



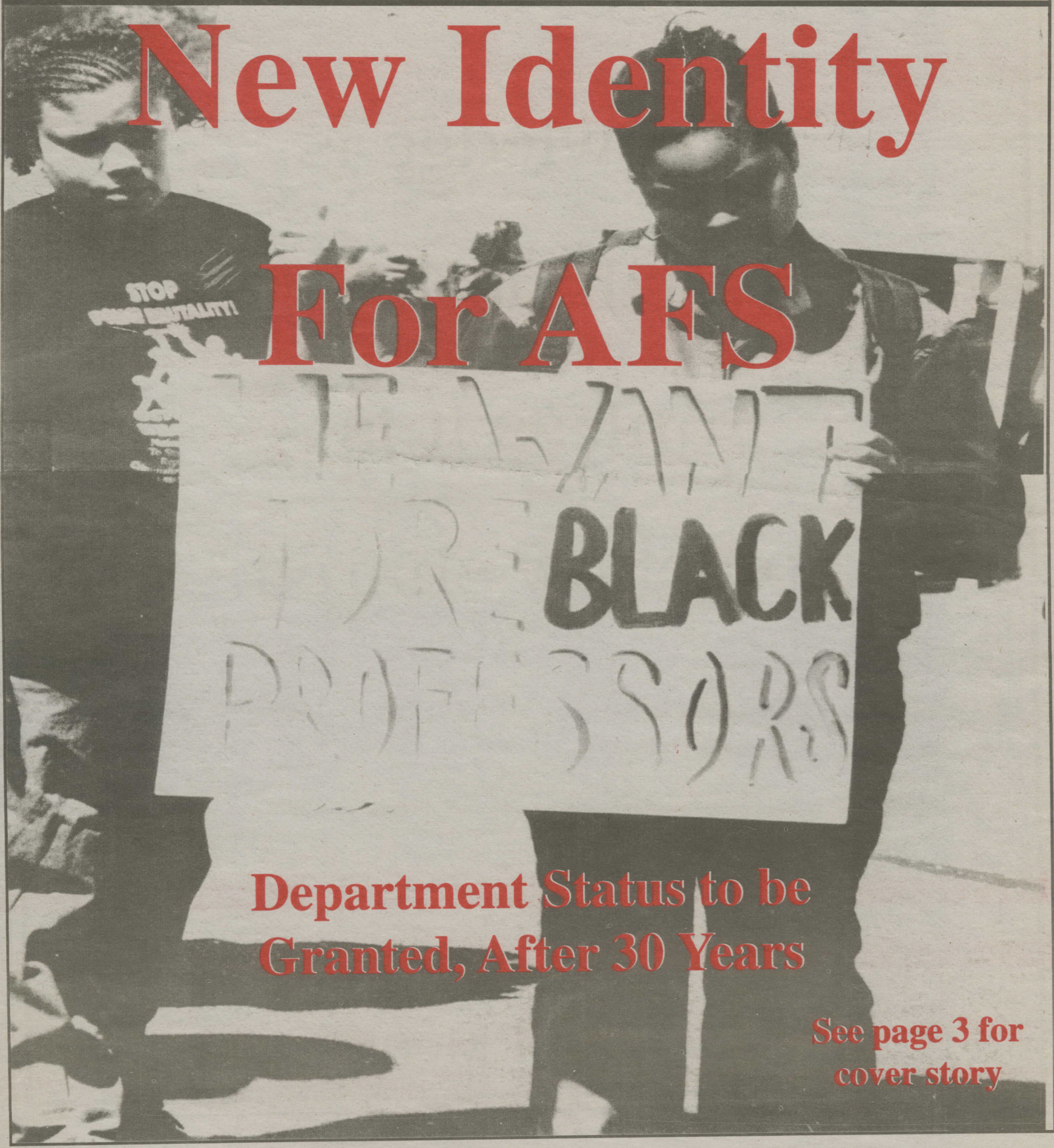
BLACKWORLD

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Week of October 25, 1998

ONE NATION

Volume 39, Number 2



New Identity For AFS

Department Status to be
Granted, After 30 Years

See page 3 for
cover story

Quotable:

Knowledge is
worth nothing
unless it is
somehow shared.

Dr. E. Anthony Hurley
Turner/AIM Mentors Program

AFS is Movin' On Up

By: Joy Mahabir

The College of Arts and Sciences Senate, recently voted unanimously to promote the Africana Studies Program to departmental status. The victory, still to be ratified by the University Senate on November 3rd, recognized the progress of both students and faculty in Africana Studies.

Addressing the Senate, Dr. William McAdoo, Chair of Africana Studies, said that the program had been functioning essentially as a department without official University approval. In his speech he said that a department is perceived to be more stable and more permanent than a program. Also, a department is generally held in higher

esteem by students, other faculty members, and administrators. He indicated that departmental status raises the potential for attracting top students and faculty.

Africana Studies has existed on this campus for 30 years, and its inception, like other Black Studies Programs in universities across the country, was the direct result of the Civil Rights movement. Many people died during the sixties so that their children and grandchildren would have access to education in this country, which by its economic nature, is both racist and sexist.

Education has always been a priority for Black communities in the Americas. We all know of the great love

our community has for knowledge, and of the value we place on our intellectuals, whether they operate inside the academy, or in other spheres of engagement. The promotion of Africana Studies is really a small step towards the consolidation of a more viable department that will offer a graduate degree and have more faculty members and an even larger student enrollment.

Africana Studies went through a successful review process in April that recommended its promotion. This recommendation was endorsed by President Kenny and her administrators. The current administration seems more enlightened and committed to diversity than the last. Former President John Marburger spent his tenure putting political interests over academic freedom, and publicly punished Africana Studies over the Dube affair, where a South African professor spoke out against Zionism and was ousted from the University for doing so. However, even during these difficult times, student advocates never wavered in their support.

Student activism played a huge role in the vote for departmental status. Last Spring, at the two Affirmative Action rallies organized by student leaders, students voiced their concern that Africana Studies be taken more seriously by the administration. "People are concerned that the courses are biased toward issues affecting only black students, but AFS tells the complete story," said Jarvis Watson, a senior.

"AFS has taught me about who I am, what my rights are as an American, and how everyone else has a history with trials and tribulations similar to my own as an African-American." Watson said he would demonstrate again if necessary because, "It's about time to change AFS into something real and something to be respected amongst the other majors."

Another student who took an active part in the demonstration, Marie Brierre, responded with delight to the change. "I am glad that our voices were heard," Brierre said. "I was also glad to see so many people working together for one cause." She was, of course, referring to the broad base of support from several groups on campus.

Junior, Cassandre Calvin summed up the feelings of the demonstrators, saying, "We took a stand for something we believed in and we made a difference. This is a great accomplishment for the AFS department, myself, as well as the other participants!"

Surprisingly, only the Maliks and members of BFSA went to the Senate meeting on October 12. The University-wide Senate will meet on November 3rd, Student Union Auditorium at 3:30 p.m. and more students will show up to see the vote. Several of the student leaders who organized the last demonstrations graduated in May, leaving gaps in our student leadership. We need to be vigilant, to keep ourselves organized and to mobilize other students. In the words of Frederick Douglass, Without Struggle There Is No Progress.



Student demonstrators rallying for justice

H.S.O. Says, "Stella's Lying"

By: Cassandra M. Regis

The controversy that started when a character in the movie, "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," implied that Haitian people carry the AIDS virus, made its way to Stony Brook when the Haitian Student Organization (HSO), collectively agreed to stop the display of the movie that was scheduled to be shown by the Committee On Cinematic Arts (COCA).

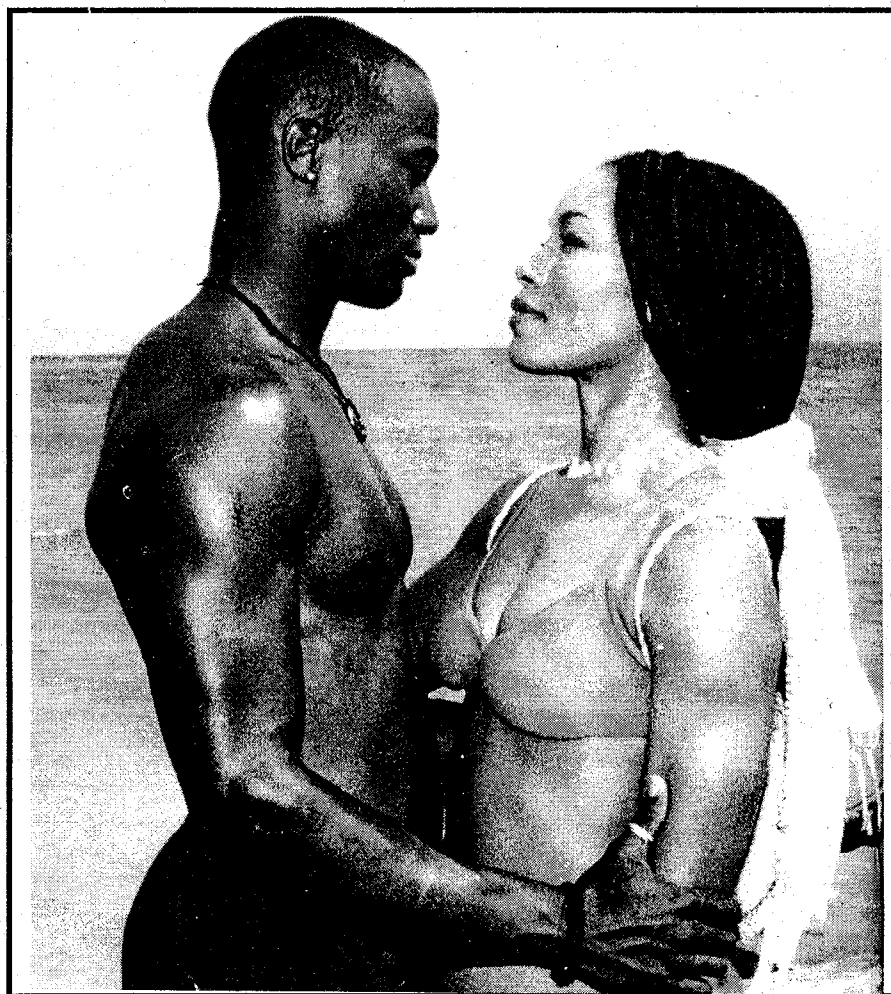
In one scene of the movie, Stella's sister, played by Suzanne Douglass, says "... you don't know what those island people have," and her other sister, played by Regina King, replies, "You talkin' about the Haitians!" Although the character's statement did not include the word AIDS, and did include the word diseases, people associated her statement with that particular disease.

Consequently, Wyclef Jean of the Fugees, made a widely publicized statement on the VH1 Music Video Awards, and in an interview on MTV, concerning the character's remark. He said although he sang a duet with Stevie Wonder on the soundtrack, he was very offended by what he heard in the movie. He believes AIDS is a serious topic and shouldn't be portrayed otherwise.

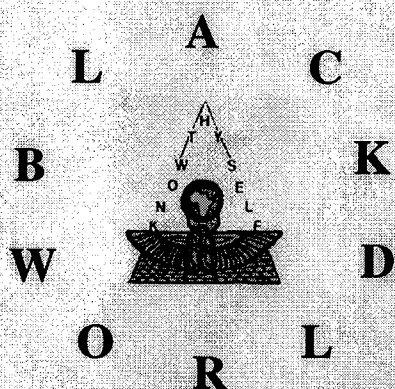
H.S.O. president, Wilgens Dorisme, saw the movie in the summer and was also appalled by the character's statement. He along with H.S.O. board members showed a clip of the movie on Sept. 17 at their weekly meeting. Dorisme commented that the screenwriter, "... tried to put all Caribbean people in one package." But the fact remains that Haiti is still viewed as a small, insignificant country by some.

Reether Birotte, an active H.S.O. member viewed the clip at the meeting and said, "As a Haitian, I feel that we have come too far for us to be labeled as such. There are a lot of ignorant people who get their messages from movies and other forms of entertainment because they do not know any better. That will be what they base their views on and they'll spread rumors or worst yet, teach younger children."

Both the Caribbean Student Organization and the Latin American Student Organization helped H.S.O. to petition to ban the movie from being shown on campus. Dorisme said that their efforts to cancel the movie involved Polity president, Aneka Gibbs and COCA



Continued on page 13

**"KNOW THYSELF"**

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The opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those shared by the Editorial board. Articles, viewpoints and poetry should be submitted to our office in room 072 of the Student Union or in our mailbox in the Polity suite in the Student Activities Center. Articles can be edited for length, clarity and grammar. The advertising policy does not necessarily reflect the editorial policy. Editorials are the opinions of the majority of the BLACKWORLD staff.

Editorial

Was it really necessary to make Africana Studies wait 30 years before it got the respect and departmental recognition that it deserves? That's like calling a grown man a boy even though he thinks, acts, and talks like a man.

The University should be ashamed to have made such a blatant and highly disrespectful "oversight." For the past 30 years Africana Studies has developed to become a fully-functioning department, according to University guidelines, but has been forced to suffer the insufficient label of "program."

In "Guidelines for New Departments, Programs, Institutes, Schools and Colleges," the University defines a department as "an academic unit in a school or college, offering a curriculum leading to a degree or certification and having a chairman who reports to the head of the college or school." In this same document a program is defined as "an academic unit that by reason of its small size or stage of development, has not been given departmental status."

Any student who has taken an Africana Studies class knows that AFS doesn't do anything on a small scale. Dr. Leslie Owens's slavery course is one of the largest in the nation! Cross-listed AFS courses with other departments also increases its enrollment and faculty status, so the small size requirement of a program

was exceeded by AFS for quite some time now. Also three decades of existence indicate that AFS is no longer in its infancy stages, and can be considered a department.

Another example of how Africana Studies has long been fulfilling the requirements of a department is that it is a degree granting unit, with both a major leading to a Bachelors Degree of Arts, and a minor.

It is not ironic that this historical decision is coming after a semester that was marked with student demonstrations, calling for justice and action by University administrators. Students and faculty brought to the forefront their concerns and dissatisfactions with the lack of Black professors, the increase in waivers, which were being used to forgo an official search for faculty of color, and the threats to affirmative action on campus.

University officials take great pleasure in heralding the diversity of students and faculty at SUNY Stony Brook, but how hypocritical is it for them to pat themselves on the back for having a diverse student body, and then ignore the contributions that Africana Studies has made to developing the diversity.

On Monday, November 2nd at 3:30 p.m., a University Wide Senate meeting will be held in the Student Union Auditorium, where senate members will vote on the elevation of the Africana

Studies Program to departmental status.

Dr. William McAdoo, chair of the program, is confident that the decision will pass without any complication. He says the first change to be implemented once AFS has gained departmental status will be a name change. In the new course bulletin that is being printed, Africana Studies will be identified as a department. The sign in the south hall of the second floor in the Social and Behavioral Sciences building, will be changed to read **Africana Studies Department**, along with all of the stationery.

It may only be one word, but it is the weight of the word that makes this situation so significant and historical. In his introductory remarks delivered on October 12, 1998, before a meeting of the College of Arts and Sciences Senate, Dr. McAdoo explicitly stated what departmental status means for Africana Studies: "A department is perceived to be stronger, more stable and more permanent than a program. A department is generally held in higher esteem by students, other faculty members, administrators, and those in other academic institutions who are aware of our status. . . . Justice requires the recognition of AFS as a department among departments at Stony Brook. This for us and for Stony Brook is a historic moment."

**Please Address All Letters
To The Editor To The
Student Union, Room
072.**

**Letters Can Be Directly
Submitted To The
BLACKWORLD Office
Or To The Mailbox In
The Polity Suite, SAC,
202.**

World Mourns Track Legend

By: Josephine Oduro

Florence Griffith Joyner, known as the female who elevated women's track, the mother who read the bible daily to her child, the wife who coached her husband and the friend who was always there, died on September 21, 1998. Ten years after her award-winning performance in the summer Olympics of 1988, the world mourns a legend.

Joyner was found dead in her home in Mission Viejo, Calif. Police and family members suspect that it was a heart seizure that claimed her life. She leaves behind her seven-year-old daughter, Mary, her grieving husband, Al and a world of admirers.

Florence Griffith Joyner known worldwide as "Flo-Jo," made a great impact on many during her 39 years of living. She impressed people with her extraordinary speed. She captured the eyes of many with her flashy one-legged track outfits and her exotic, colorful three-inch nails, and she captivated many hearts, with her difficult struggle to success.

Born on December 21, 1959 in the Watts housing projects of Los Angeles, Griffith rose from humble beginnings, as the seventh of eleven children, to become a world class sprinter and Olympic champion; clocking in at 23.5 mph in the 100 meter race. Griffith's tremendous

speed was exemplified early on, when at the age of six, she reportedly caught a jackrabbit; the fastest creature on the sand of the Mojave Desert.

Although she was a master at her trade, Griffith did not limit her talents to athletics. As a straight-A student, Griffith received a scholarship to UCLA where she majored in psychology. Her career took off after winning three gold medals and one silver in the 1988 summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea.

Flo-Jo was named "Sportswoman of the Year," Track and Field Magazine Athlete of the Year, Associated Press Sportswoman of the Year, UPI Sportswoman of the Year, Jesse Owens Outstanding Track and Field Athlete and Tass News Agency Sports Personality of the Year—all occurring in 1988. Also in 1989 she was named "Most Outstanding Amateur in America."

But being dubbed "The Fastest Woman in the World" definitely came with its drawbacks. Griffith repeatedly had to defend herself against persistent speculation from the media, that she used performance-enhancing steroids. But in an ironic twist the media has paid virtually little attention to her death.

In 1989 Griffith announced that she was retiring from the sport and that she would coach her husband, Al Joyner, who

is also an Olympic gold medalist.

Griffith a pioneer in her own right has a claim to many firsts. She was the first American woman to claim four Olympic medals in one year and she was

also the first woman to be appointed by President Clinton as chair of the President's Council on Physical-Fitness and Sports, replacing Arnold Schwarzenegger. Joyner believed that preventing illness was an initial step towards reforming our health care system.

