

BLACK WORLD

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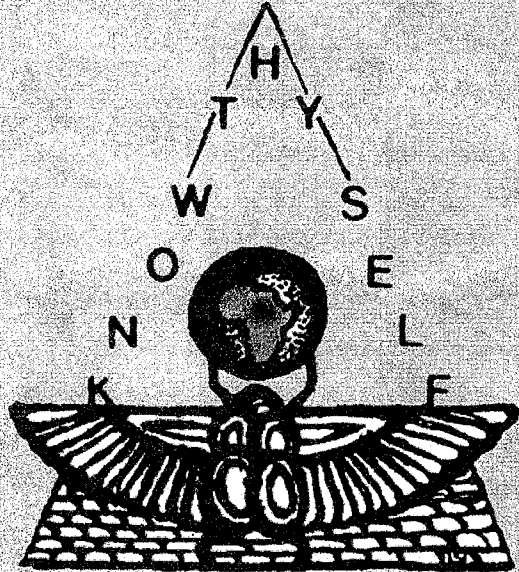
ONE NATION

Volume XLVII, Issue 2



**The fight
for
farmland**

Zimbabwe

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- Black World Newspaper is the exclusive Black Publication on Stony Brook campus, established 29 years ago.
- Black World Newspaper is here to inform you about what's up with the black community here and around the country.

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The U.S. Plots to Kill Zimbabwean President

By: Antoinette Powell
BLACKWORLD Staff

War is never full. Soon the people of the world can expect more bloodshed. President Bush claims that he will save the Zimbabwean people from the irresponsible actions of their own president Robert Mugabe. Bush plans on accomplishing this by devising a coup to overthrow the Mugabe regime and substitute him with a US-approved Zimbabwean replacement.

Well, what is all the rift about? In 2000, President Robert Mugabe was re-elected as president of Zimbabwe to serve another six-year term. Several African nations agree that the elections were fair and that Zimbabwe has the capabilities of carrying out their political affairs in a way that truly upholds democracy. Many Western powers, on the other hand, felt that the elections were rigged, and therefore illegal.

One of the staunchest dissidents was United States president George W. Bush. "We do not recognize the outcome of the [Zimbabwean] election because we think it's flawed," he stated. We are dealing with our friends to figure out how to deal with this flawed election." It is interesting to note that only three months later in



November 2000, Bush himself was involved in "flawed" elections, which insured his presidency.

The main controversial issue that has gotten Zimbabwe much spotlight recently is Mugabe's land reform. Zimbabwe's soil is rich with much coveted natural resources, such as gold and diamonds. In the past, most of the mining of these minerals were run by White European and White African nationals mining companies. These companies were getting rich while the lives of the indigenous Zimbabwean people changed little.

Pres. Mugabe saw how his people and

land were being exploited and decided to put an end to it. Sometime before and after the 2000 elections, Mugabe confiscated the mining and farming lands of the White people and sold them at very affordable rates to the Black African people. Mugabe further extended (and still extends) his hand to African Americans, in particular. He is encouraging African Americans to purchase Zimbabwean land and build businesses and homes there.

Mugabe believes in self-determination for African people. He upholds the notion of "Africa for the Africans," just as the ANC (African National Congress) did during the apartheid regime in South Africa. Mugabe believes that in order to ensure good nation-building, a country must rid itself of the oppressive institutions of neo-colonialism, and stand on its own two feet. In other words, Pres. Mugabe believes that Zimbabwe can strengthen its own economy without having to prostitute itself to Western powers. He believes in cooperative economics by keeping the money of the African people within the African community to build its own economic base, as opposed

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Overstanding Reparations

By: Kwaku Osei-Tutu
BLACKWORLD Staff

Reparations can be defined as the act or process of making amends, offering expiation, or giving satisfaction for a wrong or injury. This act of repairing a damage incurred is not unique to the world. Compensation or remuneration is usually a requirement of a defeated nation as indemnity for damage or injury during a war. In this country, the concept of reparations to the descendants of Africans has been as intense topic. Reparations have rigidly divided advocates and opponents, situating them on extreme sides of the fence.

World War II was a tremendous event in the world's history; it closed the doors of Nazism and fascism. The World War also opened the doors of fear, and the inhumanity. Japanese Americans and Jews faced immense hardships and struggle at this time. America awarded the Japanese and Jews with reparations. Jewish people and their descendants received 921 million dollars from Germany, and America gave 6.2 billion dollars that was placed in Swiss banks for the holocaust. In 1988, Japanese Americans received 1.2 billion dollars in reparations for their containment in concentration camps. More importantly, those descendants who were directly affected received an additional 500 million dollars in educational funding. On the whole many African-Americans feel that America needs to repay them for the debt that was incurred over 383 years of enslavement, Jim-Crowism and the institutional racism that still

exists.

