

# **BLACKWORLD**

**Fall 1998 – Spring 1999**





# BLACKWORLD

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

September 22, 1998

ONE NATION

Volume 39, Number 1

**HARLEM, N.Y.C. \* SEPT. 5, 1998**

**134th St. & Malcolm X Blvd**

**IT'S ON!**

**MILLION**

**YOUTH**

**MARCH**





# Quotable:

**The Free in freedom  
was put there  
to blow your mind  
to blow your game**

**Mari Evans**



# Just The Facts

## An Account of the Million Youth March

By: Daniel Yohannes

It was billed as the Million Youth March by its organizers and a poorly organized, problem-causing, hate march by its critics. It was none of these things. There was nowhere near a million people; they were not many youth present; there was no marching; it was quite well organized; and there was very little hate.

It was a stand. People were herded in and penned up behind metal barricades. According to police estimates, 6,000 people were in attendance. The number may be deflated; people were filtering in and out of the march site all afternoon. Toward the end of the march, that number dwindled to just over a thousand.

The event began at 12:00 p.m. and was slated to continue for four hours. For three hours and 45 minutes, the audience listened to positive messages from members of mostly black political, social and religious organizations. The messages varied from reminders of the need for better education for youth, to the dangers of drugs, AIDS, and police brutality.

Shortly after 12:00 p.m., the police were already limiting access to the site. The permit for the march allowed it to convene along Malcolm X Blvd. from 118th to 124th Streets. There was no access to the site from the south end of the demonstration. Police began filling the site at 123rd Street. Marchers were allowed access and kept five blocks from the stage where the speakers were spreading their messages. As the northern blocks were slowly filled, access at 123rd Street was closed off and moved to 121st Street. None of the officers controlling access were knowledgeable about the current access site. People were running around the site seeking a way into the march.

Police were tense but not aggressive. Members of the Harlem community were present as liaisons between marchers and police. Their presence was not necessary but it was certainly appreciated.

Malcolm X Blvd. is a wide avenue with an island separating north and south bound traffic. The participants were allowed to stand on the sidewalk, the south side of the street, and on most of the north side of the street. The police retained control and exclusive right-of-way at the intersections and of a lane on the north-bound side of the street. No police were wearing riot gear. The stage was located at 118th Street. By 1:00 p.m. all but two blocks were filled. The two remaining blocks filled quickly.

One of the first speakers said, "Police brutality is out of control. We are marching here today because

Rudy Giuliani and his fascist police are out of control. We are marching here today because too many babies are having babies. We are marching here today because too many fathers aren't raising their children. We are marching here today because there is a conspiracy to move black people out of Harlem." After his short speech, the speaker said, "Thank you brothers and sisters, and I leave you in peace."

The speakers flowed from one to the next, each promoting his own message of peace and empowerment. The average speech length was between five and 10 minutes. The speakers were from a wide variety of relatively unknown black social, political, religious and nationalist groups.

Reparations was the first major issue that was addressed. Marchers were told that a man named Silas Muhammad had appeared before a subcommittee of the United Nations Human Rights Council to further the cause of reparations to be paid to descendants of slaves and victims of the slavery holocaust. He demanded reparations to include land and, "untold trillions of dollars." He defined reparations and said, "We know the identity of the criminals. Payment of the debt is long overdue. We want it now and we want the interest." The rhetoric supporting reparations was heated and an obvious educational goal of the organizers.

One speaker represented the native American viewpoint. Chief Ernie Longwalk opened by saying, "When the first slave escaped, he was sheltered by my ancestors. From that day on, we became blood brothers." He

went on to remind the crowd that too often in the minority community, "we have constipation of the mind and diarrhea of the mouth." He closed his speech by leading the crowd in cheers of "Red and Black Power!"

The crowd went wild for local hero Al Sharpton who led the crowd in a stirring round of "No justice. No peace." He spoke of everyone's right to organize and come together to discuss

*Continued on pg. 6*

## The Man Behind the March

By: Daniel Yohannes

The man whose name became synonymous with the march, Khalid Abdul Muhammad is full of hate. Taken out of context, his remarks can be appalling; taken in context they can be quite disturbing. He has referred to Jews as "hooked-nosed, bagel-eating, perpetrating-a-fraud, so-called Jew." He has called the Pope a "cracker" and is known for his verbal attacks against homosexuals. He has also refused to acknowledge the Jewish Holocaust until there is a wider acknowledgment of the deaths and suffering that occurred during the history of the United States.

Khalid Muhammad first entered the national arena as an aid to Nation of Islam Minister, Louis Farrakhan. He was dismissed in 1994 after making a speech that included derogatory remarks regarding Jews, homosexuals, Caucasians, and the Pope. He has referred to Mayor Giuliani as an "ordinary cracker" and a "devil".

He made news again in early June when he led a group of armed members of the Black Muslims of Houston and the Black Panthers of Dallas in Jasper, Texas in response to the killing of James Byrd Jr. Byrd was beaten and chained by his ankles before being dragged behind a truck through the back roads of Texas by three white men.

According to Shawn Allen Berry, one of the perpetrators, Byrd was picked up as a hitchhiker and attacked by his passengers. All three men were charged with the crime. Two of the defendants were alleged to have ties to the Aryan Brotherhood, a white supremacist organization that has members in prisons across the country.

When the Ku Klux Klan marched in Jasper to disavow any connection with the killings, Muhammad led an armed march as a show of support to the black community in Jasper. The nature of the killing and the non-violent confrontation that ensued, launched Muhammad into the national spotlight.

The planning for the Million Youth March began much earlier. In late January, 1998, two applications to hold a "first amendment educational event" were filed. Several sites and two dates were requested. September 19th was the original date; that was later changed to the 5th as the organizers wanted to reach youth before the start of the school year. The first site requested was on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan or Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn; another requested Malcolm X Blvd. A third request filed with the Parks Department requested Central Park, Randalls Island, or "street." The City denied permits for all sites except Randalls Island and offered Van Cortland Park in the Bronx. The organizers refused to accept these sites.

In early June, organizers informed city officials that the march would take place in Harlem over the Labor Day weekend. City officials countered that there were too many events already scheduled for the weekend, and that one more would dangerously tax the police department resources. They restated their offer of Randalls Island on September 19th.