Griffith also helped in endorsing milk ads, sporting the famous white mustache. She also encouraged goal-setting and achievement through the Florence Griffith Joyner Youth Foundation; a non-profit foundation that helped disadvantaged youth.

As Flo-Jo leaves this race for life and enters the race of eternity, all those who loved and admired her will remember her life, legacy and spirit.



FLORENCE GRIFFITH JOYNER, 1959-1998

Check it out at: <http://www.nsbe.org/>

MEAS

Minorities in Engineering
and Applied Sciences

A local Chapter of:

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS

Check out our websites at: <http://www.nsbe.org/> AND <http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Clubs/meas/>

About MEAS:

Minorities in Engineering and Applied Sciences (MEAS) is a student organization supported by Polity, the undergraduate student government of the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Our main goal is to recruit and retain minority students in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

The field of Engineering and Applied Sciences includes Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Information Systems, Applied Mathematics and Material Science. All of which are exciting areas to explore. These fields are expanding rapidly as it shapes our technological future. As a College of Engineering and Applied Science student at Stony Brook, you become a part of this ongoing and ever developing process.

If you have the curiosity and motivation to enter this field, we at MEAS encourage you to join our family. We provide tutors, hold mock exams, form study groups, counsel and give moral support as well as encouragement to our members. In doing so, we create a strong network in which you can realize your full potential.

NSBE General Body weekly meetings are held:
Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.
Student Activities Center, Room 305

ALL MAJORS ARE WELCOME AND ALL
STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!!!!

"The Rights And Responsibilities Of

Student Journalists" Conference

Tuesday, November 10th

9:30 a.m.--4:30 p.m.

Student Activities Center

***The conference is FREE to USB
STUDENTS, but registration is
required**

***Resource materials will be
distributed/Lunch and am/pm
snacks will be provided**

***Registration forms are available at
the Student Activities Office, Room
219 and at the Stony Brook Union,
Room 266**

**For more information, call 632-6820
Deadline is Monday, November 2nd**

Blacks Are Skeptical of Media Health Coverage

WASH., D.C.-- This past summer, African Americans reported in a national survey that they get most of their health information from television, with other media playing an important role; they also say they are skeptical of what they read and hear.

Overall, Blacks think the media is doing a poor job reporting on the health issues affecting them. They also say that coverage of social and health problems perpetuates negative stereotypes of Blacks. These are among the findings from a new national survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ).

More people say they received information in the last year about health care from television than from their doctors or other health providers. Newspapers rank a close third, with magazines and radio not far behind. Yet, most African Americans say they distrust the health information they get from the general media, about as much as they distrust information learned from the government.

Seven out of 10 African Americans (70%) say there are not enough stories about the health and

medical conditions that most concern Blacks. They also say the media under-represents African Americans in health stories, while over-representing them in crime coverage. The main reason for the lack of focus on how health issues affect Blacks, say African Americans, is that "most news organizations are not aware of - or interested in - the health problems of Blacks." Sixty-four percent say the latter is a reason, followed by limited health research on African Americans (58%), and too few Black journalists reporting on health care (56%).

Majorities also say the media "unfairly" stereotypes African Americans, by reporting on such issues as welfare dependency, births to single mothers, and teenage pregnancy as "Black problems." Half of White Americans agree that the media's coverage of welfare is "unfair" to Blacks, Latinos, and other minorities. But Whites are less likely than Blacks to see fault with the media's portrayal of minorities, in reporting on other health and social problems.

"Given the serious health problems that have historically plagued our community—from a high infant mortality rate to disproportionate cancer

deaths to the spread of AIDS—this report sends an urgent message to the news media to focus more attention on these critical issues for African Americans," said Vanessa Williams, president, National Association of Black Journalists. "The suggestion that most African Americans remain distrustful of the news media, and are turned off by the negative portrayals of Black people, points to the need for news managers to step up efforts to develop staffs and products that more accurately reflect this increasingly multicultural society."

While African Americans are concerned about their depiction in media reports on health issues, those that affect them the most have impacted their lives in significant ways: Seventy-one percent say they talked with a family member or friend about a health issue reported on the media; 55 percent say they changed their own behavior to improve their health; 49 percent say they talked with a partner about a sexual health issue; and 43 percent say they talked with a health provider.

"How and which health issues are covered - or not covered - can have an impact on people's lives," said Drew E. Altman, Ph.D., president, Kaiser

Family Foundation. He also stated, "The media matters to people's health."

Many African Americans give the media low marks for coverage of the health issues affecting Blacks in this country: 48 percent say the media does a "bad job," 31 percent "good job," and 18 percent are mixed. The media gets more credit, however, from African Americans for telling them and their family what they personally need to know about health and health care: 54 percent say the media does a "good job," 27 percent "bad job" and 18 percent are mixed. African Americans give better grades on both counts to media that is more directly oriented to black audiences.

Still, many say the media could be doing more on health issues from changes in policy, to how to discuss sex and other topics with children and HIV prevention. Drug abuse and alcoholism, and teen pregnancy, rate with major diseases like heart disease, AIDS and cancer, as among the top health problems cited by respondents as facing Black Americans today. Access to affordable health care and insurance, including Medicaid and Medicare also are of significant concern.

Racist Police Charge Motorists with DWB

NEW YORK — Spotting racial discrimination on America's highways, the American Civil Liberties Union criticized the police practice of stopping and searching minority motorists for the so-called crime of "driving while black."

In the seventh installment of its public policy advertising campaign running on the op-ed page of *The New York Times*, *The New Republic* and other publications, the ACLU said that drivers across the nation are being stopped by the police solely because of their skin color.

"On I-95 if you're black and driving a nice car, you fit a so-called 'drug courier profile,'" one advertisement says. "All over the country, thousands of innocent people — Members of Congress, prominent athletes and actors, lawyers, police officers, business leaders and their families — have been hauled out of their cars and subjected to humiliating roadside searches by police and drug-sniffing dogs."

The year-long advertising campaign, a first-ever effort for the 78-year-old organization, runs on *The New York Times* op-ed page once a month through December 1998. Each ad contains a briefly worded message from ACLU Executive Director Ira Glasser on topical subjects ranging from the war on drugs to religious freedom to government intrusions in the bedroom.

Linking the campaign theme of public vs. private morality to "Driving While Black" ad, Glasser asked Americans to consider how far we've

come from the days of segregation and lynch mob terror. "Obviously, legal and moral progress has been made since then," he concludes. "Bolt is it enough?"

The ACLU's advertisement was issued as Congress considers "The Traffic Stops Statistics Act of 1998," a bill that would encourage police to keep statistics on the race of motorists who are stopped and searched. H.R. 118, introduced by Rep. John Conyers, D-MI, was passed in the House last March, but remains stalled in the Senate.

At the same time, ACLU affiliates in Maryland, California and elsewhere around the country are fighting the "DWB" phenomenon in their communities. After California's Governor Pete Wilson vetoed a state version of the traffic stops bills, the ACLU announced a toll-free number for victims to call and report incidents. The national ACLU has posted a similar reporting form on its website at <http://www.aclu.org/forms/trafficstops.html>.

To further stimulate public discussion, the ads will have an interactive component through "message boards" on the ACLU's Freedom Network Website at <http://www.aclu.org/features/nytimesad100698.html>. Visitors to the website will be able to access background information on the subject of that month's ad, and will be invited to post their own thoughts to an interactive message board.

The remaining ACLU ads are scheduled to run Tuesdays on November 10 and December 1.

Let me ask you
something...
Should
"Driving While Black"
be a crime?

This is not a trick question. On highways all over this country, cars are being stopped by the police solely because of the driver's skin color. Dark skin color by itself is a cause for suspicion. On I-95 if you're black and driving a nice car, you fit a so-called "drug courier profile." In one ACLU lawsuit challenging this practice, we found that of the millions of people who travel I-95, only 20 per cent are black. Yet, according to police statistics, about 70 per cent of those pulled over and searched are black. All over the country thousands of innocent people - including Members of Congress, prominent athletes and actors, lawyers, police officers, business leaders and their families - have been hauled out of their cars and subjected to humiliating roadside searches by police and drug-sniffing dogs. Some have been handcuffed and manhandled before being let go. Thirty-five years ago, people were being lynched in this country because of the color of their skin. Obviously, legal and moral progress has been made since then. But is it enough? Think about it.

Ira Glasser
Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union
125 Broad Street
New York, New York 10004
www.aclu.org

African Fundamentalism

By: Marcus Garvey

A RACIAL HIERARCHY AND EMPIRE FOR NEGROES

NEGRO'S FAITH MUST BE CONFIDENCE IN SELF
HIS CREED: ONE GOD, ONE AIM, ONE DESTINY

(*Note: Originally written in 1925*)

The time has come for the Negro to forget and cast behind him his hero worship and adoration of other races, and to start out immediately to create and emulate heroes of his own. We must canonize our own saints, create our own martyrs, and elevate to positions of fame and honor black men and women who have made their distinct contributions to our racial history.

Sojourner Truth is worthy of the place of sainthood alongside Joan of Arc. Crispus Attucks and George William Gordon are entitled to the halo of martyrdom with no less glory than that of the martyrs of any other race. Toussaint L'Ouverture's brilliancy as a soldier and statesman outshone that of a Cromwell, Napoleon and Washington; hence, he is entitled to the highest place as a hero among men.

Africa has produced countless numbers of men and women, in war and in peace, whose luster and bravery outshine that of any other people. Then why not see good and perfection in ourselves? We must inspire a literature and promulgate a doctrine of our own without any apologies to the powers that be. The right is ours and God's. Let contrary sentiment and cross opinions go to the winds. Opposition to race independence is the weapon of the enemy to defeat the hopes of an unfortunate people. We are entitled to our own opinions and not obligate to or bound by the opinions of others.

A PEEP AT THE PAST

If others laugh at you, return the laughter to them; if they mimic you, return the compliment with equal force. They have no more right to dishonor, disrespect and disregard your feeling and manhood than you have in dealing with them.

Honor them when they honor you, disrespect and disregard them when they vilely treat you. Their arrogance is but skin deep and an assumption that has no foundation in morals or in law. They have sprung from the same family tree of obscurity as we have; their history is as rude in its primitiveness as ours; their ancestors ran wild and naked, lived in caves and in branches of trees, like monkeys, as ours; they made human sacrifices, ate the flesh of their own dead and the raw meat of the wild beast for centuries even as they accuse us of doing.

Their cannibalism was more prolonged than ours; when we were embracing the arts and sciences on the banks of the Nile their ancestors were still drinking human blood and eating out of the skulls of their conquered dead; when our civilization had reached the noonday of progress they were still running naked and sleeping in holes and caves with rats, bats and other insects and animals. After we had already fathomed the mystery of the stars and reduced the heavenly constellations to minute and regular calculus they were still backwoodsmen, living in ignorance and blatant darkness.

WHY BE DISCOURAGED?

The world today is indebted to us for the benefits of civilization. They stole our arts and sciences from Africa. Then why should we be ashamed of ourselves? Their *modern improvements* are but *duplicates* of a grander civilization that we reflected thousands of years ago, without the advantage of what is buried and still hidden, to be resurrected and somebody

laughs at us today? Who can tell what tomorrow will bring forth? Did they not laugh at Moses, Christ and Mohammed? Was there not a Carthage, Greece and Rome? We see and have changes every day, so pray, work, be steadfast and be not dismayed.

NOTHING MUST KILL THE EMPIRE URGE

As the Jew is held together by his *religion*, the white races by the assumption and the unwritten law of superiority, and the Mongolian by the precious tie of blood, so likewise the Negro must be united in one *grand racial hierarchy*. Our union must know no *clime*, *boundary* or *nationality*. Like the great Church of Rome, Negroes the world over must practice one faith, that of Confidence in themselves, with One God! One Aim! One Destiny! Let no religious scruples, no political machination divide us, but let us hold together under all climes and in every country, making among ourselves a Racial Empire upon which "the sun shall never set."

ALLEGIANCE TO SELF FIRST

Let no voice but your own speak to you from the depths. Let no influence but your own rouse you in time of peace and in time of war; hear all, but attend only to that which concerns you. Your allegiance shall be to your God, then to your family, race and country. Remember always that the Jew in his political and economic urge is always first a Jew; the white man is first a white man under all circumstances, and you can

do no less than being first and always a Negro, and then all else will take care of itself. Let no one inoculate you with evil doctrines to suit their own conveniences. There is no humanity before that which starts with yourself. "Charity begins at home." First, to thyself be true, and "thou canst not then be false to any man."

WE ARE ARBITERS OF OUR OWN DESTINY

God and Nature us what we are, and then out of our own created genius we make ourselves what we want to be. Follow that great law. Let the sky and God be our limit and Eternity our measurement. There is no height to which we cannot climb by using the active intelligence of our own minds. Mind creates, and as much as we desire in Nature we can have through the creation of our own minds.

Being at present the scientifically weaker race, you shall treat others only as they treat you; but in your homes and everywhere possible you must teach the higher development of science to your children; and be sure to develop a race of scientists par excellence, for in science and religion lies our only hope to withstand the evil designs of modern materialism.

Never forget your God. Remember, we live work and pray for the establishing of a great and binding racial hierarchy, the founding of a racial empire whose only natural, spiritual and political limits shall be God and "Africa, at home and abroad."

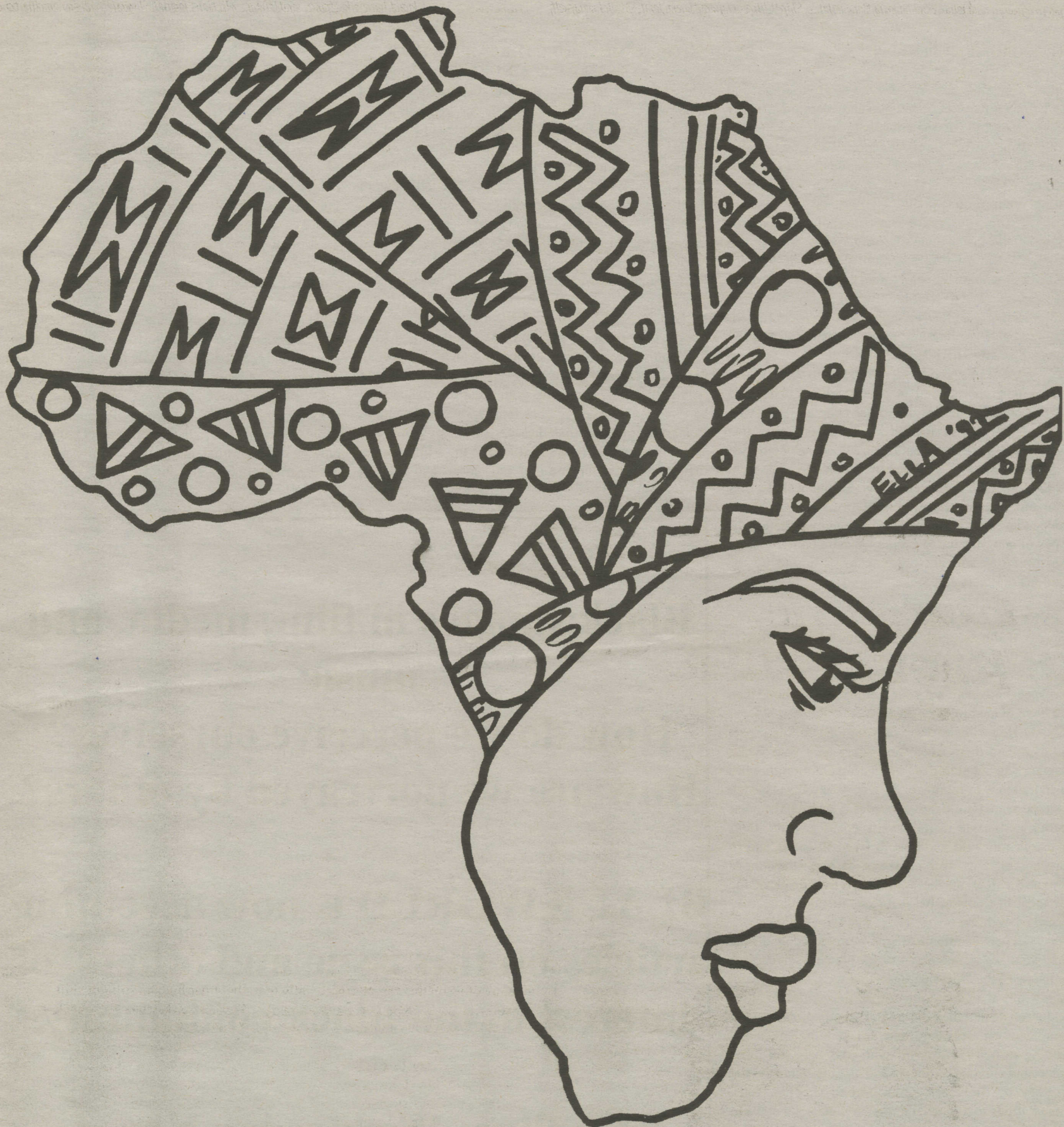
Black Images in film, media, and music

How do we perceive ourselves?
How are we portrayed by others?

BLACKWORLD is now accepting
articles on this issue and others, of
interest to the Black community.

Deadline: Wednesday Nov. 4

Creative Arts



and poetry

Summer Shadows

By: Suzianna Bromfield

It was raining the afternoon when the call came. I tried to act unaffected, after all it was expected, so it ought not to have been a big deal. Keeping my true feelings in, I coolly remarked to my family, Guess what? Farrah's dead." After hanging up the phone, I stood still for a few minutes trying to find a plateau in my thoughts. I felt like crying then, but I told myself not to, since it was pointless. I felt knots tightening in my throat. I tried hard to ignore them, but this did not work at all. I heard the words from a Cranberries' song playing on the radio, "I remembered when we were young and we did not give a damn." And regardless of my efforts to hold back the tears burning my eyelids, they rolled down my cheeks like a river overflowing its banks on a stormy day.

