

# BLACK WORLD

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ONE NATION

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## HIP-HOP

&

## POLITICS



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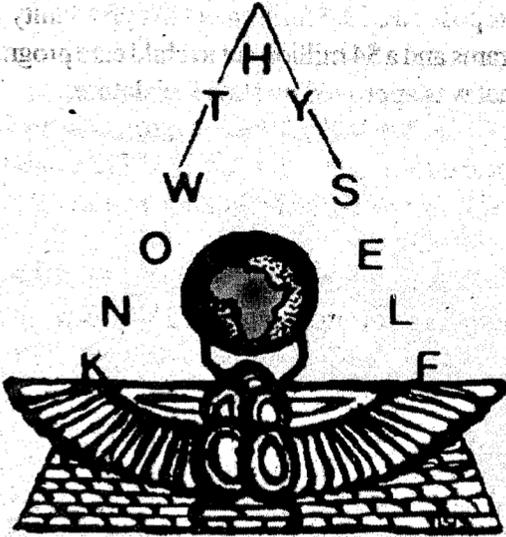
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**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

My last three years at Stony Brook have been an illusion. I was under the impression that as students, we could be confident that we are receiving information from some of the most scholarly professors in the state, however, I was wrong.

I was wrong for two reasons. First, I found that there exists professors here at Stony Brook who do not fully understand the history of what they teach. What's even more disturbing is some professors have the audacity to make racial statements during their lectures in regards to the history of African-American people. The second reason being, I was told by a professor of the Africana Studies department that as students, especially students of color, we are here to learn how to think for ourselves. We have to make our own judgements and not just take the information that is taught to us without questioning its validity.

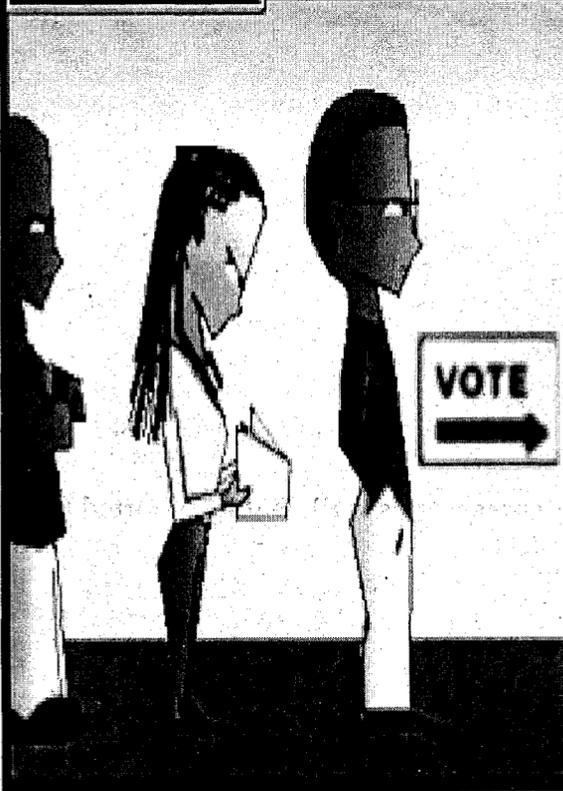
I may be the only one who feels this way but I thought we could trust that we would get what we paid for: a damn good

education. It makes sense that we should explore the knowledge given to us. However, I believe that as students we should be able to depend on our professors to be unbiased and not incorporate their personal beliefs with the facts.

Now more than ever, I see the need, as a student of color to do my own research and to draw my own conclusions. This rude awakening was a blessing as well as a burden because it forced me to realize that professors can be ignorant and the need to learn outside of the syllabus is critical.

We have often heard the saying "Knowledge is Power." Well, let's take that a step further. Let's self-educate in addition to our institutionalized education. Let's take the initiative to learn about our history so when professors taint their lectures with their personal views, either through ignorance or otherwise, we can feel confident using our self-knowledge to educate not only our peers but also the professor.

JAMES BOTT'S  
**INFAMOUS**  
CARTOONS

**UP FROM SLAVERY**

If there is anybody in this land who thoroughly believes that the meek shall inherit the earth they have not often let their presence be known.

-- W.E.B. DUBOIS

# Gubernatorial Election 2002

By: Yvonne Belizario  
BLACKWORLD Staff

Next Tuesday November 5, 2002 there will be a gubernatorial election held here in New York State. The two major party candidates are current governor George Pataki (Republican) and current State Comptroller Carl McCall (Democrat).

If Carl McCall unseats the incumbent it will mark a point in history because it will be the first time a black person was ever elected governor in New York State.

In the past, the voting age population between the ages of 18-25 has not exercised their right to vote in large enough numbers. It is also very important for people of color to know where candidates stand on issues that affect them as well.

Some issues that greatly affect them are issues of drug laws, city commuter fare increases, racial profiling and education altogether. This is to point out issues that adversely affect people in this category and find out how the Pataki administration handled them.

**Higher Education:** In the academic year 1995-1996, Pataki's first year as governor, he proposed to raise tuition for public colleges and

universities an estimated \$750 for the next academic year. He also proposed to eliminate the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for graduate students, but then decided to decrease it by a \$100 when initial proposal was rejected. Pataki then approved reduction in undergraduate TAP by \$225. He also proposed to eliminate funding for "opportunity" programs. All these proposals were rejected.

In 1996-1997, he tried to reduce TAP again and raise tuition by \$250 but was rejected. In 1997-1998 another legislative proposal was rejected when he tried raising tuition by \$400.

In 1998-1999, Pataki vetoed state legislatures proposals to decrease book costs by \$65. He tried to cap TAP awards at 75% so that the rest of the money would have to come out of student's pockets and limit maximum awards towards students taking 15 credits or more. Both proposals rejected.

Then a proposal that was legislated was to limit awards to students who went over four years in school.

But in 2000-2001 he proposed a \$10.8 million cut to the opportunity programs, which he then approved legislature to restore. The next year he

proposed a \$13.8 million cut to opportunity programs and a \$4 million cut to child care programs, that was approved by state legislature.

In 2002-2003 Pataki proposed to keep prior cuts and cut an additional \$235,000 from EOP. In which the legislature restored most of that money.

During his term, proposals for TAP programs and awards fluctuated between cuts and increases. Cuts and increases to SUNY and CUNY schools also fluctuated

Overall, New York families that make the least amount of money spend a third of their income on sending their dependents to schools costing the least amount of money. This is the highest percentage in the United States of America.

