

Blackworld

Published bi-weekly by students at SUNY Stony Brook



A SUNY STUDENT PUBLICATION—UNIVERSITY AT STONY BROOK

February 22, 1985 Volume XI--No. 2

M.P.B.

UP FROM THE ASHES ?!

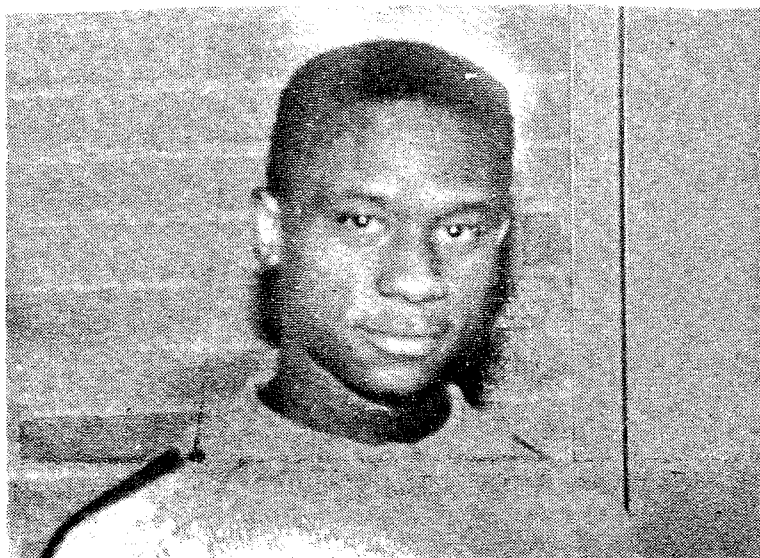


Photo by Patrick Simon

“To be ignorant of what happened before you were born is to be ever a child. For what is man’s lifetime unless the memory of past events is woven with those of earlier times?”

Cicero (106-43 b.c.)

“LET US REASON TOGETHER”

Isaiah 1:18

In the final edition of fall 1984, a statement was made on the front page which stated: BLACK + WHITE = SHADES OF GREY. This is an adaptable statement. At first it indicated that black people and white people’s points of view had to be added together to garner a discernable reality. At this point, however, the statement (will be called the reality concept) will be used to try to see the M.P.B. dilemma in a more discernable form.

In an attempt to understand the concept of M.P.B. I tried to find Polity minutes/memos or simple plans for the inception of the Minority Programming Board. There were none of any substantial information to be found. In fact all I could find were minutes to the effect that there would be an organization called the Minority Programming (Planning) Board.

There are essentially no records which indicates a communication with the minority community to see their opinions on the M.P.B. It was as if on day every one woke up to discover a new organization with a budget of some \$15,000 which in reality was directionless.

Enter Gary Jacque. Mr. Jacque became the “heavy” in this situation because, with all due respect to him, he tried to walk before he could crawl. Moreover, Jacque allowed himself to be identified ahead of the organization instead of the other way.

Fundamental wrongs can be seen in the inception of the M.P.B. for the reason that an organization which is supposedly geared towards the minority community had no check on it by the community itself. To be precise the chairperson for M.P.B. is appointed by the Polity President, which would not necessarily be evil, except that the chairperson has the power to appoint his/her entire executive board.

This is not meant to be humorous, but no one except a Saint or a very open-minded person would appoint a board which does not share his/her views.

For the most part I applaud the efforts of the M.P.B. in the form of the Rhythm Club. This idea has brought to this campus something which seems to be vastly overlooked. The minority population on the campus is very young and for the first time in years the minority community was offered entertainment by performers at the time when their act is in some semblance of demand and on a quality basis. Check the records and you will find that minority orientated concerts on this campus are few and far between.

Futhermore the M.P.B. succeeded in getting a whole variety of people in one area (observation of the Aleem’s opening) without any friction and with a great deal of interaction. This is something which is often overlooked.

This article is not meant to support or fight against the M.P.B. However, it is meant to point out that the minority community is once again in-fighting. This is self defeating and only leads to a non-working environment. Campus leaders who were once united in a cause are now throwing stones. This may be a painful revelation but all these stones are being thrown at the same house.

At this moment a new constitution is being submitted to Polity. This constitution allows for the full control of the Minority Programming (Planning) Board by the overall minority community. In brief, all positions will be elected and completely controllable by the community.

In the opinion of Blackworld this constitution should be strongly supported by the community. A great deal of good people have spent an enormous amount of time over the years trying to implement a minority support program such as this. It would be a shame if our in-fighting leads to the dissolution of the M.P.B. leaving us with nothing.

We weren’t given this program freely and without a fight lets not give it back by fighting ourselves.

By Peter A. Ward

DROP DIME

By Jacqueline Simpson

Greetings! "Drop Dime" is back!

It is my pleasure to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day! This first "Drop Dime" will be short but sweet. First, let us be reminded that this is Black History Month. There will be and have been several events taking place on campus. On February 4, there was an exhibition in the union for Black History Month. This exhibition included singing, poetry, and music. Also, a Valentine's Day "treat" on February 14 was lecture by the highly acclaimed author James Baldwin. He is the author of such works as "Go Tell it on the Mountain", "Notes of a Native Son", "Another Country", and "Giovanni's Room". I was able to interview a few people who attended the lecture. Most of them had the same reaction. They found James Baldwin to be very informative and intellectual. He made them analyze blacks and black relationships to the white man. He said that blacks are often left out of the history books and that America rules by force and force will not last because the terrorist kingdom will fall.

Valentine's Day or All my money is gone!

"I love you this much!" and "You are the only one for me!" are only a few romantic words that capture one's attention when browsing in a card store; and to think, the times one sees this the most is on that "special day" called Valentine's Day.

Card stores live for Valentine's Day. They start displaying cards, chocolate hearts and cute little teddy bears that say, "I love you so much" at least one month before Valentine's Day.

Michael Schwartz, owner of a card store in Crown Heights, Brooklyn says, "I make a great deal of profits during Valentine's Day. It's a big business and it's even better than Christmas."

Stores are filled with endless amounts of beautifully written cards. "I picked up a card and I felt as if it was written especially for me and my boyfriend," says Georgina Brown.

"The store is jammed packed with people trying to find the right words for that special person," Schwartz said.

"Be my Valentine," or "Everyday is like Valentine's Day when I am with you" is only a taste of what one will get when one walks into a card store. There are a variety of cards to choose from but according to Vanessa Lipton, "I don't like cards that have words in them. I always buy cards that say, 'I Love You' on the outside and in the inside it is blank. That's when I write my own words in it. It gives me the opportunity to express my love to my husband and a card can only say so much".

Valentine's Day is a day of expressing one's love for one another. It is expressed by buying that special card, chocolates, roses, and for the long distance relationships, let's not forget singing telegrams.

"It makes me feel good inside knowing that the world is still full of people who really love each other," Schwartz said. "Valentine's Day is a special time of year to express it."

For some, Valentine's Day is every day and one does not need it on the calendar to be reminded; but for others it is a "special day" to spend with that "special person".

by Lorna Francis

One quote seemed to stick with the people that were interviewed. "No white person can truly prove that he is white".