The war was fought in the media and the courts. Finally, on Au-

*Continued on pg. 6*

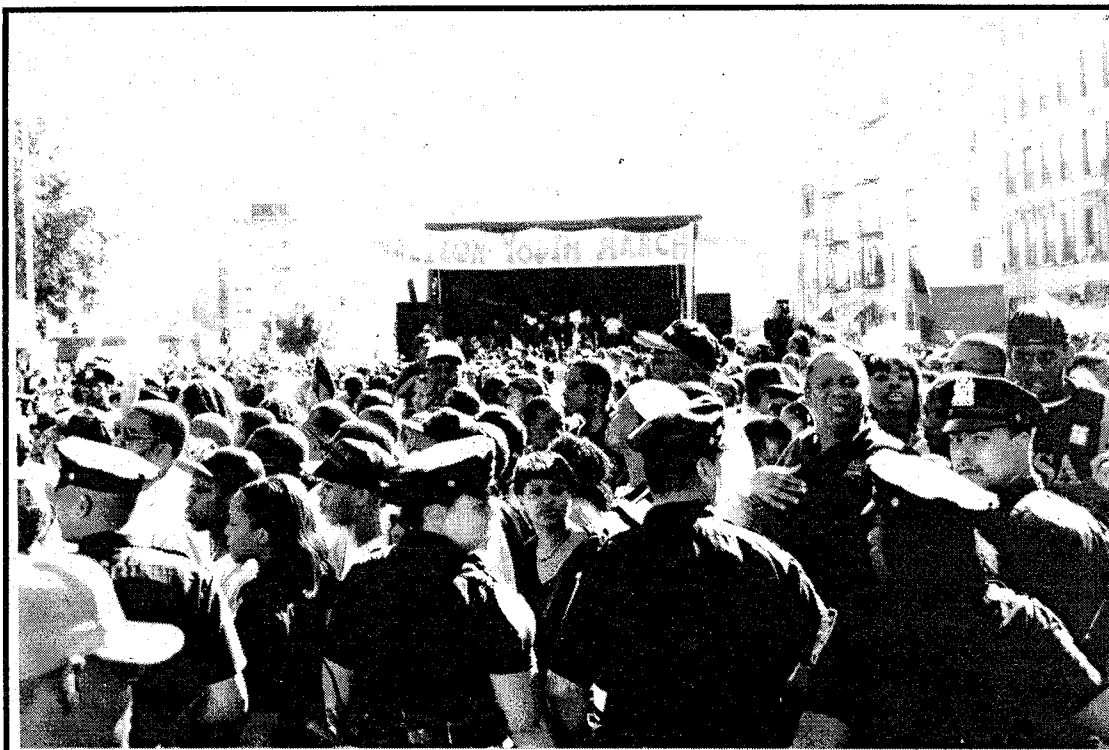
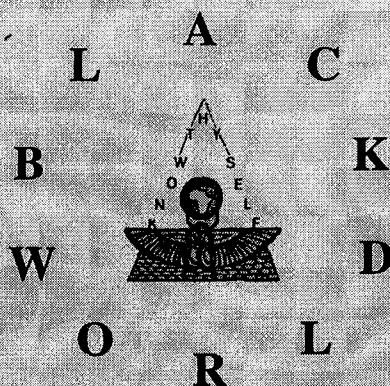


Photo by Daniel Yohannes

Police form blockade around marchers



**"KNOW THYSELF"**

**TISCHELLE GEORGE**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**ASIMA CHAUDHRY**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

**SIMCAEL MASON**  
COPY EDITOR

**TROY WOODLEY**  
PRODUCTION MANAGER

**FIONA BAILEY**  
COMPUTER LAYOUT EDITOR

**BRISSETTE GANTT**  
OFFICE MANAGER

**JOSEPHINE ODURO**  
SECRETARY

**JOY MAHABIR**  
FACULTY ADVISOR

**CONTRIBUTING STAFF**  
Carline Lina Garner  
Sharon Sudano  
Daniel Yohannes

**CELEBRATE 25  
YEARS OF  
BLACKWORLD IN  
'99**

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.

## Faculty Voice

In any struggle, it is always necessary to draw a dividing line. Everyone finds out, sooner or later, that he or she must choose a side, and stick to it. Events this Spring semester, including the Pro-Affirmative Action rallies, the controversy over Affirmative Action waivers, and the Africana Studies Review, drew a clear dividing line between progressive and non-progressive people on the Stony Brook Campus.

Affirmative Action. For some people it is a form of liberal racism; while for others it is the result of a class struggle waged by oppressed people of color in the United States. For some people it means that their spouses will not get jobs at this University without a fair search; for others it means that Black and Latino people will finally have equal job opportunities on campus.

For some people, the President's ban on waivers means that they will now have to find other underhanded ways to defeat Affirmative Action (like pretending to have real searches); for students and

faculty of color on campus, it means that we will have to be vigilant over the summer and during the Fall, and get ready to kick some ass.

Africana Studies. This department just got a wonderful review, and a recommendation for a Master's Degree. Students will have to pay close attention to how the administration follows up on the review committee's suggestions. They will have to keep the pressure on if they want Africana Studies to become a department. Africana Studies has existed on this campus for 30 years. It is the visible sign of a truce made by the academic bourgeois class and the oppressed working classes, Black and White, of the United States. Several progressive people, Black and White, lost their lives during the Civil Rights movement. Part of the result of their struggle is the introduction of Affirmative Action laws in the workplace, and the establishment of departments like Africana Studies, Women's Studies, Asian Studies, and Latin American and

Caribbean Studies.

Student actions. Towards the end of the Spring semester, the scandals in Polity and the allegations of violence made the the entire student body, especially the Black community, extremely wary. The sentiment among black students is that they will not tolerate any divisive or backward behavior by anyone on campus, Black or White. Black students who want to engage in "ghetto-style" violence will be dealt with by the Black community on campus. Students have real struggles on campus, and will not tolerate people who put self-interest above the good of the community.

In the summer and Fall, many people will have to take a side on the dividing line. There will be more Affirmative Action demonstrations in the Fall. As the late Eldridge Cleaver once said, "You are either part of the problem or part of the solution." Choose your side and don't punk out when you are called to action.

## Editorial

Greetings, BLACKWORLD readers. We apologize for the delay of our first issue, but we know that you will enjoy it all the same.

In this issue we bring to you a new column, Info/tainment-Upclose. This column, which is written by Lina Garner, a recent Stony Brook graduate, will feature interviews and information about celebrities in the Black and Latino communities.

