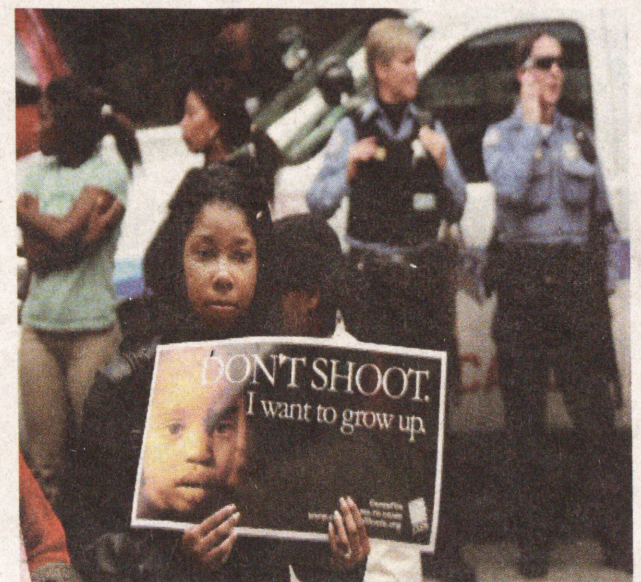




Chicago Violence Continues Despite Supposed Decline

By Simone Brown *Editor-in-Chief*



Despite what authorities in Chicago call a decline in homicides in comparison to last year, the city is still ravaged with these horrific gun murders. In mid-March, it claimed another innocent: a 6-month-old infant. Jonylah Watkins was fatally shot in her family's van while being held in the front seat by her father, 28-year-old Jonathan Watkins. The tragic incident took place on the afternoon of March 11. As Watkins was holding his daughter in his van, he was ambushed from behind by an unknown gunman. He was grazed in the buttocks and face and was listed in critical condition. He was recently released from the hospital. The baby girl was shot once and sadly died the next day as surgeons tried to repair the damage done in the brazen attack. The shooter is still at large.

The baby's father is a known gang member with a lengthy criminal record and it is widely believed that he was the intended target of the shooting. Woodlawn, the neighborhood on the city's South Side where the attack occurred, is an area where a lot of gang turf-related activity takes place. It was only during the previous weeks that Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy had vowed to capture those responsible for the murder of Hadiya Pendleton, the 15-year-old honor student who had performed at President Obama's second inauguration. She was gunned down on January 29 by two gang members who had mistaken her and her friends for a group of rivals. The two gunmen had recently been apprehended for her shooting. This was supposed to be a sign of progress in the war against the street violence that had ravaged Chicago the previous year. According to abcnews.com, the city has counted over 500 homicides since 2008. In February, only 14 homicides were counted, which is half of last year's amount, the lowest monthly homicide count since January 1957. Between February 1 and March 19, Huffington Post has cited 23 homicides in comparison to 57 in that same period of last year.

In late March, the weekend before Easter had its own rash of killings. Two people have died and another twelve were critically wounded. The acts of violence ranged from stabbings to drive by shootings. The victims also ranged in age, the youngest being fourteen years old. This bloody start to the year has shocked and saddened South Side residents, but simultaneously, it has made them all the more willing to put forth an effort to stop the savagery. At the six-month-old baby's funeral, of the many that had come to pay respects to the young victim, there were several attendees who did not know the family, but came to support them in their time of grief. The funeral home also offered to pay for the services. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has ordered that hundreds of officers be put on the streets on overtime every night in specific areas in an effort to quell the violence. This tactic was adopted from a strategy done by New York City over the summer in an effort to combat the same growing crime.

Young people are also taking up the reigns of community responsibility. A group of students from King College Prep school have organized themselves into an anti-violence movement called Project Orange Tree. The students wear T-shirts of a "hunter's orange", which co-organizer Victor Taylor makes symbolic by likening it to what hunters wear in the woods to avoid getting shot by other hunters. "You don't want to be invisible," he has said, as quoted from DNAinfo.com Chicago. Along with their symbolic clothing, some are also choosing to fast from April 1 to April 4, the 45th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination. This is to symbolize the active young students' "eating with the dead". As simple as this movement sounds, it has already gotten a significant number of supporters, from all over Chicago's South Side and even as far as the Middle East. Important people like rapper Lupe Fiasco and talk show host and social activist Tavis Smiley have shown their support via social media. Both workings, both from the police and through the work of the community, should begin to help combat the heartbreaking killings that have already taken so many lives in the past five years. There can only be hope, however, that this sort of work continues into the warmer months when these tragedies become much more frequent.

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Letter From the Editor:

Another spring semester is here and it seems like we're all working harder than ever. It could be because the school is trying to make up for the week lost due to Hurricane Sandy in the Fall or because Spring Break just happened to come earlier this year than usual. Nonetheless, it is a common fact that as the weather gets warmer, we all start to pay more attention to what's going on outside our windows rather than what's in our books. For us seniors, we all catch that all-too-familiar fever known as Senioritis that continuously obstructs the view of our studies for a vision of our caps and gowns in May and our post-graduation futures. Whatever your academic situation may be this spring, we at Blackworld would like to bring some light reading in between your intensive (or not) studies. You'll find yourself informed and enlightened without the stress of an exam or term paper. Just don't neglect your academics too long; the semester ends a lot sooner than you or I would like to believe and before you know it, the time you thought you had to make up for all that goofing off is gone in that light, gentle breeze. So study hard and pick up a newspaper to ease those mental stretch marks!

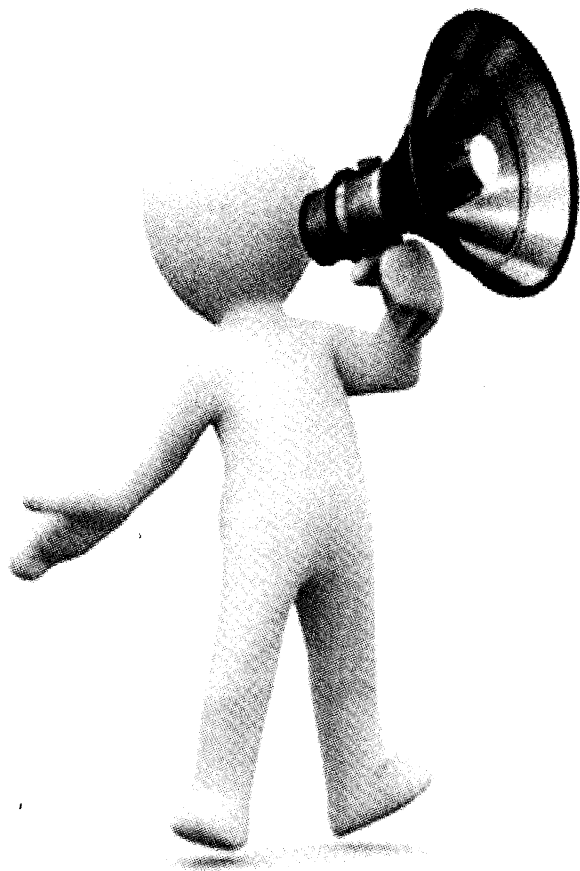
Simone Brown

Editor-in-Chief

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A CALL TO ACTION: A LETTER TO UNDERCLASSMEN