Leaving on that note, remember that the Black Historians dinner is on February 23.

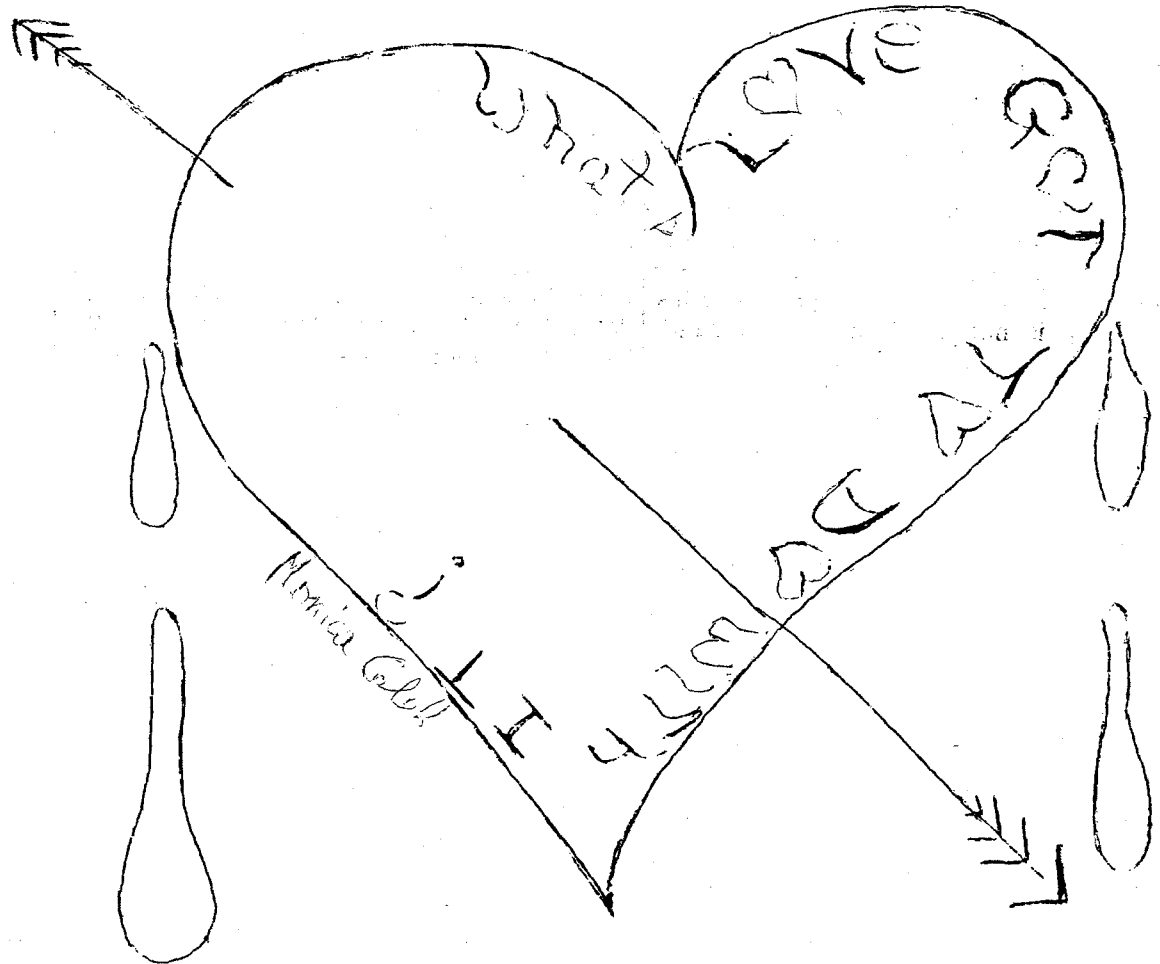
MPB is sponsoring their dynamic Rythm Club once again. This time, they have invited "Nuance" as their guest appearance.

Students seem very satisfied with the Suny at Stony Brook system on campus busing. There are three locals now running every half hour.

For those of you who need jobs, check out the Minorities in Engineering and Applied Sciences High Tech job recruitment fair February 15th in the union, and don't worry, the S.A.I.N.T.S. scholarship applications are on their way.

Last but not least, Blackworld would like to congratulate the "Tar Baby" cast and crew. We would like to wish them good luck at the U.N.!

Sign-off.



"DON'T COPY FOR THEM PUERTO RICO"

Lecture on Puerto Rico

Luis Rafael Sanchez

Author

La Guaracha del Macho Camacho

The Latin American Student Organization at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, in collaboration with the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature, proudly welcomes Luis Rafael Sanchez, one of Puerto Rico's premier authors.

Professor Sanchez teaches Hispanic Languages at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, and has received international acclaim for his novel La Guaracha del Macho Camacho (1976) translated in English under the title Macho Camacho's Beat.

The lecture, which will take place on March 5, 1985 at 7:00 PM in Fine Arts Theatre I, is an original approach to the current political discourse in Puerto Rico. L.A.S.O. urges everyone to attend this very important event.

Reception to follow.

James Baldwin on America

"Black American history or experience or white American history or lack of experience..." was the opening statement of the lecture presented by James Baldwin entitled "A World I Never Made". As part of the University Distinguished Lecture Series and co-sponsored by the Africana Studies and English Departments, Mr. Baldwin's appearance was significant in that it was an event as part of the university's recognition of Black History Month. A member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, Mr. Baldwin as essayist, novelist and playwright had much to offer, in terms of educating his audience about the realities and the "...peculiar fantasies..." which comprise American history.

History, as defined by Mr. Baldwin is simultaneously the past and the present, "We operate out of historical senses." Accordingly, one's experience is established and bound by one's history, and without the knowledge of one's history, "... a people can't grow up..." He discussed black and white American history in terms of a single history and pointed out that the distinction, as two unrelated histories,

and denial of American history, "... the relation between black and white is overlooked because America wishes to overlook its own beginning" That beginning having been based on the labor of blacks. Fundamentally, a single American history exists because the rewards and claims of virtue of one group was not possible without the labor of the other group.

Mr. Baldwin condemned American television, stating that it has a "...sublime contempt for reality and history." He suggested that Americans "...look at TV as it projects a history... there is nothing funny nor romantic about it." This history, in relation to the present has "... become a staple of hollywood..." Mr. Baldwin warned us to "...face our history and take it from the merchants who package and sell our time." Further, a "...peculiar fantasy..." has been contrived, and television as a "...powerful social force...", exists as the "...enemy of history...specifically to those who know nothing of their history."

by Renee Pendergrass



James Baldwin Photo by Patrick Simon

Mr. Baldwin questioned, "What happens when you make your history a myth?" You cannot respond to questions such as "Who are you?" or "Where are you?". According to Mr. Baldwin, the choice of being white is not based on the color of one's skin, it is a moral choice which must constantly be made. "No one was white until he got here..." He suggested that we examine American history previous to the first few lines written in the Declaration of Independence- "When the original settlers had to leave their origins..." White and black became labels for individuals once one defined oneself according to actions, "... on the basis of conduct, whites believed themselves to be white..." The distinction yields a history made myth, which is the condemnation of those who choose to be white. Mr. Baldwin connects these labels and the myths established to support them with the American definition of a "Manifest Destiny". This "destiny", as stated by Mr. Baldwin is the "...son of white supremacy..." and permits the rationalization

that "...a superior civilization could kill as a manifest destiny..." as this destiny is "...the will of God..."