I had predicted Farrah's death only a week before, and thought somehow that knowing would detach me from any feelings of loss or pain. I remember casually saying with acceptance that she would die. And now that she had, I felt responsible, as if I had allowed it to happen by not having faith. Mingled with the hurt of losing someone who was so close to me was this odd sense of guilt. We met in the seventh grade and were good friends all throughout high school in Jamaica. Our friendship was one of complete honesty; we respected each other and often sat and talked about all of the things we wanted to do in the future. She had dreams of becoming a renowned lawyer and dancer by combining the two things she loved doing most: arguing and dancing.

Farrah had been sick for at least three years and regardless of her bold fight to regain her life, it all seemed to fail. No one knew what was wrong with her, so no one knew how to cure her. I remember the first time I found out she was sick. "One day I was walking and BAM!" she jokingly said, "my eyes blurred and I couldn't see anything." She'd always struggled to describe what she'd experienced to others, as if she herself didn't quite believe or grasp the reality of her sudden blindness.

Her vision became a preoccupation of everyone: all of her friends, schoolmates, teachers, even the principal. It was crazy at first; I had only been living in New York for six months when her illness began. When I first heard of Farrah's condition it seemed unreal and impossible. She was sixteen, and stuff like that only happened to older people, I thought. Everyone was

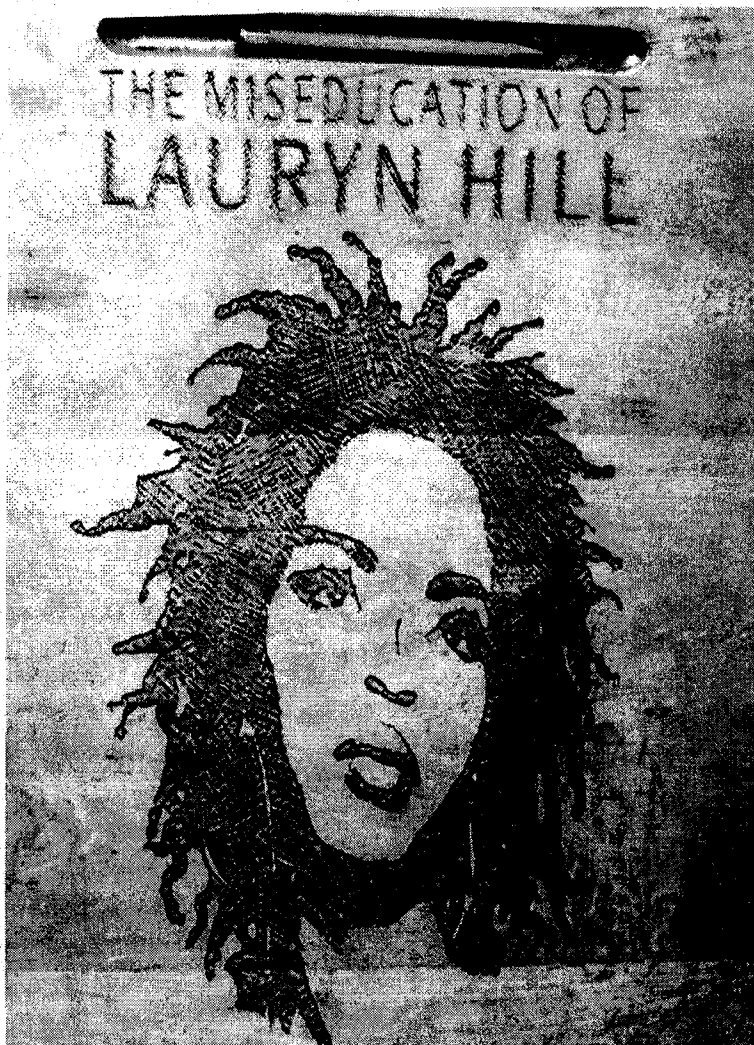
optimistic, though; her vision did not appear to be permanently lost. The doctors had no answers as to what might have caused the problem. In fact, they didn't quite understand what the problem was. When it became apparent that the doctors in Jamaica could not help, our friends and schoolmates got together and threw a large party to raise funds for her to visit doctors in Florida. But the results there were like it had been before: nothing. At this point I wanted so badly to do something to help, even though I was miles away. I prayed. I would sometimes wonder, "Why Farrah? She was so talented."

When Farrah returned to Jamaica from Florida, she was resolved to move on, and even though her sight was not completely lost, she started learning how to read Braille. She decided to resume her studies for the college admission exams. Not long afterward her vision returned, and it seemed as though our prayers were answered. Her sight, however, was not permanent. It came and went over a period of time, as though faith was playing a flirtatious game with her—teasing and taunting, giving hope then taking it back. But Farrah was a determined person, and this (like most battles) she seemed determined to win. She continued her studies and went on to do her exams. She had friends take notes for her and take her dictation for written exams. On the outside, she maintained her sarcastic humor and sharp wit, entertaining everyone with her fast-talking "lisp-tongue," going on and on forever, pretending to be confident and optimistic, not letting anyone know how scared she really was.

I recall Farrah coming to New York one summer to visit an eye specialist that my mother had recommended. He could not diagnose the problem, and it seemed no one knew the cause for her sudden blindness. Farrah had gained weight as a side-effect of prescribed steroids, and this made her uncomfortable and insecure. She'd always had a great figure that she took much pride in. It was easily maintained, as she was the best dancer in the school's dance troupe, as well as a cheerleader. She visited me, and I remember us talking like old times, about going to college, the future and our fears. She told me that she tried to act as if everything was well with her emotionally, so as not to get pitied by others. But deep down she was scared. Farrah was always proud and considered conceited by many (myself included), but we all liked her. And looking back, I realize now that she needed someone to vent her frustrations and fears to.

Continued on page 12

Lauryn Hill's CD-- Phat or Whack??



By: Fiona Bailey

Attention Stony Brook students! Have you heard the hottest album of the decade? Well if you haven't it is advised that you purchase Lauryn Hill's new CD: "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill." It is just off the hook! Her artistic skill varies from exclusive rap lyrics to passionate poetic phrases which all people can jam to.

There are three main songs that I must bring to the attention of all my BLACKWORLD Newspaper readers: the second track entitled, "Lost Ones", the fourth track, "Zion", and the eighth track, "When it Hurts so Bad." Just to give you a brief overview of her album, let me put you on about the ones I just highlighted for you.

The lyrics of track two express the hypocrisy of back-stabbers we all should be aware of. Now I know this may be familiar to many of us on this campus, especially to those who have experienced the shady attitudes of various males and females students.

Track four brings attention to her first-born son Zion. Lauryn accentuates her love through lyrics such as "...the joy of my world is in Zion." In this song she also talked about how people influenced her to use her head but instead she chose to go with her heart.

Last but not least, track eight emphasizes the pain that love brings when someone you love, fails to love you back.

Now I'm not going to get too deep into her lyrics 'cause you just have to get her album to know where I'm coming from.

Her style of dress, attitude, and physique, gives out a positive role model for young black females of today. I strongly urge all those who enjoy a variety of different music to purchase a copy of her album. If you can't get it, tape it from someone else. If that does not work keep in tuned to Hot 97 and your bound to hear songs off her album.

Although I support her album to the fullest there are still those that have their own opinion on her CD. Here are some positive and negative critiques off the internet:

(Note: These ratings are given on a scale of one through ten, one being the worst and ten the greatest.)

Christine from Virginia—7 out of 10

"It's okay but it could had some improvement. There has been a lot of sh*t 'bout her but she still got skill."

Queen Bitch from New York—

1 out of 10

"A very big disaster I was upset...I'm used to hearing her jack songs up. Can't she come up with anything original."

Mel from Rochester, NY via Newburgh, NY—8 out of 10

"L Boogie is all that. However, I expected more hardcore sh*t. She got skills not to mention she can sing."

Jomo from Jamaica, West Indies—10

"I love Lauryn, she is truly brilliant."

Mike Berkly—1 out of 10

"It should get a negative 5,000,000,000...it was garbage...I hope she dies."

To All the Men

TO ALL THE MEN THAT HAVE HURT ME
WITHOUT YOU I WOULDN'T BE THE "T" I AM TODAY
THROUGH ALL MY TEARS AND PAIN I'VE GROWN OUT OF MY
INSECURITIES

ALL OF YOUR MISTREATMENT AND DISAPPOINTMENTS HAVE
ENLIGHTENED ME OF WHO MY TRUE LOVER IS. THIS PERSON
DOESN'T STAND ME UP OR LIE TO ME

ALL MY UNANSWERED BEEPS AND LONELY NIGHTS GAVE ME A
CHANCE TO REFLECT ON WHO REALLY LOVES ME. MY NEW
LOVER VALUES MY TIME AND CHERISHES MY PRESENCE

ALL OF YOUR CHEATING AND SCHEMING HELPED ME TO
UNDERSTAND WHO DESERVED ALL OF ME. I NEGLECTED THIS
PERSON THROUGH ALL THIS TURMOIL

THIS PERSON NEVER STOOD A CHANCE IN MY EFFORT FOR YOUR
AFFECTION

THIS PERSON STOOD IN THE BACKGROUND WHILE I SACRIFICED
MY LIFE FOR ALL OF YOU

THIS PERSON STOOD BY AND WATCHED ALL OF YOU DISCARD
MY LOVE

THIS PERSON WAS ME

BUT YOU ALL GAVE ME CHARACTER AND CONSTRUCTED A
BEING OF LOVE

AND THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN SELF LOVE

I THANK YOU
THIS PERSON

--SONIE DeCAIRES

P

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About Last Night . . .

SIMULTANEOUS ERUPTIONS
MELDING WITH YOU
MELDING WITH ME
GLORIOUS REVELATIONS
OF WHAT CAN HAPPEN
WHEN "WE" HAPPEN
LOST LOVE FOUND

NO TRUST ACQUIRED
TEMPORARY PLEASURE
GAINED THROUGH PELVIC
THRUSTS
TEMPORARY REPRIEVE
FROM DISTRAUGHT
LOUD SILENCE

SIMULTANEOUS DISRUPTIONS
LEAVING YOU
LEAVING ME
ABSENT RESOLUTION
IT SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED
"WE" SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED
LUST WAS FOUND

NO TRUST ACQUIRED
TEMPORARY PLEASURE
GAINED THROUGH PELVIC
THRUSTS
TEMPORARY REPRIEVE
FROM DISTRAUGHT
QUIET SCREAMS

SIMULTANEOUS
DISAPPOINTMENTS...

--JOYGASM

Gender Vernacular

Is egalitarianism Real?

Haven't rigid gender roles squashed this ideal?

Can women except happiness and still be virtuous?

Our expectations of women are notorious.

Are male/female relationships just an unequal game?

It's a shame, I refuse to raise my daughter to be
powerless,

That would be disastrous.

We socialize women to be passive, and silly men
attribute this to their massive
ego. As an inspector of socially constructed oppression I
know! That they owe! All women an apology, And if
they think I'm wrong they should study sociology.

I can empathize with the desire for men to feel strong,
but we shouldn't feel the need to dominate women in
order to belong.

Every man is sexist to some degree,

Ask a man to take a pay cut to equalize the income disparity.

If you do you'll see, that men like me,

Have trouble feeling masculine without a sense of male superiority.

But this antiquated ideology does not just exist in men,

Women cry for equality between the genders like that within yin and yang.

It's funny that I've never heard a feminist speak of a female draft,
because equality in this respect is not on their behalf.

As I advance in age I realize people get, what they expect.

That is why a man should never see his mother put in check.

By a man who usurps her power,

for when that boy matures he will surely make other females cower.

This will make their brothers or sons sour.

The manifestation of uncontrolled rage is out of our control,

we must be cautious or the aftermath of sexism will have us all on parole.

--Louis Woods

Oral Traditions

WHEN I WAS 15	WENT DOWN.
AND HEAVILY CLAD	I
WITH SADDLE SHOES	WONDERED
AND POM POMS	WHAT HE WAS
I PLAYED	THINKING
A GAME THAT	WHILE
MY BEST FRIENDS	HAVING SILENT
CHEERED FOR.	CONVERSATIONS
I KNOCKED	DOWN
GENTLY	BELOW.
ON HIS DOOR	LIP
SMELLING	TO
LIKE TEEN SPIRIT.	LIP
I WAS READY	RELATIONS.
FOR HIM TO	I
OPEN US UP.	WAS READY
HE COMMENCED	FOR MY
TO KNOCKING	FIRST
TIMBERLAND.	CIGARETTE.
COMBAT.	HE
AND	WAS SEARCHING
GORTEX	FOR
BOOTS.	A WAY TO
WE	LIGHT
WAITED	MY FIRE.
FOR STOLEN	DAMN.
ANSWERS.	I
HIS LOVE CAME	HOPE
UP	HE DOESN'T
AND	WANT
MY LEGS	ME TO RETURN
OPENED UP.	THE FAVOR.
MY LOVE CAME	I
DOWN	DON'T
WHEN HIS	SMOKE.
LIPS	

~JOYGASM

Two Men In My Life

Bout to give birth to a child, who you don't know.
He's part of you but also part of someone you thought
you knew.

Can you nurture him to be the man you always wanted?
Or can he flip it and manifest into the man who broke
your heart?

Belly overwhelmed, feet swollen: He's already causing
you pain.
But there's no greater pain than emotional.

You beg God to give you the inner strength to guide him
to the right way of life.
And not to be trife, like the man who helped create him.

He'll be the center of your soul.
The reason for your breath.

And you pray and pray he won't leave you in your
deepest need for his affection and love like his father . . .

--Sonjie DeCaires

Bold and beautiful you are.
Love yourself first, before loving something else.
Actions speak louder than words.
Can never be duplicated.
Kapturing the truth is what you live for.

Where can we as a people go.
Only one can lead in this race.
Ready or not it has already begun.
Lonely days are no longer present.
Denial is not an option.

Coffee is strongest when dark. The tanning industry is
booming because of my complexion. Then tell me why it is so
hard to get a job at that tanning salon that I help give existence to.
You try so hard to be like me, that you kill yourself. There are
12.5 percent of us in America. So can we get at least 12.5 percent
of the jobs that escape our grasp so often? If it were my world,
there wouldn't be any black and white issues, because everybody
would be one color, black. Not because I'm black, but because I
live in a BLACK WORLD.

--Kinsley Kwateng

The Conspiracy of Death in Black Communities

Part I

By: Simcael Mason

"The planet revolves, supposedly man evolves. But no problem is solved because man is the cause. For the sake of eugenics, biochemists create ethno-specific epidemics, injecting the public and clinics. Then when the truth comes out: 'You Black people are so paranoid!' But who murdered Africa? The World Health Organization. Before 1978 there was no blood with AIDS contamination. It ain't little green monkeys. It's little white honkeys: crossing Bovine-leukemia with sheep Vesna-virus."

The aforementioned quote is from the song entitled "Order Out of Chaos," off of the album *Soul on Ice* by Ras Kas. It's very convenient for this article's purpose because it addresses two key factors. One that there is indeed a conspiracy to destroy our people and these intents are systematically carried out by European officials. Two that there exists physical historical facts which support our people's so-called paranoia. However, I think it to be quite fitting to start with the disease known as AIDS in this context.

Within the word "conspiracy" is the word "conspire." According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary the word "conspire" is defined as the following: "to combine or work together for any purpose or effect." This definition corresponds to all events in history that were not observed by anyone save its participants.

The epidemic known as AIDS has been around for quite some time. Traces of it can be linked to the Vervet Monkey disease (read *YURUGU* by Marimba Ani, for further information). However, the virus was officially given public exposure around 1978 in London, England. Seven years later, it was popularized in the U.S. that "70-75 percent of the people with AIDS were homosexual or bisexual men; 17 percent were intravenous drug abusers." Then two years later, Africa "mysteriously" became the origin for AIDS, and the virus became synonymous with the motherland.

Marimba Ani describes this scenario quite well in her book *YURUGU*: Suddenly Africa emerged as the "probable" birthplace of the AIDS virus. "Experts" on talk shows focusing on AIDS would briefly make statements to this effect . . . then quickly move onto another point, never giving evidence to support such a conclusion. Homosexuality is not associated with African civilization since African cultural values place priority on female-male conjugal relationship as the basis

of the "extended" family and for the procreation of children. Yet the experts get around this . . . They begin to talk about the Green Monkey as . . . being associated with the contracting of AIDS." According to these experts, at least 10 million people in Africa were infected already.

She goes on further to say that "According to Strecker [author of *The Strecker Memorandum*], if the Bovine and Vesna viruses are crossed, AIDS is the result." Now there is a possibility that Mr. Strecker may be wrong. But given the past 20th century U.S. history of Europeans in relation to us, such as with COINTELPRO, it's more reasonable than not to take his statement as a truthful one. In any case, WHO (World Health Organization) decided to vaccinate people in Africa, Haiti, and Brazil from "smallpox" in 1987. Interestingly enough, these areas are the same locations in which the AIDS virus broke out mysteriously and sporadically—this also included Japan. It doesn't appear to be a mystery over who is being used as a collective scapegoat for AIDS.

However, in 1932, the U.S. government, using its Public Health Service as a smokescreen, conducted experiments termed "The Tuskegee Study." These experiments were enacted upon Black Men, solely to see what would happen to them while being in the advanced stages of syphilis. It involved 399 men with the disease and 201 without—these brothers were used as controls for the experiment. All of these brothers were basically coerced into the entire experiment due to certain incentives like free physical examinations and checkups. However, what they did not know was the malignant mentality of the man, whom they dealt with.

For forty years white scientists watched our brothers wither away to their deaths. No sense of remorse nor compassion was ever expressed in the course of the experimentation, if it were the scientists wouldn't have continued for as long as they did. In any case, the only other participant in the experiment, who was not European, was a sister. She acted as the bridge between our brothers and these demoniacal scientists. Unfortunately, she aided these monsters, therefore either she was a traitor to our people, or the most ignorant Black woman to ever exist.