**Rockefeller Drug Laws:** In 1973, Governor Nelson Rockefeller enacted the Rockefeller Drug Laws that critics say would prove to be the harshest in the country to date. People of color are incensed at the statistics showing that blacks and Latinos make up to 94% of

*continued on pg.13*

## HIP-HOP & POLITICS

By: Jennifer Jacques  
BLACKWORLD Contributor

The 2002 Gubernatorial race is heating up as the day for Americans to cast their votes approaches.

Democratic candidate, Carl McCall, trails behind republican incumbent Governor George Pataki. Both candidates are trying to rally as much support as they can from community leaders and or individuals that play a major role in the voting pattern of their supporters.

The black and Hispanic community represents a gold mine of votes for both candidates. This year, there has been a great amount of effort pooled into trying to get the vote out amongst African-Americans.

Hip-hop artists have joined the bandwagon and have come out in the open; showing support for candidates whom they plan to vote for. LL Cool J announced that he was endorsing New York Governor George Pataki against Democratic candidate Carl H. McCall.

Rap mogul Russell Simmons, creator of Def Jam, and producer Sean 'P. Diddy' Combs are in support of McCall. Although, during the democratic primaries, Simmons

did not originally support McCall.

Simmons was in support of Andrew Cuomo.

When Russell was asked by *Creating A New America* to comment on why he chose Cuomo and not McCall, he answered "to the politicians and adults offended by hip-hop's language, I quote Ben Chavis, who says, 'I'm offended by the poverty and conditions of the ghetto, not young people's language.' I don't care about politics. I care about poor people. And yes, in the New York gubernatorial race, I backed Andrew Cuomo and not Carl McCall.

I didn't support McCall just because he's black — he's a nice man, well spoken, he represents us well. But I supported Cuomo because he was the only white speaker at the Redeem the Dream March on Washington. McCall — for 35 years — has never been with angry black people marching anywhere."

Andrew Cuomo decided to drop out of the democratic primary in order to allow McCall to receive the full support of the Democratic Party. L.L Cool J, on the other hand, felt that September 11, 2001 played a major role in his decision for governor.

"After seeing how the governor

handled the 9/11 situation, seeing what happened in this city ... I decided, you know what? I'm going to vote; I'm going to register. This will be the first gentleman I vote for," LL Cool J said.

After hearing about the endorsement from LL Cool J, Pataki told reporters that he was a fan of LL Cool J and said that he considered him a good role model.

"I think it's just incredible the way that someone who is an entertainer, a superstar the magnitude of LL Cool J, cares about his community," Pataki said.

The endorsement of both candidates from such great icons in the hip-hop community has created a buzz amongst hip-hop fans. If this is what is needed to get young African-Americans and Latinos involved in politics, then many might agree that the buzz is worthwhile.

On November 5, 2002 America has the chance to make history by possibly electing the first black governor of N.Y State. Voting is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed under the constitution. It's a choice that Americans should not take lightly.

The Distinguished Brothers of  
**Alpha Phi Alpha**  
Fraternity, Incorporated

proudly support

Our Dear Fraternity Brother

**Carl McCall**



for  
**GOVERNOR**  
of  
**New York State**

# Meet Dean Stein

By: Shaila Mentore  
BLACKWORLD Staff

He is a professor, a strong supporter of the campus group COALITION, he designed the S.A.F.E program and most recently he became the Dean of Students at Stony Brook University. These are just a few of the many things that Dean Jerry Stein is involved in.

Though Stein was officially supposed to start his new position as Dean of Students on September 19, 2002 he took it upon himself to start in late August. He then got the opportunity to meet and interact with new students on campus while getting ideas on programs to implement on campus.

Stein has been apart of the Stony Brook community for the last 26 years. His career started at Stony Brook as the H quad Director in 1976 where he later became the Dean and Director of Residential Education Programs.

Besides being well rounded in his experiences, Stein has a series of degrees to add to his expertise, some of which include

a Doctoral Studies degree in education, a B.S. in psychology from SUNY Cortland and a masters in College Student Development from Bowling Green University in Ohio.

Stein teaches "Men in American Society," a one credit seminar course which he also designed. As a professor in the department of Social Work Stein gets the opportunity to meet a lot of students. "I like to create structures for students," Stein said.

Some of the programs Stein hopes to implement on the campus are undergraduate college programs that include using the quads as living learning centers. Mendelsohn Quad is the first of the six quads to implement this idea with its engineering program. "The purpose is to give students faculty and academic support," said Stein.

These living learning centers are supposed to create a sense of community where students feel welcomed and supported. Tabler Quad's cafeteria will be the humanities, arts and culture living learning center. "It will be a place for gathering," said Stein.

Another issue on Stein's agenda is the apathy on campus. "I want to see staff members, faculty and students come together at all events," Stein said. He expressed his pride in the diversity of the student population on campus. The most powerful diversity exercise is that students work and play together Stein said. "We are in a pretty good place in terms of how we get along with one another," he added.

In H Quad there is a dedication sight to Stein for his dedicated years of service to the campus community. He hopes the campus adapts this philosophy that is written at his sight, "Tell me, I forget, show me, I remember; involve me, I understand. "I hope that I serve as a mentor," Stein said.

## Al Sharpton For President? Negro Please!

By: Patrick Blemur  
BLACKWORLD Contributor

Al Sharpton has undoubtedly become the most revered and prominent leader in the black community today. Despite the events in his past, i.e. the Tawanna Brawley case and the recent drug allegations, Sharpton has remained the one consistent voice within the minority community.

With the likes of Jesse Jackson and Farrakhan, Sharpton has been more visible, vocal, and consistent throughout his tenure as a black political figure in America.

When we hear the name Al Sharpton, some of us laugh, and regard him as a joke. He is described as an ignorant individual who speaks without substance and has no substantial merit that could prove otherwise.

Some suggest that Sharpton is the leader of the black community. They see him as the only individual who has brought the issues existing within the black community to the forefront.

Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1954. At the age of ten, he became involved in the church, becoming an ordained minister.

In 1969, civil rights leader Jesse Jackson appointed Sharpton as youth director for

Operation Breadbasket, an organization that boycotted and demonstrated against businesses that were not hiring blacks.

After high school and a few years at Brooklyn College, in 1971, Sharpton began his own organization, the National Youth Movement.

After meeting soul singer James Brown in 1973, Sharpton became his touring manager until the early 1980s; all the while continuing his political activism.

In 1991, Sharpton founded the National Action Network, a civil rights organization that seeks economic justice and political empowerment for the disenfranchised.

Sharpton ran unsuccessfully in the 1992 and 1994 Democratic primaries for the U.S. Senate from New York. In 1993, he served a well-publicized 45-day jail sentence resulting from a 1987 protest march that shut down the Brooklyn Bridge.