"People chose to be white because they were afraid to be anything else..." but "... the diminution of blacks means the same for whites." The reconciliation lies "...in facing our history...we can forgive each other." As the present is the past, we must have a "...confrontation of time... the history is hard to face because it is hard to change." Mr. Baldwin further advanced that "... given the passage of time, no American would try to prove that he or she is white." He also stated that he is an "...architect of the New World, and those who denied his identity, denied their own." Therefore, "What white Americans don't see when they look at me is what they don't see when they look around the world." For those who do know their history, Mr. Baldwin asserts, "What you can't do to me, you can't do to the world. When you've lost the power to convert, you've lost the power to rule, so you resort to terror...BUT... people respond... If you know where you are, you know what to do.

Mr. Baldwin's prescription for what he terms the "peculiar fantasy", is for all blacks to "...be better than what has been done." He asks us to question "Is there something to be done for our children and schools?" He cited the importance of a Black History Month and also the necessity of a Black Studies Division in the schools and universities. They are "...attempts to fill the vacuum left by American history." He stressed, "We must take society into our own hands... of mind... not necessarily arms

If whites don't know the history of blacks, then they can't possibly know their own because the histories are tied together. Not knowing your history forces you to remain ignorant

and in this condition, you are powerless to take a situation into your own hands and confront wrongs. Knowing your history gives you the capacity to make the right choices because you will know where you are or, as stated by Mr. Baldwin, "...from whence you came.

Bob Marley Day At Stony Brook

By Abbakha I

The preparation to celebrate the life of the prophet was intense. The Caribbean Students Organization (CSO) struggled through the dawn preparing their sumptuous vegetarian cuisine. The Minority Programming Board (MPB) and the AIM committee ran around making final preparation for the day and volunteers from other campus organizations were relentless in setting the appropriate mood. Bob Marley's portraits were hung at every visible location and the Rastafarian symbolic colors - Red, Gold and Green spotted the interior of the student Union.

The six inches of snow made no difference. People came in droves to eat the ital (natural food), look at videos, feel the vibes of the speakers and dance to reggae music. This day was destined to be something special regardless of the weather. Entering the Union one could immediately feel the positive 'vibes'. Marley Posters donated by several record companies lined the walls of the Union. Also, transfer student Jacques, Dorcely had his sensational drawing of the reggae superstar reproduced on red, gold and green paper and it could be seen every where. Although the event took place in the Union Ballroom one could feel the pulse of Bob Marley's music on entering the Union. February 6th for the first time would mean something to the Stony Brook campus, this was Bob Marley's Birthday and the Celebration was on and free!

Every Bob Marley record could be heard as DJ Ras Marvin rocked the ballroom from 12pm with Bob's inspirational lyrics and fine music. At 2pm lunch was served. The non meat menu was chosen in recognition of the Rastafarian vegetarian diet. This made no difference however as some people claimed it was the best food they had ever eaten. The celebration continued with the giving away of Bob Marley souvenir

pens which were donated by sophomore Yvonne Magny. At 4pm invitations went out to the audience to participate in the celebration. Brother Ramon read an assortment of English and Latino poetry. Ras Marvin also contributed some poetry. The Wosse Posse a group of sophomore students did a jumpy number in tribute to Bob which they themselves had written. Also special invited guest Ras Barry lectured on a wide range of issues including his personal relationship to Bob Marley. Unfortunately our own brother Amiri Baraka who on numerous occasions has praised Bob's music was unable to make the trip from the city. He was missed but the show went on. At 7:30pm amidst the music Bob Marley's musical video, 'The Legend' was shown. Some people for the first time got to see Bob perform. Then at 9:00 Dr. Michael Bagley (Director of the AIM Program) and Gary Jacques (then chairperson of Minority Planning Board) introduced special invited guest Malika Whitney. Malika who is a devout Rastafarian and dressed in a splendid African printed gown, lectured on the life and times of Bob Marley. Malika is also the co-author of the book "Bob Marley: Reggae King of the World." Her message was that 'we should not choose only one day to celebrate our heroes but practice celebrating ourselves throughout the year.' Her book can now be seen in the African Studies Library, courtesy of the AIM Program and the Caribbean Students Organization.

Senior student, sister Sandra Williams also contributed to Bob's memory. She did a smooth rendition of 'Steel Pulses' Rally Round. She was backed by up and coming reggae band New Roots. New Roots delighted the audience with their wide variety of selections which brought the audience on to the dance floor. They rocked the Union until about 2:00am.

Dread Corner

THE GLOSY OF THE BLACK FACE.

Many people often question the concept of why Rastaman and Rastawoman carry their wool (HAIR) the way they do.

Well, it is not so much a fashion or a form of rebellion as many might imagine but a sacred and divine vow made unto the Lord Most High Selassie I Jah Rastafari.



I will proceed to verify this Biblical references. I and I, the Children of Israel were told from the beginning by God that, "thou shalt not round the corners of thy head nor mar the corner of thy beard." (Lev. 19 v. 27).

As a result of being in captivity in the West we soon adopted their customs including the practise of shaving one's head.

We were therefore living in total opposition to the way that was commanded us by Our God, Jahovia, Jah Rastafari.

As we were on our journey through the wilderness after leaving Egypt, I and I, the Black House of Israelite, the Chosen people of God, became weary and doubtful. We began murmuring against God and complained to Moses that we were dissatisfied with the way things were.

Dreaditor --- Ras Abbakha I

We longed for the types of food that we had in Egypt (Meats and all other foods that were forbidden to us) we still wanted to dress in their form of clothing; in other words we wanted to continue living in the way that our slave masters had patterned for us.

|||||

We even accused Moses of bringing us out into the wilderness in order to kill us out. As you can clearly see even today, we still have preferred to hold on to the teachings of the white men instead of obeying God's laws and Commandments

We have completely rejected everything African in order to

DREAD LATION

Dreaditor- Rasta Editor
I and I- Us and collectively into one
JAH- Supreme God
Babylon- Western and Eastern oppressors
SHASHAMANI- Gift of Land by his majesty
COW- Humble
FORIVER- FOREVER

kill us out of ourselves, by following after the ways of the Babylonians the heathens, our slave masters, the white men.