Despite the "Tuskegee Experiments," in 1979 a woman in Atlanta, Georgia, searching for empty cans and bottles, came across two dead bodies. These dead bodies were two young brothers named Edward Smith,

and Alfred Evans. These two young brothers' corpses would later become a string of young dead brothers in Atlanta. This string was known as "The Atlanta Child Murders." These "mysterious" murders would continue the next two years after the first discovery in 1979. In all a total of 26 young brothers was murdered, some young as eleven years old.

Accordingly, as with all tragedies that collectively concern our people, the media was slow to acting on what was going on in Atlanta at the time. I'd say they deliberately didn't act on it. Nevertheless, it wasn't until 1980 that the young brothers who were being murdered received national attention. As a result, the FBI and GBI were dispatched to investigate the matter. On June 21, 1981, they had found their culprit: Wayne Bertram Williams. According to the FBI and GBI, this brother was responsible for all the murders of the children.

However, *The Final Call* (June 16, 1998) gives another side to the story: "Mr. Williams was convicted in February 1982 after a nine-week trial for the murders of Nathaniel Carter and Jimmy Ray Payne, two adults. The child murders were not among his charges, but evidence from their cases were used to establish a pattern and conclude that he was a serial killer." As well, Sheriff Dorsey—the Detective on the Atlanta Task Force investigating the murders at the time—stated "I never felt like Wayne Williams committed the crimes. The details surrounding his arrest were very sketchy.... The evidence just wasn't there."

The parents of the slain young brothers do not believe Mr. Williams is the culprit neither, but that the crimes are racially motivated. Therefore, the question is "How could Mr. Williams be the murderer of the children given the fact that he was only convicted of murdering two adults, the child murders weren't among his charges, the Sheriff's statement, and what the parents believe?" Unfortunately this question will not be considered viable by some of us.

The latter is simply because a certain number of us believe what the *New York Post*, *New York Times*, *Daily News*, *Newsweek*, *Village Voice* etc. . . prints, even though they have absolutely nothing to do with the collective well-being of our people. Yet, because *The Final Call* is connected to the Nation of Islam, and Minister Louis Farrakhan, the so-called hate-monger, "reverse-racist," and "anti-Semite," they doubt the credibility of its words. They doubt its words even though the N.O.I. and Minister Louis Farrakhan, do not have a history of dehumanizing our people.

Summer
Shadows
Continued
from page 9

Months later, I was told that Farrah had been hospitalized and was paralyzed. The disease had become more bizarre than ever. I recall one of our friends describing to me a disease so strange it could have been from an episode of the *X-Files*. She was using the toilet one day, and when she tried to get up she couldn't. She experienced spasms and pain running through her body like electricity, her entire body had failed and she was bedridden. Farrah often said afterward that the only things that still worked were her brain and mouth, and she fully utilized them.

When she returned to New York again, she was on a stretcher. She was mere bones from losing a tremendous amount of weight. This time she was desperately seeking help from a reputable Oriental doctor who focuses on nutrition and diet. He, too,

could not diagnose what was the cause of her illness; he gave her a diet with bland foods—no salt, no sugar, mostly brown rice and other grains. She was optimistic when she left for Jamaica that time. And evidently there was some minor progress, but it was not permanent. Farrah finally gave up after three years of fighting this nameless, unknown stranger disease that had invaded her being, and she could not fight the battle alone any more. She surrendered, leaving behind friends who cared, but who also gave up on her. I know deep down I did—not knowing the consequence. I sometimes wonder: if I hadn't, would she still be here? I know this is pointless. But . . . somehow three months after that summer afternoon, even after knowing her body has been put to rest, I feel she is still here, trying to find out "Why?" and searching for a voice to speak.

The Holocaust: Black or European Jewish?

Part I

By: Simcael Mason

The word "holocaust" literally means "a whole burnt offering," or "burnt whole." However, according to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, it is defined as a "great or total destruction of life especially by fire." Therefore, many holocausts have occurred in history, such as the Jim Jones' cult mass suicide, the witch hunts of medieval Europe, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the Korean massacres enacted by the U. S. from 1945-1948. But there is only one particular holocaust in which children, in all levels of education, are obliged to study systematically and acknowledge, as if it's the only one to have ever befallen a group of people in history: the European Jewish holocaust.

The European Jewish holocaust is indeed a tragedy of European intracultural history, and is something many European nations would like to forget. Yet history, and reparations, offers the victims no solitude of comfort in getting past their destruction by their own relatives. However, what does afford the victims solitude of comfort—though not necessarily helping them get past it—is presenting their holocaust as the greatest and seemingly only one to ever befall a group of people in history. This is even at the expense of the two million, or more, Gypsies or Roma people who were murdered as well. Their destruction is generally overlooked, I believe, due to

them being Dravidian (African) descendants. Their African ancestry is clearly noted in their phenotype, by historians describing them as a "dark complexioned people."

In any case, the persecution of European Jews is not called "The European Jewish holocaust." It is labeled "The Holocaust." Therefore, implying and literally saying, "The European Jewish holocaust is *The Holocaust* because it is the most important and greatest holocaust in the history of humanity." This proclamation is indeed a grave a mistake on their part and many people who believe the myth of their holocaust being *The Holocaust*. However, it is spiritually and mentally devastating to Black people since we are taught, from birth to death, to sympathize with their destruction—by their own people—when they refuse to be sympathetic to our holocaust and no one else's. But, since they deliberately make it a point in fact to compare their holocaust to all historical ones, especially ours, we shall see if their holocaust was indeed greater than ours. Thus, we will start from the 15th century.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in great numbers on the shores of Africa. During this time, 1438, they had set up trading posts with our sisters and brothers along the continent. Unfortunately though, the

Portuguese were allowed to erect forts along the coast of West Africa and created their greatest achievement: Elmina Castle. Elmina Castle was one of many slave dungeons in which our people were held in bondage, awaiting to be stolen or kidnaped and whisked away to a foreign land. The fortress was completed in 1482, and for nine years they along with the Spaniards erected forts in Africa. However, it was the year of 1491 which ushered in this aspect of our holocaust. For it sparked the end of Moorish (African) and Islamic control in all of Europe, increased the fervor of European Catholic nationalism, and established a new type of control in Africa and subsequently the world.

A year later Cristobal Colone (Christopher Columbus) set sail with intentions of plundering and dominating any foreigners he encountered. In fact, in reference to indigenous people of the Caribbean, on his first voyage Cristobal stated in his journal "your Highness should order them all to be brought to Castile [Spain], or to be kept as captives on the same island; for with fifty men they can all be subjugated and made to do what is required of them...." Obviously he didn't set sail with any intention beyond exploiting foreign people and their natural resources. But, equally obvious and sad is that the indigenous people's holocaust fully complements ours.

Accordingly, once the Arawaks

had welcomed Cristobal and his diseased-ridden men they literally nursed all of them back to health. Cristobal compensated these highly spiritual and benevolent people by the way most Europeans treat foreign people. Therefore, in Columbus: His Enterprise, by Hans Koning, "Men, women and children on Columbus' Hispaniola [now Haiti and the Dominican Republic] were hacked to pieces and the pieces sold from stalls to the Spanish soldiers for their dogs. It was considered good military policy to give those dogs the taste for Indians. The same natives who had welcomed the Spaniards as gods soon started mass suicide by eating poisoned roots and within two generations the Carib Indians were destroyed." Hans Koning further continues: "He had the Indian chiefs hanged and roasted on slow-burning fires to break all resistance against the forced collection of gold dust in the streams." Yet, Cristobal's reign of terror didn't stop there, but was just beginning and heavily aided by Spain and Portugal.

Thus, the late elder professor Edward Scobie, quoting Bartholomew de las Casas, states that "Babies were snatched from their mother's breasts and a brave Spaniard's strength was tested by his ability to tear an infant into two pieces by pulling apart its tiny legs. And the pieces were given to the hounds that in their hunting they might be more eager to catch their prey." In short, "from 12 to 25 million indigenous Americans were killed on the islands in the Caribbean." That's just the islands. What about South and North America? Undoubtedly thrice those numbers of deaths, including the Americas, still are understated estimates.

But, we are told by scholars, professors, academicians etc . . . that Bartholomew de las Casas' description and number of deaths in *The Holocaust* for our indigenous sisters and brothers is, and remains, "questionable." Yet still, we (African and Indigenous people) are criticized for questioning the number of six million [How many of this number are the Roma people?] European Jews and Schindler's list. Nor are we respected for being more sympathetic toward our own Holocaust than theirs: they compare their holocaust to ours, and we are scrutinized for questioning their comparison.

In any case, according to the late elder Dr. John Henrik Clarke, in his book Christopher Columbus & the AFRIKAN HOLOCAUST, "The destruction of the Caribs and the Arawaks in the Caribbean islands through disease, rape of their women and sometimes out and out murder . . . made it a necessity for the Spaniards and other Europeans to create a rationale for the enslavement of the Africans." Thus, we are at an aspect of the threshold for what logically can only be considered *The Holocaust*.

Stella's Lying

Continued from page 3

president, Shaneeza Gillis.

Gillis was happy to have the subject brought to her attention. She stated that the movie was canceled because she didn't want to offend anyone. Gillis wanted to prevent any problems from occurring. "It just shows that through any adversity or crisis, Haitian people stick together," Gillis said.

Marti E., a senior and psychology major, who has seen the movie, disagrees with her fellow Haitians. She said she wasn't personally offended. Although she knows that it was a wrong thing to say, she thinks Haitians shouldn't feel discriminated against because, it's just a movie. She says, "If we educate people more, people would know that [AIDS] is not a gay or Haitian disease." "It's everybody's disease, and if we have a positive viewpoint on how we are educating people about AIDS, comments like that won't bother us."

On October 1st, the campus

radio station, WUSB FM, had a call-in session for those who had opinions on this issue. One of the callers, Joyal Miasia McNeil, said, "The movie was trying to show us the kind of ignorant things that come from an ignorant person, and if one really paid attention to the movie, they would see that."

"It wasn't meant to be taken as truth or some kind of axiom, it was meant to give a little more insight into the character. In the movie, you have limited time and space, and a lot of times provocative things need to be said and everything has to be intensified and exaggerated."

Ray Laforest is one of the initiators of the demonstration that was held at Times Square on September 25, and a member of RATI (Resemble To Defend Immigration Rights). He says he didn't see the movie because he refused to spend his hard-earned money on it, but he did see a clip.

Laforest was informed about the movie on Aug. 21 by the Miami Herald and had sent word out to radio stations by the 29th. RATI also drafted a letter to Bill Mechanic, president of Twentieth Century Fox, with a list of demands that included a public apology to the Haitian people, an edit of the line in the movie and future publications, and an AIDS education program.

Fox didn't answer for three weeks and when they finally did they offered an apology to RATI only and not the public. Laforest says Terry McMillan, the author and screenwriter of "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," isn't excused, in his eyes, because she co-produced and co-wrote the movie. "I don't believe that my culture is better than others, but I hope that we stick together, and in that way we could make a big impact in this country just as much as in Haiti."

Leaps and Bounds

STONY BROOK FOOTBALL REPORT

Stony Brook, NY -- The Stony Brook football team fell to 2-3 on the year dropping a 42-16 decision to the Great Danes of Albany last Saturday. Albany, the defending EFC champions racked up 451 yards of offense, including 290 on the ground, to send the Seawolves to their second straight defeat.

Albany got on the board first with a 58-yard touchdown pass on its first possession. Stony Brook then cut the Danes lead to 7-3 when **Jason Harris (Sr., San Jose, CA/Prospect)** connected on a 30-yard field goal early in the second quarter. The Seawolves then took their only lead of the game with 5:56 left before halftime when **Ralph Menendez (Jr., East Moriches, NY/Westhampton)** plunged in from one-yard out. A blocked extra point saw Stony Brook hold a 9-7 advantage. On the drive, senior quarterback **Scott Meyer (Sr., Berlin, CT/Berlin)** hooked up with Menendez on a 37-yard pass play to give Stony Brook a first and goal on the one and setting the stage for Menendez' touchdown plunge. Menendez finished the day with 89 yards on 22 carries to lead the Seawolves. However, Albany came back and with 1:42 remaining in the first half, the Danes booted a 20-yard field goal to take a 10-9 lead into the break.

The second half saw Albany score on a 15-yard touchdown pass but miss the extra point making the score 16-9. The Seawolves answered right back only seconds later when **Gabe Rodriguez (Sr., Brentwood, NY/Brentwood)** took the ensuing kickoff 94 yards for a touchdown. Stony Brook's first kick return for a touchdown this season and the first of Rodriguez's career, tying the score at 16. Albany scored again before the end of the third quarter to take a 22-16 lead into the final period. The fourth quarter then belonged to the Great Danes as they scored 20 unanswered points to spoil the Seawolves homecoming.

Stony Brook will look to snap its two game losing streak this Saturday when they travel to Massachusetts to take on Merrimack at 1:00 p.m.. The Warriors will enter the game with a record of 3-4, 2-4 in the Eastern Football Conference.

STONY BROOK WOMEN'S SOCCER REPORT

Stony Brook, NY - The Stony Brook women's soccer team ran its unbeaten streak to four games with a 2-1 victory over St. John's last Tuesday. The victory improved the Seawolves record to 10-2-1 on the year, the best mark to this point in the season in school history.

The Red Storm got on the board first with a header into the far corner of the net. Stony Brook struck back late in the first half when **Erica Keller (Sr., Selden, NY/Newfield)** took a through ball from **Kerri McCabe (Fr., Farmingville, NY/Sachem)** and scored the first of her two goals with 33 seconds remaining in the first half.

Keller then tallied the eventual game-winner in the 53rd minute of the contest. She tracked down a pass from **Rebecca Ferreira (So., Londonderry, NH/Londonderry)** and buried a tough angle shot into the top corner of the net. The two-goal effort was Keller's first multiple goal game of the season and 10th of her Stony Brook career. She currently leads the Seawolves in goals (9) and points (22) and is tied for the team lead in assists (4). Goalkeeper **Jamie Owen (Sr., Floral Park, NY/St. Francis Prep)** made six saves to give her 81 on the year.

The victory over St. John's was Stony Brook's first since 1991 snapping a five-game losing streak to the Red Storm. The two teams tied (0-0) in 1992.

News and Notes: In only three season, Erica Keller is tied for the top spot all-time in game-winning goals (9), ranks second all-time in goals (41) and points (98), and ranks third all-time in assists (16). She is two goals shy of moving into first place all-time in goals scored and four points shy of taking over the top spot in points scored. Both of the all-time records are held by **Lisa Paladino**, who tallied 42 goals and 17 assists for 101 points from 1986-1989.

STONY BROOK MEN'S SOCCER REPORT

Stony Brook, NY -- After the Stony Brook men's soccer team's upset of the then ninth-ranked team in the nation, New Hampshire College on October 11th, an emotional let down was possible in their only game of last week against UMass-Lowell. Fortunately for the Seawolves, the possible let down did not occur as Stony Brook defeated the River Hawks, 3-0. The win improved the Seawolves record to 5-8 on the season, 3-3 in the NECC.

Moses Sarr (Jr., Senegal, West Africa/Ysh Saar-en) scored two goals and assisted on the third Stony Brook tally to lead Stony Brook to the victory. After a scoreless first half, **Mike Megaloudis (Fr., Astoria, NY/Monsignor McClancy)** recorded his first collegiate goal off of a pass from Sarr. Sarr then recorded his first tally with 16 minutes remaining in the game. Sarr received a pass from **Sam Glassen (Fr., North Branford, CT/North Branford)** and headed a shot into the back of the net. Stony Brook added an insurance goal when Sarr tallied his second goal of the match off of a pass from **Steve Snyder (So., Selden, NY/Centereach)** with 12 minutes remaining in the game.

Goalkeeper **Brian McOmber (Fr., Old Saybrook, CT/Old Saybrook)** made five saves in posting his third shutout of the season. **News and Notes:** The Seawolves five wins are the most since 1994 and the three wins in the New England Collegiate Conference are the most in the program's history. The Seawolves current two-game winning streak is the longest since 1994 and the 16 goals scored are the most since 1995.

Support Your Seawolves to Division I

STONY BROOK VOLLEYBALL REPORT

Stony Brook, NY - - The Stony Brook women's volleyball team won two of its three matches last week. The Seawolves rebounded from a 3-0 loss to Yale last Wednesday, to defeat Pace and American International, 3-0 last weekend. The wins improved Stony Brook's record to 19-7 on the year.

Last Wednesday, the Seawolves fell to Yale, 3-0 (9-15, 9-15, 5-15). Stony Brook was held to .093 hitting percentage in the defeat. **Almaris Miranda (Jr., Amherst, NY/Sweet Home)** recorded 16 kills and senior **Elka Samuels (Sr., New York, NY/Humanities)** continued her outstanding play from the previous weekend adding 12 kills and eight digs.

Jessica Serrano (Sr., Ridge, NY/Longwood) recorded a game-high 16 kills and added 14 digs to help the Seawolves to a 3-0 (15-4, 15-10) victory over Pace last Friday. Miranda added 14 kills and Samuels chipped in with 12 more kills to assist the effort. Stony Brook recorded eight team blocks and **Mary Schelp (Sr., New Hyde Park, NY/Herricks)** posted a match-high 44 assists.

The Seawolves improved to 10-0 at the Stony Brook Sports Complex this season with a 3-0 (15-10, 15-3, 15-5) victory over American International last Saturday. Serrano again led the effort tallying a match-high 14 kills, 11 digs and tied a season-high with six service aces. Samuels and Miranda joined Serrano in double figures in kills recording 13 and 14 respectively. The win was the Seawolves second consecutive victory.

News and Notes: Stony Brook has posted a record of 111-12 (.902) at home in the 1990's.

STONY BROOK WOMEN'S TENNIS REPORT

Stony Brook NY - - The women's tennis team had an outstanding performance at the NECC Championships last weekend. The Seawolves finished in third place with 28 points. Binghamton won the championship with 34 points while Albany finished with 28 points.

Freshman **Deanna Ghazati (Westbury, NY/Hicksville)** led the way earning Co-Rookie-of-the-Year accolades after winning the sixth singles flight. In her final match, Ghazati defeated her opponent from Binghamton, 6-1, 6-3.