In 1997, Sharpton made an impressive showing in the city's Democratic mayoral primary, winning 32 percent of the vote.

More recently, Sharpton led large demonstrations against police brutality in the New York Police Department following the police torture of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima in

1997, and the shooting of unarmed Ghanaian immigrant Amadou Diallo by four New York City policemen in 1999.

These are only a few of Sharpton's political involvement and leadership credentials that he has exemplified. Is this to become our President?

It would be fair to equate Sharpton's popularity, to the people, to the old saying, "respected by few, hated by many." Not to say that he doesn't have a good support group, but one needs more than respect to overcome the presidency.

He still has yet to capture the full attention of the minority population in the U.S. Attempts have been made, but continuous allegations and a plagued reputation have continued to downplay his contribution in the struggle for equal rights and representation.

Yet his efforts cannot be denied. Sharpton hosted strong numbers in his mayoral bid in 1997 in his loss to former mayor Rudolph Guiliani. Although he had his share of losses, the question is, is Sharpton really trying to win or does he have another motive in his quest for some political authority?

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*Black Student Organization*

PRESENTS

# 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

SATURDAY, NOV. 16TH 2002

SAC BALLROOM A

7PM - 10PM

\$5 ON \$6 OFF

\$14 COMBO W/AFTERPARTY  
(FOR CAMPUS STUDENTS ONLY)



# THE AFTERPARTY

SATURDAY NOV. 16TH, 2002

PRITCHARD GYM  
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

11PM TO 4AM

\$10 on \$12 off

\$14 combo w//Fashion Show  
(for campus students only)



# HIV: TRUTH HURTS

By: Chealynn Feaster  
BLACKWORLD Staff

"I'm looking at a room full of dead people," said Gregory Dawson, an HIV/AIDS educator.

On October 22, Lambda Upsilon Lambda fraternity Inc, hosted *Truth Hurts*, a program dedicated to educating students on HIV and AIDS prevention. Dawson's goal was to help students become more conscious of the growing epidemic.

The program was not just two hours of statistics that most of us probably would have forgotten as soon as we left the room. This program included statistics as well as personal accounts of people living with HIV.

The turning point of the night came when Mark, an HIV positive, twenty-two year old, junior and student here at Stony Brook stood up and spoke to an auditorium full of people.

"I live with you guys," Mark said.

By standing up and telling his peers his status, Mark took a risk. Mark took a risk of being ostracized by his peers. He took that risk to get students to look at the risks they take when engaging in unprotected sex.

Mark later told me that he was going to stand

up and speak whether they allowed him to or not. His focus was not to get up and tell us his every day struggles in life. He wanted students to identify themselves with him. He came to college. He went to class. He had friends. He went to parties. He contracted HIV.

"We know how it happens." "We know how we get it, there is no reason why this should be an issue," Mark said. "People don't ask about it." "We ignore it and don't consider the consequences." "Assumptions get people into trouble," he added.

People know the risk factors and choose to ignore them and don't insist on using protection. He compared it to wearing a seat belt every single time you get in a car. Assume that one day, you are not wearing your seat belt. You get into an accident and go flying through the windshield, it is too late. It is irreversible.

The message constantly stressed was; it can happen to you. In the year 2000, more African Americans were reported with HIV than any other racial/ethnic group. Representing only twelve percent of the U S population, African Americans make up almost thirty eight percent of AIDS cases. Some people have

HIV and don't know. Some people know they have HIV and don't tell.

"My purpose is to save your life," said Lisa, a 32 year old, single black mother who unknowingly contracted HIV at the age of eighteen. She lived with the disease ten years before she found out she had it.

"If you think you leave someone behind after dating them, you don't, he or she will be with you for the rest of your life." Lisa continued to let the audience know what her life was like as a person living with this deadly virus.

She was not able to finish pursuing her dream of being an architect. Her initial feeling was shame. She kept her health status a secret from her family for two years. She felt as though she had let them down. Her pain showed through her words, there was not a dry eye in the room.

Lisa wanted people to know that this is not an honest world. People lie and cheat. However, we each must take responsibility for ourselves and refuse to compromise. We only live one life and once you lose it, you can't get it back.

## Little Known Facts: Malcolm X

By: Donovan Davies  
BLACKWORLD Staff

Among the elite names in black history, as well as in American history, falls Malcolm X. Malcolm X is best remembered for his active role in the struggle against injustice towards black people in the 1960's.

He fought against oppressive forces that targeted blacks on a constant basis. The racial tension that surrounded Malcolm X became the driving force behind his motivational, as well as, provocative speeches.

All Malcolm X really wanted, was to see Afro-Americans progress through education and spirituality. He wanted to empower his black people. He wanted blacks to regain their natural sense of pride.

This would not be an easy task. Malcolm X would first have to overcome the stereotype of being a "black person."

He was a distinguished gentleman and made sure he was portrayed as such. His very formal dress made it very hard for an unbiased person to think of him as anything less than a gentleman.

In his times, white America did not believe in an Afro-American being a gentleman. They tried their best to destroy the

credibility of Malcolm X. Wearing a well-tailored two-piece black suit, a sharply ironed white long sleeve shirt, and a perfectly tied bow tie was an everyday dress code for Mr. Malcolm X.

He was a successful black man and he looked the part. In his time, that was extremely rare. Malcolm X wanted to show the world that he, along with the message he promoted, was distinguished.

Knowing that the hue of skin was more



important than what he had to say, Malcolm X tried to conform to the conservative ways of America as much as he could.

Conforming was easier said than done. He realized that dressing the part was only half the battle. Although Malcolm X was part of the civil rights movement, he did not want to fit the stereotypical description of a revolutionist created by white America.

Photographs captured the finished product, but would never reveal the hours of meticulous preparation necessary to achieve this appearance.

Malcolm X was a very intelligent man and he knew that his appearance would help in the positive portrayal of himself; indirectly furthering the positive portrayal of black people.

A viewer can come to these very same conclusions by analyzing any picture along with a little knowledge of Malcolm X. Even though the photos of Malcolm X tell a lot about him, to really know what he was about one would have to listen to the speeches he made.

The only way to understand what

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# Pepsi Gives Ludacris the Boot

By: Darise Jean-Baptiste  
BLACKWORLD Staff

You may have seen the Pepsi commercials which aired earlier this year that featured Ludacris and Britney Spears. Unlike the commercials that Britney appeared in and received frequent airplay, the commercials that featured Ludacris were discontinued.

After making complaints about Ludacris appearing in the Pepsi commercials, Bill O'Reilly host of *The O'Reilly Factor*, finally succeeded in getting the rapper whom he says "basically disrespects women, encourages drug use and encourages violence," off the commercials.