DEAR UNDERCLASSMEN, THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY IS "SANKOFA: THE REVIVAL." ACCORDING TO THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMITTEE, THE THEME WAS CHOSEN TO "RE-IGNITE AWARENESS, APPRECIATION, PASSION, AND COMMITMENT TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH FOR ALL PEOPLE, BUT ESPECIALLY THOSE WHOSE ANCESTORS ARE FROM THE AFRICAN DIASPORA". THIS IS A NECESSARY THEME. THROUGHOUT MY FOUR YEARS AT STONY BROOK I'VE WITNESSED A CHANGE IN THE CULTURE OF OUR CAMPUS. WE'VE BECOME COMPLACENT AND COMFORTABLE. OF COURSE, THIS CHANGE WAS WELL UNDERWAY BEFORE I ARRIVED IN 2009. AS A MEMBER OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, I'VE MET SOME OF THE LEADERS ON CAMPUS. I APPLAUD THE INDIVIDUALS THAT TAKE CAMPUS LIFE INTO THEIR OWN HANDS WITH PROGRAMMING AND SUCH. HOWEVER, EVERYONE IS GUILTY OF APATHY, INCLUDING MYSELF. WE'VE FALLEN VICTIM TO REPETITIOUS PROGRAMMING; WE DON'T SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL OR POLITICAL/SOCIAL PROGRAMS PERTAINING TO THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF OUR COMFORTABLE STONY BROOK BUBBLE; AND WORST OF ALL WE DO NOT STAND UP FOR OUR RIGHTS AS STUDENTS. FOR INSTANCE, OUR 300+ CLUBS AND ORGS WILL BE LOSING FULL AVAILABILITY OF THE SAC AUDITORIUM IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO BE USED AS CLASSROOM SPACE. AS A FORMER ADMISSIONS TOUR GUIDE, ONE OF THE LINES I VIVIDLY REMEMBER RECITING TO POTENTIAL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IS "THIS IS OUR STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER, HOME TO OUR CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS...THIS BUILDING IS THE ONLY ONE IN THE ACADEMIC MALL DEDICATED TO STUDENT LIFE... NO CLASSES ARE HELD IN THIS BUILDING". NOW ITS BEING TAKEN AWAY AND WE DON'T EVEN CARE. THIS CAN CRIPPLE MANY TRADITIONAL EVENTS AND THUS, DECREASE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ON CAMPUS. THERE ARE MANY SIMILAR ISSUES THAT WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO REITERATE WHAT DR. SHAUN HARPER STATED AT THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH OPENING CEREMONY: WE ARE NOT THE GENERATION OF STUDENTS WILLING TO STARVE OURSELVES OR DEPRIVE OURSELVES OF SLEEP TO REACH A CHANGE BUT SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS A LETTER OR PETITION CAN BE HEARD. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT WITHOUT US THE FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT EXIST.

**SINCERELY,
TIFFANY BIBBY**

Black History Month Opening Ceremony 2013

By Simone Brown *Editor-in-Chief*

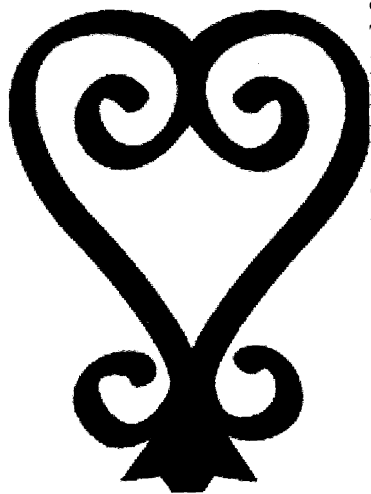
Stony Brook University has once more proven its affinity with the creed in the celebration of diversity on our campus. The Black History Month 2013 opening ceremony took place on January 30 with Cheryl Chambers giving the opening remarks and nods to the Africana Studies Department, the Black History Committee, and to the various student groups that were tabling. In going along with the theme of Sankofa, an Akan concept that expresses that we must look back to our past in order to move forward and understand our future, an important addition was added to this significant concept: the revival of black student activism.

The guest speaker, Dr. Shaun Harper of the University of Pennsylvania, introduced this as he eased into his presentation after Ms. Chambers' introduction. The primary focus of his lecture was the issue of black students on predominantly white campuses. From

there, he proceeded to give a historical backdrop of racial segregation on college campuses and the campaign of college integration during the Civil Rights Movement. Briefly coming back to Stony Brook University, he had cited that it was during this era that the Africana Studies Department was established here. However, with a few steps forward, there are always a few steps taken back; as college campuses were integrated, it seemed that most attitudes were not. While black students were going to college, it appeared that their classes had not yet adapted to their presence. Henceforth, Dr. Harper introduced two concepts from one of his articles: "onlyness" and "niggering". The former not only regards the physical environment in which a student is the only black student in a class, or a professor is the only black faculty member in a department; it also calls attention to one's personal fear of proving racial stereotypes as well as the assumption of favorable preferences for admissions from one's peers. "Niggering" is the often not-so-subtle belittling with racist implications. This can include anything from snide, racist remarks from peers to low academic expectations from professors. As Dr. Harper had demonstrated in his lecture, these concepts easily coincide because of the isolation felt as a minority student on a predominantly white campus, where it is believed that one's acceptance is based solely on racial preferences or favoritism. Dr. Harper also noted on the fact that there were few professors who were of the

same race of the black students that also attend these campuses, thus highlighting the fact that the concepts of "niggering" and "onlyness" were not narrowed down solely to the experience of the student.

Dr. Harper began the second half of his lecture with some comparative statistics of the racial demographics at SBU and those of Penn State. It had turned out that the percentage of black students at the latter was in fact less than that of SBU (this university has a 7% black student population; Penn State had only 4%). With that much in mind, he began to discuss the importance of Black student activism on campus by using the example of Christopher Abreu, a Penn student who was openly taunted by drunken peers because of his race and sought help from University officials. At first, his story had only been covered by the campus newspaper; yet, the extent to which it was covered brought enough attention to the lack of diversity at the school and led to an increase of minority student activism that had never been seen before at Penn. With said example of how it could be possible, he concluded his lecture with his hoping that the same could be possible with Stony Brook, with special attention paid to the influence of campus media. Dr. Shaun Harper's visit to our Black History Month opening ceremony was truly an honor bestowed to SBU, and it is hoped that his lecture will spark hope among the proudly diverse student body.



Ethiopian Vacuum

By: Gabrielle Batson

Every nation has immigration laws, but that of Israel has raised quite a few brows since claims have been made that a number of Ethiopian women who immigrated there have been injected with a long-acting contraceptive.