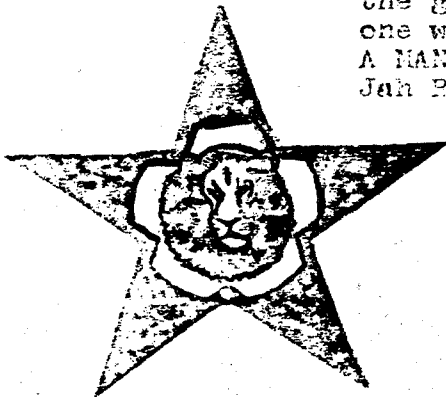
However when we became rebellious and began crying to Moses in the wilderness, he called for those of us who truly wanted to praise God to make a complete change from the Egyptians way of life by committing ourselves totally unto God.

This meant returning unto the way that was ordained for us from the beginning by God. We, the obedient children of the Black House of Israelite, the true Rasta man and woman vowed the vow of the Nazirite (Numbers 6) and dedicated ourselves to the service of the Most High God Jahovia Jah Rastafari.

We vowed to follow the laws of Jah and live by His principles. We have vowed to throw away all ways of the heathen round about us and to return to our true culture.

Our locks signify the covenant that we made unto God and it is a holy and symbolic remembrance of that promise. We vow never to break it. Christ is the first Rastaman, the Dreadlock Nazirite whom they crucified and put on the cross. That is why we wear our locks. For we are the children of Christ.

Samson was strong. Until Babylon trimmed his wool and he became weak. So we know our Heavenly powers that God give us. If we keep our temples holy and sanctified unto the Lord, Our God, Our locks is our shining glory, the glory of Christ, the crucified one who live and reign forever more
A MAN Selassie I
Jah Rastafari.



LEARN FROM YOUR STORY -NOT HIS.

Interpretation of Psalm 23

by sister

Farikha Berhan
and Ras Abbakha I

JAH is Shepherd,
I shall not bow

nor Cow to Babylon
For JAH is with I.

His rod and staff
and the green fields of SHASHAMANI
comfort I.

He maketh me to smoke
from the cup of righteousness,
for his name sake

JAH RASTAFARI- SELASSIE I
JAH is I shepherd
I will not bow nor
Ever Cow to Babylon
for JAH will forever
be with I, FORIVER and IVER
Selah.

Letter From the Editor

To: The Students, Faculty and staff of The S.U.N.Y. at Stonybrook.

From: BLACKWORLD
Peter A. Ward/Editor-in-chief

Subject: To illustrate Blackworld's goals and aspirations for the upcoming school year.

Dear Friends:

First, please allow me, on the behalf of Blackworld, to wish you a happy and productive school year.

Until my election to the position of Editor of this newspaper the precarious position of Blackworld in our community had been a total mystery to me. Lately it has become clearer to me as to the scrutiny and criticism that a paper which declares its allegiance in its very name (Black) is forced to come to grips with.

In the past I counted myself among the most ardent critics of this paper but after joining and growing with it over a year ago I've grown to understand and appreciate the magnitude of its purpose. There comes a time, however, when the purpose of Blackworld is questioned by its readers. It is during these times when the staff of Blackworld must make a choice. The choices are either to succumb to the pressures of keeping our readers happy or adhering to the doctrines of our founders.

The basic doctrine of Blackworld states that this newspaper's sole purpose is to say the following: HERE IS THE TRUTH MAKE WHAT YOU WILL OF IT. Under my administration Blackworld will not for a second deviate from this concept. To do anything less would be to insult the intelligence of our readers and to bear false and misleading judgement against others. This we will not do.

Before Blackworld becomes misunderstood allow me to make it clear that our chief purposes this year will not be one of war with the campus. In essence what we endeavor to accomplish is the following:

1. A diversification of the staff to encompass as many different ethnic backgrounds as possible. The purpose of which is to allow as many people as possible to identify with the paper.
2. A more unified connection to the campus and to the organizations currently established on this campus. To be precise Blackworld would consider it a great honor to work in tandem with any club(s) in events or programs geared to the propagation of good will and cultural understanding. To this end it would seem most expedient to have a network whereby Blackworld could get in contact with or be contacted by any club. Furthermore, a network would definitely help us eliminate the lack of coverage of certain events on the basis of ignorance.

Blackworld prides itself on being at the forefront of helping different aspects of the minority community to work together. Now we would like to be at the forefront when the minority community decides to be supportive of each other in actions in addition to words. We pledge ourselves and the resources of this paper to that end.

In closing please allow me to say the following. Blackworld is interested in anyone and everyone who is willing to help us, whether as writers, photographers, or in any other way. We invite all those students who feel that Blackworld has ignored their interests in the past to come down and speak with us and to join the staff.

To make it easier for anyone to get in contact with this paper please be advised that Blackworld has a mail box in the polity office which is checked every day. Please make use of it to deposit anything of relevance to Blackworld.

Again allow me to wish you a greatly productive and healthy year.

Thank you

Peter A. Ward



BLACKWORLD

“KNOW THYSELF”

Peter A. Ward
Editor-in-chief

Kim Parks
Managing Editor

Lorna Francis
Copy Editor

Mike Lucienne
Photo Editor

STAFF & REPORTERS:

Jennifer Press, Jacqueline A. Simpson, Monica Caleb, Marie Carline Hilaire, Abbakha I, Camille Nelson, Renee Pendergrass, Eillen (Sherelle) Thomas and Dawnette Wilson.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Lomax Dieudonne, Patrick Simon

African American Students Org.
PRESENTS ...

African American Celebration Day
Friday - Feb. 22, 1985 - "All Day"

Union → 12:00 art
↓ 4:00 pm Soul Music
Exhibit Food etc.

Union Aud. → 7:30
↓ 9:30 pm → dancing Singing
Poetry acting Togetherness:

Kelly → Master JAM → 10:00 pm
to 3:00 AM

this whole day is ...

A Tribute to the Civil Rights

MOVEMENT → Be there

CARIBBEAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION

INVITES YOU TO

A ETHIOPIAN FUNDRAISER PARTY

WHEN: SAT., MARCH 2, 1985

PLACE: KELLY CAFE

TIME: 10 PM UNTIL

DONATION: : \$2 W/ID, \$3 W/OUT

ACADEMIC FAILURE: MATTER OVER MIND

by Camille Nelson and Jacqueline Simpson

The transition from a neighborhood high school to a large, impersonal university is a traumatic experience every incoming student must undergo. That stress is intensified when the student is Black or Hispanic and joining a minority community that encompasses a mere 1% of the campus population. Therefore, when academic failure in the minority community is being considered it should never be implied that intellectual inferiority is the reason. Rather, the problem results from a lack of discipline common to all students combined with a culture shock unique to the minority student.

"Culture shock" is the phrase used by Academic Advisor Lucia Rusty. When asked to evaluate the reasons for academic failure in the minority community, as she put it, "That's a weighted question. It's not easy to say. It really is determined on an individual basis." Clearly, she wants to make sure that no one gets the impression that there is a reason for all academic failure by Blacks and Hispanics, namely lack of skills. But she is eager to elaborate on the genuine concerns of a minority student that may affect his academic performance.

"It's socioeconomic," Rusty says. "They arrive here and they feel alienated. They're worried about financial aid, housing, trying to understand the requirements. All this takes away from their time to study." She points out that some need a sense of direction. "In high school, you were told what to do. Here you have to be able to manage your own time."