Opposition to Reparations

Resistance to reparations comes from many groups including Anglo-Americans who feel that African-Americans should not receive reparations. David Horowitz, a reparations opponent, wrote an article to refute the idea that Blacks are deserving of repayment of slavery. He states a number of reasons to support his claim. The first reason stated is that many groups had a hand in slavery besides White Americans. The groups who were involved in slavery extended to Black Africans and Arabs. His second argument is that no sole cluster of people profited wholly from slavery. In his views, reparation assumes that only whites in this country were enhanced by slavery. If the wealth that slavery produced enhanced this nation, it had to also enhance African Americans. This country is comprised of many racial streams, including a concentration of African Americans. His next point states that the groups who owned slaves consisted of minute portion of White America, and frankly many other groups of people including whites gave their lives to free Blacks. In the south one out of every five white men were slaveholders. He continues to ask why out of this small portion should their descendants owe a debt. What about the descendants of the 350,000 Union soldiers who died to free the lives of slaves? Another concept he projects is that there is no direct or indirect connection between most living Americans and slavery. Americans of today are descendants of immigrants who came to this country

after 1880 and 1960.

Horowitz extends his stance with the point that, "historical precedents used to justify the reparations claim do not have any application now, and further that the claim itself is based on race and not injury." In his eyes the reparation dispute is based on the unestablished declaration that all African-American descendants of slaves economically from the consequences of slavery and discrimination. He maintains that there is not sufficient data to conceptually support the idea that slavery has had an adverse affect on the Black America of today. On the contrary there is more than enough factual evidence that actually proves that some of Black America has risen to overcome the hardships that they faced. Opponents feel that reparations create a debilitating aura of victimization around African-Americans. Reparations excavate the fossils left by slavery; the claim structures a skeletal state of dependency around the heart of Black America. In essence, the claim coats the African-American community with a layer of marginality, which is not an accurate depiction of the race.

Reparation Advocacy

Support for reparations stems from a major portion of Black America. The major theme surrounding reparations is the concept of payment of debts that America and the government owe. Ten million died in the middle passages alone. Africans were in concentra-

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Student Profile: Sandy Curtis

By: Ely De La Cruz
BLACKWORLD Staff

The month of March recognizes and celebrates women and has come to be known as women's history month. It highlights the many accomplishments of great women throughout history who have left their mark, as well as those of the great women who are currently making history today.

Among these wonderful women is Stony Brook University's own Sandy Curtis. Curtis is eighteen years old. She is currently a sophomore and the sophomore representative of the Undergraduate Student Activity Fee. Curtis is currently pursuing dual degrees in Political Science and Africana Studies, as well as a minor in Spanish.

As if her academic load was not enough to keep her busy, she is a woman who wears many other hats. As a sophomore representative, she coordinates educational as well as social activities that specifically appeal to the sophomore class and all other classes.

Some of these activities include upcoming events like "Late Night Stony Brook,"



where students will be able to experience relaxing massages and facials, as well as have the opportunity to win cash in the "Money Machine," and many other activities. In addition to her position as a student representative, Curtis is also one of twenty-five student ambassadors in the university.

As an ambassador, her responsibilities include attending and facilitating various events held throughout the campus such as charity events, and also "Stony Brook Day in Albany."

She is also an Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Student Association Advocacy specialist. She advocates for the program in order to encourage student involvement such as letter writing campaigns. Curtis describes the EOP as the "love of her life." She claims that if it were not for the program, she would not have had the opportunity or the pleasure of being a Stony Brook student.

Curtis thanks the program not only for helping her overcome personal obstacles,

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in cooperative economics by keeping the money of the African people within the African community to build its own economic base, as opposed to African resources being utilized to build European economic bases.

Pres. Mugabe has been accused of being racist. He has also been accused of "stealing land." Is it "stealing" when you re-claim what was once yours? Were the White farmers accused of stealing when they bought the land and exploited the African people who lived there, or when the land was taken by brute force?

The US government is involved in a conspiracy to overthrow the Mugabe regime. There are many sources to support this fact. As a matter of fact, the common everyday person who stays abreast of current events is aware of this issue. There is a four-and-a-half hour video tape recording of a meeting that took place in Montreal, Canada, between the US' Central Intelligence Agency and Pres. Mugabe's opposition, Morgan Tsvangirai. According to certain media sources, such as the Islamic News, the court that's hearing this case only reviewed a half-hour of this tape. This portion of the tape reveals Ari Ben Menashe, the head of a political consultancy, as saying, "Work has been done on your behalf to get stuff through Congress. Work has been done to get these guys [CIA] on your side to do the elimination on your behalf." This

sounds strikingly similar to Bush's statement that he and his friends are "...figuring out how to deal with these flawed elections."

