

BLACK WORLD

ONE NATION



MARCH 2010

Why Should We Help Haiti?

By: Marissa Averett

“Why should we help Haiti? What has Haiti done for us?” These were the words that I overheard one of our fellow Stony Brook students saying to another as I was washing my hands in the bathroom at the Staller Center. Bewildered? Confused? These are the emotions that one might feel after hearing such comments which obviously demonstrates a lack of sympathy over a country that was just turned into rubble by an earthquake. However comments such as what was previously stated in the beginning paragraph show that those people are short of a history lesson on why Haiti has not been in a position to help the United States advancement.

Although Haiti and the United States both struggled to free themselves from European Powers, they differed in who were the participants. The United States independence from Britain was driven by white elites while Haiti’s independence in 1804 from France, was led by freed people of color and slaves. According to Vanessa Buschschluter from BBC news, “the very existence of a nation constituting of freed slaves, set animosity with the southern states in the United States because Haiti became an inspiration for abolition movements for slaves.” So if there is at least one thing to be grateful for it would be Haiti’s victory over the France, which served as an example that helped to

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Stony Brook Styles

By: Ilia J. Thomas

I do not know if I am the only one who feels this way, but don’t you hate when you walk out of your room only to see someone wearing the same article of clothing or accessories as you. On a campus this large that is bound to happen, but there are many ways you can make your own style shine through without looking like your fellow colleagues. Here are three students, among the many who have mastered the art of conveying their own style allowing their unique personality to shine through.



Meet them on page 5.

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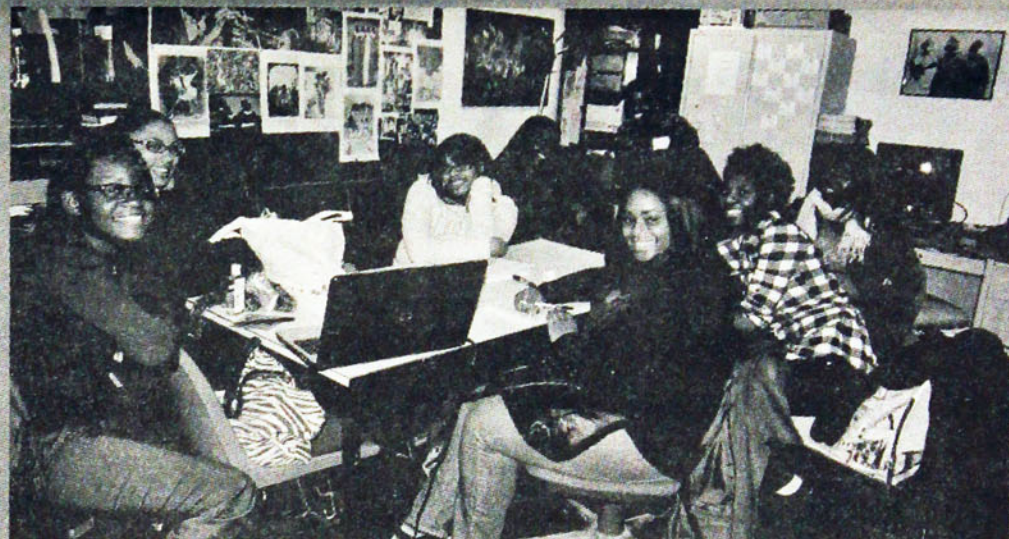
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Note From the Editor

I hope everyone's Spring semester is going well. As the campus gets ready for spring break, I ask of you, my fellow colleagues to please remember to be safe and enjoy your time off. For those of you who may be trailing behind in your classes, use your time off wisely to catch up on readings and/or course work. Academic success is equally as important as enjoying your spring break in Miami, Jamaica or wherever your destination may be. Make sure to prioritize what needs to be addressed first. Having fun, or passing College. I am pretty sure we are all capable of making the best decision.

- Jahlecia Smith



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Why should We help Haiti?

By: Marissa Averett

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mobilize slaves in the United States as well as slaves in Latin America . Going back to more history, Haiti's triumph over France made relations between the two countries sour and "played a big part in delaying its official recognition as a country by the US until 1862, 58 years after its independence (Buschschluter, BBC news)."

Now, if the United States is not recognizing you as a sovereign state and by default the United Nations is not recognizing you as a sovereign state, how do you think your global trade relations will go? If your guess was nonexistent you guessed the correct answer. If you have a lack of global relations in the market you will suffer as a country because of the extent that globalization plays in supporting infrastructures and money circulating within your own nation.



<http://www.orbitcast.com/archives/2010/01/>

Although many people feel that what happened to Haiti was horrifying, it still does not justify the amount of fund-raising and spending that congress and American citizens have given towards fixing a disaster that was not on our home land. In addition, millions of American citizens are living in slums, train stations or a ghetto, frustrated and constantly fac-

ing desperation. Now let us exam this with a closer lens.

First off if I were one of the millions of Americans who was in the face of poverty every day I would still be glad that I was not part of the many people living in the depressed slums and ghettos in Haiti , frustrated and angry during a 7.0 earthquake followed by aftershocks. In that case, even in the midst of American poverty it would still be a sheer paradise compared to Haiti. If you lived in the ghettos, your faucet would still deliver water. Yes there are poor Americans but they are not worrying about their relative, be a son, daughter, sister brother, being trampled under rubble. The people in Haiti are in no position to help themselves, unlike the United States. It seems that some people are upset at the amount of funding given to Haiti when the same amount should also be given

to our own schools, healthcare and recession programs and blame Haiti for making it so blatant that Americans do not give to their own poor. However it seems to me that other government funding such as funding towards the war in Iraq, which has received all together through September 2010, about 900 billion dollars of Taxpayer money has left the minds of the very same people criticizing a humanitarian action from the same government. Haiti and the United States are both in ruins, one country from a tremendous natural disaster and another from political bureaucracy.

Never too busy to Procrastinate

By: Felicia S. Fisher

It's 10 P.M on a Thursday night at Stony Brook and you have an exam on Monday morning. You start to study but you check your email and you see an email from Facebook notifying you that there are three parties tonight. If you make it before midnight, ladies are free and guys pay half price to get in. You proceed to try and study but you have a BlackBerry © and a ringtone notifies you that you've got those event invitations and your on-campus crush is attending. This, ladies and gentlemen, is just an example of one of the most annoying and ever prevalent temptations in college life, procrastination. Yes, I said it, procrastination.

It seems as though procrastination has become more of a devil on your left shoulder, while focus is an angel sitting on your right. I can assure you that everyone in college

possesses some kind of self-control when it comes to schoolwork, but this self control can weaken once opportunities to let loose or simply take a breather arise in our hectic routines.

I am not simply, so to speak, singing to the choir. I personally have been bitten by the procrastination bug on multiple occasions. I am not saying that we Stony Brook students are lazy or lack drive, but what I am saying is that we are human. As human beings, we slip up here and there.

