistic and courageous, she is the most sexually liberated of women, and will do anything and everything for love. In a relationship, she is very tender, warm, and compassionate; consequently, she is often exploited by men who misread her romantic nature.

The Aquarian is drawn to those born under Aries, Gemini, Sagittarius, and Libra.

PISCES, THE FISH February 19 to March 20

Pisceans enjoy sex to the fullest: they are very creative in bed and are most cooperative in trying innovative types of sex. They will do just about anything short of death to please their partners. Their apparent shyness and timidity is only a front, for, once the doors are closed, they'll take you on the adventure of a lifetime.

Attractive, intelligent, and charismatic, the male is extremely passionate, self-indulgent, and sensitive to others. Although he likes to take the lead in bed, he likes an experienced, sexually demanding woman who will make all of his erotic fantasies come true. He's definitely a foot man; a mate will drive him wild by massaging his feet and sucking his toes.

The Pisces woman is sexually liberated and will do anything—wear outrageous costumes — to please her lover. Easily turned on by exotic settings and erotic games, she is a passionate woman who enjoys sex to the fullest and will sometimes use her body to get what she wants.

Capricorn, Taurus, Cancer, and Scorpio are compatible signs.

All material was a reprint of "Sexy Signs" from Black Erotica. (1992). New York: Doubleday Press.

Monifa H. Wilson

Quotable

*"Everybody's crying
out that we need a
leader, and the truth
is that we are the
leaders we've been
waiting for."*

-Angela Brown

JOIN BLACKWORLD

**GET INVOLVED AND LEARN HOW TO
RUN A NEWSPAPER.**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR
WRITERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS,
ARTISTS, AND PEOPLE WHO ARE
INTERESTED IN
COMPUTERS AND LAYOUT.
IF INTERESTED CALL 2-6494 OR
COME TO OUR GENERAL
BODY MEETINGS ON
WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 IN THE
STUDENT UNION ROOM 072.**

***IF YOU WOULD JUST LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE SOME OF YOUR
WORK, ALL ARTICLES, OPINIONS,
LETTERS, POETRY, CREATIVE WRITINGS,
DRAWINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS CAN BE BROUGHT TO
THE BLACKWORLD OFFICE (ROOM 072 IN THE STUDENT
UNION) ON TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS FROM 1-2PM.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 2-6494.***