The first tipoff to the involuntary injections was in December from an Israeli investigative news program titled "Vacuum," reported by journalist Gal Gabbay. Gabbay interviewed 35 Ethiopian immigrant women, all sharing their testimonies authenticating the allegations. Approximately 50,000 Ethiopian Jews are reported to have immigrated within the past decade, but despite the large number the birth rate within Israel's Ethiopian community has declined almost 50 percent.

According to the Times of Israel, many of the women assumed the shot was a vaccination and were unaware that the shots contained birth control. The contraceptive, Depo-Provera, has a number of side effects dependent upon the person, some worse than others, which is why many deem it unethical to administer the shots without giving the women the proper knowledge behind it.

WebMD.com's description of the drug makes it out to be rather safe. Most of the side effects, including irregular menstrual cycles or none at all, depression, dizziness, weight gain, hair loss, or excessive growth of facial and body hair, are uncommon but are still possible. It is still possible to conceive as soon as three or four months after the first injection. However, it may take up to two years for some women to get pregnant. There is no correlation between the

timeframe and how long one has been taking Depo-Provera. The National, a Middle Eastern news publication, said in an article: *"Depo Provera is also known to decrease bone density, especially among dark-skinned women, which can lead to osteoporosis in later life. Doctors are concerned that it is difficult or impossible to help women who experience severe side effects because the drug is in their system for months after it is injected. The contraceptive's reputation has also been tarnished by its association with South Africa, where the apartheid government had used it, often coercively, to limit the fertility of black women."*

But why is such a powerful drug being forced upon these women in particular? The Ethiopians have so little knowledge about the contraceptive that when doctors tell them it is best that they receive the shot every few months they do not question it, diminishing their chances of pregnancy. Many have speculated that it is difficult to look past the idea of racism in this policy. If so, this wouldn't be the first allegation of racism. In 2006, it was admitted that all blood donations from Ethiopians were discarded in fear of it being disease infested. Numerous reports have been claimed that their children are being denied in schools, and that employers prefer not to hire an Ethiopian in professional fields. Are these all Israeli attempts at slowly ridding the country of Ethiopians?



LIU Student Killed

By Tiffany Bibby

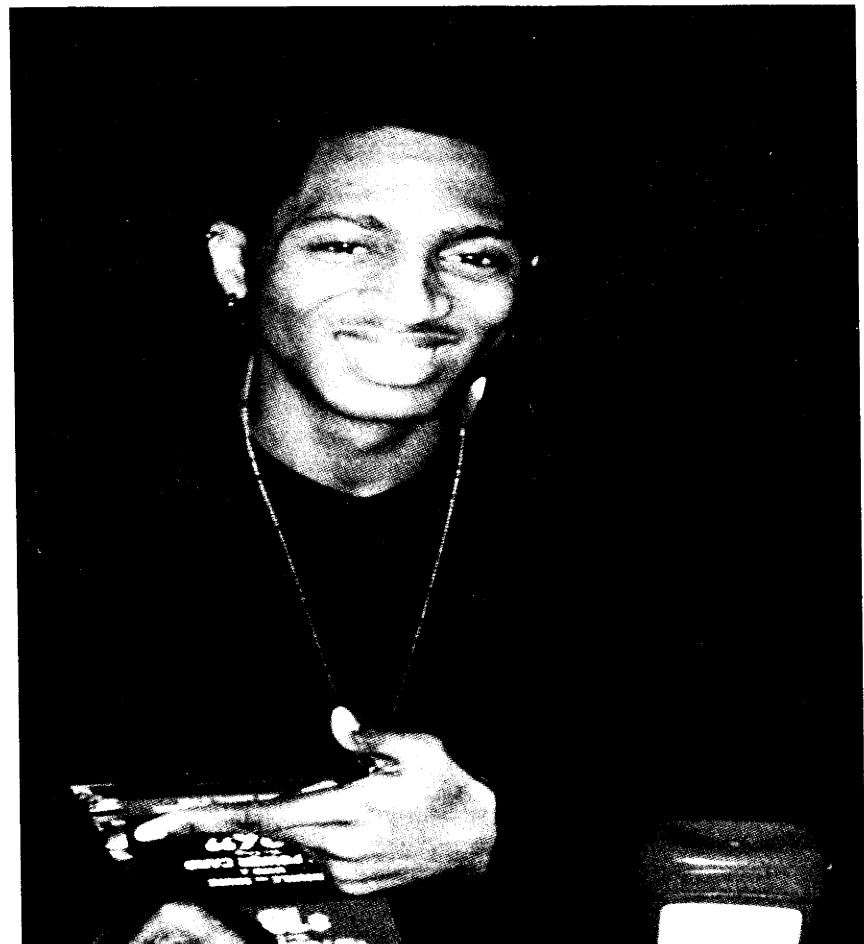
We hear about it all the time. As we flip through channels we briefly catch the headline stories on the news, we shake our heads in shame, we think to ourselves "another African American man killed" and we proceed to change the channel. But it never hits home until we are in such shock that we cannot press the button on the remote when we see people we recognize.

The Channel 7 news reporter said "college student killed..." and all other words became incoherent. Instead, sight completely took over as I watched a childhood friend on the news by the name of Krystan Burnett. Krystan, a Brooklyn College student, was being interviewed about his best friend who was murdered earlier that day.

Jason Henry, a Long Island University student, was shot dead at 3:30 a.m. on January 31, 2013 on Empire Boulevard in Brooklyn, NY. Unlike similar stories, Henry did not have a history of violence or police record. He was an accounting major set to graduate with a master's degree this May. According to his closest friends and family, he lived a positive life and his hard work was paving the way for a promising future.

Jason was called out of his bed to his fate that early Thursday morning. He was going out to help a "friend" by the name of Jamel Williams, who was in an ongoing dispute with another man. Somehow the peacemaker ended up on the receiving end of the gun, sustaining wounds to the torso and left unconscious. Henry's mom and friends always warned him to stay away from his troubled friend Williams. Despite this, Henry always felt a sense of loyalty to Williams since they'd been friends for so long. No arrests have been made.

Loyalty and friendship are tricky concepts. Sometimes we have to know when to let those go that no longer serve our goal. We hear it all the time. Another black man lost, but it never hits home until it is someone we recognize. Rest in peace Jason "Hi Def" Henry.



Jason Henry, pictured here in the Avena Lounge in LIU, was a promising student who had his life tragically cut short trying to help a friend. Photo Credit: seawanhakapress.com

Mayor Ed Koch Dies

By: Brandon Bennett *Co-Editor-in-Chief*

At age 88, Mayor Ed Koch died in his New York City home on February 1, 2013. Koch had a long history of heart problems. In fact, he even wore a pacemaker and had a quadruple bypass surgery in 2009. Unfortunately, he was not able to withstand his heart complications for too long.

Edward Irving Koch was born on December 12, 1924, in the Bronx, to Joyce Silpe and Louis Koch. His parents had emigrated to the U.S. from Poland. His family eventually relocated to Newark, New Jersey and after that they moved to Brooklyn. After going to school at City College, Koch was drafted to serve in World War II. After the war, he returned home and became a lawyer.