The level of procrastination here at Stony Brook is definitely on the rise. I interviewed some students and pretty much all of the contributors agreed that Stony Brook students are procrastinating more and more. Whether it's checking their Facebook accounts or tweeting on Twitter, students are definitely utilizing technology to help ease their stress levels.

Junior and Business Management major Charles Obijuru had this to say about the subject of procrastination here at Stony Brook: "I think for some reason it's a lot higher here, like I wasn't as bad as I am now when I was at St. John's." Obijuri told me that he strays to Facebook and other things about "every 1 hour and 30 minutes to 2 hours." Now, this may seem outrageous to some students here but it's not as farfetched as you'd think.

Is procrastination really on the rise though? Many individuals here at Stony Brook agree that it is. After getting Charles Obijuru's commentary, I asked Jeremy Ohere – first year student in the Masters of Professional Studies if he thinks that procrastination is on the rise here at Stony Brook and his response was "Yes, it is and Facebook is helping." This response got me thinking

about how big a role technology has on the leisure portion of our lives?

I cannot come out and present an opinion as fact, but I can include my observation. My observation is that with all the studying we students have to do, technology's role is that of being a way to unwind. Junior and journalism major Scott P. Moore put it all into perspective for me. Moore said, "However, I don't think technology is so much to blame as the pure moments of fun out of a day otherwise full of hard work." A Stony Brook workload is indeed a load of work so, you can't necessarily blame it all on procrastination because we do have to take responsibility for our own actions.

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HIV/AIDS Hits Real Close to Home

By: Jaqueline Richards

Although World AIDS Day is recognized on December 1, 2009 and is a global effort to acknowledge progress or lack thereof towards a less stigmatized view of the epidemic, it is also important to be aware of the happenings around you everyday. As residents of New York City, it is important to know that 10% of women in America with AIDS are based in New York. It is also important to know that some boroughs that once saw a decrease in the percentage of deaths as a result of AIDS are now seeing an increase in AIDS related deaths. The questions to ask now are what exactly attributed to the change in rates and what could be done to reverse the changes.

In NYC, there are funds allocated from the federal government to support social services provided to those who need treatment and may not get it elsewhere. These funds are called the Ryan White funds, named after a teenager from Indiana who was diagnosed with HIV. He contracted the disease through a blood transfusion as treatment for Hemophilia, which he was diagnosed with as an infant. When he was found to be HIV positive, he was refused entrance into his school due to lack of knowledge by school officials and parents. Although he was eventually re-admitted, he faced great marginalization and isolation both in school and everyday life that would be traumatizing for any one person to experience, much less a teenager. The federal legislation that provides services to people in low-income areas living with HIV/AIDS was named after him posthumously in 1990 and resigned into law recently by President Obama.

Over the years, Ryan White funds were equally distributed among the boroughs in NYC. However, when redistribution occurred, a larger percentage of money was allocated for services in Manhattan, resulting in a shift in death rates. The funds that are to be allocated to each borough are supposed to be determined by the caseloads, but Manhattan only carries 30% of the cases of HIV/AIDS in New York. This shift in distribution has resulted in an increased disadvantage for women infected with HIV/AIDS, 94% of which are Black and Hispanic women. Although most recent data is only available from 2007, the trends in the allocations point towards a growing disparity in deaths in the boroughs for which funding have been cut disproportionately. As funding for treatment and education is becoming more elusive, it is increasing the chance of dying for newly infected people, as the earlier HIV/AIDS is treated the longer people are likely to live with it.

In the Fall semester, the Pi Delta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. held a one-day fundraiser in observance of World AIDS Day on December 1, 2009. People were asked to purchase a ribbon for \$1 to be displayed on a board in the Student Activities Center lobby, with the ability to state explicitly and through action that they support AIDS awareness. Proceeds went to AVERT, which supports and partners with local organizations that work to directly avert the spread of HIV, and to support people infected with, or affected by HIV/AIDS primarily in Africa and India. For more information, visit AVERT.org. The Pi Delta Chapter would like to express sincerest gratitude to all those who contributed and supported the many other AIDS awareness events that took place on that day.

ASSA Lives On

By: Donia Cosmeus

Adoublesa also known as the Africana Studies Student Alliance. The club originally made its way on to the Stony Brook Campus over 6 years ago. Through the progression of students to new and more exciting endeavors the club faded out into small discussion groups facilitated by the African Studies department. Two semesters ago a group of pseudo-revolutionary students decided to remerge the departed club. The founding brothers and sisters were Ekevu (Kellen), Malcolm Jenkins, Yianne Ishmael, and my self. Our ideologies were to provide a socially conscious atmosphere to the Stony Brook student body on the ideas of black consciousness. We wanted to figuratively be an umbrella that encompasses some of the ideals presented by some of the clubs that focus on people of African ancestry. We were not just another "black club" that threw parties like some of the others. We do not oppose parties, however we wanted to facilitate student awareness in regards to their personal rights on campus. From there students would recognize that they have the power to start making changes in their environments.

The group demonstrated that it was not a difficult task to differentiate from the rest of the clubs while providing a comfortable environment on the socio-political paradigms engulfing blacks on campus and abroad. Meetings generally started with a libation, a pouring of drink, in this case Starbucks water, as a form of respect to all those who fought in one way or another for us to obtain the privileges we have today. The calling on ancestor was normally done by the participant calling on the names of loved ones who have passed. It would then lead to controversial topics that usually continued after club hours. The topics were as fiery as they were light. They ranged from the ideals of Black aesthetic to the conforming of hair texture to assimilate into our society. The fairy

tale ideals associated with a black president to the way students of certain ethnicity perform academically.

As another semester continues, I can not say the same strong focus for the group continues. Like any group; leaders begin to graduate out to other concentrations. In light of that and to some what preserve the group's effort, we will expand our ideals to the great Stony Brook audience, so we are joining up with Black world to bring you



all the focuses and concentration that plagues us as a community. We aim to target our peers that all too often have an idea or want to change something, but are too numbed in the info structure of inequality to do take any action. Hopefully these pieces will jump start that action button that we have hiding under the cob web of comfort ability.

Personally as a co-founder for the group, I feel the weight of the cultural guilty got heavier as the semester passed by. I was tired of taking classes that focused on the sacrifice of a generation only to be a part of another generation that sits idle and do not get receive the full extent of what is our birth right. This is my extension to my brothers and sister of the Stony Brook community to come together and take the first step as a community of conscious people.

Stony Brook

By: Ilia J. Thomas

STYLES

DEXTER DANIEL

Year: Junior

Major: Psychology Major with the intentions of becoming a Guidance Counselor

How would you describe your personal style?

My personal style, I happen to think is unique because I uphold myself to a certain standard. The whole baggy jeans look, wearing jeans three times my size really isn't my thing.