With the backing of conservative pro-family groups, O'Reilly reasons that Pepsi Cola has a social responsibility "because they make trillions of dollars in the United States."

In a September 5 interview conducted on his nightly show, O'Reilly talked with Frank Ski, an Atlanta based radio show host, about the Ludacris/Pepsi controversy. In defense of Ludacris, Ski said that O'Reilly is no different in using "the freedom of speech" card without a problem.

O'Reilly said that he does not promote what



he describes as "antisocial behavior" like Ludacris does on his program.

In an excerpt from a previous interview with Ludacris, the rapper voiced his disappoint-

ment with O'Reilly's campaign to discontinue his contract with the Pepsi corporation.

The Atlanta based rapper well known for his dirty-South style and popular songs like "What's your Fantasy," and "Move", does not know "what made him [O'Reilly] single me out as an individual."

While rap is known for its explicit and fantastical content, it also serves as a cultural medium used for expression by large diverse groups of people.

When asked about his thoughts on Britney Spears, who uses her sexuality to market her music, in comparison to Ludacris, O'Reilly says, "it's like comparing marijuana to heroin."

Apparently to O'Reilly one is more damaging or threatening to the other. Staying with the narcotics analogy, drugs have effects regardless of their popularity, availability, or method of usage.

"I'm speaking for myself, and if nobody agrees with me, Ludacris would still have his job," O'Reilly said.

Ludacris was not the first musical artist

*continued on pg. 12*

## Brown Sugar, An Ode To Hip-Hop

By: Jonique Richardson  
BLACKWORLD Staff

### Back To Life

It started deep in the Bronx.

The love that grew for hip-hop.

A love that used to be hidden in the hearts of kids

Who wrote poetry all too well in school

And enjoyed it too much

MC Sham, Run D.M.C, Slick Rick,  
The Sugar Hill Gang, DJ Redd Alert...

They were hip-hop role models.

The new Magic Johnson movie

*Brown Sugar* reawakens these

senses. The movie opened October 11, 2002 and was the rage on the Stony Brook campus. Students had been talking about this movie everyday the week prior.

A story about two kids that fell in love with hip-hop and grew with it. This movie advances love and the dept of a culture recognized by its struggle.

In the film rapper/actor, Mos Def, plays a rapping cab driver that isn't looking for a deal because he feels hip-hop has been commercialized and taken to an all time low.

Actor, Taye Diggs plays a record company executive who is interested in

bringing back the "real hip-hop" basics but is stuck signing commercial groups that are financial commodities with no real rapping skills.

Sanaa Lathan plays Diggs' best friend. Her character is a journalist for a column on hip-hop and later promoted to editor at a prosperous hip-hop magazine.

Diggs quits his job in pursuit of finding his passion for the music. He pursues Mos Def's character and they work on the rebirth of hip-hop. Lathan and Diggs, all the while try to uncover and discover their love for the music and each other as they both know and want it to be.

The story is written based on an old Common song (a.k.a. Common Sense) that personified Hip-hop.

"I met this girl when I was 12-years-old and what I loved most was that she had so much soul... I'm [going to] take her back hoping that the shit stops, 'cause who I'm talking about is hip-hop."

Erykah Badu remade the song for the movie's soundtrack. The title song, *Love of My Life (an ode to hip hop)*, featured Common. The video shows hip-hop in its different stages. Badu is shown wearing everything

from an Adidas warm up suit break dancing on the roof top of a building to gold teeth, tight jeans and a big rimmed hat gambling with the fellas.

There is a point in the video where record executives try to push a contract in her face. Badu walks away from it, metaphorically walking away from commercialized hip-hop. At the end of the video Common and Badu walk on a bus driven by old school DJ, Kool Herc, with license plates that read "FUTURE".

The movie *Brown Sugar*, the song by Common Sense, "I Used to Love Her," and the song by Erykah Badu, "Love of my Life," all pay homage to a music so beloved by its community that it has created a new culture of women, men, and children, alike. The new hip-hop family recognizes the music as its focus.

It's the people and media coverage that sparks the flame of hip-hop's fervor to survive, its severity, its proclamation of a people's staying power.

It's the feeling after hearing Biggie's "Juicy," Tupac's "Keep Your Head Up," Slick Rick's "Lotty Dotty," and MC Lyte's "Lyte as a Rock."

IT'S HIP-HOP.

# Belafonte vs. Powell

By: Millicent Ugochukwu  
BLACKWORLD Staff

On Tuesday October 8, 2002, long-time political activist / veteran singer Harry Belafonte refused to retract remarks made in which he likened Secretary of State Colin Powell to a house slave in the Bush administration.

Belafonte ensures that his problems have nothing to do with Powell himself but, rather, with the policies that Powell supports.

"I like Colin Powell, I like his West Indian background, I like his intellect, I like a lot of things that he does and his style. What is at fault here is a policy that's taking this country to hell," Belafonte said on CNN's Larry King Live.

Both Belafonte and Powell are of Jamaican descent.

Belafonte's views also apply to National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. His reason being that he has never heard her step out of line with the Bush administration's views.

In response, Powell called

Belafonte's statement "unfortunate" and said that he is "proud to be serving" his nation and his president.

"If Harry had wanted to attack my politics, that was fine. If he wanted to attack a particular position I hold, that was fine. But to use a slave reference, I think, is unfortunate and is a throwback to another time and



another place that I wish Harry had thought twice about using," Powell said.

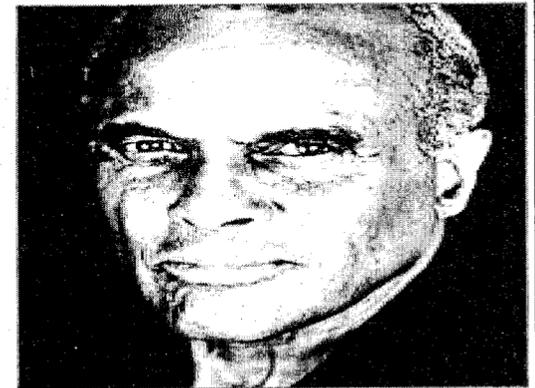
Belafonte's remarks were part of a vehement speech in which he likened Attorney General John Ashcroft's tactics to those utilized during the McCarthy era in the 1950s. He also criticized President Bush for not at-

tending the U.N. World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa.

Niger Innis, spokesman for the conservative Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), has condemned Belafonte's claims.

"For years, Belafonte and the civil rights movement have been pushing for black Americans to get the opportunity to serve their country, and you now have a distinguished general and now Secretary of State who is blazing his own path. It's a disgrace what Belafonte is saying," Innis said.