His experience in law translated into a career in politics. First Koch was elected to Congress and then won the New York City mayoral election in 1977 and served for three terms. During his time in office, he was credited with saving the city from financial ruin. After his years in office, he became a well-respected media figure and commentator.

In Koch's first campaign run for mayor, he defeated Abraham D. Beame. With the city on the verge of financial ruin, the Koch administration introduced budget cuts that eventually put the city back on financial track. Koch also promoted sexual equality in the workplace. His administration also created thousands of homes and renovated countless buildings. One of his self-proclaimed proudest moments came when he was able to control New Yorkers during a very controversial and volatile transit strike in 1980.

After his final term came to an end, Koch began practicing law again. He was also busy writing columns, making appearances on television and radio as a commentator and doing commercials. Most people will remember him for his short stint on the TV show *The People's Court* as its judge from 1997 to 1999. Koch was also responsible for publishing 17 books.

Koch was a major staple in the city of New York for many decades. As we progress, legends are falling before our eyes. It is safe to say that Koch will be deeply missed by many.



Are We Safe?

By: Kenia Cruz *Secretary*

Do you feel safe on at SBU? That is a question that does not generally cross the minds of students, whether or not they feel safe at school, but it is an important one. Several college campuses across the nation have had to deal with tragic shootings. One of the most recent occurred in Houston, Texas at the campus of Lone Star College on January 22 of this year. Shots were fired around 1pm after a fight between two men broke out on campus.

Another recent incident at a college campus occurred last year April 2012 in Oikos University in San Francisco, California. A disgruntled former student of the university returned to the university and opened fire on a room of former classmates, killing at least seven people and wounding three others, after telling them to "get in line, I'm going to kill you all."

Currently one in four campus police departments are not prepared to handle an active shooter, according to a recent survey by Campus Safety Magazine of Campus Protection Stakeholder. Another 46 percent say they are understaffed. Almost half of all schools surveyed say they do not have enough lethal and nonlethal weapons or enough adequately trained staff to handle the weapons they have.

After the most fatal college shooting in U.S. history occurred in Virginia Tech in 2007, there were at least ten copycat shootings on college campuses in the four years following the incident. In 2012, there were at least five shootings on or extremely close to college campuses. And only a couple of weeks into 2012, there have been at least three similar occurrences.

College campus shootings are now occurring more frequently than in previous decades, with more than 8 major shootings occurring within the last ten years.

Even with all of this alarming evidence, there are still no college campus specific gun laws in place or being pushed by the Obama administration.

With all of these campus shootings occurring at such an alarming rate it is difficult not question our preparedness for such events on campus.



The Equality of Valor: The Ban on Women in Combat is Lifted

By Simone Brown *Editor-in-Chief*

One of the ideals from the Obama campaign's "Forward" motto has come to pass, starting with our nation's military. Two years ago, it was the repeal of DADT (Don't Ask Don't Tell) that allowed gays to serve openly. This year, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta had lifted the ban on women in combat on January 24, 2013. Allowing questions from reporters at the Pentagon, he had acknowledged his decision by saying it was "the responsibility of every citizen to protect the nation." President Obama echoed similar sentiments, expressing that "valor knows no gender" and that it was another step towards fulfilling the nation's creed of equality and fairness, a primary theme in his second inaugural address.

Recent statistics have shown that over 150 women have died in the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and another 1,000 have been wounded in both conflicts. However, many women in the military, including other groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union, have argued that there are many women who have fought and died on the front lines, but aren't recognized. Also, only 15% percent of the military consists of female soldiers. "I think that number is going to rise," says Renee Reeke, current president of Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance at Stony Brook University. "I don't know if the low percentage is because women are discouraged by our society to enlist, or if military culture doesn't permit women, but with this recent lifting of the ban, the numbers will definitely increase." Until the lifting of the ban on January 24, a military memo that was signed under President Bill Clinton in 1994 had excluded women from participating in assignments that involved a unit in direct combat. Since the lifting of the ban, according to nbcnews.com, more than 230,000 front-line positions are expected to be available to women.

What is also to be considered are positions on special operations teams such as Delta Force and the Navy SEALs. Along with said considerations is the overall issue of physical fitness and whether or not women would be adept to the intense training it takes to be a part of these special units, if not generally combat-ready. "They underestimate the ability of a woman," Reeke responded when

asked about this concern. "When it comes to either gender, there are simply people who are cut for combat and people who aren't." Despite such strides towards progress, however, the Pentagon has stated that it might be a year before women can serve in the newly opened combat positions because of specifics that need to be worked out.

"They underestimate the ability of a woman. When it comes to either gender, there are simply people who are cut for combat and people who aren't."

***-Renee Reeke,
President of Feminist
Majority Leadership
Alliance at SBU***

Many on Capitol Hill are enthusiastic about this new reform, including Sen. John McCain of Arizona. A former POW during Vietnam, he had expressed that it was the "right thing to do" to lift the ban, but also expressed concerns about whether or not the standards of physical fitness will be properly met. New Hampshire Republican Senator Kelly Ayotte also applauded this new step towards progress. Regardless of such praise, aside from the concern about the standards of physical fitness, there are still critics that say that women will be a primary source of distraction on the battlefield. When asked about such criticism, Reeke had responded that the idea was simple "ridiculous." "If a man is distracted on the frontlines by a woman simply being there, he should re-evaluate whether or not qualified to be there in the first place." As the years progress, there should be a significant amount of reports about women committing the same valorous deeds on the frontlines as their male counterparts. With this new step forward, our nation's ideals of equality being exemplified in our military will give the United States a much more positive image in the spotlight of the world stage.



The lifting of this ban means big changes for the military; more spots for special operations units and more opportunity for women to be promoted within the ranks.

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Many Africana Studies majors and minors have gone on to graduate and professional schools better prepared in various disciplines and professions including law, medicine, business, engineering, nursing, social work, and education. Africana Studies courses also benefit students who go on to do graduate work in history, politics, anthropology, sociology, literature, and other fields.

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NAACP: Kushinda

By Tiffany Bibby

The Stony Brook University Chapter of the Youth and College Division of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People were officially re-chartered on March 23, 2011. This spring semester during the month of May, we will be holding a multicultural graduation. The purpose of such a program is to celebrate the achievements of students who are from traditionally third world countries and/or that have marginalized histories. Many institutions hold their own version of this ceremony across the nation including the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. It does not take the place of the official graduation ceremony and it is not exclusive to any group. In fact, Stony Brook University has held a "Third World Graduation" in the 1970's and 1980's. As we are becoming a more diverse institution, the Executive Board of NAACP Stony Brook Chapter would like to reintroduce the multicultural graduation to campus as "Kushinda". The word "Kushinda" is derived from the east African languages of Dawida and Mwera meaning "to overcome" or "to win." During the ceremony, official graduating members of our chapter will be receiving NAACP stoles to wear during the official graduation to show their dedication. Our hope is to empower our graduates and their supporters, to promote a sense of belonging to Stony Brook, increase alumni support, and increase communication between students and faculty.