How would you describe your personality and how does that correlate with your style?

I happened to think I'm a mellow person, very low key. I like to keep to myself most of the time, but I am very social. I like to think this can relate to my style because the way I dress isn't too loud either, and I guess people respect that about me.

If you don't mind me asking, where are your favorite places to shop?

Macys. My favorite brand is definitely Polo by Ralph Lauren.

With Polo being the "latest craze", how do you wear it and still make it your own, without looking like everyone else on campus?

I like to keep it low key, not too flashy. I don't need people to know that I'm wearing Ralph Lauren, so the big, loud labels aren't really me.

One thing, I noticed about you is that your style is very versatile. You can wear it to work, to school, even to a party. Is there any reasoning behind that?

It's just convenient, because you don't have to worry about changing your clothes to go different places. I'm always ready to go anywhere because I look presentable, and it actually saves on time.



DESIRÉE CHASE

Year: Senior

Major: Health Science- Healthcare Management

How is your style represented?

My style is most represented by classic fashion. I love a clean cut look that's chic and stylish. Men tailored clothing is my favorite, as well as taking vintage looks and making them modern. It's sophisticated and still really feminine. I take pride in being able to be stylish, feminine, and sexy without being revealing.

Does your style actually relate to the career path you have chosen for the future, and if so, how?

To be honest my style really does not relate much to my field of study but I suppose that also speaks to the fact that healthcare is not my first love. I'm not ashamed to say that it isn't even really my passion. Along with obtaining a financially stable career in healthcare, I hope to pursue (part-time) professional arts in dance and event planning. Those aspirations are more connected to my style. The way I dress kind of gives me a way to express my love for art and my creative ability on the daily basis.

Where do you find yourself shopping the most?

I shop anywhere there's clothes, and I mean anywhere. From the flea market to Saks Fifth Ave., I'm really not picky on brand because I know what to do with my clothes regardless. I'm more picky on style, design, and fit...I think everyone should be picky with fit—but that's another topic.

On such a large campus how do you keep your style, fresh and unique?

I'm a fan of statement pieces, whether it be an ornamented belt added to what I'm wearing or a handmade broach. Though I like to be clean and classic, I have a lot of fun with my accessories and I think that's what's most noticeable about my style.

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Poetry with Deborah La Sassier: Rebirth of Critical Thinking

By: Felicia F. Fisher

"I was the essence of his life yet he was afraid to let me live." These words come from Deborah LaSassier's poem entitled "Rebirth of a Woman." On Tuesday February 16th, 2010 I had the pleasure of attending the black history month program An Evening of Poetry with Deborah LaSassier in the UNITI Cultural Center (UCC). The weather was disgusting. When I mean disgusting, I mean slippery, icy, wet weather disgusting. On a lighter note, I have to admit that attending this event made my gloomy day a whole lot brighter.

Here is some background information on the amazing Deborah LaSassier. Originally from High Point, North Carolina, Deborah LaSassier is the author of the book *When Color Fades*. She is also a member of the Stony Brook community, working as a nursing station clerk for the neurology department in Stony Brook University hospital. I have to mention that Mrs. LaSassier is a positive woman whose words command attention. She currently resides in Patchogue, New York. Mrs. LaSassier's description of herself is: "I'm a wife, a mother, an author, and a poet." I believe modesty left out the fact that she's extremely talented from LaSassier's mini blurb about herself.

The program consisted of Mrs. LaSassier reciting and performing many of her pieces of poetry. Some of the poems that she performed are: "Nappy Hair," "Being Me," "Basic Human Rights," "Beauty is Only Skin Deep," "Mythology of English," "Welcome to Nigger Day," "Crazy on a Normal Day," "Have Times Really Changed," and "Greener Grass."

As a woman of mostly African descent LaSassier's words spoke to me in an understanding kind of way. She spoke of experiences that are a large part of the human condition. Issues like modern day racism, self identification, confidence and beauty echoed throughout the lines of her poetry.

LaSassier spoke about the reasons she wrote specific pieces which she recited. I found it interesting why she wrote "Beauty is only skin deep." The piece was written because a white woman whom her mother worked for was having a conversation with another White woman and her mother's employer called Mrs. LaSassier pretty. The other White woman replied "She's pretty but she's colored." I personally loved this piece because of



the message behind it. When she recited this piece, she looked at me, held her hand in my direction as though she were holding a glass apple and spoke about "a pretty girl with ebony skin." Although the experience which sparked the creation of this piece happened back in North Carolina back in the 1950's, the experience still occurs.

While the words repeated in my mind, I thought of the black community here on campus – whether American, Caribbean or what have you – and I realized that a lot of this talk about how someone is "pretty BUT dark skin" comes into play. On so many occasions do I walk around campus and hear things like "Yeah

for a chick with short hair (etc) she's cute." It's as though we try and devalue ourselves as Black people specifically. So when I say that Mrs. LaSassier's poetry sparked critical thinking I'm so serious. It gives rise to thoughts about why certain things still happen and exist till this very second. For instance, there's this place called Negro Creek. We say that progress is being made but there is so much negativity that is in many ways engrained in our world. I wish more of the N-word users were there though because it really was a program that made you think things through. I have to refer to one of Mrs. Deborah LaSassier's poems when I ask all of you "Have times really changed?"

With this question in mind, I enjoyed the rest of the program. It was quite interesting to hear so many views from a woman with life experiences that include those that constantly poked fun at her blackness. It makes sense though because as Deborah LaSassier says, her goal is to "try to reach our younger generation to teach them to be critical thinkers." She is quite a phenomenal woman and an amazing poet indeed. I even received a copy of one of her published poetry books, which I thank Mrs. LaSassier for mailing to me for free. Free is in fact my favorite number after all. My mom is currently at home enjoying it as though her name is on the package but it's cool though because I want her to enjoy these pieces as much as I did. You all should read *When Color Fades* by Deborah LaSassier. I'm sure you'll enjoy it very much. You will definitely feel the need to put your critical thinking caps on as I did at An Evening of Poetry with Deborah LaSassier.

Never to Busy To Procrastinate

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Yet, when you're sitting in a boring lecture hall or in your dorm stressed out over your chemistry exam, procrastination comes to your rescue.

The problem is that a lot of us don't know when not to be rescued. In these situations, procrastination becomes an addiction. Samantha Burkardt – sophomore and journalism major said "I think in today's world people always feel the need to be entertained so there are always new games and things being released so that we buy them or start going with new online trends like Twitter, Myspace and Facebook, and then people start getting caught up with it. I know plenty of friends who are addicted to Facebook and Twitter. Apps on the Iphone are a great example too, I think." Burkardt has a point, because to be honest, who doesn't like to be entertained here and there?