Belafonte stands by his remarks with no regrets.



## Is Non-Violence Relevant in 2002?

By: Justine Eaglin  
BLACKWORLD Contributor

"If my grandfather was alive today he would ask all of us where ever we may be if we are doing enough to prepare strategies for justice and reconciliation," said Rajmohan Gandhi at the close of his lecture in the Student Activities Center's ballroom A on Wednesday October 24, 2002.

Gandhi stood tall with a kind and humble presence as he responded to the question that was projected over his grandfather's picture behind the podium... "Is Gandhi Relevant In 2002?"

He addressed this question to the audience that sat before him with an overview of his grandfather Mahatma Gandhi's life, highlighting the importance of non-violence and mutual understanding. These were strategies that Mahatma Gandhi used to fight for civil rights and religious toleration.

In continuing his grandfather's legacy Rajmohan Gandhi has been a prominent Indian civil rights activist. He earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees in economics from Stephens College in New Delhi, India and has been awarded an honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from Oberlin University of

Tokyo.

In 1964, he founded Himmat, a weekly journal that spoke out against corruption. Later Gandhi became the resident editor of the Madras-based Indian Express newspaper. He has authored several books on topics of inter-religious and inter-ethnic cooperation.

Though Gandhi is busy working to promote harmony between ethnic and religious groups, he took the time to relay his grandfather's message to Stony Brook. He expressed how his grandfather devoted his life to fighting causes non-violently.

This was fighting for Indian independence from the British and positive relations between Hindus and Muslims. He explained how Mahatma Gandhi saw that fear could turn into hate and how he overcame that fear with friendship. He believed that diversity did not necessarily mean division but that diversity equaled strength. With this belief as a Hindu, he befriended Muslims and although he opposed British rule, he did not hate the British.

When violence became an option to achieve independence, Rajmohan Gandhi described how his grandfather would do with-

out independence if the only way to achieve it were through killing vulnerable people. Mahatma Gandhi stood by his beliefs but not without struggle. Before traveling to England he made three vows swearing to give up meat, liquor, and women, focusing on a simpler way of life.

He later made several trips to South Africa where he worked to provide representation for South African Indians while fighting racial prejudice. Gandhi continued to explain how people did not approve of his grandfather's positive relations with Muslims. Mahatma Gandhi sustained his beliefs by speaking out and urging others to do the same while searching for light inside. Rajmohan Gandhi quoted his grandfather by saying "If you dissect my heart you will find a passion for unity inside and out."

When Mahatma Gandhi was almost killed in an attempted assassination at a prayer meeting he responded not with hate but answered "he (the assassin) will have to answer to God, and may God bless him." Rajmohan Gandhi offered the audience with the knowledge that non-violent relations are attainable, but not without work, patience, and understanding.

# You keep screaming in my ears

Covering your eyes to the truth that perhaps, I *was* THE ONE

Perhaps I *am* THE ONE

Better yet, perhaps – I am the right one.

O Dear Boy, have you gone and fuck'd up the best thing that you ever had?

Have you gone and degraded the only woman worth having?

Have you gone in search of something better than the best thing you ever had?

We never do really love until it is gone.

We never do really see, clearly

Unclouded

Freely

Until the love of our entirety has run out screaming because we have become unbearable.

O Dear Boy, do you miss your woman?

Do you miss her touch – never too cold, never too hot?

Did she do it just right?

Did she love you passionately?

Kiss you tenderly

Feed you never ending?

O Dear Boy, what

Can you compare

Why cry?

When you are the

Why cry

When you are at

Breaking her heart

Telling her that she's not good enough

Are you sorry?

Do you miss her

Good...now, do

by Liyah

RHAPSODIES

# RHAPS

## *Crimes Of Passion*

It was the tip of the iceberg  
A fact which bothered me  
still

each moment seemed to  
blend more  
and more into the last  
it was the twilight on the  
day before  
his last  
and he sat there her lilac  
hand aside his own  
if he only knew this  
yesterday  
and the day before  
maybe then it would not be  
so final

but cause I care  
and cause he does not  
paths have been walked  
destinies made inevitable  
and my resolve steeled

Hassana Oyibo

## *Contemplation*

*I'm running away form the cycles of life,  
Jumping off the train of perpetual motion,  
My world's been at a standstill  
Since I took my first steps.*

*I've been in a doze, confused with  
My reality and dreams.*

*Dreams of success keep me sane against  
my*

*Present struggles through life's strife.*

*It's a debate whether I should*

*Wait on fate or dictate my won history.*

*I sit back and contemplate on where my  
orbit ends. How much time I have left  
With family, depends on every move I  
make,*

*I'm left to live the character of a being,*

*I'm still trying to identify with. The clock  
ticks on,*

*Time moves without me, and desperately I  
try to*

*Pick up the pieces of a mystery I perceive  
Myself to be.*

*By "JG3"*

## Diversity Strategies: Trying to Maintain Cultural Complexity

By: Darise Jean-Baptiste  
BLACKWORLD Staff

How diverse is the university that you attend? Do Stony Brook's social settings closely reflect those of the real world—complex, multi-cultural, encompassing all genders? How can diversity be measured? What is a diverse environment? These are all questions that you might want to keep in mind as you get ready to step out into the real world.

Questions like the ones above were presented by Washington Regional Task Force Against Campus Prejudice at a videoconference. The conference was entitled "Diversity Strategies for Today's Complex Environment." The video conference panel tackled a variety of issues ranging from affirmative action, educational budgeting, diversity in colleges and graduate schools, and the use of standardized testing.

The expert panelists included Attorney Shirley J. Wilcher, Executive Director for Americans for a Fair Chance, Dr. Zola Boone, Director for Institute for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Bowie State University, Attorney Frank H. Wu, Professor of Law at

Howard University, William Soza, C.P.A and Philanthropist, Dr. Julianne Malveaux, Columnist for Black Issues in Higher Education, and Attorney Curt Levey, Director of Legal and Public Affairs and Litigant in the University of Michigan affirmative action case.

The conference allowed listeners to voice their opinions and concerns via telephone. Stony Brook's Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action co-sponsored the event. Although few Stony Brook participants attended the event, those that did attend seemed very responsive to the different issues addressed concerning diversity and higher education.

Diversity can be considered in many different ways, when talking about affirmative action and equal employment opportunity, the word "diversity" is often used to express the type of environment where people of all races and genders can fairly participate. That is why conferences like "Diversity Strategies for Today's Complex Environment" are held; especially as affirmative action and equal employment opportunity programs have been more recently placed under great threat and scrutiny.