Indeed, many students, both Black and White, spend at least one year trying to find a happy medium between socializing and school work. The social calendar at Stony Brook can wreak havoc on an impressionable young mind. With numerous parties being offered in one week, an undisciplined student finds himself leaving his studies for the last minute or avoiding studying altogether. For the daring (or perhaps the cowardly, depending on your perspective) there is the lure of overindulgence in drugs and alcohol. Some are even

deluded enough to claim that drugs help them with their studies. Living away from home along with the inherent freedom make it that much harder to say "No" to temptations. Even the well-intentioned community activist can be led astray. Devoting a disproportionate amount of time to a club or sorority or fraternity or even a political organization may adversely affect academic performance. Romantic entanglements also serve as a major distraction, lest we forget the call of the wild hormones. However, Black or White, city kid or country hick, a conscious effort must be made to set priorities and adhere to them.

The particular problem of Blacks and Hispanics at Stony Brook is a lack of sensitivity regarding their unique needs. The feeling of comfort and acceptance is essential to academic success. According to Rusty, there needs to be more orientation activities geared towards minorities. "We need outreach services to give the feeling of an extended family." Towards that end, she involves herself in coordinating the Mentoring Program and serves as advisor to the S.A.I.N.T.S. She also applauds such academic support groups as the Society for Minorities in Engineering and Applied Sciences, the special Services Program, and Health Careers Opportunity Program. "These programs are a result of committed people both students and faculty. They'll only work if students utilize these resources." Unfortunately, she reminds us, there are some negative attitudes within the faculty that are "arrogant if not racist and turn students off. We need faculty interaction and outreach along with student input."

This ultimately involves Administration. Rusty said she would like to see a centralized Office of Minority Affairs with a budget that would enable coordination and assessment of services. She says proudly, "After 10 hard and long years, we're finally moving in that direction. We're now seeing changes for the better. We have to be optimistic. If our forefathers didn't have optimism and hope for change, we would not exist as a culture today." As long as there are students, faculty, and administrators committed to insuring that minorities are properly acclimated, academic failure cannot help but decline, Rusty said.

Sorority's Focus: Alpha Kappa Alpha

Dumisani S. Kumato

*Journalist in South Africa since 1965 working for the Post Newspapers, Drum Magazine, The World, and as chief reporter for the Johannesburg Sunday Times Extra (Black Edition).

*Founder of the Union of Black Journalists, an organization active in the Black Consciousness Movement, which was banned by the South African government in October 1977.

*Author of an autobiography of his experiences under apartheid soon to be published.

*As a journalist in South Africa, he exposed conditions of black migrant workers in the mines; use of child labor on farms; abuses of police power and deaths in detention.

*Following police harassment, he fled South Africa in 1977.

*Since arriving in the U.S., he has written reports for a number of U.S. newspapers, authored articles and book reviews,

addressed numerous campus groups and other public forums.

He is available to address issues concerning southern Africa such as:

- *Conditions under apartheid
- *Reagan administration policies on southern Africa
- *The role of U.S. corporations in South Africa
- *Black resistance and the struggle for freedom in southern Africa

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA
198 Broadway/New York, NY 10038
(212) 962-1210

As we all know, this month is dedicated to celebrating Black History. However, one cannot forget our Brothers and Sisters suffering under the South African Apartheid system, nor from the famine of Ethiopia!!!

POETRY

Break these Chains of Captivity

by Lancelot Walker

I lay in light dreams and felt the dawning of a new day,
 One that begins the celebration of my history they say.
 But I awoke and found my limbs still bound
 By the chains of disillusion and captivity.
 Yet they told me that slavery is history,
 But I told them that it has only been made invisible by society.
 I screamed at the reality until I was void of air
 and collapsed to my feet in deep despair.
 Pleading for recognition, fighting for justice and equality.
 Will someone help me break these chains of captivity.
 Break these chains so I can be free
 Break these chains of discrimination around me.
 I tug at their persisting links
 Wanting to control my destiny,
 Needing to be free, so I can also sing praises in the promise land.
 I must be on my way.
 So I must send these chains away.
 Break them, take them, destroy them and pray.
 I stumbled to my feet in my depression.
 and wrestled to be free from these chains of oppression
 But failed to be loosened from their powerful grip
 I must break these chains before I slip.
 I laid back down and went to sleep
 and in my dreams I did weep
 I dreamt alas that I was free
 But awoke to find these chains still on me.
 I gathered my strength, made up my mind,
 Up to the mountain I must climb.
 I must get on my journey to the top
 and Promise to conquer power and never look back.
 I know someday I shall break these chains and be free,
 Regardless if anyone cares to assist or rescue me.
 My chains though invisible are still in tact,
 And I must never lose sight of this freedom track.
 I realize that it's a long way my people and I have come
 And I am determined to go on, can't stop now.
 Fo I have yet to break these chains and enter the
 Promised land.
 Break these chains of captivity so I may be
 A totally liberated, emancipated, self-determined, and indoctrinated
 Black Man.



TEN LITTLE NIGGERS

From the Author....

My guess is that the first nursery rhyme you ever memorized came from Mother Goose. Many controversies have arisen over several of these rhymes as to their direct or indirect interpretation. Recently, I came across an 1896 Edition of Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes, published in Chicago by M. A. Donohue and Co. On pages 34-38 appear the only verses dealing with the destruction of black folks. This nifty little rhyme is entitled, "Ten Little Niggers." After reading these derogatory and insulting little ditties, I thought I would present thoughts of survival to set the historical record straight. I hope all young black people will "dig it," and when they finish, will be ready to slap and when they finish, will be ready to "slap me five."

Gerald W. Deas, M.D.

Part Two
For Survival

Ten Little Nigger Boys went out to dine;
 One choked his little self, and then there were nine

Nine Little Nigger Boys sat up very late;
 One overslept himself, and then there were Eight.

Eight Little Nigger Boys traveling in Devon;
 One said he'd stay there and then there were Seven

Seven Little Nigger Boys chopping up sticks;
 One chopped himself in half, and then there were Six.

Six Little Nigger Boys playing with a Hive;
 A Bumble-Bee stung one, and then there were Five.

Five Little Nigger Boys going in for Law;
 One got in Chancery, and then there were Four.

Four Little Nigger Boys going out to sea;
 A Red Herring swallowed one, and then there were Three.

Three Little Nigger Boys walking in the "Zoo";
 The big Bear hugged one, and then there were Two.

Two Little Nigger Boys sitting in the Sun;
 One got frizzled up, and then there was one.

One Little Nigger Boy living all alone;
 He got married, and then there were None.

One Little Black Boy was loved and he grew;
 He shared with another, and then there were two.

Two Little Black Boys learned to agree;
 They asked the help of another, and then there were three.

Three Black Teenage Boys wanted to do even more;
 They lifted one who had fallen, and then there were four.

Four Young Black Men learned how to survive;
 They joined hands with another, and then there were five.

Five Young Black Men built with mortar and bricks;
 They encouraged another builder and then there were six.