Another new feature to the BLACKWORLD pages is the "Know Thyself Book Club." This section will provide our readers with a top 10, best read list and a review of a selected book. The purpose of the book club is to encourage students to enjoy literature by reading a good novel. Text books can certainly stimulate your mind, but how

much do you actually enjoy reading them?

The recurring theme in this issue, is the need for the Africana Studies Program to become a department. Departmental status would allow for a graduate program and an increase in graduate enrollment by under represented students.

Currently the University is suffering in its attempts to attract graduate students of color. I can only imagine the trouble that administrators will have, when prospective students learn about the absence of African-American professors in the English and Psychology departments.

Most students in this university who are science majors, can go for four years without having a class taught by a Black professor, unless they take an

Africana Studies course. And since the Africana Studies Program is so poorly promoted in the admissions process, students only inquire about these courses when trying to fulfill a D.E.C. requirement.

Maybe the seriousness of the situation will be realized when someone conducts an experiment, similar to the one used to dispel the belief of separate but equal. Black students who were receiving completely unequal educational experiences than White students, suffered from severe inferiority complexes. An experiment of that nature, conducted at the State University of New York at Stony Brook would reveal the harmful effects on students of a total disregard and misrepresentation of African-American scholars, culture and history.

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

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



# Black Power Manifesto

By: Simcael Mason

The Million Youth March was another spiritual gathering, however, what set this march apart from the Million Man March, and Million Woman March is its affect.

We often hear the phrase "Three times the charm," and that is precisely what the Youth March was. Its great success was a result of the culmination of all of the spiritual energy that was collected at the prior two gatherings, into one mental and emotional union.

The Youth march accomplished a great deal by unifying the expressed purposes of both the MMM, and MWM, which was actual unity among our people. For those who attended the Youth march, I believe that this unity had finally been attained.

The spirit of nationalistic unity was kept within the context of Black Power, which is literally the unification and synthesis of Pan-Africanism, Black Nationalism, Garveyism, Afrocentricity, the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and all other revolutionary Black ideologies.

The essence of nationalistic unity permeated the very atmosphere of that particular part of Harlem. In fact, the temperament of the surroundings were affected to such a degree that when it came time to "give up the money," brothers and sisters were literally throwing money out of their windows. It was truly a remarkable sight to see.

Despite the mainstream media's lack of coverage of the total gathering, there were many prolific speakers at the gathering who sustained, invigorated, and stratified the spirit of unity and nationalism among our people.

Some of those speakers include, Dr. Yosef ben-Jochanan, Dr. Leonard Jeffries, Rev. Ishakamusa Barashango, Rev. Al Sharpton, Steve Cokely, Malik Zulu Shabazz, Erica Ford, and Dead Prez.

However, there were others whom-though I cannot recall their names-did the same, such as the elder sister who spoke of how she, and subsequently all, Black women are the mothers of civilization, and that all of us came from a Black womb and to a Black womb we shall return.

Also, the brother from California who laid it down to all of us New Yorkers what would happen to these beasts (N.Y.P.D.), if another situation like brother Abner Louima's arises. All of these many sisters and brothers, conceptually and physically outlined who and what is oppressing us, with unified plausible solutions.

The media's attempt-with the exception of ABC news-to galvanize the gathering into one of "widespread

intimidation" failed. This is primarily because the mainstream media (white media) looked very foolish trying to create negativity where none existed.

For example, *NY News 1* reporters continuously spoke of "minor" incidents with police officers, yet showed the same exact footage of these so-called incidents for three hours straight. Also, with regards to this "widespread intimidation," the police officers were the ones who were truly intimidated. In fact, one *NY News 1* reporter reluctantly admitted that "the number of rally participants to the number of police of-

ficers is seven to one."

Thus, even if there were truly 3,000 officers there and only "9,000" of us, that's still a large number: 1,285 sisters and brothers per one police officer. Gil Noble, from the informative talk show *Like It Is*, estimated the number of our people to be 25,000.

Despite the projected numbers, we'll never know truly how many attended the gathering since many were kept out due to beasts zoning off the front entrance (around 12 noon and prior) and the back entrance (all day long, where the riot squad was placed) of the stage. How-

ever, my spirit tells me that we were at least 30,000 plus in attendance.

Mayor Giuliani attempted to demonize the gathering as a "hate march," but that did not work. His devilry failed to the point where some of his constituents reprimanded him on his actions.

Our people were not impressed nor fearful of the massive amount of police that Giuliani requested to be on the scene. Many officers were in sniper-placed positions on rooftops and clandestinely seemed to go from one window to the next, in apartment buildings. As a result of the rumors about police conflict and confrontation, which was expected to happen, our people came ready for anything.

Even coming to the end of Khalid Muhammad's effective speech, that the white media tried to negatively exploit, was an extreme disappointment. For all the riot police officers there, the number of police vans, buses and/or trucks, our people did not riot.

However, if Khalid would not have said and expressed what he stated, I believe our people would have rioted. Indeed, this riot would have been far worse than the Watt's 60's riot, and the L.A. Rebellion of the 90's. In effect, Khalid appeased the fervor of nationalism and taking justice into our own hands, by saying what we should do if attacked by the beast, and we did.

Therefore, far worse things would have been done to all the police officers, riot squad and the like, if Khalid had not vocalized a position in which we should take against them.

In any event, The Million Youth Gathering definitely proved to the Black World, that there are a collective number of us who are indeed prepared spiritually and mentally for whatever awaits us, in the next 100 or more years.

The spirit and mind-set of the African Cultural Revolution will live on in the genes and beingness of our children, and their children's children. For the spiritual and mental chains of our enslavement have been broken, and the process is irrevocable.

The next generation of children, and their children's generation will come out the wombs of African Goddesses already strategically formatting the implementation of plans to physically take back what is rightfully ours.

Therefore, for all of you sisters and brothers who were inhibited from attending the gathering due to other incentives, don't fret, for as Khalid said: "I'll see you next year on Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn!"