Society today is made up of a variety of

different ethnic backgrounds that all play a part in achieving a brighter future. A learning institution that encourages participation across cultures is one that would better prepare its students for the changing world.

Diversity on campus is an issue that concerns students before and after graduation. Exposure to the issue will show its effects in the real world on a broader social scale. It could be a determinant of how well you adapt in today's complex society.

The demands of today's complex society make it necessary for one to have an education. If the institutions in which education is to be obtained are unfair in offering quality services to all regardless of race or gender, then what does the future hold for the leaders of tomorrow?

One of the issues addressed at the video conference was, what routes do we take to make our college campuses more diverse, as there seems to be either an overrepresentation or an under representation of a particular race at most educational institutions in the United

*continued on pg.15*

### Pepsi (continued from pg.8)

to be taken off of a Pepsi campaign. In 1989, Madonna was booted at the release of actor.

In a statement given about the Pepsi/Ludacris controversy, Pepsi spokesperson Bart Casabona said, "I don't think we knew the extent" to which Ludacris' lyrics were sexually explicit.

More recently, Latin pop star Shakira has appeared in Pepsi commercials. Randy Melville, Vice President of multiculturalism and strategic initiatives for Pepsi-Cola North America said, "Shakira embodies the feelings and aspirations of today's youth and she personifies the Latin movement in the United States."

Although Pepsi gave Ludacris the boot, they still use hip-hop music to market their product.

Pepsi now has young hip-hoppers dancing to the popular hip-hop song "Let Me Clear My Throat" in one of their more recent commercials. The commercial displays different regions of the United States and how they more commonly dance to hip-hop in these areas, while of course drinking Pepsi.

## Death By Stoning

By: Chantel McGee  
BLACKWORLD Contributor

Amina Lawal, a thirty-year old Muslim woman was sentenced to be stoned to death. "We hereby uphold the judgment of the (lower) Bakori court that decreed that you be sentenced to death by stoning," said the President of Funtua's appeal court.

This sentence was handed down on August 19, 2002 by a Shari'ah court in Northern Nigeria. Lawal was convicted of adultery, an offense that usually requires four eyewitnesses in order to be tried, but in her case the only evidence needed was her child.

While divorced Lawal "confessed" to having a child with another man. The man suspected of being the father completely denied all accusations claiming to have never had sex with her. His statement was enough to have all charges against him dropped.

Lawal was unable to afford a lawyer so she went un-represented for her first trial. For her appeal Nigerian human and women's rights organizations provided her with sufficient legal representation.

Lawal's lawyers fought for months to appeal the court's decision, but the courts continued to postpone her hearing. Thus, causing the climate of

uncertainty to deepen and negatively affect her case. As long as Lawal was still weaning her baby girl according to the courts there was reason to keep her alive. As soon as her child no longer needed her, her sentence would be carried out.

Lawal finally made her appeal submission to the courts on July 8, 2002, her hearing resumed on August 5, 2002 and the prosecutor urged the court to maintain the sentence of stoning to death.

On August 19, 2002 Lawal's appeal was denied. The words "...death by stoning" echoed through the courtroom, as she was escorted away in tears. Those were the very words that sent her into hiding.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Martin Luther King Jr.

If you would like to take action, please write the President of Nigeria and the Minister of justice asking for abolition of the death penalty and of cruel, inhumane and degrading punishment in Nigeria.

And/or contact your Representative and urge him/her to co-sponsor H. Con. Res.351, a resolution passed in the House International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee that condemns the practice of execution by stoning as

*continued on pg.15*

## Gubernatorial (continued from pg.3)

convicted drug offenders under these laws, when whites make up a large percentage of narcotic users as well. In 1997, nearly 80% of the drug offenders sent to prison under these laws were never convicted of a violent felony and half were never arrested for a felony.

These drug laws sustain that a person in possession of four ounces or sale of two ounces of drugs will serve a sentence of 15 years in prison. If you are in possession of two ounces or selling half an ounce of drugs you will serve 3 years.

Under these laws, judges must give offenders mandatory minimum sentences regardless of criminal history.

Since Pataki has been in office he has promised and made proposals to change these drug laws. But protestors are not happy with the results because they feel eight years has been more than enough time to implement laws that are less severe. According to them, the proposals are not good enough because the percentage of blacks and Latinos still greatly surpass that of whites. Also, the sentencing remains harsh.

In July 2002, this year the Associate Director of Public Policy for the Drug Policy Alliance, Sharda Sekaran, stated "The Governor should

stop using stall tactics and start focusing on fulfilling his promise to New Yorkers, especially in the Latino and black communities..."

Pataki still remains hopeful that he can properly reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws.

**MTA Fare Increases:** In 1995, The New York Urban League (NYUL) filed a lawsuit to prevent the MTA from increasing the subway and bus fares to \$1.50. NYUL president, Dennis Walcott, said Pataki's cuts favored suburban railways. "The Governor cut aid to city subways and buses by \$86 million this year, but gave a \$12 million increase to the Long Island Rail Road and Metro North..."

The argument was that city public transportation commuters already paid a much higher fare of the costs of operating the city's transit system than suburban riders, and with the increases the gap would grow. In 1995, city commuters paid over 60% of NYC Transit's operating cost while Long Island riders paid 45% of the LIRR operating costs. NYUL stated that if the fare increased to \$1.50, city commuters would then pay 72% of operating costs while LIRR rider's percentage would increase to 49%. The NYUL felt this forced black, Latino, and Asian city commuters

to pay the larger part of the funds for mass transit.

In the year 2002, city riders know that the increase did go into effect because the NYUL lost the suit. And there might a possible increase of a quarter or fifty cents, to bring fares to a full \$2.00.

**Education:** It is not news to anyone of the inadequate conditions New York State public schools are in, especially NYC schools. In 1998, Governor Pataki vetoed \$500 million needed to rebuild deteriorated schools, and relief of overcrowded classes. He also vetoed \$100 million needed to train teachers and pay salaries in which most of that money was going to NYC.

In January 2001, New York Supreme Court Judge, Leland DeGrasse, declared New York State's school funding unconstitutional. He said, "The court holds that the education provided for New York City students is so deficient that it falls below the constitutional floor set by the Education Article of the New York State Constitution." DeGrasse said New York school-funding proposals deprive poor, urban and rural districts

*continued on pg.17*

## Malcolm X (continued from pg.7)

Malcolm X stood for was to listen to the messages that he related. Looking at a photo of him tells you nothing of the struggle, pain, and hardship encountered on a daily basis.

Looking at a photo of him doesn't show the thousands that looked at him with hate. Nor can one see the thousands that looked at him in admiration and esteem.