Six Black Brothers knew Hell from Heaven;
 They turned a brother around, and then there were seven.

Seven Black Brothers learned never to be late;
 A serious brother followed and then there were eight.

Eight Black Men became strong with time;
 They linked arms with another and then there were nine.

Nine Little Black Boys became strong men
 They looked for a leader and then there were ten.

Ten Little Black Boys are only a few;
 TO BECOME STRONG MEN WILL BE UP TO YOU.

Black, I Am

Thick lips
 coarse hair
 flat nose
 that is my face

Hands on black arms
 feet on black legs
 a colored girl
 yes, that is me

You look down upon me
 as if I were not there
 How could you miss such a glare?
 You stepped on me
 wishing I was dead
 only to realize
 that I survived

Wishing that I would disappear
 No, not quite as yet.
 For I am singing, "Freedom at last"
 Complete freedom I will never get
 but my grandchildren will
 and that's a sure bet!

In our December 12th 1984 issue- the article, "Reagan- South Africa and You," contained a typo that incorrectly cited the beginning of apartheid as 1984. In fact, that policy of racial oppression was instituted in 1948.

My skin will remain the same
 To show that black is here to stay
 Black is beautiful
 And Black, I Am

Rosalyn Amant

How Quickly We Forget

I remember the days when our love
 was blossoming
 I remember when you first told me you
 loved me, and never to leave you
 I remember how we talked about marriage,
 children, and the future

Those innermost secrets that you and I
 shared - Do you remember? Oh, How
 quickly we forget.
 What happened to those dreams and aspirations?
 What happened to make you change form
 YOU to the unknown

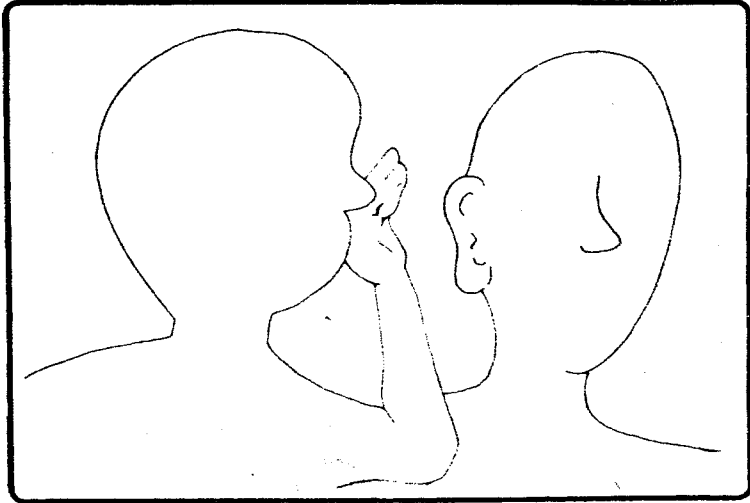
We went through SO MANY changes, and
 overcame SO MANY trials and tribulations
 I thought our love was strong to withstand
 any other obstacles, I thought we were
 meant to be
 A union was formed, composed of our hearts,
 our souls, and our minds - We became one

What happened to this union?
 Was it so fragile that it could be so
 easily broken?
 Why were you so blinded by outside forces?
 Why did you take love so lightly?
 You say you care for me, as I for
 you, Yet why does it have to end
 this way?
 How quickly we forget

Deborah M. Hewitt



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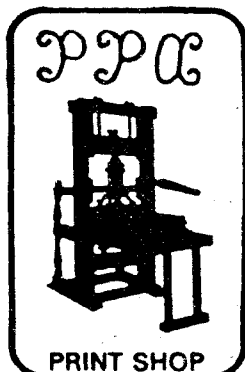
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A SERVICE
AVAILABLE
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FOR STUDENTS

In tribute to Black History Month, the general members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. are having an essay contest. This contest will consist of writing an essay stating your opinion on a specific topic. It must be well-organized and typed. The minimum amount of pages is four (approximately 1,000 words). The deadline to submit the essay is February 28th, 1985.

All essays will be screened by two faculty members of the Africana Studies department, and the winner will receive \$25 in cash. Also, the essay will be printed in a future issue of Black-world.

Topic: What do you see as the future of the black community (This could be locally, nationally or internationally)?

Please submit essays to: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.
 Suny at Stony Brook
 Student Activities -- Union
 Stony Brook, New York 11794

"Readings from Work in Progress"



a lecture by

TONI MORRISON

ALBERT SCHWEITZER PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES, SUNY at ALBANY

Monday, March 4, 1985

8 p.m./Jacob K. Javits Lecture Center/
Lecture Hall 100

**PART-TIME
RECEPTIONIST
NEEDED**

for the Polity Office.

Some Office Experience Required

**Inquire in the Polity Suite Room 258
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POLITY IS AN EO/AA EMPLOYER

Must Be Available From 9:00-5:00

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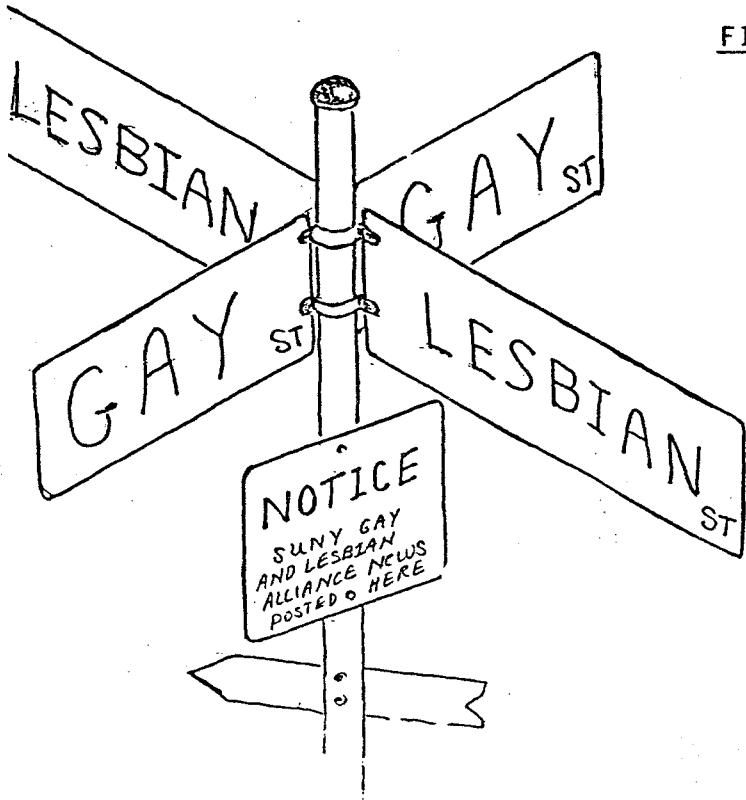


GALA TRIP TO CORNELL U.

3-DAYS, MARCH 8-9-10, FOR 2nd Annual N.E. LESBIAN + GAY STUDENT ACTIVISTS conference.