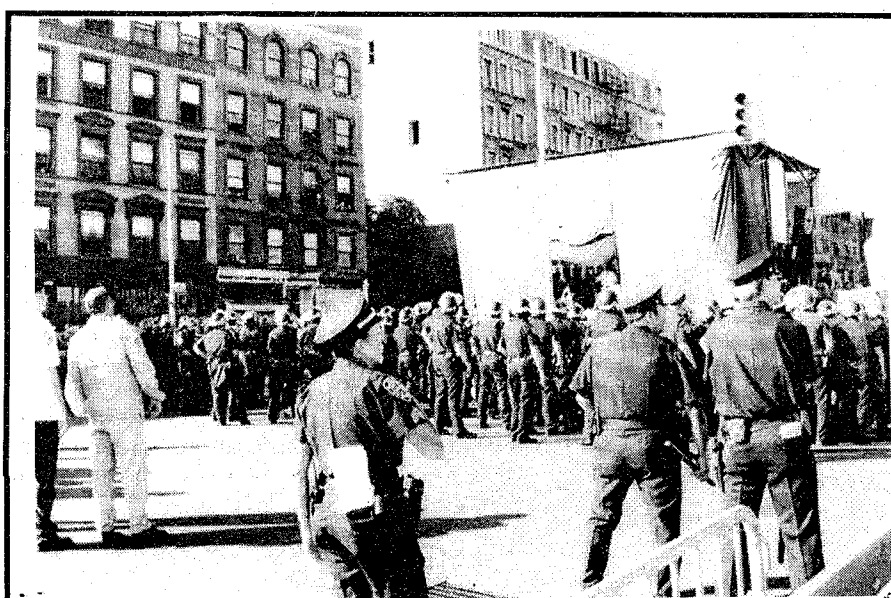


Photo by Daniel Yohannes

**Riot gear police stand prepared to take military action**



Photo by Daniel Yohannes

**"Despite projected numbers many attended the gathering."**



## Facts, Continued from pg. 3

issues important to the community. "With the (NYC) surplus budget, they are building jails and no schools." He reminded marchers of a boy sitting in a hospital after being shot 17 times by police who mistook his water gun for a Tek-9 machine gun. In closing he said, "We don't march because we hate. We march because we love our children and are tired of the police brutality."

The event, touted as poorly organized and lacking in speakers was in fact well organized. Speakers flowed from one to the next. No one spoke long enough to bore the crowd. Each speaker sent messages of peace, family, love, and empowerment.

Circulating through the crowd were individuals passing out information supporting issues related to those being addressed at the march. Militants, Communists, grassroots empowerment organizations, and ordinary but vocal people were using the march as a venue for sharing their ideas. Many were passing out information on the incarceration of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Donations were solicited from the crowd. "We've got to put some green in this black machine," organizers said. Money was passed from

many hands and thrown by Harlem residents out of their windows, all to reach a central collection point. Crowds cheered as money seemed to fall from the sky.

As money was being collected, a new mood became apparent in the police. They began to line up facing the marchers and organizers.

Chairwoman Erika Boyd promoted a renewed commitment to future generations. She encouraged everyone who was listening, to stop buying Tommy Hilfiger and spend money within their own communities.

Herbert Smalls spoke of the rage that fuels Khalid Muhammad's controversial rhetoric. With the caveat that he did not support all of Muhammad's statements, he expressed support for the man and his sacrifice in organizing the march. The next speaker recited what she called a "voodoo chant" that cursed black officers who raise their batons against marchers.

An officer with the NYPD DCCA responded to questions about the number of police present at the event by saying, "All this (barricades) is for your protection. We have to maintain order, er, control of the crowd. God forbid there's a stampede, or a riot, or something. I mean we have

horses standing by a few blocks away, but we can't really bring them in here. We are probably outnumbered a hundred to one." In fact, they were outnumbered 2 to 1 at the height of the rally, and at the end of the march, police outnumbered participants 3 to 1.

As the time crept onto 4:00 p.m. the tension among the police could be tasted. The permit was to expire precisely at four, which was the time Khalid Muhammad took the stage. After making blessings and paying respect to elders in the Nation of Islam, he pointed out to the crowd that riot police were surrounding the stage, and that all the police had changed positions into a more aggressive stance.

Muhammad made a seemingly obligatory anti-Semitic remark, and turned his attention to the police. He said, "We have a right, a God-given right, and, according to white law, which isn't worth the paper it's written on, we have a constitutional right to defend ourselves against anyone who attacks us. . . we want you to be steadfast. . . If anyone attacks you. . . disconnect the railing and beat the hell out of them. . . you don't have a gun, but each of them has a gun. . . Take their ba-

tons and do what they did to Abner Louima."

By 4:05 p.m., Muhammad had left the stage. An NYPD helicopter began a series of dangerously low fly-bys along Malcolm X Blvd. Marchers moved the metal barricades to let themselves out and uniformed police placed themselves behind it. Some marchers lingered and riot police moved into place. The peaceful mood of the march had evaporated and was replaced by tense confrontation.

Some media have reported an incident in which police were injured, but this reporter saw nothing from ground zero. Riot police replaced speakers on the stage, adding to the confrontational mood.

A spokesman for Khalid Muhammad climbed the stage, flanked by riot police, and pleaded with the crowd to disperse. The crowd responded to his pleas of "Go home" with "We are home." As it became apparent that the remaining marchers were not intimidated by the police, he pleaded that everyone get the women and children "out of the line of fire." The stalemate lasted about 30 minutes. The crowd eventually dispersed peacefully.

## Know Thy Self Book Club

### Recommended Best Read

1. Singing in the Come Back Choir by Bebe Moore Campbell (Putnam, \$20)
2. Coffee Will Make You Black by April Sinclair (Avon, \$12)
3. Soul Food by L. Brookshire (HarperCollins, \$5.99)
4. \*Paradise\* by Toni Morrison (Knopf, \$25)
5. Caught Up in the Rapture by S. Jackson (Scribner, \$12)
6. Color of Water by James McBride (Riverhead, \$13)
7. The Color Complex by Kathy Russell (Anchor, \$12.95)
8. Caucasasia by Danzy Senna (Riverhead, \$24.95)
9. Lady Moses by Lucinda Roy (HarperFlamingo, \$24)
10. Acts of Faith by Iyanla Vanzant (Fireside, \$11)

### Between The Lines

By: Carline Lina Garner

The Nobel Laureate, Toni Morrison, released her long awaited book, *\*Paradise\**. This is her seventh book since the release of *Jazz* in 1993. Morrison is most noted for her books, *The Bluest Eye*, 1970; *Sula*, 1974; *Song of Solomon*, 1977; *Tar Baby*, 1981; and the Pulitzer Prize winning - *Beloved*, 1987. For years Morrison has tackled tough issues that touch the lives of Black people. In her latest novel, the award winning author intrigues us with a richly imagined and elegantly composed mystery that extends over a period from the 1800's to the 1970's.