It seems as if whenever the US is planning to use military tactics against a nation, they elicit American support via the media. Suddenly, the cinemas across America will burst out with an onslaught of war movies. A clear illustration as to what happened after the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993. *Black Hawk Down* was in theatres for a longer period of time than most movies. Sales reached into the multimillions. This was repeated in late 2001, after the 9/11 World Trade bombings of that year. The movie *Black Hawk Down* was shown for months. In 1993, the movie was shown to prepare the American public and gain the public's support of US military action against so-called war on terrorism in other countries. The aforementioned film was shown again in 2001-2002, to prepare and gain the support of the American public for what's going on right now in Iraq.

What the movie industry does is provide the American public with mis-information about the facts and reasons why the US military gets involved in international affairs. It is portrayed that the African leaders are tyrants, and force their own people into starvation by keeping all the relief food that is sent to these African countries to themselves. Therefore, it is the mission of the US to intervene

on behalf of the African people by saving them from their own leaders, e.g., assassinating the country's leader and replacing them with a "puppet."

And so it is now in the case of Zimbabwe. The media puts out that the Zimbabwean people are starving at astronomical rates each year, due to the actions of their President Robert Mugabe. It has been stated that the White farmers and miners were holding up the economy of the Zimbabwean people - White and Black. It is purported that now, with most of the White people gone, Pres. Mugabe has put the lives of his people in jeopardy. And this is the rationale that the US government would like its public to accept in order to gain support for the US imminent coup de'tat of the Mugabe regime.

War is about money. What will Pres. Bush and his friends get out of this military action? As was noted before, Zimbabwe, just like much of the African continent, has soil that is rich with minerals that, if put in certain hands, could further economically empower the Western powers. The *Drilling and Killing* crisis in Nigeria is a striking parallel to what's about to happen in Zimbabwe. People are exploited and killed so that Western powers can get their hands on the wealth that comes from Nigeria's soil. And it is very probable that there will be more bloodshed in Africa's southern region to ensure that Western powers acquire the wealth of Zimbabwe's gold and diamonds.

Don't Be Offended, It's Just Comedy, or Is It?

By: Clayton John
BLACKWORLD Staff

The 2002 comedy *Barbershop* has been the cause of unexpected uproar within the African American community due to controversial comments made in the movie. "OJ did it" and "Rodney King should have got beat" are some of the comments made by Eddie, an elderly barber played by comedian Cedric the Entertainer in the movie.

The most controversial statement, however, seems to be one made about Rosa Parks. "...All that Rosa Parks did was just sit her black ass down...", said Eddie. This was the comment that resulted in Rosa Parks' absence at this year's NAACP Image Awards. Ironically, not only was *Barbershop* nominated for an award but Cedric the Entertainer was selected to host the show. Rosa Parks was greatly offended and refused to attend the show.

Kweisi Mfume, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said that he hoped that choosing the comedian as host would help put the controversy to rest. He felt that the uproar was overblown. Mfume was not alone in his opinion.

The response to this controversy from the black community has been resounding. Many are admonishing leaders such as Jesse Jackson and Rosa Parks, and take the stance that they need to learn how to take a joke.

This leads to another question. Are there certain things that African Americans should not make jokes about? Mr. Janet, a BET chat room



participant feels that "there are always two sides to a story." Some people understand Parks' side and they feel that it is a matter of respecting our history as black Americans, because if we do not then who will?

Bill Alexander is one of those people. In *USA today* he states, "The *Barbershop* debate is a healthy one! ... Missededucated young'uns need to hear Dr. King and Parks defended. They need to understand how a mass-market movie can "trivialize" giants. The white critics have been glowing over the movie because it is non-threatening and taps mightily into stereotypes. My barbershop used to be like that years ago...but I switched to another, where views are enlightened..."

In spite of Alexander's opinion, 83.5 percent of the people who took a poll said they thought Rev. Jesse Jackson and others are too uptight about the *Barbershop* jokes. View the movie objectively, it is a comedy; the setting is a barbershop. Anyone that has ever been in a barbershop knows that the conversations there

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Do the People Matter?

By: Darise Jean-Baptiste
BLACKWORLD Staff

America is now at war with Iraq. American troops crossed Iraqi borders on March 20, 2003. Thousands of young American troops are now on the front line fighting for what many Americans are not exactly sure of.