Malcolm X was a very powerful black leader that promoted black empowerment and education. Malcolm X was quoted as saying "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."

This was a message that he wanted to send to all the Afro-Americans fighting the civil rights battle. Many times, this message was twisted to discredit him and give rationale to why black people should be oppressed.

His famous statement "by any means necessary" was taken out of context as being threatening and violent in a time where premeditated and unprovoked acts of violence on blacks were common.

Malcolm X never promoted violence, nor did he preach "kill the white man." His concern was in uplifting the black race, not

in using oppressive force on white people.

On the other hand, in no way did he promote a passive, non-violent role in the civil rights movement. Malcolm X made this known in his famous quote when he stated, "I am not against using violence in self-defense. I don't call it violence when it's self-defense, I call it intelligence."

Malcolm X had views on how to go about the civil rights movement that differed greatly from normal tactics. He wanted to have black people progress through education and spirituality.

He wanted a better way of life for his people, a sense of community—Black Nationalism. "The political philosophy of Black Nationalism means that the black man should control the politics and the politicians in his own community; no more."

This is what Malcolm X stood for; a unified black community is what he wanted for himself and all his people. Looking at a photo of Malcolm X could never tell you the entirety of what he was about. The picture puts a face to the man behind the plan, but it does not let us look deeper than just the face value of Malcolm X.

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**LUNCH** 12:30pm - 1:00pm

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## Diversity (continued from pg.12)

States.

One solution suggested was to have open discussions between students and faculty in diverse settings, allowing both parties to play dual roles, as the teacher and the learner. While affirmative action was put in place to give peoples of color the advantage to be considered among their white counterparts, there are still gaps in the diversity bridge most notably when education and employment are concerned.

A misunderstanding about what affirmative action is contributes to the dissatisfying results seen in education at all levels, not only for people of color but for the economically challenged.

Affirmative action is not a bonus for people of color that overlooks their qualifications it is a tool that helps people of color get the consideration they deserve in a society where racism does exist.

The priority level that diversity is placed on was an important issue that was addressed at the conference. When education reform is discussed, an issue that often outweighs the diversity issue is budgeting. The financial re-

sources needed to provide students with quality education fall short; this then results in poor or lower test scores that prohibit students from being admitted into higher learning institutions.

For example, there has been a decline in students of color in law schools that use standardized testing, the LSAT as main admissions criteria. The law officials of tomorrow have to matriculate through law school in order to make a difference, how will they be able to do so when they are not admitted?

Attempts to eliminate affirmative action are in the works now. Proposition 209, the California Civil Rights Initiative sets out to prohibit any programs that have racial or gender preferences, it would use standardized tests as a means of measuring qualifications by law. Other states are also looking into adopting a race neutral policy. The Michigan Mandate, which pays attention to race to promote diversity on campus, is the focus of the Supreme Court case University of Michigan versus Bakke still under trial.

The ruling for the case will set the tone for the future of peoples of color that want a quality education. Is "racial preferencing" the new

racism? This question was also addressed at the Diversity conference. The majority of the panelists felt that referencing affirmative action, as racial referencing is inappropriate. The imbalance of Caucasian males to people of color and females is one of the disparities that affirmative action helps to alleviate.

The issues presented at the Diversity conference may be ones that you can relate to on a more personal level. Stony Brook offers resources for affirmative action and equal employment opportunity issues. The Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action is located in the Administration building.

The office can be reached at 631-632-6280 or [www.stonybrook.edu/diversity](http://www.stonybrook.edu/diversity). Christina Vargas Law is the director; her job is to keep track of diversity issues on campus. The office provides diversity training, diversity fellowships, sexual harassment training, as well as affirmative action and equal employment opportunity training. Affirmative action is a heavily debated issue.

## Stoning (continued from pg.13)

a gross human rights violation.

Amnesty International -

Send your letters to:

His Excellency Olusgegun Obasanjo,  
President of the Republic,  
The Presidency,  
Federal Secretariat,  
Phase II, Shehu Shagari Way,  
Abuja,  
Fax: 234 9 523 21 36 (press office)  
Email: [president.obasanjo@nigeriagov.org](mailto:president.obasanjo@nigeriagov.org)

His Excellency Kanu Godwin Agabi,  
Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice,  
New Federal Secretariat complex Shehu  
Shagari Way,  
Abuja,  
Federal Capital Territory,  
Nigeria;  
Fax: 234 9 523 52 08

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# Does the United States Have a Right to fight Global Terrorism?

By: Kwame Ennin  
BLACKWORLD Staff

What sovereign nation does not have the right to defend itself against gratuitous violence aimed at its citizens? In fact, the United Nations charter explicitly guarantees a sovereign nation's right to self-defense.

This question is more complex than it might seem *prima facie*. It depends on how you define terrorism and a sovereign nation's right to self-defense. The *Random House Webster's College Dictionary* defines terrorism as "the use of violence and threats to intimidate and coerce, especially for political purposes."

Despite how succinct and efficacious this definition might be, it does not encapsulate the broad range of violent or coercive activity that most people intuitively identify as terrorism.

For instance, a crazy sniper who randomly shoots people on crowded streets from a hiding place would be regarded as terrorizing the populace, regardless of his lack of political motivation. A ruthless dictator who uses an army to kill and instill fear in his people should be regarded as a terrorist.

A more instructive definition of terror-

ism would be 'the use of force or violence to intimidate irrespective of motivation.' With this definition, one can more effectively answer the question of the United States' right to fight global terrorism.

The act of fighting terrorism, in general, is a noble act that should be applauded since it makes the world a safer place for all of us. However, it's nobility can be questioned when you have supported various acts of terrorism in the past.

This is the dilemma that the United States finds itself in. The gruesome attacks of September 11, 2002 have galvanized many Americans *en masse* to the noble cause of fighting global terrorism without introspectively cogitating on its causes.

Many Americans are surprised at the lack of empathy and sympathy shown by many nations and their citizens all over the world. This is obviously disturbing since, as global neighbors, we should commiserate with one another in times of tragic loss.

Much of this conspicuous apathy can be attributed to the United States' military and financial support of State sponsored terrorism over the decades. This support of State spon-

sored terrorism was most fervent during the Cold War era.

It is no secret that the US government subsidized the brutal Pinochet government for a decade. It was instrumental in the violent overthrow of the Lumumba government in the Congo by Seseko Mobutu. It supported the Contras who committed many atrocious acts against the peasantry in Nicaragua. America also supported the brutal Noriega regime in Panama for years. The fact that the United States supports brutal reactionary regimes in the name of fighting communism cannot be denied.

Does the United States have a right to support State sponsored terrorism in the name of promoting its socio-political ideology? I think not.