The novel takes place in an all-Black town in Oklahoma, in 1976. The story depicts a group of women living in a convent and the men who try to assault them. Morrison touches on many issues in this novel such as, the significance of race, conflicts between generations, the customs of religion, and overall the true meaning of paradise.

If you think you can read this book with Puff Daddy's latest remix playing in the background while your roommate is on the phone screaming at her jealous boyfriend, forget it! This novel requires careful reading in a quiet area and a dictionary by your side. It is a challenging read, but if it wasn't Morrison would not be living up to the expectations of her ever-growing audience.

Toni Morrison is currently teaching at Princeton University in New Jersey.

## Man, Continued from pg. 3

gust 26th, US District Judge, Lewis Kaplan ruled that the city had improperly refused the organizers a permit and that the march could occur subject to the regulation of the city and police department. He said that the city/Giuliani had acted arbitrarily in denying the permit, were "breathtaking in their lack of standards," and that city actions were a "virtual prescription for unconstitutional decision-making."

After organizers acknowledged that it was unlikely that more than 50,000 people would attend, the city limited the march to Malcolm X Blvd. between 118th and 124th Streets. The evening before the march, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced that it would suspend subway service along Malcolm X Blvd. for the duration of the march. Trains would not stop between 96th and 145th Streets. The MTA cited the danger of leaving subways open near such a large event; subways servicing Yankee Stadium and Madison Square Garden are never shut down for such reasons.

JOIN THE STRUGGLE!!!

GET INVOLVED  
GET INVOLVED  
GET INVOLVED

JOIN BLACKWORLD!!!



# BLACK! ASHES!

By: Ivette Laureano and Melissa Almonte

How far back can you remember? Are you one of those who reminisce about the good old days? Then pop a squat and prepare yourself for a flood of memories to return.

## NAME CALLING:

1. Flatleaver
2. Tattle-tale
3. Cry baby
4. Indian giver
5. Instigator
6. Back stabber
7. Boogar brain
8. Butt crust

## HAND GAMES:

1. Rockin' Robin (the dirty version)
2. Down, down the roller coaster
3. Miss Lucy had a baby
4. Miss Mary Mack
5. Candy Girl
6. We're going to Kentucky
7. Blue bird, blue bird
8. Quack diddley-oso
9. Duck, duck, goose

## JUMP ROPE/ DOUBLEDUTCH SONGS:

1. 1-2-3, Up the ladder
2. Teddy bear, teddy bear...
3. 5-4-3-2-1
4. Strawberry Shortcake

## JUMP ROPE MATERIAL:

1. Cable wire
2. Telephone wire
3. Laundry rope
4. Extension cords

## STREET GAMES:

1. Freeze tag
2. Red light, Green light 1-2-3
3. Man-hunt
4. Scullies
5. Heaven
6. Telephone
7. Truth, Dare, or Consequences
8. Catch & Kiss
9. Hop Scotch
10. 7-Up
11. 7-11
12. Craps
13. Touch football
14. Stickball
15. Marco Polo
16. Jaws
17. Mother, may I?

## PHRASES:

1. No backsies!
2. You got cooties!
3. Circle circle, dot dot...
4. Now I got my cootie shot!
5. Your mamma! Your father!
6. Your whole generation! To Infinity!
7. Oooh! I'm telling!
8. Liar, liar, pants on fire!

9. Girl and Boy sittin' in a tree..
10. Fine! Be that way!
11. How much you wanna bet?/ Bet?
12. Dag!
13. Why you did that for?
14. Wanna Race?
15. I'll race you!
16. Doy!

## TV SHOW

1. Good Times
2. Different Strokes
3. What's Happening
4. Happy Days
5. The Jeffersons
6. Facts of Life
7. Benson
8. Incredible Hulk
9. The Bionic Woman
10. Million Dollar Man
11. Gimme A Break
12. Little House on the Prairie
13. One Day at a Time
14. C.H.I.P.S.
15. Charlie's Angels
16. Dukes of Hazzard
17. Fantasy Island
18. Gilligan's Island
19. Webster
20. Alf
21. Benny Hill
22. Odd couple
23. Batman & Robin
24. Starskie & Hutch
25. Family Ties
26. Alice
27. Valerie/Hogan's Family
28. Growing Pains
29. The Cosby Show
30. Too Close for Comfort
31. Night Court
32. Electric Company
33. 3-2-1 Contact
34. Captain Kangaroo
35. Fame
36. Punky Brewster

## TOYS/GAMES:

1. Atari
2. Nintendo
3. Uno
4. Pogo ball
5. Legos
6. Rubex Cube
7. Twister
8. Cabbage Patch Kids
9. Jacks
10. Click Clacks
11. Frogger
12. Centipede
13. Pac-Man
14. Barbie Dolls
15. Transformers
16. Trouble
17. Candy Land
18. Shoots and Ladders
19. GI Joe
20. Hot Wheels
21. Thundercats
22. Brite-lite
23. Hungry, Hungry Hippos
24. Operation

25. Shoots & Ladders
26. My Little Pony
27. Yo-Yo
28. Playing in the Johnny pump
29. Racing
30. Garbage Pail Kids Stickers
31. Bike competitions/Who can make the longest skid mark?
32. Skateboarding
33. Roller skating
34. Spin the bottle
35. Hand ball
36. Brake the chain
37. Kick ball
38. Dodge ball
39. Cops & Robbers

## MENUDO:

Charlie, Johnny, Miguel, Ricky, Xavier  
(Original Members)

## CARTOONS:

1. G.I. Joe
2. Transformers
3. Thundercats
4. Voltron
5. Smurfs
6. He-Man
7. She-Ra
8. Care Bears
9. Jem
10. Fat Albert
11. Super-Friends
12. Woody Woodpecker
13. Tom & Jerry
14. Loony Toons
15. G-Force
16. The Little's
17. Plastic Man
18. Charlie Brown
19. Scooby Doo
20. Mighty Mouse
21. Rainbow Brite
22. Monchi-chies
23. Inspector Gadget
24. The Jetsons
25. Josie & the Pussycats
26. Snorks
27. Alvin & the Chipmunks