Black Womyn's Weekend: Past, Present, & Future

By Gabrielle Batson

The vision of Black Womyn's Weekend began in 1978 by a group of African American women attending Stony Brook University. Black Womyn's Weekend started out on its first crusade in 1979 when they fundraised and hosted events in reaction to the Atlanta child murders, a series of murders of at least 29 African American children, adolescents and adults in Atlanta, Ga.

What began as a fundraiser gave way to an annual tradition in the spring of 1981 when these young women hosted a weekend of events including the first banquet, fashion show, talent show and family barbecue to be held on Stony Brook's campus.

Paying respect to the organization's history, Black Womyn's Weekend recognizes inspirational women of the past, while seeking to deliver a positive influence on the campus community. Though BWW still holds its annual weekend, they now also offer monthly workshops and programs focusing on education, health, personal development, and culture. Past programs include Hair Trials, My Sex, Stony Brook's first "March to The Polls" and, in light of Black History Month, recently held their program titled Black Trials.

During recent years, BWW has flourished as the organization co-founded The Multicultural Women's Alliance, a cultural organization developed to promote unity among all ethnicities and cultures of women. BWW has also donated charities such as the Hope Children's Fund, a Kenyan orphanage supporting HIV/AIDS orphans and various Haiti Relief efforts. This year the organization will be committing to the Little Flower Children and Family Services.

This year marks 35 years of the organization's existence, and it will be celebrated during the annual Black Womyn's Weekend taking place at the end of April. President Kathleen Gay says, "As we are entering our 35th year, the ladies of Black Womyn's Weekend are especially proud to be developing new traditions, while capturing the essence of the values in which we've been instilled with." BWW's theme for the school-year is "Renaissance," or rebirth, as they continue to move forth and make improvements within the organization.

ACL: A Former Stroke of Ill Luck Turned Concievably Cured

By Brandon Bennett *Co-Editor-in-Chief*

In 2011, Men's Fitness declared ACL injuries as one of the five most devastating sports injuries. In the past decades, there has been a string of athletes who have been permanently sidelined with the injury.

Today's athletes are operating at a level that was unheard of just 30 years ago. Today's athletes are more muscular than ever before. In addition to the recent boom in protein supplements, the knowledge of today's trainers has allowed athletes to workout longer and harder than normal. Consequently, driving their bodies past their normal limit. Unfortunately, the joints are not able to deal with the extra weight and muscle and ACL injuries are not only occurring earlier than expected but they are becoming more prevalent in professional sports.

Young athletes are being pushed to excel at younger ages than usual. Just 30 years ago, basketball was only a fall sport but now young kids are playing all year round. In fact, the competition gets fiercer in the summer. Thus, today's young athletes are overusing their joints before they even reach college; so it is very realistic for a 24-year-old athlete to have a 34-year-old's joints.

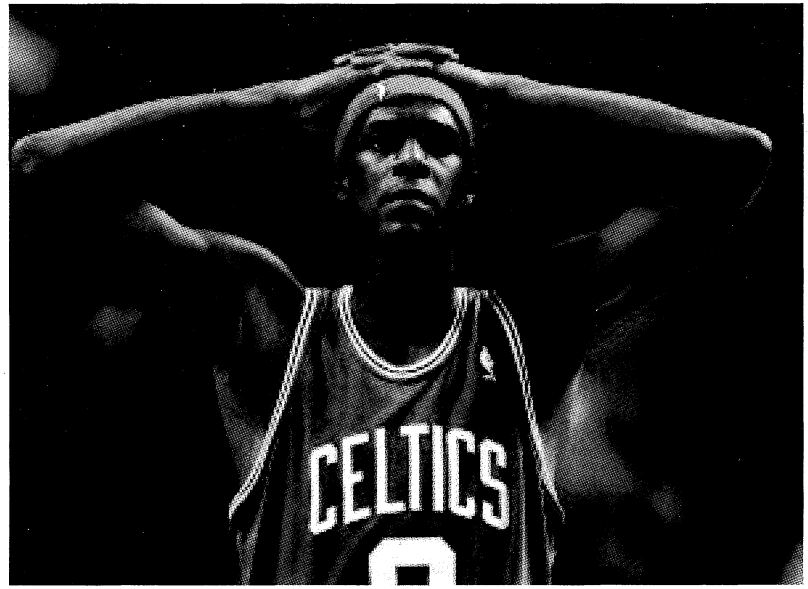
The Anterior Cruciate Ligament—also commonly referred to as the ACL, is located deep inside the joint of the knee. The ACL is one of the four main ligaments in the knee joint that connects the shinbone (tibia) to the thighbone (femur). It also works with the posterior cruciate ligament (PCL) to control the rotation of the knee.

The explosiveness of today's NBA athletes and the rigors of their schedule have put the knee at a greater risk. The ACL is put to the test every time the shin and thighbone move rapidly in opposite directions. Although NBA players have become bigger, stronger, and faster, the joints have not grown in proportion. With this being said, NBA fans should expect to see a lot more ACL injuries in the upcoming seasons.

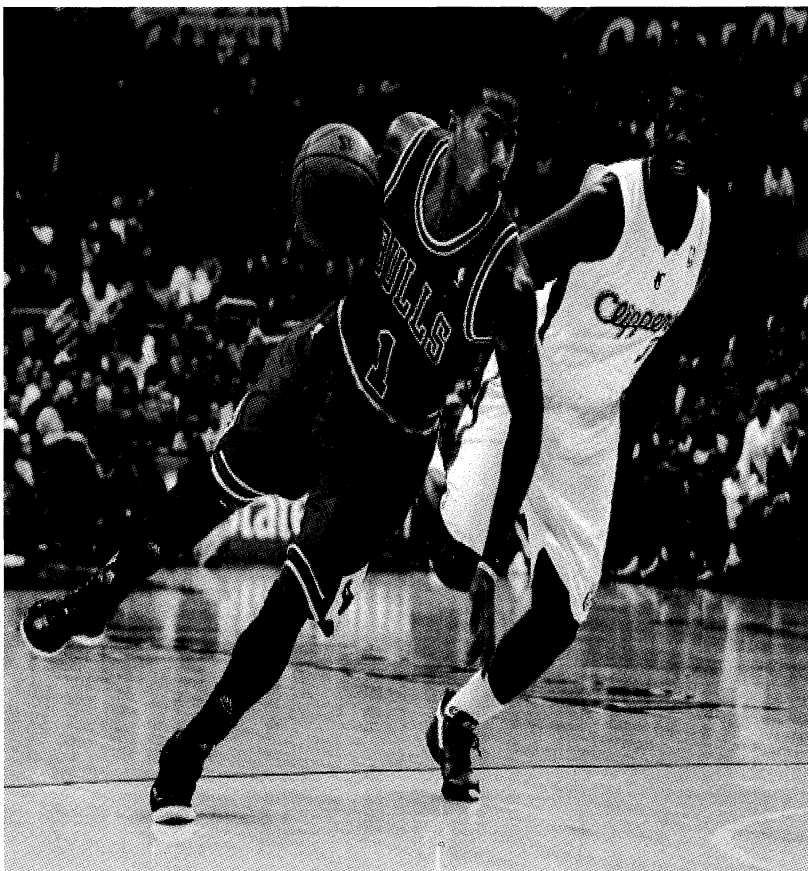
Before the advancements of sports medicine, ACL injuries were automatic death sentences. Now, in most cases, the injury is only a minor setback for a major comeback.