According to President Bush, America is fighting for the continuance of peace and freedom within the country; that Saddam Hussein allegedly threatens to take away with his weapons of mass destruction. After the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 America has its guard up like never before, aggressively demanding that Hussein surrender and comply with United Nations diplomatic sanctions. Even though President Bush has attempted to convince the American people that this is a war with a cause, anti-war protests have taken place all over the world condemning Bush's actions.

During the weekend of March 21-23, 2003, anti-war protests all over the world attracted thousands. It is almost as if the voice of the people has a volume button on it. No matter how many protests took place and continue to take place, the opinion of the people holds little weight. In a country that prides itself on freedom and democracy, the citizens of America that will inevitably feel the aftermath

of the war, emotionally, economically, and perhaps even physically have no say.

Are the people's expressions of opinions and protests a little too late? Although anti-war sentiment is not new, some of the behaviors of the American people may very well contribute to the violent acts now being felt by innocent Iraqi civilians. Oil and money may very well be the root of this war. On average, 18 billion barrels of oil are consumed each day costing approximately \$215 billion. Oil prices have fallen after being at an all time high now that U.S and British forces have secured key oil facilities in Iraq.

Democratically speaking, the voice of the anti-war American should matter most. What would happen if the American people urged Bush to wage war? Would they get what they wanted?



VOTE FOR
BLACKWORLD
NEWSPAPER
ON APRIL
28TH TO
MAY 1ST.
LET YOUR
VOICE BE
HEARD.

Blacks Fear AIDS is a Form of Government Genocide

By: Marjorie Direny
BLACKWORLD Staff

Despite dramatic advances in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and the decline in death amongst other groups, the disease remains the leading killer amongst African Americans; they are dying from the disease at a higher rate than any other race.

A large majority of AIDS victims in the African American community feel they are dying without treatment because they distrust the government or they believe that AIDS is a form of genocide aimed directly at them.

An annual report shows that, "Blacks constitute 12 percent of the U.S. population, yet they represented 41 percent of reported AIDS cases in 1996. Some 55 percent of women with AIDS are African-American, while 58 percent of pediatric AIDS cases are among African-American children. Since 1991 AIDS has been the leading cause of death in African-American men aged 25-44, and in 1994 the disease became the number one killer of African-American women of the same age group. Over 56 percent of all children under 12 with AIDS are black. In counties outside of New York City, blacks and Latinos account for around 10 percent of the population and 60 per-

cent of the cumulative AIDS cases."

Some African-Americans believe that they suffer at a disproportionate rate because they are not being told the truth about treatment. History plays a large role in this distrust. The most notorious example of medical abuse of black people in the U.S. is the, "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male."

The Tuskegee Study experimented on black male syphilis patients in rural Alabama. The researchers intent was to study the natural course of the untreated disease. Without their knowledge, the men were treated with placebos instead of penicillin. They were even given burial money so their bodies would be available for autopsies. Disclosure of the study outraged African-Americans and created an atmosphere of suspicion that now clouds AIDS education, prevention and treatment efforts in the black community. Because the researchers, who conducted the Tuskegee study, intentionally withheld information about syphilis from the participants, black people today may believe that they are not being told the full truth about AIDS and healthcare in general.

This is why some believe that AIDS is a form of genocide aimed directly at them. This line of thinking and denial in the black community around

drugs and homosexuality continue to drive many, particularly the African American church, the cornerstone of our community's thoughts into believing that only gay or bisexual men and intravenous drug users are susceptible to HIV and AIDS.

The simple facts are that HIV can be transmitted from one person to another through HIV-infected semen and vaginal secretions, blood-to-blood contact, and from an HIV-infected mother to child before birth. No one is free from risk. Each person must embrace the facts about AIDS so it no longer is invisible to them. With AIDS disproportionately annihilating the African American community, it's not far-fetched to believe that this epidemic is the biggest threat to black folk's freedom since slavery.

Blacks are in a "State of Emergency" in the African American community in regards to HIV/AIDS. Therefore it is time for them to be silent no more, and make use of the millions of dollars in funds, that Congress has provided for this crisis. Do whatever it takes to mobilize the African-American community, eradicate the HIV/AIDS virus, and organize national strategies that will enable blacks to fight the disease.

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but also for allowing her to branch out to so many other organizations. Throughout her two years in Stony Brook she has coordinated legislative conferences in Washington, D.C to advocate for maintaining funding for education as the United States Student Association representative on campus.