## WWE WRESTLING:

1. Hulk Hogan
2. Andre the Giant
3. Captain Lou Albano
4. Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka
5. Coco B-Ware
6. Rowdy Roddy Piper
7. Jake "The Snake" Roberts
8. British Bulldogs
9. "Macho Man" Randy Savage w/ Elizabeth
10. Demolition Man
11. "Hacksaw" Jim Dugan
12. Tugboat
13. Mr. T
14. Heart Foundation
15. Tito Santana
16. Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake
17. Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat
18. Scary Sherry
19. Million Dollar Man
20. Mr. Perfect
21. Bobby "The Brain" Heenan



# **A CALL FOR CREATIVITY!!!**

**BLACKWORLD NEEDS  
YOUR POEMS, DRAWINGS,  
FILM, MUSIC, BOOK &  
WEBSITE REVIEWS.**

**CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF  
CREATIVITY!  
HAVE YOUR VOICE  
HEARD IN  
BLACKWORLD**

**SUBMISSION LOCATIONS: POLITY SUITE MAILBOX,  
SAC, RM 202 OR BLACKWORLD OFFICE, UNION, RM  
072 OR E-MAIL: [blckwrld@ic.sunysb.edu](mailto:blckwrld@ic.sunysb.edu)**



# African Students Convene at Intn'l Conference

By: Josephine Oduro

Stony Brook's own African Student Union, participated in the fourth annual International African Students association (IASA) conference hosted at Howard University. The conference attempted to address issues facing Africa.

The IASA conference united representatives from African Student Association's (ASA) all over the U.S. and Canada. "IASA is a student run organization, built around the idea that students need to organize to gain more skills so as to help Africa's development," said Hafsai Abiola former president of IASA.

Students that attended the conference represented the many different shapes, colors and voices of Africa. Among those present were people who had origins from Zaire, Liberia, Ghana, Tanzania, and Nigeria. Some Haitian and Jamaican students were also in attendance adding to the idea that Africans do not just reside in Africa but all over the globe.

The former Director of African Affairs for the White House Security Council, MacArthur DeShazer, Sr., said, "Displacement has put us in an environment that has caused us to develop different values and beliefs, which has caused us to be different, but that does not mean we should not connect the dots." Screen writer and director of *Amistad*, Debbie Allen was scheduled to speak at the conference, but was unable to attend.

**Many Americans view Africa as a country that is represented by men with spears, bare-breasted women, and barefoot and hungry children.**

DeShazer also discussed the National Summit on Africa and its attempt to address issues about struggles in Africa. The summit, which is being funded by the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation, is set to take place in November 1999. One of the objectives of the summit is to raise Africa's profile in the U.S.

Many Americans view Africa as a country that is represented by men with spears, bare-breasted women, and barefoot and hungry children. The attempt to improve Africa's profile is a plan to educate Americans about the mutual benefits of a closer U.S.-Africa relationship.

Another objective of the summit is to devise a plan of action in which 25 academics will write about democracy, human rights and culture. Light regional summits will be conducted to increase the delegation. "We expect to have a stronger, broader constituency that will increase our voice," said DeShazer.

Sabelo Sibanda founding member of IASA said, "Our people have been suppressed for so long, that they've developed this mentality that they need to

be helped by someone else. We don't want a situation where we increase our dependency on others, maybe one time we'll call on the state department but for now let's leave them out."

Sibanda went on to discuss The School of African Awareness, which is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that was launched in Zimbabwe. The SAA's major purpose is to address issues pertaining to cultural awareness, and African self-help and self-reliance. The SAA is designed to play an instrumental role in the educating and development of Africa and its people. It is also targeted at people who have an interest in Africa and its culture.

Corruption of some African governments was another topic of discussion. It is suspected that the Nigerian government sells oil to U.S. companies and pockets the profits. The U.S. companies then bribe congressman in order to prevent the U.S. from taking action. "Is the Global Money Market more important than the Nigerian people," Sibanda said. DeShazer responded "We wanted to hold the Nigerian governments feet to the fire, but we couldn't get an agreement to that process."

DeShazer went on to discuss the reason why sanctions haven't worked in Nigeria. "There has been reluctance



*Participants of the International African Students Association Conference*

among the international system to enforce freezing assets," he said.

Mike Fleshman, Human Rights Coordinator for the American Committee on Africa said, "The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank continued to give money to Seseke Mobutu the former President of Zaire, knowing he pocketed it."

Most of the participants at the conference shared a common view that the U.S. has absolute power because it holds the most votes in the United Nations, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The avenue of boycotting and lobbying was identified to be a limited option.

"The only people that address issues in Africa is the white government," Sibanda said. "They address us to exploit us."

Field organizer for Amnesty International, Cleopatra Warren brought attention to genocide in Rwanda and juvenile executions. "There are 13 minors on death row in the United States," Warren said.

The IASA conference also discussed possible projects such as a book drive. The project involves sending unused textbooks to people in Africa who can better utilize them. It has been proposed to have the U.S. and the countries that are receiving the books in Africa share the shipping charges. Vice President of IASA Ukonwa Kuzi-Orizy is currently working on implementing the book drive.

"Stanford University sends

books to African universities on behalf of IASA," said Dozie Okpalaobieri, a Brandies University student.

Another project proposed by IASA is to develop a resume book which will be sold to companies that are interested in hiring qualified Africans.

A relative view shared by some of the African students at the conference, was that they represent a small minority on their college campuses and that events like the conference really allow them the chance to unite. "I come here to meet people, because of the atmosphere at my university," said Jacqueline Ajala, a student of The College of William and Mary University.

Other students said the conference was very productive in educating them about issues pertaining to Africa. "I think it's sometimes good to get a new view to solutions of African problems," said Frederick Osei-Boah ASU president at Stony Brook. "It's a good gathering of most of the African countries, sharing ideas about our homelands."

In light of the positive response from some of the attendees Sibanda warned everyone about the repercussions of conferences. "There's a constant danger with conference hopping," said Sibanda, "organizers make these conferences, and go home with a fat check and do not really teach the people. It is no longer a situation where attendance is more important than the experience of learning. Once people's minds have been sharpened you know the conference was effective."



# Olympic Dreams in Retrospect

By: Sharon Sudano

It has been said that experience makes a person bitter or better. Roger Gill opted for better after the 1996 Olympic Games where the anticipation of winning turned into the agony of defeat.

"The Olympics was an emotional roller coaster," Gill said. "I developed a mental toughness to get over disappointments — to hit a low and then come right back up."