College is stressful but we need balance between procrastination and actual book work. A little procrastination shouldn't harm your academics too much but a lot of procrastination will. As mature college students, our academic success depends on maintaining this balance. It's all human nature really. We should just strive to be smart about our decisions between work and play.

Education in the OBAMA Era

By: Sarah Demzier

On the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education, Bill Cosby addressed the crowd not about the accomplishments of those men and women who made Brown vs. Board of Education possible, but about the present generation of Blacks who take their past for granted.

"Ladies and gentlemen, these people set, they opened the doors, they gave us the right, and today, ladies and gentlemen, in our cities and public schools we have fifty percent drop out." Cosby said, in his speech at the 50th anniversary.

In a new era, the Obama Era, where African Americans can truly feel like they can do anything since the Obama has finally broke the barrier, why is it that Blacks still have a high dropout rate and have the highest rate among all the races in prisons? This is where the African American population must reflect on who is at fault? Is it the system or is it just the African American population?

Many factors contribute to the high numbers of students leaving high school and higher institutions of learning, such as lack of

good, dedicated teachers who will not give up on the black youth. But the biggest problem which was addressed at a Provost Lecture Series for Black History Month, where speaker Dr. Mary Frances Berry spoke about African Americans after the Cosby speech, is lack of leadership in the future generation.

President Carter appointed Dr. Berry as a Commissioner on the U.S Commission on Civil Rights. When President Reagan came into office he fired her because she pulled the alarm on him when he wasn't protecting the Civil Rights of African American's and others who were considered "colored". She sued him in and won her case in the federal district court and was later reinstated. Berry became the Chairperson of the Commission when President Clinton was elected and she resigned in 2004. She is currently a History Professor at University of Pennsylvania where she advises graduate students on Legal History and African American History. She currently has 9 books published including her latest release "And Justice for All", has received

32 honorary awards and was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame.

It's been one year since President Obama has been in office and yet there is no emphasis on education reform. During Dr. Berry lecture she pointed out that schools are graded on how students do on standardized exams; the student's grade averages overall and the most important, the graduation rate. But what about the students that don't have the highest grades, the ones who do poorly on standardized exams and those that don't graduate? Those schools that do poorly get little or no funding and are left without supplies to learn that force them to eventually drop out of school.

Programs such as Teach for America and Teacher's Fellows are two out of the many organizations sending teachers to schools where they are needed most. But sadly many of those teachers leave the program because of the lack of funding makes it difficult to teach. Many African Americans and Latinos do not do well on standardized exams because the exam tests students on what they

should know at their respected grade level but they don't have the means to learn what they need to know.

Presidents in the past have done something in regards to education but not many focused on children of color. In 2004 Bush had No Child Left Behind and now in 2010 Obama has created Education Recovery but there is still no sign of improvement. Presidents have so many other agendas to attend to that they can't always keep up with what is going in education. The power of education reform is in the hands of this generation. The last generation of African Americans set the way for the future generations to have a better life. It is the duty of this generation and others after them to take the initiative for their future.

"Leadership has been passed to the younger generation in order to make a change in the generation you must make a change in the generational leadership." Dr. Berry said.

*Join the
Discussion*

*Thursdays
9:00pm
Union
Room 072*



A NEW Page that allows the readers to voice their opinions on trending topics



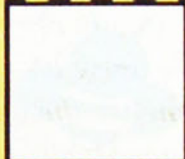
LET THE BUZZ BE HEARD

Real-time result for #GOOD HAIR IS



Good hair describes you

-Grace Nakalema Sserwadda



Good hair is healthy looking, thick, minimum breakage, a lot of luster.

- Diana Faustin



Good hair is formed in a way that promotes self-expression. It comes in all levels of length, thickness, and colors. It can be processed or natural. Good hair is self-reflective.

-Aishah Scott



Good hair is being happy with wat u got even its fake or real, not to mention not lookin a hot mess too

-Katiana Elpenord



Natural

-Anthony 'Tosin' Oniwe



Good hair is thick hair, no nappy edges, no split ends, not too shiny, not too dull and doesnt shed alot. I hate hair that sheds

-Lateaha McNeil



Good hair is soft, smooth, you know no bumps in it and healthy and full. Like thick but its full

-Alessandra Vittorini



Good hair is soft, healthy, no knots or tangles and its something that you can just run your hands through. And, it feels good.

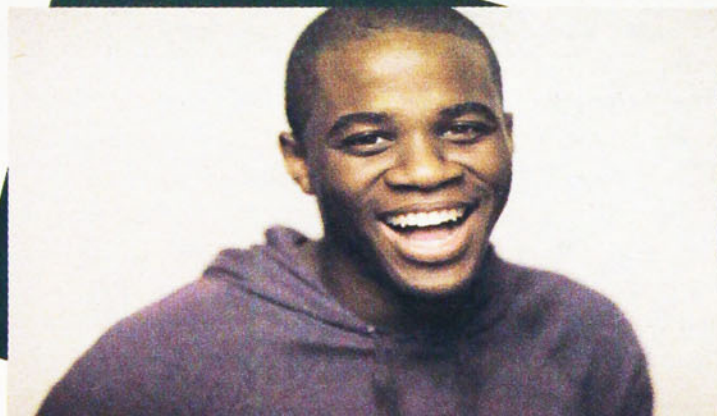
-Jennifer Long



Good hair is shiny, no split ends, free of products, comfortable, can be donated

-Nina Pinto

ASK J.R. Yussuf



J.R. Yussuf is a 20-year-old performer and writer who was born and raised in New York City. He is a full-time student at Stony Brook University and there he is a double major in Theatre and Music. He is a praise and worship leader and a committed member of Emmanuel Evangelical Missionary Church and deeply believes in his own statement that says "Questions don't always produce answers but they are worth asking because it's not only about an answer; sometimes the journey to the answer is more important." He is also the Assistant Musical Coordinator of the Stony Brook Gospel Choir('09-10) and is currently studying abroad in Florence, Italy at the Florence University of the Arts.

Question: My boyfriend gives the worst kisses. I've told him on numerous occasions how I like it. What else can I do?

Mood about this question: Hmmmm...

Answer: First things first, get a napkin and whip all that drool off your face (if he's really bad, get a towel for next time-trust me). There is nothing worse than a bad kisser (except an F in chemistry [SMH]). Story of my life...oh yea let's get back to you...my bad) so if you are not too far in the relationship you should definitely reconsider it. If all your freedom is gone completely and you're tied down because you are further into your relationship (LOL) you need to take charge and show him how you like it by kissing him and leading instead of following him when he kisses you (without making him feel like he is in jail and you are his cell-mate of course). Or you can manipulate him using your God-given talents (yup I'm talking about your amazing ability to "clean his room". LOL jk jk) in order to get what you need from the guy you're dating.

Question: Does sex on the first date really ruin things?