Sophomore **Ellen Luo (Brooklyn, NY/Abraham Lincoln)** also was victorious in the fifth singles flight. She defeated her Binghamton opponent, 6-3, 6-1. Stony Brook was one of two schools which captured two or more of the flights.

The Seawolves sister combination of **Delquin Gong (So., South Setauket, NY/Ward Melville)** and **Belvin Gong (Sr., South Setauket, NY/Ward Melville)** both advanced to their respective flight finals. Delquin Gong fell in the third singles final, 6-3, 6-1. Belvin Gong fell in the fourth flight singles final, 6-2, 6-2. Delquin Gong then combined with **Susan Lim (Jr., Brooklyn, NY/James Madison)** to advance to the flight two doubles final where they were defeated 6-2, 6-3.

STONY BROOK CROSS COUNTRY REPORT

Stony Brook, NY - The Stony Brook men's cross country team competed at the IC4A championships last Friday. The Seawolves finished in 21st place out of 29 teams that competed in the University Division of the five-mile race.

John Ravener (Jr., Merrick, NY/Calhoun) was Stony Brook's top finisher ending up in 74th place with a time of 27:32.9. **Jason Murphy (Sr., Bohemia, NY/Connetquot)** helped the Seawolves effort finishing as Stony Brook's second runner with a time of 28:30.1. **Chris Davis (Sr., Shoreham, NY/Shoreham Wading River)**, **Andy Au (Fr., Staten Island, NY/Tottenville)** and **Michael Austin (Jr., Centereach, NY/Centereach)** rounded out the Seawolves top five runners finishing with times of 28:35.9, 29:34.0, and 29:51.1 respectively.


Stony Brook will next be in action this weekend when both teams compete in the NECC/CTC Championships at the University at Albany. The men's team finished in 6th place in both the NECC and CTC meets while the women's team finished 11th 5th place at the NECC meet and 4th place in the CTC meet.

DIVISION II WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL ELKA SAMUELS NAMED NECC PLAYER-OF-THE-WEEK

STONY BROOK, NY--Elka Samuels (Sr., New York, NY/Humanities) was named New England Collegiate Conference Player-of-the-week.

Samuels, an outside hitter for the Seawolves, averaged 12 kills and 11 digs in leading Stony Brook to a 2-1 record last week, including 3-0 wins over Pace and American International. She recorded 12 kills and 12 digs against Pace and then followed up that performance with a 13 kill, 13 dig effort against American International.

Samuels currently leads the team in digs (284), while ranking third on the team in kills (249), and kills per game (2.86).



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1999

BLACKWORLD

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



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On Campus

- Avoid working, studying, or being alone in buildings, residence halls, or isolated areas of the campus.
- Do not shower in a deserted gym or residence hall shower.
- Be cautious about dating someone you do not know well. Obtain information from a mutual acquaintance or try to arrange a double date or group activity.
- Avoid excessive use of alcohol, and do not use illicit drugs; they interfere with clear thinking and effective communication.
- Know your sexual desires and limits. Communicate them clearly.

If you find yourself in an unwanted sexual situation, be assertive. Just say no. If you are told no when you make sexual advances, accept it. No means no!

If you are assaulted:

- Don't wash, change clothes, or douche before calling or going for help.
- Don't touch any evidence of struggle even if the assault took place in your room or home.
- Go to a safe place. Ask a friend to stay with you. Call University Police at 333.

If you feel you are the victim of a sexual assault on campus, report the incident so that trained University staff members can provide prompt and supportive assistance. University Police will keep all calls confidential and respond in the following ways:

- Meet with you privately at a place of your choice to take a complaint report.
- Refuse to release your name to the public and the press.
- Treat you and your particular case with courtesy, sensitivity, dignity, understanding, and professionalism.
- Try to accommodate your wish to speak to either a male or female officer.
- Assist you in arranging for any hospital treatment or other medical care.
- Assist you in privately contacting counseling and other available resources.
- Fully investigate your case. This may lead to the arrest and full prosecution of a suspect. You will be kept up to date on the progress of the investigation and prosecution.
- Continue to be available to answer your questions and explain systems and legal processes involved.
- Consider your case seriously regardless of your gender.

Remember, sexual assault is a crime committed against you, not by you. Do not blame yourself. This Community Belongs to All of Us!

Useful Names and Numbers:

University Health Service (Infirmary): 2-6740

The University Hospital Emergency Room: 4-2465

Sexual Assault Hotline: 4-2465

The Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps: 2-888

University Counseling Center: 2-6720

Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk (VIBS) provides 24-hour counseling, advocacy and referral services: 360-3606

RESPONSE, a crisis hotline, provides 24-hour crisis information services: 751-7500

RAPE:

The Unreported Campus Crime

This is an article that we ran in our Nov. 20, 1997 issue, but felt that it was relevant to reprint, due to certain recent events.

By: Michael Wilson

The official annual report by University Police for 1996, documents only two reported rapes for the Stony Brook campus community. Two reported rapes, for an entire year, for a community of approximately 30,000. To say that this information is inaccurate, would not be entirely true; but rather, the number of reported rapes at Stony Brook in 1996 do reflect numbers which are realistically deceiving.

In 1996, there were 107 reported rapes for all of Suffolk County. Suffolk consists of nearly a million people. But, according to national surveys, 1 in 4 college women have been the victims of a rape or an attempted rape since age 14, while 9 out of 10 acquaintance rapes are never reported. So, while two rapes in 1996 for the Stony Brook community may seem extremely small when first examined, they are in fact, on par with the rest of Suffolk County and the U.S. as a whole.

As a crime in America, rape is annually one of the most under reported crimes. In spite of *Rape Shield Laws* adopted by many states that are designed to protect the victims, many men and women are still reluctant to admit that they have been raped. Even more cause for concern than this is, that 1 in 12 college men admit to acts which meet legal definitions of rape; yet, few of these men would identify themselves as rapists. The New York statutes define rape as, "the act of sexual intercourse with a person against ones will and consent, whether their will is overcome by force of fear resulting from the threat of force, or by drugs administered without consent, or when they are unconscious, intoxicated or otherwise physically unable to communicate willingness." There are no separate statutes for "date rape" or "acquaintance rape." Prior contact with the victim, whether intimate or not, does not lessen the heinous crime of rape in any way. No means no. Rape is a felony crime in New York and all cases will be treated as such.

However, when searching for a "definition" of rape, Rachel Bergeson, M.D., of the Student Infirmary says, "if you use the definition of unwanted sex, then there are probably a lot more rapes on campus." And this is where the complications begin. Rape is a crime about power, anger and control. In many instances, a man will rape to overpower or express anger at a woman - to get back

at her and express his complete domination over her.

For decades, rape victims in this society have not been totally treated as the hurt victims that they are. Often, their victimization has been turned against them and they have been wrongly coerced into believing that they have brought the rape on themselves. "A person may feel that they have been raped but may not feel that society, or the surrounding community will feel that they have been raped," says Dr. Bergeson. "Many times, a person will feel that they have been violated but will feel ashamed or embarrassed or like they brought it on themselves and do not report the crime for those reasons." These reasons for "not reporting" are especially poignant when considering that more than sixty percent of all reported rapes occur between acquaintances and 4 in 10 rapes are committed in the home.

But even more revealing as a reason for not reporting a rape is, that over 50 percent of all rapes occur when either the victim or the perpetrator are under the influence of alcohol! Getting someone "drunk or high enough" to have sex is rape. Consenting sex requires sober, verbal communication without intimidation or threats. "If I could stress one thing to every one on campus," say Dr. Bergeson, "it would be, watch your alcohol intake because people frequently get into scenarios that they should not be in based on alcohol consumption."

Although navigating the social dynamics of the crime is difficult, to say the least, there is an absolute, statistical certainty that a rapist will rape again. "While the key reason for anyone to report a rape is for the victim to receive the psychological, emotional and medical assistance that they need," and "reporting a rape crime may help authorities identify the offender and possibly prevent the victimization of other people," said Doug Little Public Safety assistant director.

As a campus entity, Little stresses that Public Safety "is willing to confidentially meet with any victim and assist them in any capacity." Pressing charges are optional and they can always be done days, or even weeks later.

But as Little points out, the paramount concern is that victims of rape receive the proper medical attention that they need. Issues of pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS or other health problems should be addressed by qualified medical personnel.

1 out of every 6 college women reported experiencing forceful attempts at sexual intercourse.

1 out of every 15 male college students reported committing a rape or attempting to commit a rape during the preceding year.

1/3 of college men said that they would have sex with an unwilling partner if they thought they could get away with it.

55% of men who raped said they would have sex again with their victim.

84% of college men whose behavior meets the legal definition of sexual assault do not think of what they did as sexual assault.

75%—90% of acquaintance rapes on college campuses involve alcohol.

3 per 1,000 college students are HIV positive and over 1,000,000 teens get pregnant annually.

Less than 3% of all sexual assault allegations turn out to be false.

Of the rapes and sexual assaults reported to police which have occurred on a college campus, only 10% result in criminal prosecution.

Over 70% of teens who are sexually assaulted will not tell their parents about the assault but will tell a friend.

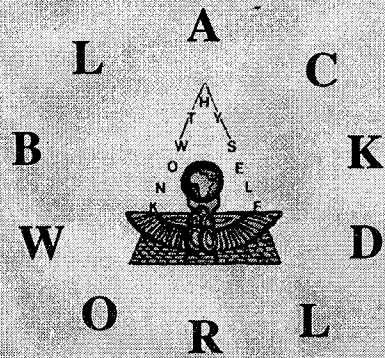
42% of college women who are raped tell no one about their assault.

S.A.F.E.

info: 516-444-SAFE (7233)

help: University Response (24 hrs)

516-632-HOPE (4673)

**"KNOW THYSELF"**

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Editorial

Greetings Sistas and Brothas! This is the last issue of the semester. This issue has been delayed due to the insufficient amount of articles that were received from students. This was extremely disheartening, especially since the theme and deadline for submissions was printed in the last issue. Consequently no one adhered to the theme or deadline.

BLACKWORLD is a student publication, written for, by, and about students of color on the Stony Brook campus. Unfortunately we do not have a staff of writers who are specifically responsible for writing the articles that you enjoy to read. We depend on contributions from you, the readers who want to play an active role in the information and stories about our people that is disseminated on this campus.

In this last issue we shed some light on rapes that occur on college campuses. When the news about rapes on this campus reached many, it instilled fear and anger in a lot

of us, especially women. Some women expressed that they were angry that learning about the rapes caused them to harbor a fear that most men don't share. Although it is true that women are predominantly the victims of rape and sexual assault and men are the assailants, men are also sometimes the victims of the same violent crimes.

It is unfortunate that a tragedy has to occur before action is taken, but that's the way things usually work around here. There was a rally that was held by the Center for Womyn's Concerns. The turnout was moderate, but it did bring attention to rapes on campus. Since the broadcast about rapes at Stony Brook, an R.S.P. check-in desk has been placed in my residence hall and for a couple of nights there was actually someone sitting there who was working. When I asked the male, why hadn't there been anyone to work at the desk earlier in the semester, he said, because they didn't have enough desks to place in each

residence. I can't believe that the safety of students was infringed upon due to the absence of a desk. I'm sure there are enough old or new desks on this campus that would be suitable to have someone sit at and check in residents past midnight.

Another improvement that is visible is the lighting on campus. Although some places are still poorly lit, others have been outfitted with bright new lamps. Two have been placed by Mount College in Roth Quad, which illuminate a wooded path along the side of the building and a side entrance.

I'm sure these improvements would not have been made without demands by students. Students need to realize that they have power on this campus. If we unite and speak up for the causes that we care about we can make a difference on this campus.

Good luck to everyone on their finals, Happy Kwanzaa, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We're all looking forward to a positive '99.

**Please Address All Letters
To The Editor To The Stu-
dent Union, Room 072.
Letters Can Be Directly
Submitted To The
BLACKWORLD Office Or
To The Mailbox In The Pol-
ity Suite, SAC, 202.**

Letters

To the editor:

I'm amazed and dismayed (to put things tactfully) by the inflammatory rhetoric and name-calling found regularly in the pages of Blackworld, and the blatant lack of research that goes into the articles printed. A few bits of the last issue will serve to make my point.

The Oct. 25 issue starts out with an article by Joy Mahabir on Africana Studies gaining departmental status. In it, Ms. Mahabir states that our country, "by its economic nature, is both racist and sexist." Putting aside the poor wording, I'll assume that Ms. Mahabir meant to refer to the particular economic system found in the U.S. (i.e., she presumably doesn't mean to condemn all economic systems as racist and sexist).

Here we have a completely unsupported condemnation of the semi-free market capitalism found in this country. Why is this system of necessity, racist and sexist? What systems would not be? (I refer to actual economic systems, not fairy tales of perfect socialism.) Are you sure that the economic system *causes* racism and sexism rather than reflecting it? I doubt anyone can come up with some culture that is not sexist in some way or that does not harbor nasty opinions about people not like them, regardless of the economic practices used. Though I have a fairly low opinion of U.S. government and culture, I take offense at Ms. Mahabir's ill thought-out assertion and see no reason to believe it.

Much, much worse, though, is the blatantly self-contradictory and racist excerpt by Marcus Garvey (printed without comment or disclaimer). Garvey claims that blacks should hold "allegiance to self first," but follows mere sentences later with a claim that "your allegiance shall be to your God [sic], then to your family, race and country." What happened to the self? A few

sentences later I read, "you can do no less than being first and always a Negro." Which is it, allegiance to self, race, or the big man upstairs? I don't think I've ever seen such extensive contradiction in one paragraph before.

This is just idiotic. Garvey reaches disgusting in his remarks about those who fail to share his skin color or religion. "Remember that the Jew in his political and economic urge is always first a Jew; the white man is first a white man under all circumstances. . . ." Yeah, and don't forget about the cloven hooves, neither! A question arises, though; if Jews are generally white, and approximately half of them are men, then it seems that these Jewish white men must be both white and Jewish in their economic and political urges. Are the white man's politics and economics the same thing as the Jew's? Nazi Germany and Czarist Russia strongly suggest otherwise. Maybe Jews aren't white then?

The simple fact is that different people, regardless of skin color, religion, or whatever multiperson pigeonhole you want to put them in, have widely disparate beliefs about politics, economics, and so on. That's why there are Jews who write books about how nasty Israel is, and those who will defend it to the death.

Why is this decades-old highly offensive stereotyping acceptable and publishable to the editors at Blackworld? It isn't even coherent, much less truthful.

One can get a good guess at the answer by looking at the work of Blackworld staffers. Simcael Mason manages to get the dictionary out when it suits his purposes but ignores it when it doesn't. Mr. Mason looks in the dictionary to show us all that the Jews (again) have been hogging the word "holocaust" all to

themselves, and won't let others play with it. Well, "holocaust" can be used to describe other events than the systematic killing of millions of people (mostly Jews) by the Nazis, but that event is referred to as "the Holocaust" because it was the first massive destruction of human life by *other humans* to receive that title. Look in an encyclopedia or history text next time to avoid getting misled by the not very accurate and decontextualized definitions found in dictionaries.

Mr. Mason further asserts that the deaths of the Roma during said holocaust is generally overlooked because they are of African descent. Even the dictionary should tell you that the word "Dravidian" refers to some populations of humans in India, not Africa. Merely being a "dark complexioned people" does not make one African. Ask an Australian Aborigine, or better yet, one of the many people of Dravidian descent on campus. (This, of course, is neglecting the fact that, as current evidence stands, the first modern humans came from Africa. Mr. Mason seems to be referring to historically recorded descent, as am I.)

The level of reasoning displayed in the pages of Blackworld is pathetic. Unfounded, unsupported, and incoherent attacks on groups of people because of their religion or skin color, bald assertions of pervasive racism and sexism, and manipulation (or perhaps blind ignorance) of reality should not be published at an institute devoted to critical evaluation of the world and the search for truth. I feel I deserve an apology for having read such tripe. So does the rest of the campus, especially those who pay to print it.

By James Polichak

Responses

Dear James,

Your intensified emotionality is understandable, but your wild accusations are factually groundless. For you to say "Well, 'holocaust' can be used to describe other events . . . but that event is referred to as 'the Holocaust' because it was the first massive destruction of human life by other humans to receive that title," only shows your arrogance and deception of history.

Foremost, you provide historical basis for substantiating such a claim. In addition to that, Noah Webster compiled the first American dictionary in 1825. By looking at what was going on at the time of the dictionary's compilation, and prior to, the American definition of the word "holocaust" manifested itself during this time in direct correlation with the witch-hunts of Europe and the African Holocaust. With an American definition of "holocaust" meaning "a great or total destruction of life *especially by fire*," the latter are soundly more factual and sensible than your alleged entitlement.

Your entire rationale for why it's fine for only the European Jewish tragedy to be ascribed "the Holocaust" is simply the expressed egotism of a person, who feels that a group of people is beyond scrutiny and has exclusive property rights to a word.

Such cold rationalism is doubtless inhumane, but I expect nothing less of you. However, one thing is clear: Though

you want the word "holocaust" to be a title only unto the European Jewish tragedy, the word itself did not begin as a title and nor will it end as one. Besides, the word only became a title once arrogant European Jews or Europeans in the middle half of the 20th century decided to co-opt and standardize its definition, to make the word correspond only unto themselves.

Regarding my comment concerning who the Dravidians are, I never asserted anything but my *belief* that they are of African descent. You are the one who stated "Mr. Mason further asserts that . . . the Roma . . . are of African descent," not me. However Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines the word "Gypsy" as the following: *one of a dark Caucasoid people coming orig from India to Europe in the 14th or 15th century* . . .

Despite the validity of a dark complexion being, there are some faults with the aforesaid definition. Mainly the Gypsies, who are also the Roma people, could not have originally come from India because the term "Gypsy" is short for Egyptian. Therefore, they had to have originally come out of Egypt, which is from a northern part of Africa and make their way into India.