As a runner for his native Guyana, Gill says he was entered to participate in the men's 200-meter event and the 4 x 400 relay. Not only was he tossed out of the 200-meter, but a relay team member was scratched in favor of a slower, inexperienced runner. Two years later, he chalks the whole episode up to being "a real education."

The 5-foot, 9-inch former USB track star, whose records for outdoor and indoor track remain unchallenged at Stony Brook since 1994, is soft-spoken and humble about his achievements. A thin mustache outlines his upper lip and from behind thin-rimmed glasses, his brown eyes exude a cheerful easiness.

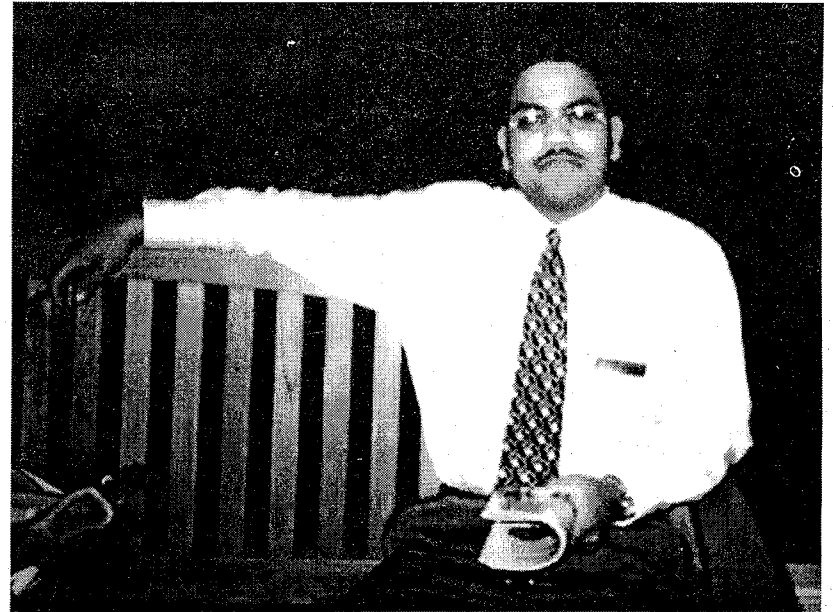
The six-time All American award recipient in track and field is pursuing a graduate degree at Stony Brook in Human Resources Management and plans to graduate in December. In addition, he works full-time as the assistant director of the Student Activities Center's Food Court.

While walking with the Guyanese delegation during the Opening Ceremonies in Atlanta, Ga., Gill was well-prepared physically for the international competition. What he wasn't prepared for were the hurdles that were to be put in his path.

Having qualified with the Guyana Olympic Committee with a time of 20.62 seconds, Gill says he was ready to rip up the track in the 200-meter. "Then two days before the actual event, the Olympic Committee sent out a sheet — basically it's a roster — with lane assignments so that you know what time you're running and who's in your heat. When I checked it, my name wasn't on it," Gill said. "I questioned everyone about it and the story was that Guyana had never turned my time into the International Olympic Committee."

The International Committee told him that unless he could verify his time, he couldn't run. "I felt disgusted because had the International Committee asked me for the information before I got to Atlanta, it wouldn't have been a problem," Gill said. "But to tell me two days before? It was like 'What are you kidding me?'"

For the next two days, Gill called the Empire State Games office in New York. He had run his qualifying time at one of its meets at Mitchel Field in Uniondale, and he believed it had the documentation to prove it. The day before



Roger Gill

the race, Gill finally contacted a woman at the office. "She told me that she had the results but couldn't send them without the meet director's approval, and he couldn't be reached at the time."

The proof of performance arrived the following afternoon, but it was too late. The 200 had been run that morning without Guyana being represented.

Gill found the turn of events baffling. "Everyone from day one — the coach, our liaison in America, the president of the Guyana Olympic Committee — told me that I had been

chosen as the 200 runner. How this happened is still a mystery to me," he said, shaking his head.

Another problem cropped up for the Olympic contender the night before the 4 x 400 relay when the track coach announced that one of the team members was being replaced due to a cold. But according to Gill, there was nothing wrong with his teammate. "I've roomed with the guy, and he sniffled while he slept maybe, but that's just how he is. It's not necessarily that he was sick."

*Continued on pg. 11*

## Turners Welcome New Faculty Mentor

By: Tischelle George

Last October the Turner Fellowship Program welcomed Dr. E. Anthony Hurley from the French and Italian Department, as the new faculty mentor for the 1997-98 academic year.

Dr. Hurley said he took the position because he knew that "Black students often do not have the opportunity to interact with Black faculty. I know that there are few of us and I wanted to make

myself available," Hurley said. "I have confidence in my own political orientation and I would like to contribute in some way."

The Turner Fellowship Program targets under represented students to encourage their enrollment in graduate schools.

The need for a faculty mentor arose when Pedro Gonzalez the former assistant dean of the Turner Fellowship Program, resigned last June to go to San Jose State University.

"There was no time to do a national search, so a faculty mentor will serve in an interim position while a search is conducted to find a permanent replacement," said Dr. Lawrence Martin dean of the Graduate School.

Dr. Martin, fellowship members and the Turner Advisory Committee all met with the candidates who applied for the faculty mentor position. "Dr. Hurley had been through graduate school successfully," Martin said. "He showed an interest in and sensitivity to the Turner Fellows."

As faculty mentor, Hurley will chair the Turner Advisory Committee,

which selects the incoming class of Turner fellows. The fellowship has sufficient funding to award a maximum of 20 students. Last year, however, the fellowship inducted only 11 new students, three of which are African-American.

The low numbers of Black graduate students at the University is of great concern to Hurley. "I intend to put a lot of energy into making contacts with historically Black colleges and universities in many fields of study, to ensure that there is a large enough pool," Hurley said.

"Graduate students have decided not to come to Stony Brook," he said. "The Stony Brook community is not particularly welcoming to people of color. In many respects it can be hostile."

Dr. Hurley has endured racial discrimination in his lifetime as a graduate student, which makes him sensitive to some of the issues that the Turner Fellows are concerned about.

"I was the only person of color in my department as a graduate. I was made to feel inferior to Whites," Hurley said. He had the experience of having a Black faculty member as his mentor. "She saved me. We're still friends to this day."