Mood about this question: >=0

Answer: YES. Sex is the highest form of physical intimacy (spiritual and emotional for some people but I'm not going to go in. Lets just keep it simple for now LOL) and if you break it down; you are trusting the other person with your life when you have protected or unprotected sex. AIDS/HIV +STD's (and the like) are real and can end someone else's life or have someone wish their life were over. When you have sex too early it says that you don't value your own life and simply put; your life has little value (No judgement of course, I'm just stating the implications of certain actions is all). Why would anyone want someone who has no worth? (Please ask yourself that question the next time you think about having sex with anyone.)

Question: What is the best way to get over a relationship that ended with a bad break-up?

Mood about this question: :'(

Answer: It's going to be really hard at first but it gets easier with time and the more relationships you've been in and come out of (trust me I know alllll about that LOL). First thing you should probably do is take Kiesha Cole, Mary J. Blidge (from the 90's cuz "apparently" she's no longer as bitter or heartbroken as she was before) and every other artist that sings about a lot of heartbreak off your iPod because that will only make the recovery harder. Surround yourself with people that make you laugh and don't require a lot of attention because we all have that one friend that just seems to suck the life out of the room because they are always upset/depressed/horny or tired and everyone must know about this. In that order. All the time. LOL. Remove stuff out of your life that will remind you of that person or show you that they are doing great without you like Facebook which I have personally renamed 'Life Ruiner'. And lastly I would say that being honest with yourself (inwardly) and just realizing that there is someone for everyone (including you) even if it feels like you are exempt from that rule. You just have to be patient and avoid being desperate at all costs.

Military Coup sends Niger's President Packing

By: Marissa Averett

While life goes on with the people in Niger, a former French colony located in West Africa, it is currently experiencing political unrest after news that President Mamadou Tandja is said to be held in a military camp. Schools and shops have



<http://www.planetrulers.com/niger.php>

remained opened as if nothing has happened. The history of Niger has seen many military coups that it has become nothing less than "normal" when the president is kidnapped. According to CNN, recent talks about the president potentially staying in power longer than the constitution permits, may have sparked the violence. Each presidential term in Niger is supposed to mandate five years and each president can only serve a maximum of two terms. With President Tandja that has not been the case. The President started his term in 1999 and never left office which clearly goes beyond the constitutional time permitted.

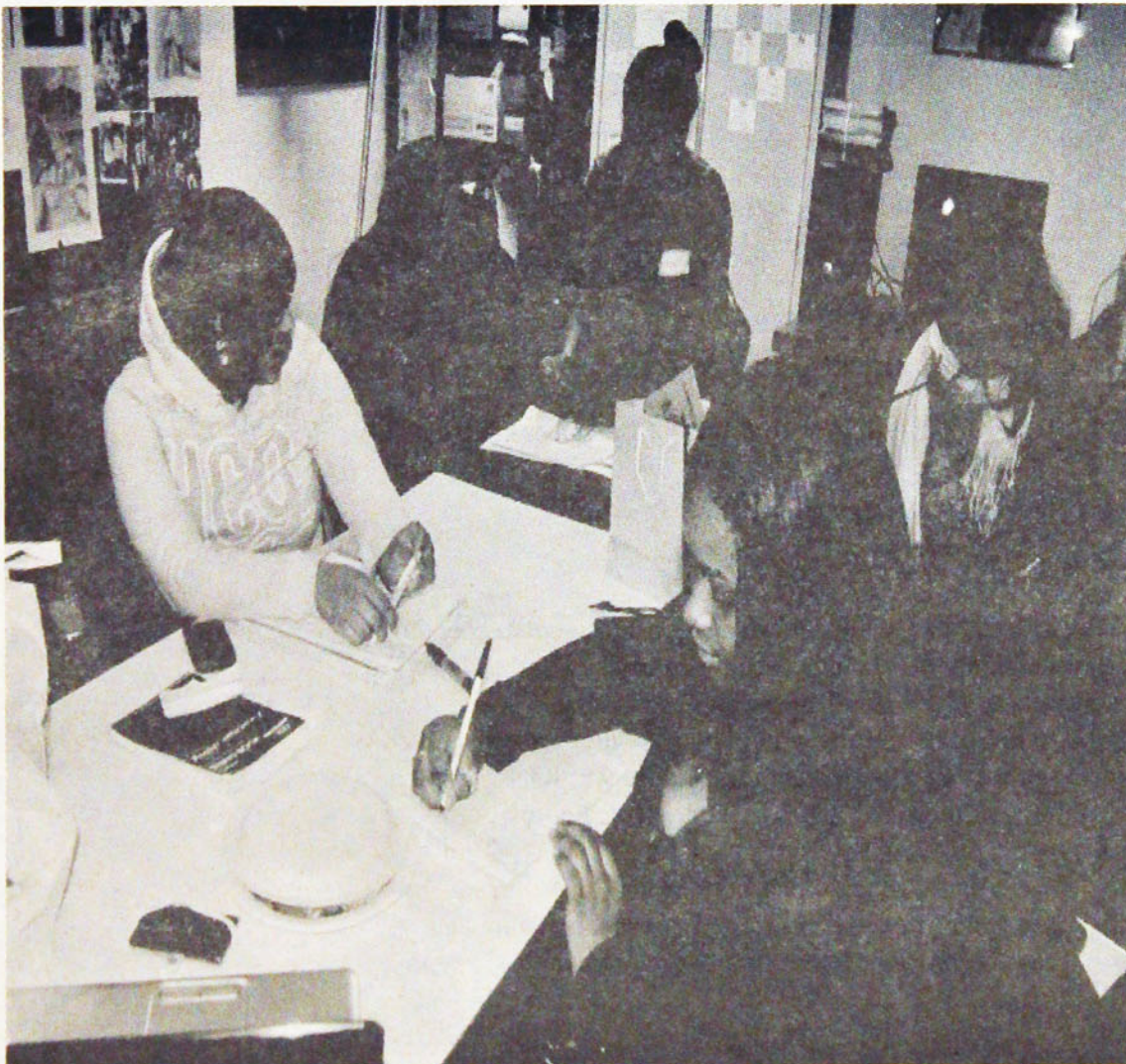
One rumor states that it was the French Foreign Ministry that set up the coup but such rumors were denied by them expressing that the ministry does not participate "in taking of power by non constitutional means." Another rumor is the that United States was involved in it given the fact that there was a congressional delegation led by Alan Grayson pres-

ent in Niger at the time of the coup. The United States also denies such rumors stating that the delegation was there for purposes of "science, technology and humanitarian relief."

On Thursday February 18, soldiers stormed Niger's presidential palace and gunshots were heard by the French embassy which is located less than a mile away from the palace. Shortly after the shots occurred, orders by Niger's Superior Council were sent out to suspend the constitution. The people in Niger have gathered up in rallies in support of the recent coup given the fact that the debate on whether or not the president should hold power infinitely has put a barren to other subject matters. However, there have been pressures from the United Nations to "revert back to constitutional order in a political crisis" as stated by Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. In compliance with the United Nations, the junta leading the country after the coup has tried to direct the country back

to a democratic rule and has already put in progress a new constitution.