In addition to all of her responsibilities, Curtis also serves as a resident assistant in Dreiser College. She loves serving as an R.A because it provides her with an opportunity to experience the cultural diversity that the university provides.

With all this involvement, one wonders how this unbelievably friendly, sweet, well-mannered person does it all? What motivates her to do this, and most importantly, when does she have time for herself? "Well, it is all about time management and keeping a color coordinated planner (really!), as well as a to-do list," said Curtis.

As for her motivating force, she gives all the credit to God. As Curtis states "he is the source of my strength and stability. He is the one consistent thing in my life." She also has a supportive network of people who keep her motivated. As for "Sandy time," that comes on weekends.

This is when she takes time out to relax and analyze her life. She forwards her phone and relaxes by watching her pastor on television, she takes time to do her hair, and pamper herself by taking care of the simple things in life.

Curtis has many plans for the future. She intends to obtain her masters degree in public policy, and hopes to eventually attend law school. Throughout the upcoming weeks, Curtis will be promoting herself as a candidate for the Ms. Black Womyn's Weekend Pageant. She said she is running because of her experience in life and the three essential qualities she possess—in her opinion, black women have exhibited these qualities for generations—determination, persistence, and passion.

Curtis is a young black woman who has faced many obstacles. These obstacles however, will not get in her way, she said. She will challenge herself and show that she is capable of handling whatever comes her way.

Curtis offers some advice that she would like other females to heed to: "stand as a woman of integrity and never compromise who you are because of people or circumstances. If you fall or trip get back up."

**Vote for Sandy
Curtis for Ms.
Black
Womyn's
Weekend
Every
Wednesday in
the Union's
Fireside
Lounge!**

Towering Over The Nation

By: Eugenio Villarreal
BLACKWORLD Staff

In April and June of 2002, plans for the reconstruction of the Sept. 11 site were sent to the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation by 11 world-renowned construction teams. Later that year, the LMDC, government officials, and civic groups interested in rebuilding the towers previewed the designs, but unfortunately, spectators expressed extreme disappointment due to the widespread opinion that the plans lacked creativity, and leading architects to start anew with better plans for the site.

In late September, the LMDC selected seven teams from five different countries and a month later, the team of architects unveiled a total of nine designs for the WTC site during a three-hour presentation in the glass atrium of the Winter Garden at the World Financial Center. Although each design differed greatly in terms of main building structure(s), they each included three main concepts: train stations, office buildings, and most importantly – a memorial.

Differences in designs ranged from a tower whose two halves “split and kiss at three points,” said Daniel Libeskind. “To towers with a multi-layered facade that partly opens to allow natural ventilation; to a memorial plaza that would actually float above the Hudson River.”

Some designs were so inclusive of public and cultural space that critics referred to them as

“cities in the sky”. At the conclusion of the Winter Garden presentation Roland Betts, the director of the LMDC, said that there would be a lot of debate over the pros and cons of the proposed plans because “it pertains to a subject so inherently painful and where such great losses were experienced by so many”.

On Feb. 4, two architectural teams, each proposing plans to create the tallest structures known to man, were named finalists in this competition. The LMDC, the city-state agency that oversees the reconstruction process, chose a New York led team by the name of THINK Design, and Studio Daniel Libeskind of Berlin, Germany.

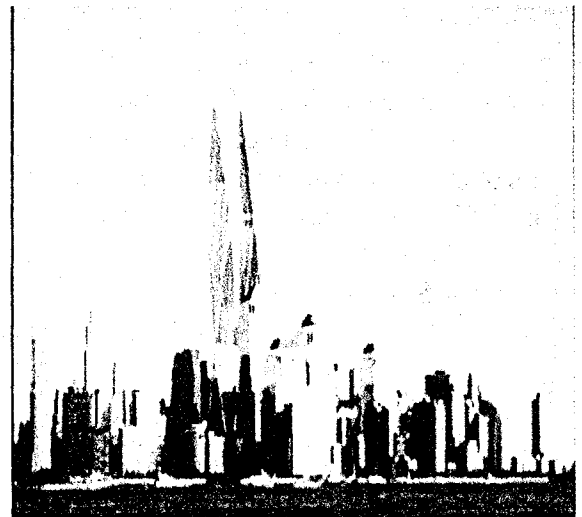
According to plans, both building structures would be 300+ feet higher than the original towers. The main things that set these designs apart are the proposed idea of a “World Cultural Center” which will be built above and around the footprints of the original towers with a 911 Interpretative Museum, a Performing Arts Center, an International Conference Center, an open Amphitheater, viewing platforms, public facilities for education Arts and Sciences, a transportation center, retail centers, and eight independent mid-rise office buildings proposed by THINK Design.