Although Hurley's new position

was created to compensate for the absence of the assistant dean of the Turner Fellowship Program, Martin says "it's not a decision that we have to rush. The national search committee hasn't been formed yet, but we plan to have everyone in place for the next academic year."

"The position for assistant dean customarily is not filled by someone who has a Ph.D.," Martin said. The position would go to someone who has done work on the masters level."

Along with fulfilling the responsibilities as faculty mentor, Hurley also teaches a full course load in the department of French and Italian. He says he would be interested in becoming the assistant dean of the fellowship program, but the best person for the position would be someone who could devote an ample amount of time to the students.

He says, "The best situation would be to have a faculty person who spends half of his or her time working with the Turners, rather than to have someone in administration who has other duties."



Anthony Hurley

**JOIN  
BLACKWORLD**



# INFO/TAINMENT-*Upclose*

## Super Cop Ruby Collins



Where was Ruby Collins when television producer Steven Bochco created the failed television comedy on ABC about singing and dancing cops called *Cop Rock*, because officer Ruby Collins of the New York Police Department can actually sing!

Collins, a Brooklyn native, grew up singing in her Seventh Day Adventist church at a very young age. She used to be self-conscious about singing in front of large crowds because she didn't think she looked good enough. "I was extremely shy about my appearance," said the 5'8" Collins. "I knew I could sing, but the confidence in my appearance was low." All of that is behind her now, and after hearing her first album titled, "The Gift of Song," I can safely say that Whitney Houston should be scared!

I spent some time with Collins at the apartment she shares with her mother in Brooklyn. I wanted to find out more about the woman who enforces the law by day, and records tracks for her soon to be released album, by night.

Upon entering her home I heard a voice filtering the air from the stereo in the dining room. When

Collins asked if I recognized the voice that I heard, I thought it sounded like a familiar gospel singer, possibly Vanessa Bell Armstrong. I soon realized, however, that the voice belonged to Collins, who sounded as professional and talented as someone with a record deal already.

Collins got her start when she auditioned to sing at her Police Academy graduation at Madison Square Garden. Since bringing down the house with that performance, Ruby has entertained millions on *Show Time at the Apollo* and the *Rosie O'Donnell Show*. In 1996 she sang for the President in Washington, D.C. on National Peace Officer Memorial Day, which was a ceremony that honored slain cops. Collins also sung the national anthem at the Garden for a New York Knicks game.



Ruby Collins

Not only can Collins sing, but she writes her own lyrics and plays the piano too. All of her musical talent has not been discovered yet, but Collins just says, "It wasn't my time. Everything happens for a reason. I believe my time is coming soon though."

In the meanwhile, Collins will continue to be a police officer, even though that is not what she always aspired to do. After graduating from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, she took the New York City police exam and shortly thereafter became an officer. Since becoming an officer, she has not regretted a moment of it, but in the back of her mind, she knew that she had a God-given talent that she was not going to waste.

Currently, Collins works in the Drug Prevention Unit. She

speaks to public school students about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, which oddly enough includes sniffing Wite-Out, the correction fluid. Besides teaching students how to stay off drugs, she encourages them to reach for their goals, like she is doing. "I always tell the children I speak with to aspire to achieve their dreams," Collins said. "Whatever it is you want to do, never stop believing it can be done. If you believe in it and work towards it, doors will open up in ways you would never imagine."

Collins took matters into her own hands and opened doors for herself when she created her own record label called Bourne Records. She named the label after her relatives in Trinidad, whose surname is Bourne. "I wanted my own label because if I can do it myself, I have more control," she said.

Collins is definitely a multifaceted woman. She's catching the bad guys, doing business, educating our youth, and making music. The only thing left for her to do is drop that album!

BLACKWORLD wishes this sister much success.

## Olympic Continued from pg. 10

"Our team, as it was originally, ran competitively the year prior in the Central American and Caribbean Championships in Guatemala and won a bronze medal," Gill said. "And we also set a national record."

The four athletes unsuccessfully protested the decision and the alternate was put in as the first leg. After the Olympic relay, the heat's results were flashed on a lighted board saying that the team had set a new national record for Guyana.

Gill said, however, a few seconds later another message flashed: Guyana had been disqualified.

"It was a bittersweet moment," the 25-year-old said. "We found out later that the alternate got us disqualified for a line violation because he stepped out of the lane."

He admits that he was hurt and disappointed by the outcome of events at the time. "To know that you got to that level and a couple of key people — by just the snap of a finger — can take you from this high and bring you way down."

But Gill doesn't dwell on what could have been. "I've come to terms with

it, it's done," he said. "It doesn't take away from what I know I worked for and accomplished." He chooses, instead, to see the experience in a positive light. "I've grown tremendously through the Olympics and I've matured a lot."

As a result, he says that he puts his hard-earned lessons to use everyday. "Whether it's reports I have to do for work, or schoolwork, I always put my best foot forward and I always follow through."

One of the things that Gill followed through with after he returned from the Games was in becoming an American citizen. He claims that the process began months before he left for Atlanta, and it serves as testament that he's "moving on."

In retrospect, Gill said that he relied on others too much. "I think it was me putting my trust in too many people, and having them handle things that, I feel now, I should have handled."

"I'm not leaving anything in anyone else's hands anymore. Anything that pertains to me and my family, from here on in, is going to be handled by me from beginning to end. I don't ever want

to have that pain again," he said.

In 1997, the Olympic athlete teamed up in marriage with Annette Hicks, a Stony Brook graduate and former Student Polity Association president. The newlyweds recently had their first child—

a baby girl. "It's like a new beginning. It will top the Olympics without a doubt," the new father said, emphasizing the last three words.

As for the 2000 games, Gill said, "If I do go in 2000, it might be just as a spectator."



**Demonstrate!**  
**OCTOBER 22**  
**National Day of**  
**Protest to Stop**  
**Police Brutality,**  
**Repression & the Criminalization**  
**of a Generation! Wear black!**

It's up to us to stop this epidemic of police brutality.

### Contact us:

October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality  
c/o KHL, Inc.  
160 1st Ave, Box 124  
NYC, NY 10009  
<http://www.unstoppable.com/22>  
email: [oct22@unstoppable.com](mailto:oct22@unstoppable.com)

(212)979-7878 x3920  
**(888)NO BRUTALITY**



**WHAT DO YOU WANT  
OUT OF YOUR  
NEWSPAPER?**

**COME TELL US**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**1:00 PM**

**STUDENT UNION**

**RM 072**