WE ARE GOING AS A GROUP. You owe it to yourself to join with us in this North-East Conference, where we will FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING in gay-rights, education, health, and lots more concerning YOU and YOUR LIFE on and off campus. FRIENDLY PEOPLE will be there, and with you all the way. We are car-pooling from SUNY-STONYBROOK, and you can do your REGISTRATION right here, by calling the G.A.L.A. office. The cost is \$15 which includes transportation and lodging! You can't beat that!

You can drop-by room 045 in the Student Union (basement) or just...



call
6-7943

GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE

Black
turning to
Gold
A diversified success story

Black Historians 2nd Annual Dinner
Saturday February 23rd, 1985
Union Ballroom

5pm-10pm party following 10³⁰pm-4am

Stony Brook Students - \$6⁰⁰
Off Campus Guests - \$7⁰⁰

Featuring:
Enoch West - Politician
Dail Jackson - Poet
Fashion Show
Poetry
Dancing
Cash Bar

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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONY BROOK
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by SOPHOCLES
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February 20-23, February 27-March 2
at 8:00 p.m.

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Tickets: \$5.00/\$3.00 for Students & Senior Citizens
For Reservations Call the Box Office 246-5678
Group Rates Call 246-7698

StonyBrook

Say Something

To Ty,

Your friendship means a lot to me. I tried to express this through the candygram I sent; but you didn't respond. I do not know how you feel and it's very hard for me to talk to you. I hope this personal can eliminate the distance that exists between us so we can become friends.

Love,

L

P.S. The Ballroom was not in my room. Next time don't lie.

To Jackie,

You've won the race. I admit defeat. Now, Let's see who can win more races; or is this your first and last victory?

Jacqueline

To Barron,

Finally I have met someone who is also into whips, chains, and ropes!!

?

Hey Scotturris,

Whatsup Dude? Thinking of you on Valentine's Day. Good luck on the game and I'll definitely see you later!

You know who!!

To Shorty,

How is J...J...D... E...K...F...B...and and the others we forgot!!!

Anonymous

I finally found out your name, Jacqueline Griffith, now I aspire to find out more you.

Leather

P. S. Keep on Smiling

To Larry,

Thanks for the carnation but next time no lies.

Love Vee

Sheryl,

Finally it's out!!
The Princess

To My Beloved Heart-Breaker,

From Hell With love
I, the MOJO

Monica,

I like the suiteroom and when's the party.

To Judith,

You are doomed. Your days are numbered!!

Chic

P.S. I'm just Kidding

To Michelle,

I sleep in my classes. Why? All because you keep me up at night with your snoring.

Your sleepless roommate

Jackie,

The race is still on, among other things.

Jacqueline

To Roz,

At last you got a personal. Thanks for being such a good friend.

I love you!!

Laverne

To Blue,

Thanks for the Red Rose. It was really sweet of you.

Love Vee

To the Cardoza Crew,

Ron, Dwayne, Keston, And Kevin, Happy Valentine's Day
From the Mount Trio

To Laverne,

The best roommate I had all semester (so far).

Michelle

Hey Dwayne T,

Whatsup? Long time no see or hear
Happy Valentine's Day
Remember me from Mount

To Frantz,

Thanks for the Valentine's Day card.

Love Vee

Suite B121,

Hi!! Surfs Up!!!!

Single in C

Rich,

You can come by and visit, I promise I won't bite you.

Guess who??

Maurice and Steve,

We miss you!!! Miss Thinking of you always especially on Valentine's Day.

Sharon and Nadine

The Wacky

Theresa,

Thanks for the seat in Chemistry. I'll try and make it on time one of these days.

Michelle

To Reds,

Don't drink white rum and play Bullshit! (It's a very dangerous game!)

P.S. Please don't

Chic

A.A.S.O.,

Continue to inspire the Stony Brook community.

V.P. A.A.S.O

To Shiann,

One day you will find the man (not at Stony Brook) to fulfill you fantasies.

?????

To Maritza,

Happy Birthday!!! You're legal now, so watch out!!

Your home girl

Kim T.

Hey O,

You see we really do care about you! Wish you a very Happy Valentine's Day. From the ladies down the hall.

We love ya!!

To Rodney,

Happy Valentine! May you always be my Valentine, because I love you!!!

Your,

Brown Sugar

Dear Yo-Bo,

Thanks for Everything you've done for D.S.T. and A.A.S.O.

Love,

Your Suitemate

To Maritza,

Happy "B" Day, and may God bless you with many more.

Love,

Roz, Kim, Shiann, and Kim

To Monica,

One of the best roommates a girl can have. Please stop keeping me up at with you kinky stories.

Jacqueline

To Stage C Crew,

We wish you a very Happy Valentine's Day
Mike, Brian, Dom, Rosine, and Claudie.

Love,

the ladies of the pent-house suite in mount

To Nita, Jean, and Carol,

Thanks for being there when I needed you three most of all. I love you all!!

Laverne

Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta,

Keep up the good work. Looking forward to some serious work this semester. You know what I mean.

No. 2

"D" as in Darlene, Cool Maria, and Funky fresh Joe Cool, and many more than this will be remembered. Happy Birthday to you all.

Love, Rebecca

To prince and princess, Waking up at 5:30 in the morning is a good way to start the day.

Little Jackie

To Miss Kerline Alexis, Although you make me totally sick, I love ya anyway. I hope your birthday turns out nice because you are not getting anything from me.

Rusty

Monitha,

I must say that it has been a merry go round living near you. (especially the night you got drunk on---) Riunite. I'm still waiting to get on the ROLLERCOASTER RIDE: PINNER!!!

HIS FUNKINESS

To Bodie,

Life is a game. As in all games occasionally you lose. But learn your mistakes. I don't know what went wrong, but drifting apart is painful.

Love, Unicorn

Lynette,

Aylo Dare Sailor! So YeeHa and crew want to join the band wagon. The slimes are getting too slimey, and your roommate has gotten TOO roomey! So what else can go wrong! Reeskig.

To Algae Face:

We are two seeds growing together. Sharing the same soil, the same water and the same sun. We both have our own space and place to grow. I honestly understand your need for your space to share yourself with others. Baby-Darl deserves a good friend like you.

Love you always
Fungus head

To suite 302 (Kelly E)
Let's get together girls!

Rusty

To Laverne, Vernita and Carol:

You guys are the best friends I've ever had. You have helped me alot through the worst time that I've experienced. With your encouragement and faith, I know I will achieve my goals. I love you all very much.

Que dios te bendiga

All of my love,

Jeanie

Sandy:

You guys are crassee! Oooooooo! That's harmony to The Rose How do you verbalize the action of one's roommate tilting her head at a 45 degree angle?

Your fellow
suitemate

To my main thang, Sometimes I wonder how we have ever remained friends. I don't particularly care. I just hope that we will always remain the best of friends. I don't care who knows but

"I LOVE YOU"

I have never known anyone like you. I guess I will have to do without you. You seem to be doing pretty well these days anyway.

Forgive me
Selfishness

Jennifer:

We are working with some crazy mixed up people! Are we the only sane ones around here?