Studio Daniel Libeskind proposed an elevated walkway, a space for a “Memorial promenade” encircling the memorial site, a rail station with subways connected to PATH trains,

hotels, a performing arts center, office towers, underground malls, and street level shops.

Finally, after a couple of months of competition, Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg joined the LMDC and the Port Authorities of New York and New Jersey to announce that Studio Daniel Libeskind’s “Memory Foundations” was to be selected as the design concept for the World Trade Center site.

It is very interesting to note that this design will create a 1,776 feet tall tower, while leaving portions of the slurry wall exposed as a “symbol of the strength and endurance of American democracy,” said Libeskind.



Wednesday, April 30th,

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



*Its Coming
Are you
ready?*

RHAPSODIES

Offering To My Soul

Hanging off my shoulders
Took years to grow
And labored hours to maintain

Suddenly, one day I woke up
To the staunch reality
Of indescribable pain
I could only think of one
My thing to get rid of it
Ancestors taught me that the gain place in
one's life,
One must make a sacrifice
So that is just what I did

One lock at a time,
I made an offering to my soul
At every snip of the scissors
I made an offering to my soul
At every buzz of the clippers
I made an offering to my soul
Every group of curls that landed on the
floor
Was an offering to my soul
Every couple of weeks
I made another offering to my soul

And it worked!
The Ancestors were right!
The sacrifice rendered me a healing
That no synthetic pill or herbal medicine
could give

The sacrifice was accepted
Until finally my soul said,
❖It is enough❖

I had shaven every hurt,
Every pain
Every anguish
Every anxiety
Every negative relationship
Every incidence of dearth and death
Out of my life
There was no more to give
The sacrifice was full



Now that I have things in

*perspective,
I can grow
I can move on*



FURY

(This poem was written in response to
The Press' denigrating article about
Mumia Abu-Jamal, a death row prisoner
of the State of Pennsylvania)

WHAT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
How in the world can they mock a
man's future?
A man's life struggle?
Mumia is not a cartoon
They sized him up as being a
fictional, animated character
With wild-like features
With an untamed voracity for
violence and revenge
I am so full of anger
That hot tears spread across my
cheeks like a blanket
The pit of my stomach has one big
lump that gnaws at me

What if that was your father on
death row?
What if that was your brother on
death row?

Would it be so funny if your mother was fighting for her life?
How about if it was your baby that was waiting for the needle to be
jammed in his arm?
Or if it was **YOU** who was on death row **too long** for a crime you didn't
do"

Huh?
What if it was you?
Should we make a funny cartoon about your situation
Would it be apropos to make light of your dilemma?
Perhaps we should attach Popeye's head to your body and tell you to eat a
can of spinach and break your way out of prison

I'm so angry
I could punch a whole in the wall
Or breathe fire
Right now, I just wanna toss a Molotov cocktail in that Press' headquarters

What!
Did you think that the All-Mighty wasn't witnessing?
Do you think that you will live an old age and not see calamity?
What the fuck is going on with the State University of New York at Stony
Brook?
Is the president sleeping?
Have the provosts taken an unannounced sabbatical?

Black people, where is **YOUR** voice?
Is there no one else enraged with seismic fury but a few?

YOU ARE

I wrote this to remind you that you are a big factor in my life. And if you were not in it and on top, things wouldn't be right.

You should be handled with care. I shall love you, help you, provide for you, and always be there. I'm gonna forever hold you close to my heart. And shine light for you, wherever you feel that it is dark.

You are a blessing. You should be treated with high value like a prize possession. You're worth more than anything that I'll ever own. And when I'm with you, I feel like a king on his throne.

You are my queen. So, you should be treated with the utmost respect. And anything that you want, I'll try everything in my power to get. You contain the beauty and elegance of a natural queen. You're like an addiction. And I'm a fiend.

You are my heart. And a man and his heart cannot live apart. Therefore, I cannot live without you. You are my source of living.

You are my goddess. You're so gorgeous and angelic, but yet so modest. You were made for perfection, in my eyes. To me, you are an angel in disguise.

You are my wife. I can't even imagine how life would be, without you in it. My love for you increases by the minute. And you are the only woman that I'll ever serve. I'm gonna kept tryin' to give you the world. Because that is what you deserve.

You are my all. Nothing is too much for you. Not my heart, my sweat, my tears, or my all.

You are my reason for living. And when I die, I'm gonna die giving...giving you all that you want and need. And I'm always gonna be the person that you need me to be.