Also, a "dark Caucasoid people" are a misconception though not in a geographical context-culturally and phenotypically because genetically

recessive people, such as white people or Indo-Europeans, cannot create dark-skinned people who are genetically dominant. Only the genetically dominant, dark-skinned people can create genetically recessive light-skinned people. In any case, the term "Dravidian" is derived from the Sanskrit word *Dravia*, meaning "the name of the southern portion of the peninsula of India." The term "Dravidian" refers to "a group of languages of Southern India, which seem to have been the idioms of the natives, before the invasion of tribes speaking

Sanskrit."

Needless to say, me asking a person of Dravidian descent on campus if they come from Africa or are African, is like me asking someone in present day Egypt right now, if they come from Africa or are African. Therefore, just because the assigning of some term changes doesn't mean its point of origin changes with it. However, due to certain incentives taken James, the rest of my articles will be discontinued being published in this paper. But, you still won't receive an apology from me.

Truly, Simcael Mason

To Mr. James Polichak,

In my article on Africana Studies, I used "economic nature" of the U.S. and capitalism interchangeably, without actually specifying capitalism. Why anyone would surmise that I was referring to another economic system is beyond me, since the United States has embraced an aggressive form of capitalism for centuries.

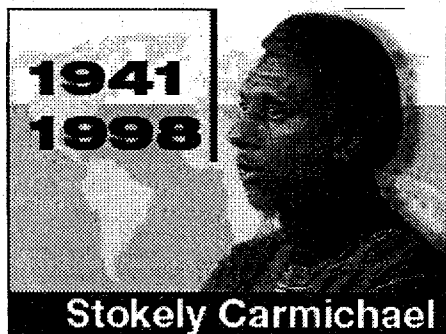
A capitalist system is necessarily racist and sexist, for it creates both racism and sexism to increase its wealth. Capitalism relies on the accumulation of capital and the creation of surplus value. Surplus value is created by the exploitation of the labor of workers. If the workforce can be economically hierarchized by racist and sexist divisions, more surplus value is created, since this means that people can be coerced to sell their labor for less on the basis of their race or gender, thus increasing profits for the corporations that promote these divisions. Cheap, exploitable labor is the mainstay of capitalism, and so, under capitalism, people must be, and are, constantly cheapened by oppressive ideologies.

For a more detailed explication, please peruse the book *Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities*, edited by Etienne Balibar and Immanuel Wallerstein. Our library owns a copy.

Sincerely,
Joy Mahabir

Death of a Revolutionary

Kwame Ture Dies at 57



By Brissette Gantt

Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael), champion of civil rights and Black empowerment, died of prostate cancer on Sunday, November 15 in Conakry, Guinea.

Dedicated to the causes of empowerment and socialism, Ture coined the phrases "Black power!" and "Ready for the Revolution!" at a time when it was not popular, easy or safe to do. During the civil rights movements in the 1960's, he was one of the most vocal and adamant Black leaders. He was a member of several pro-Black organizations such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating

Committee, the Freedom Riders and the Black Panther Party.

Ture was born in the West Indian island of Trinidad. At the age of 11, his parents moved him to New York City. The intelligent youth attended the Bronx High School of Science, and upon graduation went to Howard University where he received his degree in Philosophy. After graduation, he immersed himself fully into the civil rights movement.

The young and charismatic Ture joined the first group of Freedom Riders, which was a group dedicated to the desegregation of public transportation. He was subject to beatings, not only by racist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, but also staged beatings and arrests at the hands of police officers. They were often arrested at sit-ins and demonstrations where they were advocating equal treatment for Black people.

As an active member of

SNCC, he helped encourage voter enrollment and awareness, and eventually was elected to the position of national chairman of the group. Ture co-authored the book "Black Power: The Politics of Black Liberation" which popularized the slogan, Black Power throughout the civil rights movement.

He then became an honorary prime minister of the Black Panther Party. He called for unity among this group and others like it.

He finally decided to cut his ties fully with American civil rights organizations because he disagreed with their principle of alliance with Radical Whites. He believed this union to be detrimental to the Black people involved. In 1969, he moved to Guinea where he changed his name to Kwame Ture. He wanted to be amongst the people of Africa. In Guinea, Ture became an aide to the country's Prime Minister. For the rest of his life, both

overseas and here in the states, he continued to preach the ideals of Black power, solidarity and socialism and often condemned America and capitalism.

Ture went on to revive the All-African People's Revolutionary Party, which was founded in 1958 by his mentor Kwame Nkrumah.

After he was diagnosed with cancer in 1996, Ture sought treatment in Cuba and received financial help for his medical care from Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Ture is survived by his mother, three sisters, and two sons. Ture was one of the few people who was not only smart enough to articulate what he felt was right, but brave enough to stand up and fight for them. He was not afraid of the status quo, the K.K.K. or the government. The world and the Black community at large has definitely suffered a great loss as a result of Kwame Ture's untimely death.

UCC Still Unifying Cultures After 17 Years

By: Josephine Oduro

Prior to 1981, the University at Stony Brook lacked an organization that focused on the cultures of African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans. That changed when a group of students, faculty and staff formed the U.N.I.T.I. Cultural Center, which stands for: United Nationalities In Transcending Ideologies. 1998 marks the 17th year in which the UCC continues to show that the culture of people of African ancestry does not begin and end with slavery.

"Many African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans on campus felt their culture was not being represented in Stony Brook, either educational or otherwise," said Simcael Mason, UCC librarian and a history major. "As a result, the center was created to be an educational and social organization for expressions of their cultures."

In the past, UCC was more of a political-action group that rallied around issues that affected people of color. "The agenda is different now, there is less student activism than compared to the past," said Carmen Vasquez, dean of students. "Students would demonstrate on issues that affected their quality of life in Stony Brook, and access to educational opportunities. Some of those issues addressed, related to students, such as course offerings and tuition increases at the university. Other issues concerned

faculty, such as the hiring of more African American teachers and providing tenure for faculty."

Now the UCC's role is promoting programs, such as The Indigo Experience, its annual Kwanzaa celebration, and Hispanic Heritage month. The UCC also sponsors town hall meetings and permits other organizations to use its space for seminars and workshops.

"I like to think everything we do has an underlining to it, whether it be a social, educational, cultural program," said Andy Auguste, president of the UCC and an English major.

After 17 years, the UCC continues to play an important role in providing support for different cultures on campus. "It's a place where people could come to learn and enjoy different aspects of the black experience in terms of culture," said Dr. Fred Preston, vice president of Student Affairs.

"The UCC was originally set up by students with the aid of faculty as a place where minorities could educate themselves as well as other cultures," said Auguste. Faculty and staff helped to develop the constitution and the by-laws that would govern UCC. Preston was responsible for securing financial backing for the development of the center. "Funding came from the Student Affairs budget and the University," Preston said.

Roosevelt Cafeteria, formerly known as Stage 12, was the original home of the UCC, but due to renovations the center was relocated to Roth cafeteria. In the future, UCC hopes to expand and occupy space in the Stony Brook Union.

UCC has affiliated itself with different departments in the University. It has maintained a relationship with the Africana Studies Department, Equal Opportunity Program/Advancement on Individual Merit office, and Student Affairs.

"What I love about working with the UCC is the commitment, dedication and enthusiasm of the executive board members," said Dr. Dorothy Hurley, assistant provost for Educational Opportunity and director of the Equal Opportunity Program/Advancement on Individual Merit. "All the executive board members have been committed to making a difference on campus and carrying out the mission of UCC in a changing environment."

Many of the clubs on campus are fragmented and that is why UCC provides programming to allow groups to interact with one another. "My vision is its expansion of its role in relationship to cross cultural communication among groups at Stony Brook," said Dean Vasquez.

The cultural center caters mostly to minorities but all of its

programs are open to everyone for participation. "Our goal is to promote unity among the campus community," Auguste said.

However, the center does not only limit its reach to the campus community. It also plays an active role in the surrounding community and beyond. "We are working on developing programs to teach not only the campus community, but the community abroad about the Internet, keyboarding, and the basic functions of a computer," Mason said.

"The UCC has made the Stony Brook campus more aware of the fact that the history and culture of African American, Latino and Native American people does not begin and end with slave trade."

**HAPPY 17TH
TO THE UCC
FROM
BLACKWORLD**

A Teen Mom Who Beat the Odds

By: Tiffany Woolfolk

No one could have told me five years ago that I would be entering my last semester in college, because five years ago, I was 17 years old, nine months pregnant, and a high school dropout. Now when I realize that in just six months I will be walking down that aisle about to receive my degree, I am proud, and believe that I have the right to be. I am sure that every person at this University has gone through their own trials and tribulations in order to become a graduate, but I know that the road that I had to travel was full of holes, obstacles, and detours.

I was 16 when I found out that I was pregnant. I was living with some family members and I was already on my way to dropping out of high school. I tried to hide my pregnancy from my family for as long as possible because, I knew that they, as well as I, was going to be disappointed. I had always done well in school and every one always talked about my potential and the great things that I was going to accomplish. When I realized that I was pregnant, I felt that it was the end of my world and the shattering of dreams for me and my family. By the time I finally confessed to my grandmother, I was already almost four months and by then I had felt in my heart that I was going to keep my baby.

That decision, however, would not be a small task for me. I had no money, no support from my child's father, and no education. I was turning into a statistic, a young lower class, black girl, having a baby and dropping out of school. I was ready to accept this for myself but my family was not.

With the support of my family I began to attend a school for pregnant teens. From the first week that I was there, I knew that I did not belong. I never felt stupid, but this school made me feel so much less than what I was and it did not challenge me to reach my potential. I decided that I would get a General Educational Development certificate. I know that many have made fun of people that get their GED, including myself, but after I took it and scored exceedingly well I felt proud of my accomplishment.

I spent the rest of my pregnancy trying to make things better between me and my child's father, (which was unsuccessful), and trying to figure out exactly what was happening with my body. Every day that I felt my baby kick inside of me, I knew that I was doing the right thing, but I also felt afraid and alone. I was only 16, what was I going to do with a baby, how was I going to raise her, and what type of mother would I be? These were all questions that I tried to answer but could not.

When February 20th came and my baby girl was born, my life was automatically changed. For the first time in my life I had a real responsibility. I had this life to take care of and I had no clue about where to begin. Thank God for my family because I do not know what I would have done without them.

After my daughter had turned six months, I knew that I had to start thinking seriously about both of our futures. Being 17 with a baby and a GED did not make for many opportunities. I knew that I needed money but I also knew that I needed to further my education. The dilemma I faced was: should I find a job to make money or should I try to get into college and earn an degree. With either of these choices I had to make major sacrifices and I had to weigh out the pros and cons.

To An Old Friend

[A NON-FICTIONAL WORK OF FICTION]

By: Joyal Miasia McNeil

I was sitting alone, looking through old photographs, when the thought of you became vivid in my mind. It was as if you were sitting before me smiling your unforgettable smile.

I began to remember how much I knew you. I knew you enough to let you sleep on my floor when your roommate had company. I knew you enough to have lunch with you in the Bleacher Club and dinner at the Bridge. I remember how we used to exchange notes, text books, and occasional glances.

People began to talk. When we started to hold hands in the SAC and stole kisses in the Union people really began to talk. Friends assumed that we were a definite pair but I still wouldn't let you sleep in my bed. We were still getting to know each other.

I will never forget the night that you finally revealed yourself to me. It was 2 A.M. and your roommate was gone for the weekend. I called R.S.P. and they safely walked me over to your room. I was excited. "What did he have to say?" Anticipation got the best of me and I was whet with expectations.

When you opened the door I knew you had so much to prove. The butterflies in my stomach were more nervous than I was. Why was I so scared? Maybe somewhere deep down inside I knew that I was going to know you that night. Maybe I didn't.

When the door closed my heart stopped. What was I afraid of? Love is not supposed to hurt. But wait, I didn't love you yet. My anticipation had turned into fear.

"Relax, why are you so tense," is what came slithering out of your mouth. I was never able to answer your question until now. Let's recreate the scene. Let's pretend that your hand is not over my mouth and let's pretend that you can hear me.

"I am tense because you will steal from me what could have been love for you tonight. I am tense because you will strip me with your pride and punish me with your tongue. You will hate me with your hands and step all over my innocence. You will sweep my tears under your bed and keep them from slipping under the door. My blood will become your beverage and my flesh will become your meat. With every thrust of your "manhood" I will become less visible to you and you will become more visible to me. It will be at that moment when you disregard my "NO!!!!" that I will know you. And it will be at that same moment that I will become anonymous. Anonymous to one. Anonymous to you."

Anonymous

I probably could get a job, but who was really hiring a young, black teen mother with a GED? After a lot of soul searching and receiving advice from my family, I decided to get my degree.

When I first came to Stony Brook I ran into problems with both housing and daycare, so my mother volunteered to watch my daughter during the week while I attended school. I would leave home to come on campus on a Sunday night or Monday morning, and leave to go home on Thursday night. So for the last four years that I have been on this campus, I have spent fewer than five weekends here.

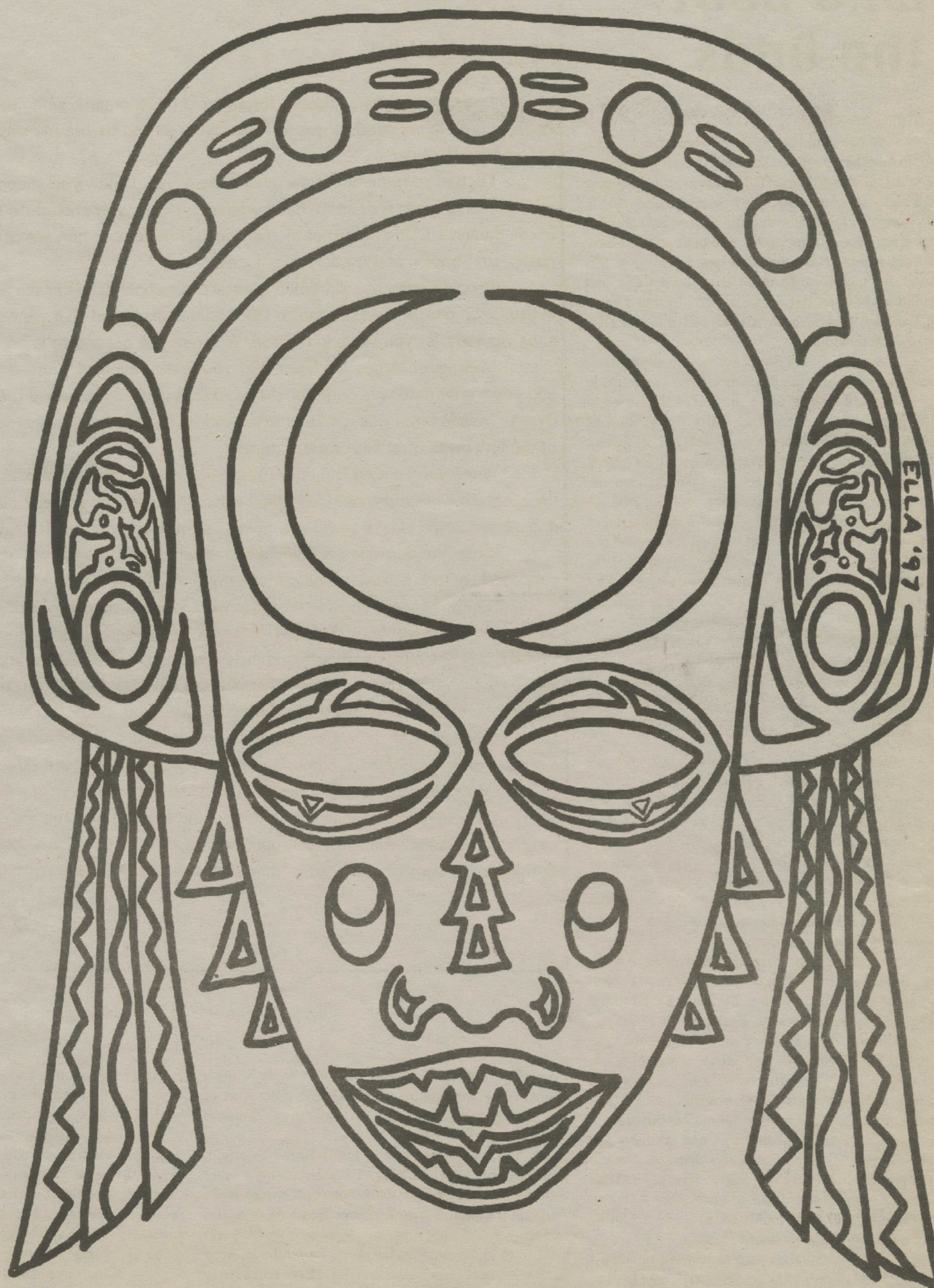
My freshman year was the hardest. I had been out of school for almost two years and my situation was so much different from the people on this campus, that I felt a little out of place. Besides that I was missing my daughter like crazy. Even though she was only eight months at the time, I would call every night just to hear

her voice on the other end. There were many times this first year that I felt like giving up but for her sake as well as my own, I was determined to continue.

With a double major in Africana studies and Sociology, I will be graduating with a grade point average over 3.0, and a list of other accomplishments on my transcript. I should be working on my third child and receiving welfare checks according to some, but according to me I will be getting my degree in May and going to graduate school in January.

Many have asked me if it was hard not being able to see my daughter every day and if it was worth the sacrifice. To both questions I answer yes. It was hard kissing my daughter goodbye on Monday mornings to come back on campus for class, but it would have been more difficult for me to look into my daughter's eyes and feel like a failure to her and myself.

Creative Arts



leisure language
the theme music of thought

THE NEXT MILLENNIUM



Yes reggae fans, Rodney Price a.k.a. Bounty (Warlord from War Yard) Killer did it again. If you want to experience high quality, hard-core, dance hall reggae music, check out Bounty Killer's latest album, "Next Millennium." This album have blazing tracks like "Eagle and hawk," "Scare dem way," featuring the entire Scare Dem Crew, and his latest controversial bad man hit song "Micaan believe mi eyes."