Your fellow coworker

To Pete,

He said his name was Pete. I felt that he was sweet. He tried to touch my SEAT but I stumped on his feet. He opened his mouth to scream and told me I was mean! I took him in my arms and calmed him with my charm. My Pete, My Pete, My Pete, My Pete. I like you cause you are so sweet.

Love the,

Real Shiann, Shiann

To Judith,

We are the ones that should be feeling down because we aren't members of the

"CLUB"

Jackie and Jackie

To Jeff,

TROJAN is going out of business because of you (ha ha) What a SHAME

?

To Keston,
Are you behaving
self? We have been
watching!

To Fish,
Happy Birthday.
Thank you for being
dear to my heart I
shall always love you.
Love always,
Gold Star

Melanie,
We truly appreciate
you. Keep working
hard for D.S.T. and
the Black Historians.
Love,
D.S.T.

Enid:
Happy Birthday!
You are a crazy mixed
up kid when in love
-but then again, aren't
we all? Smile!
Marie

To the Blackworld
staff
Keep truckin...
We're almost there!
Kim

To the 5th Avenue
Crew:
You're a legend in
your own minds.
?

To Jeff and Anthony:
Get a TV and buy
your own flat soda.
From the Dy-Nasty

To Mophead,
What's up dread?
There goes the girl
they call Mophead.
She's so stuck up. Why
do you say that? Be-
cause she wouldn't
give a guy like me no
rap.
?

To Carol,
So you will finally
make the Big 21!
Happy Birthday!
Love,
Lorna, Susan and
Lisa

To Monica,
Do you still swing at
night or do you just
hang?
Jackie

To King
I wouldn't try to un-
derstand you; I'll just
love you. (Smile)
Queen

To Jimito:
I love you more than
you could ever know.
Happy Anniversary
J.A.S.

To Jaqueline,
You must make a
choice. You can't have
both of them.
Jackie

To Enid:
Happy Birthday!
Love,
Jennifer, your
roomate

Kenny:
Noooo Problem!
Guess Who?

To Laverna, Vernita
and Carol
You guys are the best
friends I've ever had.
You've helped me alot
through the worst time
that I've experienced.

To Monte,
You now stand out-
side the circle, you
now stand alone as an
individual. You have
rebuilt your image for
a second time. Don't
shatter it.

From the one you
WANT

Ride on CSO officers
Ride on.
from CSO President

Feature On: **THE ONE**



Photo by Mike Lucienne

Linda Martin: She's There and She cares.
by Marie Carline Hilaire

The neverending humming of a phone, endless typing, and papers, papers, papers! What may seem like your everyday chaotic atmosphere gets turned around by the young woman who sits behind a big clustered desk accompanied by the mellow sounds of a radio.

Gentle and calmness seem to be the words that describe Ms. Linda Martin. When speaking to her, one can say that she is much more than just a secretary. Why did she choose to be secretary of the Africana Studies Department? Ms. Martin says that there was an opening for the position of secretary and the head of the department was late. So she spent that time talking to Ms. Lucia Rusty, an academic advisor. "It sounded exciting to me," she said.

Being a secretary is a busy job with alot of responsibilities, but she doesn't mind and enjoys it. There is always something happening with her and then there's never a dull moment. She loves meeting and interacting with people. She finds the job fulfilling because she seems to learn more and more everyday. Her knowledge gets broader because of her interaction with the faculty and students.

"There is so much one can learn just by meeting people. It has broadened the outlook on alot of things," she says. "Meeting new people brings notoriety." So students aren't the only ones that learn more about African Heritage.

Linda seems to have a special quality when it comes to people and students especially. She is a sincere lady who cares about you and wants to help in any way she can. It makes it so much easier because of her warm personality. When you walk into her office, you see different things that are cultured. It is that feeling of warmth and welcome.

Ms. Martin says that the Africana Studies department is here for more than its educational purpose. She and the rest of the staff are here to help. She wants the students to know where to go when they need help. She hopes that more minorities will get acquainted with the Africana Studies department because it is there for everyone. She at least hopes to point you in the right direction or do as much as she can to help.

Besides being a secretary, Ms. Martin likes to read, travel and relax whenever sh has the chance.

When asked what she would hope for if she were given on e wish in relation to the Africana Studies Department, she responded, "I would hope for more faculty in the department so that the students can get more out of it and more involved. Students want to learn more." She also hopes for more books, speakers, films, etc. However, all of these things cost money. So, she also hopes the department will be given more funds.

Now you have another alternative. Why not stop by the Social Behavior Sciences building and check out the secretary of the Africana Studies department. Linda Martin- she's there and she cares!

L.A.S.O.

Is inviting
every Latino
to put his/her
talent to
work for
Latin
Weekend
which will
be held in
the first
week of
April

Roving Photographer

Question: If you could make one major change on campus what would it be? Why?

Judith Brown
Psychology & Social Science



I would have students drive the campus buses so that they can run much more

Lisa Garrison
Sociology & Africana Studies,
Senior



I would bring together all the different minority organizations so that there would be more cooperation instead of competition.

Hans "Prince" Sherwood
Political Science, Freshman



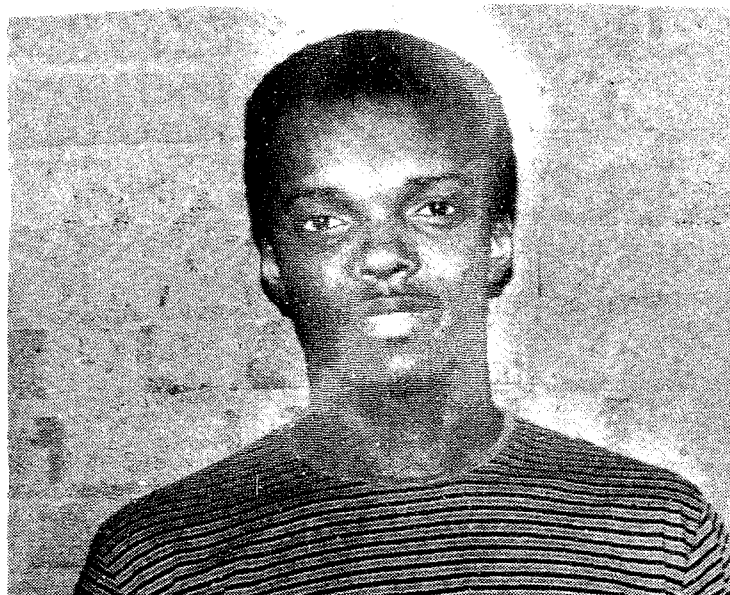
I would abolish the mandatory meal plan. I don't like everything they serve and I would rather have the meal plan as an option.

Golda Clarke
Biology & Pre-Nursing, Senior



I would see to it that more minority students get involved in various organizations since there are only a few that are active participants.

Michael Marsh
Political Science, Junior



I would change the mandatory meal plan situation. I don't think that it is right to force the freshmen and transfer students to eat the slop that DAKA produces.

Randy Dazo
Engineering, Freshman



Make the class size smaller so that the academic student-professor relationship gains in quality.