You are the sight that fails to leave my vision. And if you were not in my life, it would not be worth living.

Mike



Rebirth of a Woman

I'm most irate when I pretend to be at ease. My heart aches more when I try to please. The audience keeps laughing that's well and fine.

But it's drama not comedy, and I'm falling behind.

They say ignorance is bliss, and a wise woman's cheeks are never dry. Well, I've seen the good and evil of love, Now I wish I closed my eyes.

A woman demands attention, and all the love she can bear.

No man..or woman to be equal, so she alone can reap his care.

Once the ransom had been paid, unlike selfish love more demands were made.

I stagger from the love of my man demanding my full attention.

Yes, his desires were grand, but the nails were from my foundation.

You can't build a relationship on mistrust and broken promises.

After a lifetime of living in misery, you soon run out of options.

I look within my isolated heart, through my crumbled walls of despair.

And thank God I got out of that relationship,

Cause after awhile he no longer cared.

I try to bake a cake with humility, and a smile to quench his thirst,

A vow to love him forever, with poor honesty and everlasting trust.

My teeth are clenched so tightly, that my gums began to bleed.

I put my right hand on my chest and I swear, I could feel my own heart bleed.

It was the first thing I would forget, and the last thing I would forgive.

I was the essence of his life, yet he was afraid to let me live...

RHAPSODIES

Africans and West Indians vs. African Americans

By: Chaelynn Feaster
BLACKWORLD Staff

Do African and West Indian immigrants academically perform better than Black Americans? Is it true that Black people who immigrate from the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa tend to earn more money and have a slightly higher level of education than native, born Black Americans? Some may automatically say yes, while others may say no, well there is no easy answer to this question. We would have to look at the number of African immigrants that pursue higher education in relation to the number of Black Americans that pursue higher education to begin to critically examine the answer. Black Americans and African Americans have always found ways to separate themselves from one another and researching the answer to this question is not the answer. Aren't all of our struggles one in the same? Okay, well maybe our struggles aren't one in the same but don't we all fight to find a place in this world and make a name for ourselves?

There are approximately 1.7 million African immigrants in America, some are poor and lack

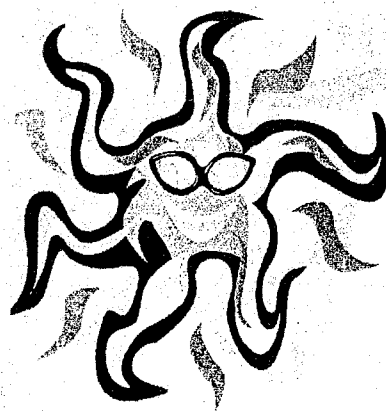
sufficient life essentials such as shelter, food and clothing. Some are fortunate enough to have support systems and the chance to take full advantage of opportunities that are offered to immigrants. Immigrants, in general, from Africa, or any other country, most commonly come to America, the land of opportunities, specifically for a better life and for a select few, their route to a better life is institutionally, through education. It is not surprising that one would take full advantage when given opportunities when opportunity was previously limited. Being an American I know that I sometimes tend to take for granted the choices that I am free to make. I don't always explore all of my options and take the time out to see what is out there for me. It would be safe to say that it is no easy task to uproot and leave one country for another and have to start all over, that is an achievement in itself. Immigrants have many issues such as culture shock and adaptation to tackle and the love-hate relationship between Africans and Black Americans is another added to an already full plate. Ignorance perpetuates stereotypes and we all know the cause of ignorance is fear and the cure, education. Is it so hard for us to find those common links that relate us?

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Comedy..(continued from pg.4)

can range from the latest hairstyles to the "real" reasons why America is at war with Iraq.

The movie *Barbershop* tries to portray what all barbershops aspire to be--a place where one does not have to apologize for his opinions, or for not wrapping their opinion up in a politically correct box. The barbershop is where "real" conversations take place, a safe haven for opinions to gain validation. Like the character Eddie says "If you can't say what you want in the barbershop where can you say it?"



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The Face of Media Changes

By: Jamie A. Graham
BLACKWORLD Staff

The media's negative portrayal of African Americans today has greatly impacted the way African American youths live their lives. It is unfortunate that the media portrays African Americans and other minorities unfairly. They are often perceived as lazy, poor, dope heads, uneducated and criminals.

Generally, stereotypes about minorities are nine times out of ten inaccurate. They are usually the "bad guys" on television shows and the news—the rapists and gang bangers. Movies today still show African Americans stereotypically. A good example of this is "Bringing Down the House" with Queen Latifah. The movie exaggerates the hip-hop culture and makes it seem ignorant and comical.