Bounty Killer has proven over the years that he's a dominant force in the reggae music and his trend setting lyrics and styles are often imitated but never duplicated. He earned his reputation as one of the most highly skilled "deejays" in Jamaica by not fading away after a couple of hit songs. He also shows that he is lyrically versatile by singing songs on various issues like politics, guns, and women.

Next Millennium consist of a host of guest artists such as NORE who did arguably his best on a reggae beat on the album title track "Next Millennium." Other artists are Mobb Deep, Killah Priest, Rappin' noyd, Richie Stephens, Scare Dem Crew, Anthony B, Shaggy, etc. On this album, you'll experience the smooth blend of hip hop with reggae, old school reggae, and dominantly, hard core reggae. This Album features top producers from Jamaica such as Dave Kelly and Scare Dem Production, and also top American based producers such as Wyclef Jean and Bad Boy.

This album was thought to be too "Americanized" but I beg to differ. It only has four hip-hop influenced tracks but one of them Next Millennium) has a reggae beat. The only downfall is that it does not have some of his other wicked tracks such as "Mr. Wanna Be" and "Warlord."

Overall I give this album an A/A- and put di Killa back pon top as Jamaica's numba one deejay and not Mr. How can I mek love to a fella. Also, look out for new releases coming soon from Buccaneer, Lady Saw, and Beenie Man.

By: Marlon Robinson



I STILL KNOW... IT'S STILL WACK

Last weekend I went out with a group of friends to check "Enemy of the State". The latest effort from the "Jiggliest" himself, Will Smith to alleviate any doubts of his superstar status, co-starring Gene Hackman. Unfortunately, upon reaching the line to purchase tickets, this little funny lookin' red head kid who's working the door, deflated all the hopes of the anticipating viewers reporting it was sold out. So, willing to compromise our original plan we all agreed to see "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer". Which didn't at all seem like a bad idea being that the original "I Know What You Did Last Summer", had just hit cable television a couple of weeks ago, so it was all fresh in our minds. Remembering the original was at the least suspenseful, and that Brandy was in this joint, altogether it seemed like a descent option. Little did I would've been more pleased with myself giving the \$8.50 to the homeless fella' we saw on the way in.

"I Still Know..." Turned out to be nothing more than a predictable, wet T-shirt attempt at a horror film, full of suggestive messages considered suspect to the wide-eyed viewer. The film begins on (Don't trip, I'm not gonna tell the story) the college campus of star, Jennifer Love Hewitt, who experiences nightmares ensuing her guilt from her brief history as a murderer. The

school is where she hooked up with the new crew, consisting of Brandy and her boyfriend Mekhi Phifer. This is where the bull-skript starts. The only two characters of African descent in the film are portrayed as raging hormone sex-addicts constantly in pursuit of the opportunity to, "get there *freak on*" (apologies to those who expect more from me, I know it's a wack term but my efforts are to be accurate in recreating the image). If you think I'm making a big deal over nothing, step outside yourself and your community and realize that these are the images and messages being sent to the nation regarding black people. The film draws you this picture of this sweet innocent white girl who's in effect an unjustifiable murderer. Meanwhile they only show the audience images of Brandy and Mekhi "willen'-out", having him jump out of jeeps cursing and grabbing his crotch as they prepare to take their free trip to the Bahamas. Like that's the norm for the Black college male at predominately white schools.

Regarding women there are also some issues in this film that I found as disturbing. In the party scene, very early in the movie, Jennifer's character is slumpin' over her nightmares and fears of retaliation from her beef in the last film. Brandy, in trying to encourage her to have a good time steers her towards trifling behavior like cheating on her boyfriend. But this isn't even the half of the half. Brandy's character also insist upon having her boyfriend, Mekhi dance with Jennifer and in convincing them she tells Mekhi that when he steps to her, "If she says no, she really means yes". At this point me and the heads I went with were like what's the deal with this film? As if there aren't enough date rapes, and attempted rapes this film wants to send a message that implies something careless as this. On Stony Brook campus alone this semester there have been more than two dozen rapes and attempted rapes. Furthermore this film is targeted towards High School students and to imagine that this is the way they may enter a university setting, with these notions in the back of their minds is frightening.

The images and messages were also the only thing that we considered frightening at all. Call me overly-sensitive, but the scene where Mekhi got sea sick and was vomiting over the side of the boat, didn't warrant a comment from a white male saying that maybe you're just not the sailing type. To a degree I couldn't help but to feel disrespected regarding to middle passage west African corpses buried by the sands beneath the brown water of the Atlantic. Call me overly-sensitive, but when they did decide to murder the main Black male character in the film why was he lynched, literally hanged (don't trip it's the proper term). You can call me overly-sensitive, but you'll never call me blind to the images and tricks that belittle the plight of oppressed people in film.

I think I've given you enough to read & digest, but I also think it would be best if we all started to see these pictures through different frames of mind. We are not one dimensional beings so why should you think that way. Don't be tricked into not creatively criticizing what people dare to present to you as entertainment or anything else for that matter. Whose really the "hater" if they don't want you to critically think. As for "I Still Know ..." you'd feel better off buying someone whose starving a meal to eat.

By: Derrin MAXwell

What You Do For Me

*I love it when you say hello and hate the words good-bye,
I wish that I could hold your hands and stare into your eyes,
I love it when you kiss my lips and hold my body tight,
The way you whisper I love you in the middle of the night.*

*You know the way to make me feel that I deserve the best,
You know how to make me smile, you've passed all my test.
And if a good man is hard to find, I'm glad that there is you,
Because I know that you're someone whose feelings for me
are true.*

*When I think of all the things that you continue to do,
Not just for the first month, not even for two.
You continue to tell and show me the way that you feel
about me,
You make sure that there's no doubt, your love is clear to
see.*

*And if you didn't know by now how much I care for you,
I love you like a cozy blanket that warms me all winter
through!*

"A Work Out"

*Sweat out my perm
and tie down my hands
make me scream your name
Stroke me as hard as you can!*

*Claw down my back
and pull on my hair
Slap my blackass
Show me you how much you care!*

*Say that you love me
and show me what you mean
kiss me on my nipples
can you picture the scene!*

*Our bodies are one
The passion is high
I never want to stop
I never want to say good-bye!*

*taste all my juices
look into my eyes
I whisper to you softly
how much I love your size!
Oh what joy it brings me
Oh what pleasure and what pain
I love it when it hurts so good
your driving me insane!*

by Fatty Bangin'

*A place
where
hearts
go*

*I pour my heart out
He's gets the the girl
They toast to my pain
I eat my pride
Never admitting to swallow
Regurgitating the opportunity in prose
For them to read-or digest
I cram to understand
Keeping it all concise
My life consist of relationship pieces
You may not have many
Because you don't have any
Problems relating.
I'm trying to put the pieces together
To make myself whole.
Which means mastering letting go.
Out-let ink stain the ivory with
Indigo strokes of unlabeled emotions.
Associates are pretend-oars
I use them to row through oceans
Of bulls*#t between me and myself.*

DerrinMAXwell

*What am I going to do
Walking around with a smile on my face
Thinking about all the things I could do for you
Just tell me the time and place*

*I can't even concentrate in class anymore
Staring up at the walls wondering what you have
in store*

*What are you going to do tonight
Last night you gave me chocolates and roses
But this time I want to do something special
I might go another route and try ice and
blindfolds*

*I'm not sure, but what I do know
Is that your slightest touch makes me hot
Makes juices flow from my kitty-kat
Makes my nipples stand attention the way you
throw my back out*

*There isn't anything you could ask for, I wouldn't
do
Hey, I'll even go down if you ask me to*

*So far you've satisfied all my wishes
And even when I try to maintain,
You have me screaming your name in all types of
pitches*

*So what am I going to do now
I feel as though I'm whipped
But, wait a minute,
Getting whipped isn't necessarily a bad thing,
now is it*

cassandra m. regis

It's o.k. darlin',
 be calm,
 before storming tears tear
 and tornado through towers of
 pride.
 cling to the breeze and flutter
 through fibers of your angry
 soul.
 Some cry, Some groan,
 "Wild is the Wind", Simone,
 Some driven, Some flown,
 ridden. used.
 good riddens to you's guys.
 reasons to use guys,
 she had plenty.
 many games orchestrated
 and conjured to conquer
 through
 empty promises.
 pro misses and ameature
 beginners
 luck. nailing it!
 most men have mastered the
 f*#k up.
 claiming to know girls like you.
 but ain't nobody like you.
 I know you yesterday,
 different now though,
 one day smarter,
 but you feel so weak.
 so weeks go by and I make
 many
 attempts to talk and try to see.
 Out to sea where water
 surrounded
 our conversations.
 the air centered with rain
 your speech centered on pain,
 oars of open ended questions
 I padled and never complained,
 answered them all.
 figured I'd build your faith,
 fuel the fire aflamed the two
 stones of hope in your heart.
 helpless I feel when you start
 to cry. cross my heart & hope
 you fly away from all this pain.
 Derrin MAXwell

MORE THAN WORDS

ENDLESS NIGHT

MY HEART ACHES WITH IN ME THE DAY YOU
 LEFT TO SEA NOW AS THE MOON. SAILING THROUGH
 THE CLOUD DRIFTS DISAPPEARING LEAVING ME FULL
 OF REGRETS SO VANISHES MY LOVE OUT OF SIGHT
 YOU ARE LIKE THE SUN WITHOUT SIGHT.

NATALIE NATION

Humanity's Reality

Words do fail me in this hour.
 The sounds of my voice inthy presence
 seems as bitter vinegar.
 The flow of my life this day seemed
 contrary to thy will;
 The battle with my flesh made me face defeat.
 Here I now sit in your presence with your people;
 Seeking a way to lay down my heart.
 My praise you will not hear if iniquity is there.
 How do I say sorry again, lord you must be tired!
 For time and time again the same thing is before you.
 How do I say sorry again the same thing is before.

Your word gives account of such an occurance.
 Your Grace was sufficient in that time of need;
 Your grace is the same, And is sufficient for me.
 Lord I haven't pleased you with what I have done.
 Sorry is not enough for the victory not won.
 I dare not make a vow I'm not sure that I can keep.
 But your help again I ask, Your mercy I do seek.
 But not wroth with me Oh Lord;
 "chasten me not in thy hot displeasure!"

Julius Pommells

:SAY CHEESE:

By: K-Nasty

Say cheese your on Candid Camera, or are you?

Snap in the front, snap to the right, and snap to
 the left.

Oh, I'm sorry dark one, please hold up the sign,
 and let's do it again.

Snap in front, snap to the right, and snap to the
 left. Ah, that's better.

Now take off your clothes, and stand there,
 scream not for me.

I'm only trying to rid you of that hideous color that I
 marvel so much.

When you feel the cold water hit hard, scream not,
 when you feel the hot water, scream not, for it
 resembles my blood when I see your face.

Say cheese for I have to display your identity to
 those who are paranoid.

Funny thing though, we are scared of you, but we
 have the history of beating your behind out of
 existence.

Say Cheese for six o'clock is near, like Cinderella
 you have to be back, you all have to be back, back
 in this three wall room with ripples of iron that cast
 your life away.

One phone call, not, three meals not, visitation,
 not.

Do you think that I am stupid, for six o'clock rolls
 around, my audience has to see you for what you
 are, scratch that, for what I want to portray you as.
 Oh sorry for not introducing myself, my name is,
 CNN, ABC, NBC, WPIX, CBS, UPN . . .

DON'T GET CAUGHT BY THE MILLENNIUM BUG

Examples of things that can go wrong if the Year 2000 problem isn't corrected in time:

*** Many firms may have large numbers of computer tapes and files erased due to automated systems that haven't been told that time has reversed!**

*** Stores will have empty shelves because their ordering systems are not working properly.**

*** Retirees might be denied Medicare and other benefits because their age is calculated to be too young.**

*** Planes may be grounded because they're 99 years overdue for maintenance.**

*** Phone calls just after midnight being billed for 53 million minutes.**

*** Credit card balances skyrocketing into the millions due to haywire interest calculations.**

*** ATM's locking people out from their money.**

*** Incorrect mortgage and loan calculations.**

By: Roberto Augustus Gayle

No one knows for sure how much trouble will occur at the stroke of midnight, Dec. 31, 1999, when computer clocks roll over everywhere. Some fear the worst: More than half of the technology executives polled recently by CIO magazine, say they will avoid flying commercially on Jan. 1, 2000. Another survey found that 38 percent of information technology industry professionals plan to pull investments and money from banks just before 2000.

Even if planes don't fall from the sky and banks don't lose people's deposits, experts say we all will experience inconveniences from what is becoming widely recognized as the "year 2000 problem," the "millennium bug," or "Y2K." They predict everything from disrupted travel schedules to more serious problems, like large-scale power outages or even a global recession.

The processing of tax refunds, veterans' benefits, and employee checks could be hampered, government auditors say. Indeed, in some places, the problem is already upon us. One survey found that 44 percent of U.S. companies had already experienced a year 2000 failure—like the grocery in Warren, Mich., whose entire computer system crashed when a cashier tried to swipe a credit card bearing a 2000 expiration date. Even the Pentagon's Global Command Control system—a key communication link during the gulf war—failed a year 2000 readiness test last summer.

Fixing the Y2K problem is simple—in concept. Someone must examine every line of code in every computer, locate the instructions regarding dates, and rewrite them to accept 2000 as a year designation. But despite the rising din of warnings, surveys indicate that too few managers in business and government recognize how little time is left to complete the task.

Ironically, one reason the Y2K bug has survived is the concept of "backward compatibility," which was introduced in the 1960s to bring order to computer development. IBM and other computer companies, realizing they couldn't expect clients to buy new software every model year, made sure that each new model was largely compatible with earlier programs. That, however, created an environment in which the old Y2K bugs have been able to worm their way—program by program—into the most modern equipment.

At a recent congressional hearing, Gene Dodaro of the U.S. General Accounting Office warned that "critical services could be severely disrupted." At the Internal Revenue Service, he said, the processing of returns and issuing of refunds could be delayed; the Veterans Administration could fail to make payments for service-related disabilities; and the FAA's glitches could cause, "delayed flights, degraded safety, customer inconvenience, and increased airline costs."

Many local governments are in even worse shape than federal agencies. Experts are predicting more trouble in the health sector, as patient billing and insurance records at hospitals or HMOs are vulnerable. Certain kinds of biomedical equipment, including patient-monitoring devices, are also in danger of malfunction. Because many electric utilities have gotten a late start, localized power outages are a threat.

How Serious is the Year 2000 Problem for Business

A major uncertainty is the impact of Y2K on global financial markets, where \$3 trillion changes hands electronically each day. While Asian countries

are distracted by economic woes, the Y2K problem has taken a back seat. But if Y2K isn't fixed overseas, cautious trading or delays caused by bad data could cause profit losses across the entire global financial system.

While most large banks, insurance companies, and financial investment companies have spent lavishly to prevent massive Y2K problems, smaller ones may abound. Already some debit machines at checkout counters have rejected credit cards with year 2000 expiration dates; other potential consumer inconveniences include errors in interest calculations, credit charges, and account balances.

According to Gartner group, 90 percent of the applications will be affected by the Year 2000 problem, and systems will crash, if the century problem is not corrected before 1999.

This problem is not limited to just the Year 2000. There is also a Year 1999 problem. Many people are aware of a related problem that might happen for all computer files created on Sept. 9, 1999. This date (9/9/99) was popular back in the 1980's as an expiration date for archived data that you wanted to have 'no expiration date.' And January 1, 1999 might be a big problem too, as some systems do calculations based on looking one year into the future which, is January 1, 2000.

Year 2000 problems have been found in practically every programming language from BASIC to FORTRAN. Even the most modern of programming languages, Java, can have the problem. The problem is not with the programming language but in the way the programming language was used.

How Can Consumers Protect Themselves

Do consumer-level PCs have a Year 2000 problem? Maybe. It depends on how old your PC is. To find out if your hardware can handle Year 2000 do the following:

1. Set the date to January 1, 2000.
2. Check that the date has been set.
3. Switch off the computer.
4. Wait a few minutes.
5. Switch the computer back on.
6. Check the date. It should be the 1st of January 2000.
7. Don't forget to reset your computer to the correct date and time.

Many PCs will fail this test and reboot to 04 January 1980. You should find out before New Year's Eve what's going to happen to your PC. You can visit the following Web page for the index to several PC manufacturer's Y2K compliance statements: www.wa.gov/dis/2000/survey/dt_hard. This is actually a ftp index from which you double click on a file name, (e.g., ibm.htm), associated with the manufacturer.

Aside from software that the consumer can't control (e.g. mortgage, loans, etc.) he or she can control the software that runs on his or her PC. There's been a lot of discussion about this in the Y2K forums on the Web.

If you have a home computer it's time to upgrade to a newer model for your hardware and software. If you can't or won't do this, then at least call the various hardware and software manufacturers and find out if the version of hardware and software you are using is Y2K-compliant.

For those systems you can't control, such as mortgage and credit cards, start saving all statements and paperwork sent to you from the various banks, mutual fund firms and other institutions where you keep or borrow money. In the advent of a financial meltdown in the Year 2000, you'll have proof positive of your assets.

The Conspiracy of Death in Black Communities Part II

By Simcael Mason

During the time of the Atlanta Child Murders a former publication by Ra Un Nefer Amen (alias R.A. Straughn), THE ORACLE OF THOTH Vol.2, No.2 March 1981, comments on this tragedy: "At this moment of writing, Feb. 25, the number of children murdered in Atlanta 'stands' (it is hoped) at 20, in so many months.... It is my belief that it was the lack of responses (the level of) in the Black community, [which is the reason] why it has taken 20 months for the Federal Government, for example, to lend assistance.... Have not other ethnic groups organized themselves, for their well being? (Economic, political, self-defense, etc.).... The lack of concern for the need, the imperative to come together to pool our resources, is clearly reflected in our low keyed reaction as a nation to the killing of our children."