NBA players, Baron Davis, David West, and Jamal Crawford all suffered ACL injuries. Baron Davis's injury occurred in college and he was still the third pick in the 1999 NBA draft and went on to become a two-time all-star. Despite West's injury, he still went on to become a two-time all-star and is currently averaging 17 points and 8 rebounds per game this season. Crawford's injury took place in 2001 and he is still one of the most feared ball-handlers in the league. Crawford is currently in the running for 6th man of the year while averaging 17 points per game.

Derek Rose and Rajon Rondo have become the latest victims to ACL injuries. While Rose is expected to return before the season is over, Rondo is expected to be out for a year. Not only are experts projecting Rose to come back almost as explosive as he was before but they are also expecting a more consistent jump shot. While Rondo's injury just occurred at the end of January, it is expected not be as bad as feared.



Though Rajon Rondo (*above*) is perceived to be out for the season, Derrick Rose (*below*) is expected to make a full recovery and be back on the court soon.



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Is it in a Black Man's Soul to Rock that Gold?

By Jewelle T. Brown

Hopefully I'm not the only one that has seen the meme with Michael Jordan thanking blacks for buying the same shoes over and over again, because it is such a satirical representation of our mentality. Economists have found that purchasing luxury visible goods becomes more important the lower one falls on the socio-economic scale. In particular, compared to other groups, African-Americans spend less on entertainment and education while they spend more on cars and jewelry. From their perspective, this visible spending tends to promote their positive status while eliminating the negative stereotype of being poor.

The "black" spending habit often stems from wanting social acceptance. The socioeconomic and psychological aspects of instant gratification have long plagued the financial sustainability of the black community. These are tough economic times, especially for African-Americans, for whom the unemployment rate is more than 10%. Pretty alarmingly, but rather than belt-tightening, the response has been to spend more. In many poor neighborhoods, one is likely to notice satellite dishes and expensive new cars. According to Target Market, a company that tracks black consumer spending, blacks spend a significant amount of their income on depreciable products. A few years ago, when the economy nose-dived, we spent \$22.9 billion on clothes, \$3.2 billion on electronics and \$11.6 billion on furniture to put into homes that, in many cases, were rented. Among our favorite purchases are cars and liquor. Blacks make up only 12% of the U.S. population, but comprise 30% of the country's Scotch consumption. Detroit, which is 80% black, is the world's No. 1 market for Cognac. We sure do love that brown water.

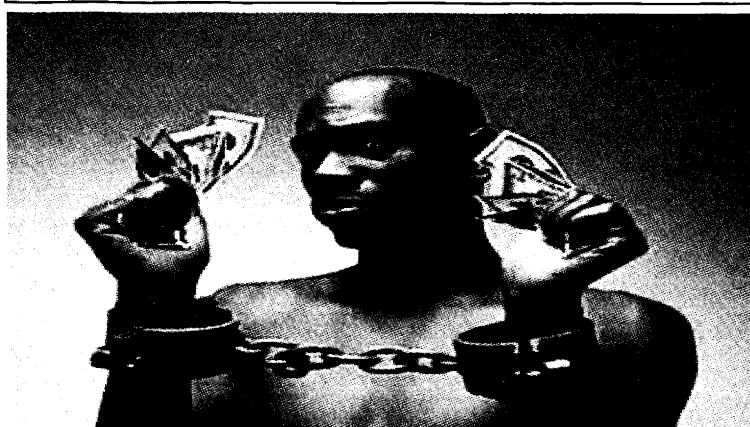
The black environment has been conditioned toward short-term pleasures and immediate gratification while the white community has been conditioned to seek rank and pleasure based upon a long-term process. One of the consequences of years of discrimination against blacks is that black people don't have faith in the "process" to the degree that white folks do and for good reason. Thus, when faith in the process has been forsaken through the conditioning of empirical evidence, such people make different choices and seek immediate gratification and status and rank as defined by the environment that they know and live in. In actuality, these people for a short time achieve rank and pleasure in their communities.

The National Urban League's "State of Black America 2004" report found that fewer than 50% of black families owned their homes compared with more than 70% of whites. According to published reports, the Ariel Mutual Funds/Charles Schwab 2003 Black Investor Survey found that when comparing households where blacks and whites had roughly the same household incomes, whites saved nearly 20% more each month for retirement, and 30% of African-Americans earning \$100,000 a year had less than \$5,000 in retirement savings. While 79% of whites invest in the stock market, only 61% of African-Americans do.

Certainly, higher rates of unemployment, income disparity and credit discrimination are financial impediments to the economic vitality of blacks, but so are our consumer tastes. By finding the courage to change our spending habits, we might be surprised at how far the \$631 billion we now earn might take us. As the numbers continue to grow in poor communities despite economic hardship, don't be surprised as the number of people who judge a book by its cover do also.

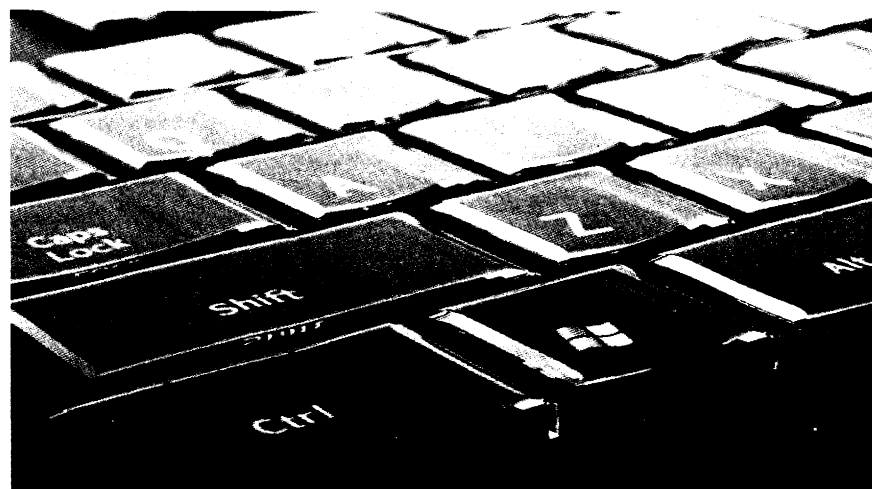


A new pair of sneaks is always nice, but could the financial choices we make be putting us back into the shackles of financial oppression we had fought so hard to escape?