Niger holds about 8 percent of the world's uranium; nonetheless it is one of the poorest countries in Africa. Interestingly enough, other foreign nations, including China, have started investing in Niger's uranium. Uranium is essential to the development of nuclear weaponry which is the symbol of power on the international realm. The junta in power now have expressed that they are tired of coups being a part of the political history in Niger and not only strongly hopes that this coup is the last but also that this coup will make future democracy truly possible for Niger's people. It would be very interesting to see the effects of this coup and the role that foreign investors will have on upcoming new policies that deal with who has access to the uranium.



Love to write?
Come out to our meetings
Thursdays 9:00 pm
Union Basement
Room: 072

See You There!

AFRICAN AMERICAN: TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

By: Felicia S. Fisher

Stony Brook campus, are you African American? This seems like a simple yes or no question doesn't it? Well, you are wrong! For some individuals, categorizing yourself as black and or a person of color for lack of a better word does not equate with being African American. This denomination of blackness, race, color, or what have you has been accepted in America. It seems that everywhere you turn, the term "African American" is being used as a representation for all black people and people of color. My stance is that we should be allowed to define ourselves and that's the bottom line. By "ourselves," I mean each individual; because let's face it never will there be a unanimous acceptance or rejection of the term African American. That is just impossible. To think that the entire "black race" living in America can somehow completely agree is more than comical, it is quite farfetched.

Firstly, by definition – What is an African American? Well according to www.dictionary.com an African American can be either a noun or an adjective. The noun means "a black American of African descent" and the adjective means "of or pertaining to African-Americans." I feel like www.dictionary.com's definition was okay but I looked further to find a lengthier definition. According to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) at www.oed.com, the noun African American means "An American (esp. a North American) of African origin; a black American," and the adjective means "designating or relating to African Americans." The historical background that the (OED) includes with its definition of African American is as follows: "Although both African and African-American were widely used in the United States in the 19th century, the adoption of African-American as a preferred term among black Americans dates from the late 1960s and early 1970s (particularly after an April 1972

conference at which Ramona Edelin, president of the National Urban Coalition, proposed its use). The term gained widespread acceptance following its endorsement by Reverend Jesse Jackson (b. 1941) during his presidential nomination campaign in 1988."

This term meaning a black American is placed everywhere: in statistics, on job applications, and even more close to home, on college and graduate school applications. I'd like to explore this whole application thing more. I revisited the first application for enrollment into Stony Brook University – the State University of New York (SUNY) application and I realize that there seems to be a strong desire to have us students label ourselves racially. Question 16c of the SUNY application accessible at http://www.suny.edu/student/downloads/pdf/2010_suny_application.pdf asks "All applicants please identify your race (select one or more)." The answer choices for this particular question are as follows: "American Indian or Alaska native – I, Asia – A, Black or African American – B, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander – P, and White – W." As an English minor, I tend to subconsciously think about what certain phrases or texts really mean. When I read this portion of the application, the words "please" and "identify" stood out to me tremendously because of the feelings which they elicit in an individual. "Please" elicits the feeling that this is important enough for someone to be polite and so most of the time we indulge in the asker's request. "Identify" elicits the feeling that you have to choose, recognize and, or categorize something. If you share my thought process, you may begin to question the question itself. I know that I personally felt that the question could not possibly be a self-assessment because they are giving you only these "identities" to choose from and in this case, the choice of "other" is

not even included.

Perhaps this is a reason why situational acceptance of the denomination "African American" occurs. When I asked Junior Maxwell Awosanya who may I add identifies himself as "African, Nigerian to be exact" whether or not he ever assumes the African American identity he said "Yes it depends, like when applying to college it didn't have Nigerian American. In fact I feel like I am forced to say black." I found Awosanya's response very relatable because attending Stony Brook gives you a chance to explore different identities and eventually assume one or more but we seem to forget that our extracurricular activities such as clubs and organizations are the ideal when it comes to racial and ethnic identities while all other aspects of our lives are not so ideal when it comes to self identification. Applications for instance aren't ideal in the fact that they are restricting and this is just my point. The term African American is restricting and especially for those who have never had to assume this identity until they chose to venture into higher education, the job market or what have you.

Senior Charles Knight gave me another interesting response to the question of being African American. Knight says "definitions are limiting for we can never pretend to know everything, not only about our history but even about ourselves (hence why we go through rites of passage). But to answer your question, we are all descendants from Mother Africa. Yes I am Latino but I'm a man of many hats so yes I do see myself as an African American." Knight was not the only undergraduate I interviewed who accepted, at least in some respects the title African American. Junior Cornelia Gibson says "I am African American because I'm American but my descendants are from Africa."

I find it humorous that although

-it has been theorized and reported as fact that all human beings descend from Africa, men and women of color are the only ones who are slapped with this label. We are not given any real opportunity to describe or label our "blackness" when and where it matters in any other way than "African American." Junior Adriana Bertram considers herself American because as she says "Technically I'm not black, my parents are West Indian. If anything I should be identifying with them but if anything I feel more connected as an American."

To ignore the possibility that we do not have a real choice in labeling our "blackness" is foolish yet common. Considering that many "black" people living in America are not American by birth or citizenship, I believe that we shouldn't force terms and identities onto other people. If a Jamaican wants to be part of the African Student Union (ASU) rather than the Caribbean Student Organization (CSO) I do not feel that anyone should question them. That was just an example but it occurs in one way or another on Stony Brook campus. So I ask you again- Are you African American? What I am suggesting is, if you assume this identity do so without being forced. After all, your identity is indeed your identity.

What is your take on this?
Email us at
BlackWorldnews@gmail.com

Save time and Space



Space

By: Donia Cosmeus



Like most of my peers that are full time students with exception of a few part time students, I have encountered struggles based on unstable finances. In light of those all too frequent incidents, I have ordained my self as the queen of cheap. Well, maybe not the queen, I will that leave that title to Ms Tyra Banks as she frequently refers to herself, but I have realized that I am definitely cheap and crafty. Regardless of our capital or social class, we all have incurred occasions were we have to sacrifice our personal style for the generic and affordable. Therefore, I will be providing cheap and crafty ideas to make your Stony Brook experience a bit more comfortable with out having to call up mommy and daddy for few extra bucks.

Our focus this week is personalizing your walls. These are quick and simple ideas that add life, vibrancy, and your own personal touch to your space.

As college students the majority of us either live at in a dorm or off campus. After being occupied with our studies and alternate social lives, those walls that we go home to become boring and dull. Of course we don't want to do any sort of re-decoration that will damage the walls or result in paying high fees in damages or possibly loosing a security deposit on an apartment.