If there is not some truth of a conspiracy to destroy our people, why did it take the Federal Government one year and 240 days just to lend assistance? Keep in mind that Ra Un Nefer Amen did not say "give assistance," but "lend assistance." Yet, his words still reverberate 10 years later with the specific situation concerning brother Gavin Cato and the alleged brother who "murdered" Yankel Rosenbaum, and 17 years later concerning sister Ryan Harris. Even still, where was the national outcry by so-called Black Leaders and white liberals when 10-year-old sister Lachesha Johnson, in 1996, was locked up in a maximum security prison and given a death sentence, for allegedly killing an infant?

Despite the CIA crack spree that hit our community in 1986, it was in 1987 that the conspiracy to destroy our people intensified. The Tawana Brawley story was-and still is-a tragedy which was, and is, an attack on every single Black woman living in America. More specifically, it was an attack which stated in effect: "No Black woman will ever be allowed to charge and convict any European man of rape." Our sister Tawana would have been the first to ever do so. Her story is the story and historical life-experience of all Black women in America. It begins in 1987.

Without going into all of the details, on November 24, 1987 Brawley was kidnaped and repeatedly raped for four days. Dutchess County Police Officials interviewed her on November 30, 1987 to ascertain details about what happened to her. They asked her, in reference to her sexual assault, "What kind of man?" She replied, "White man." They asked her "The

passenger who dragged you in the car, did he have anything else on?" She replied, "A Badge."

Sister Brawley was obviously coherent enough to know the difference between a man of her own kind, and another man of a different kind. And my point here is that this was, and still is, her testimony: Three to four-or more-white men raped her over a period of four days. Yet, that is not what transpired afterwards.

Afterwards, the deception of the European media was at its peak in confusing a certain number of our people. For instead of focusing the investigation on whom she described and claimed who raped her, the investigation focused and went in the direction of implicating brothers' Alton Maddox, C. Vernon Mason, and Rev. Al Sharpton in conspiring a hoax to boost their prestige. Their media had even gone so far as to implicate Tawana's stepfather-Ralph King-in attempting to cover up his alleged "involvement" in her disappearance and rape.

To give an example of the type of inhumane deception which went into brainwashing the public into believing her story to be a hoax. I am quoting a specific portion of People weekly, July 4, 1988, entitled "The Scandal Behind the Tawana Brawley Case: A PACK OF LIES." Therefore, "doubts about her adviser's [Sharpton, Mason, Maddox] handling of the case have reached all the way into her family, into the mind of her uncle.... "The issue should be Tawana... It seems like it's getting away from that. Every time you turn around, they [Maddox, Mason and Sharpton] are in front of a camera, and they're making allegations, but they're not doing anything."

It's a shame her uncle did not realize that whosoever controls the media determines for the public who will or will not be in the spotlight of cameras. Also, he disregards the fact that the Dutchess County Police Force did not cooperate with the Brawley family at all, throughout the entire investigation. This is clearly evident by them not allowing Tawana to go over any pictures of likely suspects, and not providing her with an official who would make a sketch of her described rapists. But, as far as Mason, Maddox, and Sharpton not doing anything with their allegations, they did a great deal. Yet, "These and all their other charges had two things in common: No persuasive evidence was provided to support them and they made headlines." Therefore, the implication here is that Sharpton, Mason, and Maddox did support Tawana's story and provided

reasonable evidence. However, since it was not persuasive enough to white people and white officials in Dutchess County, their evidence was considered irrelevant.

Now the common claim at this particular time and even today, is that "The Tawana Brawley story is a hoax and she did it to herself!" Well, here are the facts of the matter: "Nov 28 - 2:00 pm Tawana Brawley is found near a dumpster in a plastic bag.... She is half-naked, curled up in a fetal position and without underwear. She is covered with feces and has "KKK nigger bitch" written on her torso. The ambulance team finds no dilation of pupils and no response to ammonia capsules. At St. Francis Hospital, the medical report revealed masses of hair ripped from her head, she is, "unresponsive, unconscious, shallow breathing." There is notation of a collection of blood around her pubic area. It notes that the teenager's severe injuries were the result of "probable sexual assault." The above facts are quoted from OUR TIME PRESS newspaper's special August 1998 edition.

After what happened to brother Louima it should be obvious to all African people that probable sexual assaults by police officers are not a maybe, but are actual facts. In any case, all of you so-called "Black Intelligentsia" people out there, please use whatever little intellect and common sense you all may have left, and address the quote from OUR TIME PRESS. Then ask yourself, "Could a 15-year-old girl sexually assault (rape) herself, write nigger bitch on her torso, cover herself up with dog feces, rip masses of hair from her head, curl up in a fetal position in a plastic bag, all the while remaining conscious, then fall unconscious and wait for the ambulance to pick her up?"

If you believe in the latter possibility, the next question must be why: "If she did it to herself, why go through the entire physical process, psychological and emotional pain, when she could have just ran away from home? After all, didn't she perform this hoax just to get away from her abusive mother?" The aforesaid indeed reeks of insanity, but there are some people who cannot even conceptualize the possibility of sister Tawana's story not being a hoax. Pose this question to yourself: "Could I carry out so many atrocities to my being while still maintaining consciousness?" Well, some Negroes most likely believe they could. The latter must be a fact since none of them dared to question the Central Park Jogger's alleged rapists.

Sex and Cappuccino: 69° of Pleasure

By: Melvin Bennett

Erotica, a state of mind that most choose to ignore or should I say choose to keep secret. A word that should bring joy to all faces but most times is related with a blush. A topic that is only shared by the intimate ones... until that night. The night of November 5, 1998 was electrifying. The tickets were sold out in an hour. The event was created due to growing interest in poetry. A time that creative poets, on and off campus, can bring out their hearts and thrill the crowd with their spoken words. A room filled due to the expectations of the amateur poets. A room pushed to the limit, filled to capacity due to main event, the spoken word diva, Sarah Jones.

Sarah Jones, the winner of the 1997 grand slam award, is a quick look at America's growing diversity, is full of quick wit, poetic rhythms and blatant racial reality. A collection of characters superbly portrayed reveals various hidden opinions that exist within our American culture. A selection of monologues take audiences into the minds of characters such as Nena, a struggling Latino actress, Lorraine a Jewish woman who harbors deep racial stereotypes, and a Russian woman who is married to a black man. Also doing some of her best, liveliest and erroneous poetic pieces. If you were there, you witnessed history here at Stony Brook.

This night consisted of poets of all sorts who decided to bring

out the bones inside of the closet. Metaphorically and sublimely done, the poets sent across a message that reflected their erroneous zones most vividly. There were many people that were against the program, sponsored by S.A.B., T.S.O., M.P.B., and U.C.C., because of the sexual nature. Authority figures forget to realize that sex is a big part of a college student's growth. When left unaddressed it is harder for students to realize that it is present. This event seemed to uplift the topic in a way that people began to look at sex in a whole different light.

The feedback from the audience was not measurable. There was not one bad thing that could have come from the event except maybe the words from Sarah Jones was just too much to handle. Aisha Haughton, a student, said, "The setting was amazing. It complimented the title of the event to the utmost."

Michelle Phang, also a student, said "the event took her away from school. It seemed like I was at an actual poetry bar." Phang had this to say about Sarah Jones, "She was powerful, representing for all women glorifying her diversity to the fullest extent."

Due to the success of the event S.A.B. has been mentioning a similar event for some time next semester. For all who were very content with Sex and Cappuccino, keep your eyes open for Oral Fixations.

Leaps and Bounds

STONY BROOK MEN'S BASKETBALL REPORT

Stony Brook, NY - - The Stony Brook men's basketball team earned its first win of the season defeating New England Collegiate Conference rival Binghamton, 67-56, last Tuesday. The win improved the Seawolves record to 1-3 on the year, 1-0 in the conference. Junior point guard **Steve Pratta (Queens, NY/Northfield Mt. Hermon (MA))** turned in his finest performance as a Seawolf, recording nine points, twelve assists and five steals to pace the Stony Brook win.

The Seawolves used an 18-3 run to build a 15 point lead in the first half but Binghamton clawed back to draw within 29-25 at the break. **Stefan Salden (Fr., Borsbeek, Belgium/Handelsschool Duerne)** and Pratta hit consecutive three-pointers to start the second half to extend Stony Brook's lead to 10, but the Seawolves could not put the Colonials away.

Midway through the second half, Stony Brook put together a 12-2 run highlighted by two **Josh Little (So., Rocky Hill, CT/St. Thomas More)** three-pointers to stake the Seawolves to a 60-44 lead. Little finished the day with a team-high 14 points, connecting on four three-pointers in the game. He was one of four Stony Brook players who scored in double figures. **Chris Balliro (So., Swampscott, MA/Swampscott)**, **Bobby Mahoney (Sr., Bronx, NY/Christopher Columbus)** and **Ryan McDermott (Jr., Rexford, NY/Shenendehowa)** each tallied 11 points for the Seawolves.

Freshman **Achilleas Klepkos (Fr., Thessaloniki, Greece/14th Lyceum)** tallied a team-high 10 rebounds to help the Seawolves to a 43-41 rebounding advantage.

News and Notes: Stony Brook will play three games this week beginning with Monday's battle with Division I Columbia in New York at 7:30 PM. The Seawolves will then return home to face conference rival Southern Connecticut on Wednesday at 7:30 PM. Stony Brook will then travel to Manchester, NH to challenge New Hampshire College on Saturday at 4:00 PM.

STONY BROOK WOMEN'S BASKETBALL REPORT

Stony Brook, NY - - The Stony Brook women's basketball team began its final season in the New England Collegiate Conference last week. Last Wednesday the Seawolves were defeated by Binghamton, 59-40, and fell to Sacred Heart last Saturday, 74-69.

Binghamton went on a 13-0 run midway through the first half to break a 44 tie and take a commanding 17-4 lead. The Colonials stretched their lead to 15 with 3:23 remaining in the first half before settling for a 31-19 halftime advantage.

Freshman **Sarah Burkett (Parkersburg, WV/Parkersburg Catholic)** drilled a three from the top of the key to help Stony Brook cut the lead to nine with 8:31 left to play but that was as close as the Seawolves would get. Burken finished the game with a team-high 11 points while fellow freshman **Cortney Ray (Stow, OH/Stow)** tallied 11 points and pulled down 11 rebounds to help lead the Seawolves effort. The double-double was the second of her career.

Last Saturday, Stony Brook led by as many as seven in the first half (10-3) but saw Sacred Heart go on a 9-0 run to take a 12-10 lead. The Pioneers then used a 10-0 run late in the first half to take a commanding 29-19 lead. The margin then stretched to as many as 12 before Sacred Heart took a 38-29 lead into the half.

The Seawolves were kept at bay until the last two minutes of the second half when Stony Brook stormed back and cut the Pioneer lead to three with 15 seconds remaining. The Seawolves could get no closer, however, and Sacred Heart captured the final margin of victory.

Burkett finished the game with a career-high 19 points on 7 of 9 shooting from the field including 4-6 from three-point range. Ray and **Kelli Cofield (Fr., Brooklyn, NY/Midwood)** joined Burkett in double figures in the scoring column tallying 13 and 11 points respectively.

News and Notes: Stony Brook will look to end its losing streak hosting Southern Connecticut on Wednesday and traveling to New Hampshire to battle New Hampshire College on Saturday.

STONY BROOK TRACK & FIELD REPORT

Stony Brook, NY - - The Stony Brook men's and women's track and field teams competed at the CTC Relays held at Southern Connecticut on Sunday. The men's team finished in second place with 43 points while the women's team finished in third place with 27 points.

On the men's side, sophomore **Patrick Harding (Georgetown, Guyana/Queens College)** won both the shot put and the weight throw to lead the Seawolves effort. Harding won the shot by nearly two meters with a toss of 14.16 and won the weight throw by .20 meters with a toss of 13.56 meters. Stony Brook also won seven of 15 relay events. The Seawolves were victorious in the 4 x 200 meter relay (1:38.65), 4 x 840 meter relay (3:35.21), 4 x 800 meter relay (8:30.79), the distance medley relay (10:48.09), the weight throw relay (34.48 meters), the shot put relay (25.68 meters).

On the women's side, Stony Brook was led by freshman **Lea Fernando (Hicksville, NY/Hicksville)** who won the 5,000 meter run in a time of 19:19.10. Junior **Tara Sullivan (East Quogue, NY/**

Westhampton) placed second in the 5,000 with a time of 19:27.06. Junior **Lisa Vellucci (Staten Island, NY/Trottenville)** placed second in the one mile race walk. The Seawolves also placed second in the 4 x 200, 4 x 400, and 4 x one mile relays and finished in first place in the 2 x 5000 meter relay.

News and Notes: Both track and field teams will compete one more time before the winter recess. Next Saturday, both teams will compete at the Manhattan Invitational.

STONY BROOK SWIMMING AND DIVING REPORT

Stony Brook, NY—The Stony Brook men's and women's swimming and diving teams competed in a tri-meet with St. Francis held at Iona College. The men's team defeated St. Francis (NY), 58-20, but fell to Iona, 57-51. The women also defeated St. Francis (NY), 86-22, but were defeated by Iona, 57-51.

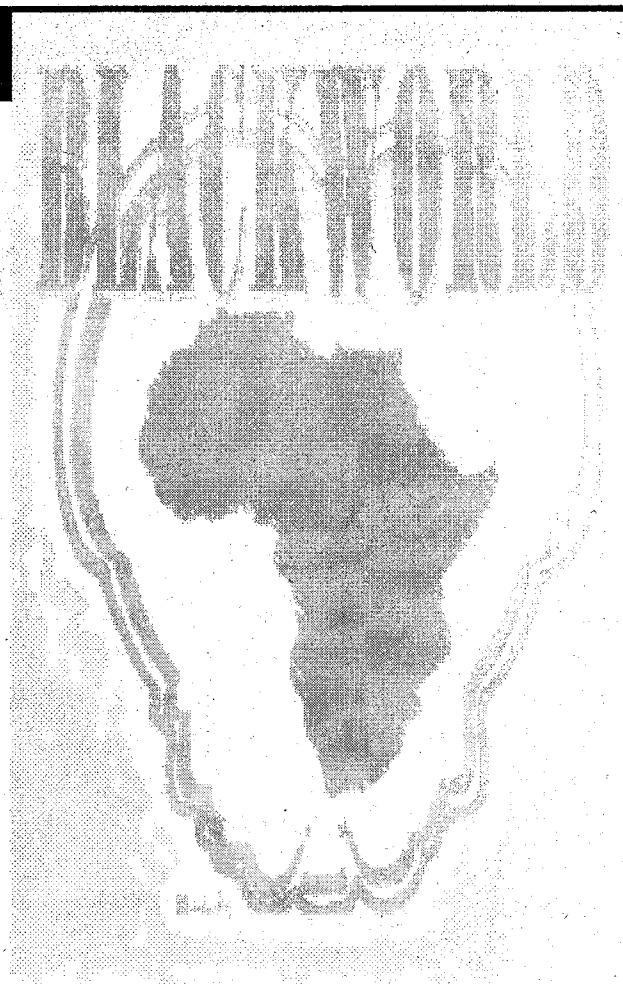
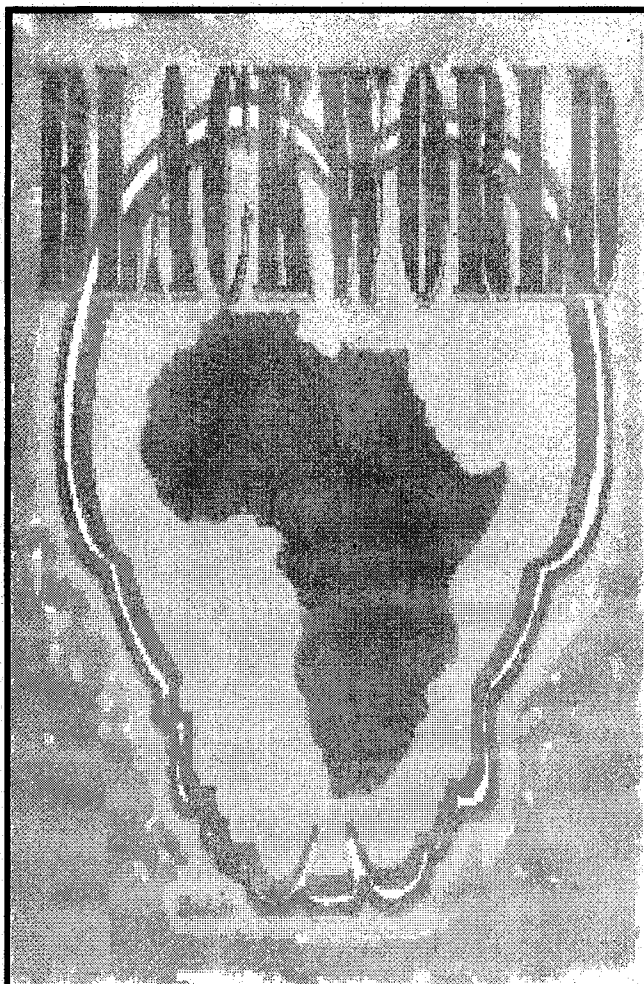
Senior **Michael Chang (Setauket, NY/Ward Melville)** won the 50 and 100 yard freestyle to lead the men's team in the tri meet. Chang swam a 22.16 in the 50 and a 48.92 in the 100. Freshman **Tim Larkin (Campbell Hall NY/Washingtonville)** also continued his impressive season winning the 1000 free in a time of 10:09.67.

In the women's meet, freshman **Eleni Michailaros (Lake Katrine, NY/Kingston)** was victorious in the 200 individual medley to lead the way for Stony Brook. **Patricia Prehm (So., Bethpage, NY/Bethpage)** also helped the effort placing second in the 500 and 1000 free with times of 5:43.2 and 11:48 respectively.

News and Notes: Last Saturday, Stony Brook hosted the Seawolves Dive Invitational. Senior **Heather Martin (Mechanicville, NY/Shenendehowa)** placed second in the 1-meter dive with a score of 290.025 and placed third in the 3-meter dive recording a score of 296.4.

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO
GRADUATES**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