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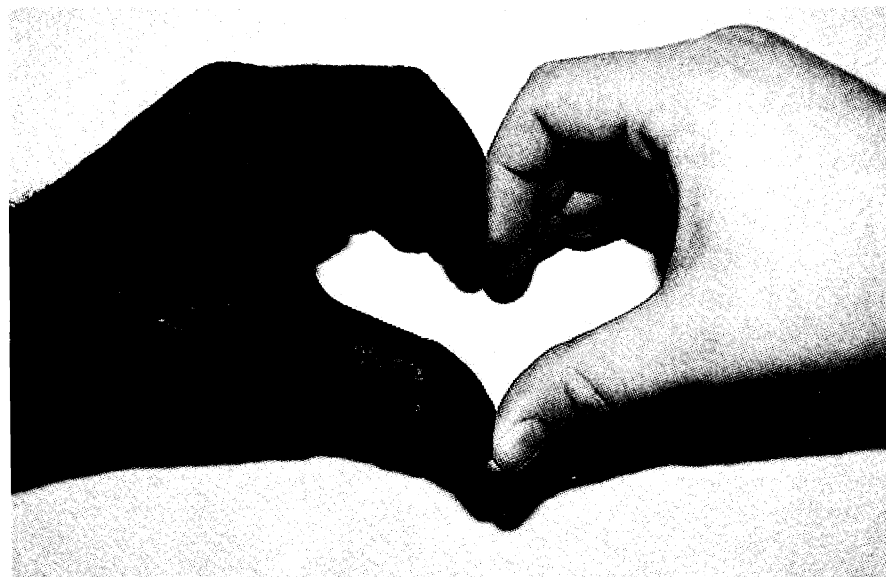
Loving Outside the Color Lines

By: Jewelle T. Brown

On such an ethnically diverse campus such as Stony Brook, it is nearly impossible to not interact with someone of another race, whether it is in a professional, plutonic, or in many cases, an intimate context. Let's be honest; many of us hail from neighborhoods and schools where most of those around us, look like us, dress like us, speak like us, and think like us. We never once thought of cultural differences or racial backgrounds in the way in which we do now. Rewind to early adolescence where if we saw someone of a different race, we never necessarily acknowledged our differences right off the back. We simply saw another child who we were willing to play with. Fast forward back to the present and we are now flooded with swirling thoughts and notions of acceptance or rejection.

When we meet someone, we tend to want to know "what they are." Where are you from? Where are your parents from? Those are just some of the questions we ask when we are courting someone. Being that we are now living in such a diverse environment, many of us are attracted to others of other races and/or backgrounds. It is the allure of difference, the attraction to the unknown. Many people who brave the taboo of interracial dating are often met with opposition. In this alleged "new day and age", interracial couples are more accepted than they were in the 60s when interracial marriages were illegal. However, it is firmly believed that opposition are just better hidden. Clearly, our generation is more open to the idea of lovers of various ethnic and cultural backgrounds, but can we say the same for our parents and our grandparents?

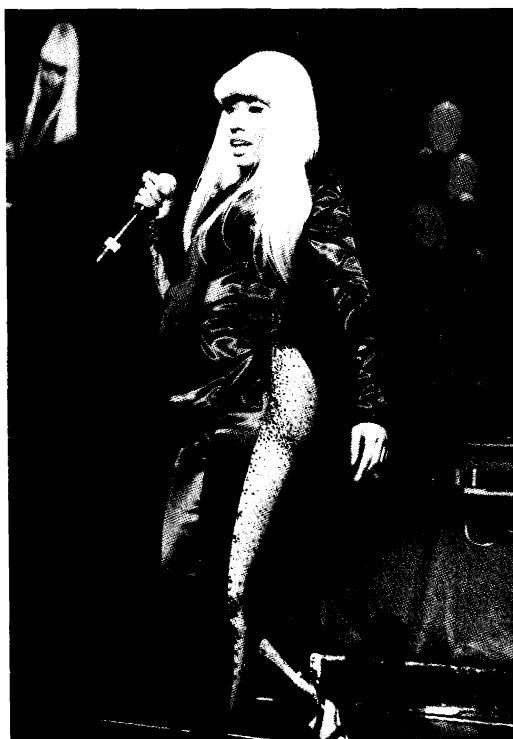
We've all heard of or probably experienced relationships that won't last outside of the 4-5 year Stony Brook tenure because their families would not accept anyone who isn't racially homogeneous. So is it really worth taking that risk for love? Should one just play it safe and not divulge in the racial melting pot? I think not. We should never be afraid to try something new, nor should we ignorantly perpetuate the ludicrous stigma of our racially charged pass. Let's embrace our differences and let love live.



malaja
Happiness comes in all colors; it's the mixed flavor that gives life, and love, its flavor.

Media Beauty Practices Corrupts Young Black Women

By Jina Entienne



Two examples of beauty: the naturally bestowed and the unreal representation the media constantly bombards us with that continuously juxtaposes with reality

Now that stars like Nicki Minaj, a popular female icon in the hip-hop industry, has had a butt job, other celebrities like Kim Kardashian, Kelly Rowland and many others are following the trend of getting a butt job as well. This trend is not only becoming an epidemic in the entertainment industry but in the black community too. Young women in the black community are taking drastic measures by getting butt injections or butt implants in order to achieve the size of Nicki Minaj's butt.

Celebrities like Nicki Minaj, Kelly Rowland, and Kim Kardashian are getting these butt implants to look over-sexualized and to make a profit off of their image. Teens are at an age where their appearances matter to them and they want to feel secure. The many female celebrities in the entertainment industry that get a butt job make young women feel insecure. The media places so much importance on the image of what a woman is supposed to look like that teens are influenced to look that way. Therefore, young women are going to want butt implants to feel more attractive and eye-catching.

This procedure is something that is very costly; the prices range from \$4000 and up. Not only is it costly but very life threatening; people sometimes die from the complications of this procedure. There are young women out there who go through with this procedure that could have invested their money into something that is very constructive such as an education. Getting a butt job is not going to benefit them in the long run; an education will.

Black History Corner

Ira Aldridge: Under the International Spotlight

By Simone Brown Editor-in-Chief



Ira Aldridge was an American-born actor turned British actor whose presence on stage marveled critics all over Europe. Most noted for his rolls in Shakespearean plays, his legacy contains honors and citations from many heads of state as well as the respect of many artists the world over.

He was born Ira Frederick Aldridge on July 24, 1807 in New York City. His parents, Reverend Daniel Aldridge and his wife Lurona, were free blacks who sent their children to New York City's African Free School where they received a classical education; they were educated in English grammar, writing, astronomy, mathematics and geography. At this school, Ira developed a love of the theater. He was still a teenager when he had gotten a job as a backstage hand at New York's Park Theater, where he was able to watch actors perform. He was able to gain acting experience with the African Grove, a theater established in 1820 by free blacks in the New York City area. He made his debut as the Peruvian Rolla in the play Pizarro and later played a very notable Hamlet. In spite of his thorough education in acting, Aldridge knew that he could not adequately live out his dream of being an actor in the United States because of the persistent discrimination against black actors. With that in mind, he immigrated to England to pursue his career in the theater. He worked as a steward on a ship before arriving in Liverpool in 1824.