One idea to personalize your space is to use a spray adhesive that that is light, such as Elmer's Multi-

Purpose Spray Adhesive (available at Walgreens for \$3.99/ 4oz. can) and paste a picture or poster to a wall. Another idea would be to have your walls speak to you as well as guest. You can begin by typing out words of encouragement, favorite phrases or motivational words. (A stencil could be used in order to get the desired look, but it is not encouraged as it may become time consumptive). We would then use large fonts, print, and cut out the words. In order to obtain a sleek and flat finish; use the Elmer's Multi-Purpose Spray Adhesive, but for a more convenient alternative use double stick tape on the back of the pre-cut words. When removing, we can use any disinfecting wipe to wipe away any sticky residue. Finally using any 3M Command Picture Hanging Strips/ Hooks (available at Walgreens: size and price vary), we can add life by hanging framed pictures or mirrors to the wall. As noted on the back of the package, instructions will be provided to achieve a clean and residue free wall.

Using these three simple ideas your walls can be transformed in to a comfortable and welcoming abode. Wall personalization is one of the many ways we can personalize our space; sometime using the items we already own.

Stony Brook Styles

Continued from page 5



Zaqhuya Matthews-Mason

Year: Junior

Major: Political Science with a Minor in English with the intentions of becoming an Entertainment Attorney.

How would you describe your style? What do you like to wear?

Sunglasses are my favorite accessory, and I'm obsessed with watches. I love blazers, jackets, leather jackets. That's my style but I love button ups too.

If you had to pick one word to describe your style, what would it be and why?

I would have to say "unique" or "sophomore" because it goes against the grain. It's kind of a mix between a professional and sporty look. I always to like a button up with a leather jacket or biker jacket, so it's never exactly professional but it's never exactly on the sporty side.

I noticed you said unique. How do you ensure your style is unique from the rest of the Stony Brook student body?

I definitely feel that your style reflects your personality in a big way, or someone you really idolize. I really idolize Keri Hilson for her song writing ability as well as Alicia Keys. Alicia Keys kind does the soulful look while Keri Hilson does the sporty look, so that's where mine kind if clashes. Then on top of that I like I'm in organizations that require me to bring out my professional or preppy side. That's where my style comes from, with in my personality. I think people need to understand that they need to dress how they feel, without worrying or being afraid of branching out ot being themselves.

In very few words how would you describe your personality, because your personality is reflected in what you wear?

Maybe random, I'm quite outspoken but I like to speak through things I love to do such as my music. Or I would say an amusement park. I like to have fun, and laugh. I like to entertain and be entertained.



For additional details and more room ideas, contact Donia at adoublesa@gmail.com

"If you are anyone you know is interested in being highlighted in the STONY BROOK STYLES section of BLACKWORLD please contact us at blackworldnews@gmail.com

Going Natural: The New Hair Craze?

By: Jahlecia Smith

From what some refer to as a creamy crack addiction, to a flat iron obsession. Sitting in the beauty parlor over hearing woman exclaiming, "make sure you clean up my kitchen!" To the Afro picks of the late sixties to seventies, morphing into the side parts with a flip of the eighties and nineties. Throughout the years Black women's hair has been through many transformations. I remember in high school, two toned colored hair was the "it" thing to do and many young girls were sporting the blond bangs with jet black or red hair. A little over two years ago a new craze started to take over, and everywhere you turned, women were sporting flashy short hair cuts. Moving from 2009 into 2010, the latest hair movement in the black community seems to be a transition towards Natural hair. But what exactly is Natural hair?

For some, natural hair can be simply defined as non-processed hair, and for others its hair that has not been altered in anyway. This definition excludes labeling non permed hair as natural if the hair has been flat ironed or colored. As I sit back and reexamine the different hairstyles I cant help but wonder what motivated some women to shift from chemically processed to unprocessed hair. Is it another trend or something much deeper?

Living in a society where there exists a distorted perception of what constitutes as "good hair," women seem to be moving away from the unwritten definition of long straight hair as good hair, towards setting their own standards. In essence, letting their hair become a reflection of what they perceive good hair to be. But, not everyone's intention to go natural was motivated by such noble causes. "It's more economic efficient to have natural hair" said Sade Ross, a graduate student at Stony Brook. Being that we are in a recession, her argument is valid. It is not feasible paying \$70 for a perm, and keeping up



naturalhaven.blogspot.com

with a wash and set every two weeks when the odds of keeping a steady job to override those costs are slim.

Aishah Scott, a scholar at stony brook sights her transition to natural hair to be propelled by the "realization of how bad perms were for [her] hair." Lory G., a nursing student expressed similar sentiments. "I got tired of following the trend," she said. "When you got to a certain age, getting perms was the thing to do. It was like an unwritten rule. She goes on to say that the experience "was horrible, my hair just kept getting shorter and shorter." So were there any women who decided to go natural solely based on a black consciousness mindset? Theodora Roberts, a senior at Syracuse University believes it can go either way. "There are people trying to obtain a level of black consciousness by going back to their 'roots,' while others utilize it as a fashion statement...going against the norm."

Shatiqua Taylor believes its all for style, "Many people are locking their hair because of all the different styles you can do with it." She also does not believe that their decision to go natural was propelled

by a black consciousness mindset.

Being a Black woman who has maintained Locs in her hair for over twenty years (yes, Twenty Years) I can not help but appreciate the decision that some woman are making to go the natural. I think that the acceptance of natural hair in areas outside of the campus community like the slow appearance of natural hair in corporate America and the mainstream media may be one reason why more women feel more comfortable going Natural.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to guess what motivated every Black women with natural hair to go natural. In the end we can only speculate. But for those women who are thinking about going natural and are uncertain about how to care for their hair or how to even start the process, there are some great videos on YouTube as well as numerous Natural hair blogs that give helpful tips and also provide different product suggestions to help aid your journey. Some blogs you can look into are maneandchic.com; curlynikki.com; bglhonline.com; and naturalhaven.blogspot.com just to name a few.