Chris Rock's "Head of State" is also another movie that makes light of the idea of an African American president of the United States. The thought of having an African American president is so implausible

that it was used as a punch line for jokes throughout the movie. What the media fails to acknowledge is that African American family incomes has more than doubled since the 1990's and the dropout rates for African American high school students has decreased.

The media's portrayal of African Americans has forced some prominent African Americans to take a stand by introducing a cable channel that caters to African Americans. It will focus on positive aspects of their being while also educating them.

The new cable channel will launch at the end of this year. The cable news station will be 24 hours. The masterminds behind this new project are trial lawyer, Wille E. Gary, heavyweight champion, Evander Holyfield, home-run hitter, Cecil Fielder and former child sensation, Marlon Jackson.

The station would provide viewers with education, information, and entertainment. The new station will be called MBCN News—"The Urban Voice." The Urban Voice will feature topics associated with urban communities, talk shows, sports

programs involving black colleges and universities, sitcoms, religious programs, dramas and movies. Viacom which is a media conglomerate and owns both television channels BET and UPN; will be MBCN's biggest competition.

However, MBCN will bring something different to the table with regular news roundups every half-hour or hour. The only thing missing from this station would be music videos. This new station intends to do a better job than BET and UPN of attracting the African American community as a whole for all age groups. MBCN wants to portray a positive aspect of the African American culture to society.

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Reparations...(continued from pg.3)

tion camps, and containment in the south for 246 year. The plight of Japanese Americans and Jews were beyond horrifying, but World War II lasted for approximately six years. Africans have been fighting for equality since their inception to this nation. Although many people are responsible for slavery the Americas held on much longer than their euro-counterparts. If America is propagated as an egalitarian society, would it not be in the spirit of equality to repair Africa American for the countless injustices that occurred. In large, America shies away from the notion of reparations because that would be admitting that they wronged Africans, and repair would be required. The American government and its are obligated to pay their debt. Councilman Dr. Charles Barron stated, "If citizens, both naturalized and American-born can inherit the wealth that this country has to offer they cshould be able to inherit the debt that it has." In 1988, most of the people who made payment to the Japanese reparation effort through taxation had no part of their detainment. Everyone paid because a wrong was done, and America felt obligated to make amends. Horowitz's points are utterly disturbing and very demeaning to the black experience in this country. America in the past and present tense has been unjustly enriched and enhanced by slavery. The benefit of slavery extends past the fact that the entire south was dependant on the slave for their personal wealth, which was translated through

the slave's cultivation of cotton, indigo, and sugar. Da' massa benefited mentally and physically from the slave. Da' massa raped African women when they felt the need to fulfill their sexual appetites. Land was distributed to freed men, but it was irritable, and crops could not be cultivated on the soil.

Reparations are needed not only for slavery but also for jim crowism (this underlined term does not deserve the respect of proper grammar respect of capitalization). The laws that derived from jim crowism still enslaved African Americans in the anti-bellum south, which were the late 1800's to early 1900's. These laws were exclusionary acts drawn to basically keep blacks in a position of subordination. They ranged from excluding blacks from voting, to separating facilities and institutions. These laws were not only enforced by police but by TERRORist groups like k.k.k. and lynch mobs. Barron states, "African Americans should least receive their taxes back that paid for institutions that they could not attend". In more recent years, the discrimination has been more institutionalized so is it still necessary to get reparations when affirmative action has been a force in institutions. Barron explains, "There is a big difference between affirmative action and reparation." He expands, "Affirmative action is an action of restitution for major institutions, but reparations is amends by the federal government." Major corporations to have some sort of restitution they need

to repay because some corporations of them directly have involvement of the exploitation of the black experience had direct influence of slavery. For example, ETNA has given insurance to the slave masses when their slaves died. Also, Fleet bank used to purchase slave ships. When the evidence is presented the questions reshapes from why should America give reparations to when, and in what form would reparations come in.

My conclusion. I know you all have waited long and hard for it. Reparations are an intense topic, because it definitely divides people off in the far spectrum of the color continuum. Public opinion can be shaped by race, where one's lives, gender, age, and religion. I personally feel reparations is not a new phenomena, debt is owed it should be paid. America's attitudes towards black are so negative, that subconsciously many Americans try as hard as possible to deny history or belittle their experience. America has established against African Americans. If others have received reparations there is no reason as to why anybody of the African Diaspora should not receive them also. In this country Blacks are victims to countless discrimination whether born here or naturalized. America has a chance to stand up to the racism that descended upon our forefathers. The process of accepting reparations is taking responsibility for the actions of this nation.

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