When the question of the United States' right to fight global terrorism is asked, its actions in the Cold War and in recent times must be factored into the answer.

Academically speaking, the US has the abstract right to fight global terrorism, but its moral right is suspect at best and intellectually offensive at worst.

## Robert Kelly Comes To Stony Brook

By: Marvin Hayes  
BLACKWORLD Staff

Comedian Robert Kelly who has appeared on BET's Comic View and MTV, performed at Stony Brook University in mid October in front of a small group of students.

Due to the rain, attendance was sparse.

Tickets for the show were free for on-campus students that showed identification. Though the show was scheduled for 9pm, it did not start until later and the audience turnout was interesting considering the weather.

The stage setup was simple: a black stool and a bottle of water, which Kelly later said was all he needed to perform.

Kelly began by speaking about current issues such as the new law passed in New York City to fine individuals \$500 for defecating in public. He also ridiculed Osama bin Laden

for having eight videos tapes. Kelly compared bin Laden's multiple videos to that of P Diddy.

Kelly also commented on Stony Brook's location, he said it was like "coun-

try." He claimed that Stony Brook was too "quiet" and he preferred being in the city where it's noisy. According to Kelly, he feels safer where there is violence and noise compared to out here with all these trees.

Issues such as family, relationships and sex were joked about but the highlight of the night occurred when Kelly began to crack on a Bio-Chemistry major from Albany, NY named Chris.

Kelly kept saying that Chris was the happiest person he had ever seen because Chris kept smiling no matter what was being said even if he was being ridiculed. Chris was encouraged to spread his happiness to a student in the front row who came in late.

Kelly referred to him as "Bogs." After cracking on Chris and others in the audience, Kelly's performance came to an end. The show lasted about an hour and a few minutes.

## Sharpton (continued from pg.5)

An idea that often follows him is that he is desperately trying to capture the attention of the black community away from Jesse Jackson.

Jackson, who ran for the presidency in, 1984 and in 1988, prompted millions of African Americans to register to vote — many for the first time — and solidified the black vote as a crucial constituency within the Democratic Party.

The power that the black community possesses, a power that has yet to be fully used and remains dormant, is one that Sharpton wants to use to his benefit.

Unfortunately for Sharpton, Jackson is more internationally known, and commands respect primarily with his negotiation and peace efforts dealing with the foreign affairs of the nation.

Al Sharpton is not Jesse Jackson. He is Al Sharpton, love him or hate him, he will continue to be the person that he is and is becoming; which may include being the next or future president of the U.S.

Is America ready for a black president? Does he fully represent all peoples? Does he have any strong supporters? Will you vote for him? Holla!

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## **Gubernatorial (continued from pg.13)**

of having the annual spending money fairly spent on them. Simultaneously, affluent suburban schools are protected from decreases.

While 44% of New York State's public schoolchildren are "minority" students, they will seemingly suffer the most. That number represents the state where the majority of students of color are situated in NYC.

In Degrasse's statement he said changes in state law altered the structure of the city's school system. The authority of community school boards to control and operate elementary and middle schools was taken from them by state legislatures. While in Long Island, the community school boards still control their school system.

In 2001, approximately 84.5% of students in the NYC public school system were of color and approximately 15% were white. New York public schools also have a large amount of families who do not have moderate incomes. In the 1997-1998 school year, 73% of students from kindergarten through 6th grade were eligible to participate in the free lunch program, compared with 5% in the rest of the state. If the majority of the students in a community are in need of free lunch, this shows the extent of poverty with those families. So, according to Pataki's critics to his education policies, he has

not done enough to secure the educational progress for New York City students.

Although, the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lost the suit the numbers in Degrasse's opinion hold true.

**Qualifications:** What qualifies Carl McCall for the position of governor for New York State? He was a vice president of Citicorp for eight years, and served as the President of the New York City Board of Education. He also served as an ambassador to the United Nations, Commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Commissioner of the New York State Division of Human Rights, and was elected to three terms as New York State Senator. McCall also served as the state's chief fiscal officer for the state of New York for two terms in his current position as State Comptroller.

What qualified George Pataki for the position of governor for New York State? He was in the state assembly, a state senator, and an attorney before becoming governor.

**Issues the Candidates are Running on Their Platforms:**

Pataki- Affordable Housing Opportunities, Crime Reduction, Citizen Initiative and Referendum, Child Care and Child Support Enforcement, Creating New Jobs, Cutting Taxes, Fight-

ing for Working Families, Homeland Security, Investing in Transportation Infrastructure, Investing in Technology, Investment in Education, Protecting and Preserving the Environment, Providing Quality Health Care, Restoring Fiscal Responsibility, Serving New Yorkers With Special Needs, Supporting Seniors, and Welfare to Work

McCall- Adequate Mental Health Coverage, Affordable Health Care, Campaign Finance Reform, Equality for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community, Expanding Opportunity for Women, Expanding Prescription Drug Coverage, Fixing the Budget, Improving the Economy, Improving Education, Improving the Environment, Reduce Child Poverty, Reform Adult Homes, Restore Investment in Higher Education.

**Election Day is Tuesday,  
November 5, 2002.**

**Vote**

# V E N T C

There should be teachers trained to work with children in the hood. Most of the teachers working in ghetto area schools don't know how to handle these kids and we end up with a class of people who have no education. Once a student is left back three times they are automatically placed in the next grade whether or not they have met the standards. The teachers nowadays are naïve of the current issues their students have to face at such young ages. They witness drug abuse, death, rape and other heinous addictions. Teachers in these environments should know how to work with students who may not have eaten in four days, students who may not have a place to sleep, students who are helping to financially support

# &

their families but can't multiply.

I worked as a substitute in a mostly minority middle school. After calming the students down for the first 25 minutes of a 40-minute class there would be an outburst that started everything up again. There was a girl in my class who got caught giving another student oral sex. The teachers in the school were not prepared to deal with issues of this sort. They were inexperienced and the children never learned. It was like preschool for teenagers and the teachers were the babysitters.

The worst part is no one cared. Teachers got in and got out with a feeling of assurance (glad they made it through another day).

# RESPOND

To respond to these comments email us at:

[blackworld74@hotmail.com](mailto:blackworld74@hotmail.com)

Responses will be printed.

Anonymity suggested.

*The comments on this page do not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of the BLACKWORLD Staff.*

# *Quotable:*

---

**“The love of self and self-respect along with the will to do something for self, if given a chance, will get you the respect of all civilized nations.”**

**“We must know self to gain self respect.”**

-

**Elijah  
Muhammad**

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AND JUST IN CASE YOU ACCIDENTALLY GLANCED OVER THE WORD

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