*Natural? How has your
Journey been so far?
Let us know at
Blackworldnews@gmail.com
And Have your story featured
in the next issue*



Blood and Dollars to Aid Haiti

NYBC, Donors Contribute Pints and Points

Leslie Gonzalez from NYBC Media
Relations Specialist

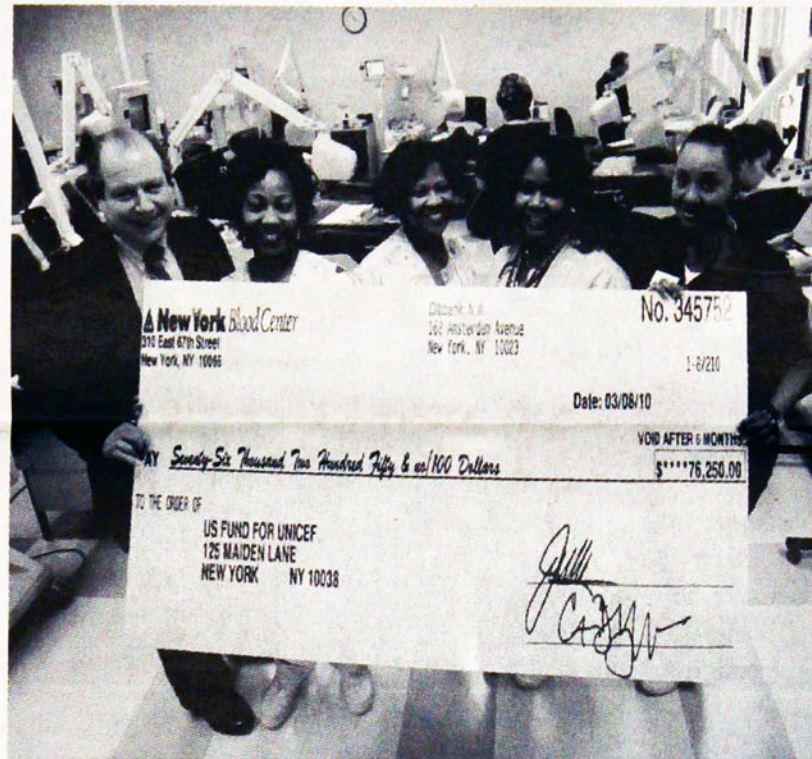
New York, NY / March 19, 2010 -- New York Blood Center (NYBC), serving New York City, Long Island, the Hudson Valley, and New Jersey, has provided a contribution of \$76,250, and has joined the "Honor Roll of Life" of US blood centers providing units of blood directly to the Haiti relief effort.

Between January 25 and February 15, blood donors designated more than one million points earned in NYBC's Advantage donor loyalty program, which were then used to make a cash contribution to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. More than \$60,000 was raised from this initiative. In addition, NYBC contributed a dollar for each blood donation made between January 25 and January 31.

The devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12 has impacted the lives of thousands of men, women and children, as well as NYBC employees. Donor specialists Marie-May Denis, Maryse Cherismo, Nadia Vilsaint and Karline Masse, who recently traveled to Haiti, were present for the check presentation to UNICEF on March 18 at the Long Island Blood Services Lake Success Donor Center.

NYBC is a member of a nationwide collective assisting the U.S. Armed Services Blood Program Office (ASBPO) handling the direct blood needs in Haiti. NYBC has provided 25 units to date, and may provide additional units if needed.

As many as 2,000 people donate blood each day at NYBC's facilities and mobile drives at workplaces, schools, community organizations and houses of worship. Current blood supplies remain adequate, but since blood has a relatively short shelf life, blood donors are being encouraged to help keep the system robust. Type O-negative and Rh-negative blood donors are especially needed.



Pictured are Harvey Schaffler, Executive Director of Long Island Blood Services; and Donor Specialists Maryse Cherismo of Elmont, Marie-May Denis of Westbury, Karline Masse of Valley Stream, and Nadia Vilsaint of Elmont.

Any company, community organization, place of worship, or individual may host a blood drive. NYBC also offers special community service scholarships for students who organize community blood drives during the winter holiday and summer periods. Blood donors receive free mini-medical exams on site including information about their temperature, pulse rate, blood pressure, and hemoglobin level. Eligible donors include those people at least age 16 (with parental permission or consent), who weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, are in good health, and meet all Food & Drug Administration and NY or NJ State Department of Health donor criteria. People age 76 and over may donate with a doctor's note.

About New York Blood Center:

New York Blood Center (NYBC) is one of the nation's largest non-profit, community-based blood centers. NYBC has been providing

blood, transfusion products and services to almost 200 hospitals, serving 20 million people, in greater New York since 1964.

NYBC is also home to the Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute and the National Cord Blood Program at the Howard P. Milstein National Cord Blood Center, the world's largest public cord blood bank.

NYBC provides medical services and programs (Clinical, Transfusion, and Hemophilia Services) through our medical professionals along with consultative services in transfusion medicine.

About UNICEF:

UNICEF has saved more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization in the world. Working in over 150 countries, UNICEF provides children with health care, clean water, nutrition, education, emergency relief, and more. The U.S. Fund for UNICEF supports UNICEF's work through fundraising, advocacy, and education in the United States.

UNICEF is at the forefront of efforts to reduce child mortality worldwide. There has been substantial progress—the annual number of under-five deaths dropped from 13 million in 1990 to 8.8 million in 2008. But still, 24,000 children die each day from preventable causes. Our mission is to do whatever it takes to make that number zero by giving children the essentials for a safe and healthy childhood. For more information, visit www.unicefusa.org.

I love Poetry

- Felicia S. Fisher

I must confess that I am in love
 I love Poetry for he gives me
 an ongoing epiphany
 like an everlasting daydream
 streaming through air
 arousing virginal neurons to
 scream out in jubilation
 yearning for spoken word's soothing sensation
 like an erected temptation
 that stimulates my ear like kisses,
 for he can speak to me in rhyme
 rather than lies that are a waste of my time.
 He loves me and I love He
 more than notes that come together in holy matrimony
 and float like Joyful Notes frolicking in harmony.
 The measure to which I love He cannot be converted
 No kilo or deca can try and mimic the
 arithmetic known as one plus one equals one.
 Yeah, one soul plus one heart combined.
 Yeah, one smile and one glance combined,
 combined to equal one feeling known as love
 Even in my sleep I dream of thee
 Oh my precious,
 My sweet,
 My Poetry.

Poetry
 with
 Black World



Gorgeous Brown Eyes

- Felicia S. Fisher

Bless the soul which lays below those pupils,
 unique and warm like
 kisses from the sun after a storm.
 Smile does my heart when you stare into me
 and shower me with deep shades of ebony.
 As I feast my eyes on you
 I forget that eyes can exist as blue.
 Gorgeous brown eyes,
 please show me where your secret lies.

-Jahlecia Smith

Sometimes
 I'm asleep
 And I'm awoken by the soft kisses of expression
 And its intimate caress
 Stimulates my mental flesh
 causing my thoughts to seduce my mind
 Craving intellect
 As my fingers ache when they grasps
 Its slim frame
 And I shudder
 As a chill of intense anticipation
 Travels up my spine
 And I arch my wrist
 As I glide its tip
 Across the sheets
 Connecting to the external center of my very being
 And I release
 Unlocking a unrestrained flow of
 Sensation
 Until those feelings overwhelm my
 Concentration
 And I am comforted by exhaustion
 And drift off into a sedated slumber
 Subconsciously awaiting the next moment
 When I'm filled with this untamed beast of
 Desire
 Satisfied only when
 I Write