Aldridge began acting in the Royal Coburg Theater and made his debut there in the role of Oroonoko in *A Slave's Revenge* on October of 1825. He went on to play the title role in *Othello* and later landed several white roles as Shylock from *The Merchant of Venice*, *Macbeth* and *Richard III*. However, there was a flipside to such progress. While some critics praised his strong acting abilities, there were others who made openly racist attacks about him in newspapers. One such writer in an 1833 paper had protested against his being paired with British actress Ellen Tree because of her being "pawed about on the stage by a black man." Because of such commentary, the theaters in London refused to hire him. In spite of this, Aldridge was in high demand in the provincial theater circuit. One critic had written that his performance in *Othello* was "unlikely to be equaled by few actors of the present day."

Frustrated by being blacklisted in London, he sought to tour the rest of Continental Europe. Starting in 1852, he appeared on stage in Brussels, Budapest, Prague, Vienna, Hamburg, Dresden, Cologne, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Moscow and Munich. While in Russia, Aldridge became one of the highest paid actors in the world. While touring, he became acquainted with such famous artists such as the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy and the Ukrainian artist and poet Taras Shevchenko, who did his portrait in pastel. He was now old enough to play *King Lear* when he returned to England to buy property and apply for British citizenship in 1863. He spent his final years in Russia and Continental Europe with second wife, a self-acclaimed Swedish countess Amanda von Brandt, and their five children. He had planned to return to post-Civil War America, but died while on tour in Lodz, Poland in August of 1867. His remains were buried in the city's Evangelical cemetery, though a proper tombstone wasn't erected until 23 years later.

The son of two freed Black Americans, Ira Aldridge was an educated and ambitious young man who sought to make a career for himself in an area where blacks were consistently turned away. He immigrated to Europe and never returned to his home country, where he could have never made the strides he had made performing on grand stages and receiving high honors from European royalty. His legacy lives on in the many plaques and awards in his name that celebrate the American-born black man who became one of Europe's most beloved actors of the nineteenth century.

Are our Gender Roles Safe?

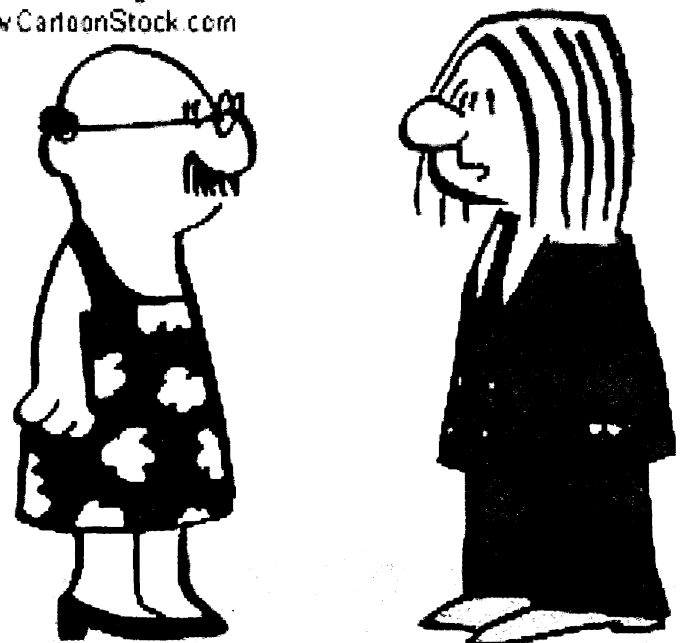
By Elle Grant

In the early 2000s, Cam'ron showed us that it was okay for men to wear pink. But can men wear aprons too? We have been so conditioned into thinking that there are female responsibilities and male responsibilities. Is it ever okay for us to blur the lines? Do you think that there will be a day when gender roles as societal constructs will no longer be in existence?

In the 21st century, we see a higher rate of dual-income families, meaning that both the leading men and women of the households are supporting their families. Although women are just as involved as men in today's workforce, they are still expected to bare the responsibilities of child rearing and housekeeping. With that being said, is it safe to conclude that today's women may be some sort of super-hero...or no? As a subscriber to old-fashioned dogma, I have no issues with fulfilling "womanly duties." I do, however, have issues with those who believe in the supreme inequality between the sexes. Yes, Mother Nature clearly shows that she intended for women to be nurturers and for men to be providers, but I doubt that she ever intended to imply that women are in some way, shape, or form lesser than our male counterparts. As women are increasingly becoming the leaders of society, we are beginning to shift from the traditional beliefs to a more contemporary way of life which in some cases, have men being provided for. This leads me to think are our current gender roles safe?

Surely we can simply dismiss this phenomenon by saying "to each his own," but there is no way that we can ignore this huge paradigm shift in society. Women are construction workers and men are now nannies. Traditionalists probably aren't content with the new way of the world but it seems as if many young adults of our generation are embracing the change with open arms. As members of the millennial generation, our methods of thinking vary greatly from those of our grandparents, even our parents for that matter. We grew up being exposed to the changing roles in society and I am almost certain that our children will bear witness to a complete unbalancing of the gender scale.

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Balog

"Darling, what's happened to us?"

WE HAVE HERE ONE OF THE WINNERS FROM THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH OPEN MIC CONTEST. THIS POET WON THIRD PLACE IN THE CONTEST AND WE HERE AT BLACKWORLD ARE GIVING HER A CHANCE TO SHINE

Dream

By Glendalis Moran

See, I'm a "minority" and according to the stereotypes and the media
I'm not supposed to succeed, but let me tell all something
I don't need to be sleeping and I don't need to be Luther to have a dream
A dream that will manifest, materialize

Beyonce says "Life is but A Dream"
And I'm not trying to live the American dream
I'm going to live Malcolm X's dream
Rosa Park's dream, and while I'm at it Obama's dream
Except to the tenth degree

So keep knocking me to the ground
Like Muhammad Ali I'm going to get up and go for another round
This is my story and it's about to go down in history
The fact that I'll become everything you see
And don't see is no longer a mystery
And I'm here to tell you my tale
That I'm a new breed of female
Someone beyond your imagination
I'm making it on my own, I'm a self-creation
See I probably do talk too fast and perhaps with an accent
Though to you my accent maybe an emblem of minority
To me it projects triumph and superiority
Someone who refuses to settle for mediocrity

Yes my complexion is a bit sun-kissed
But trust me a woman or man of color is a sight you don't want to miss,
Nonetheless, dismiss

While you mock me, degrade me, discourage me
Like Maya Angelou still I rise
Sooner than eventually
Stronger and more beautifully
But most of all Phenomenally
Phenomenal Woman, yup that's me

See I'm a "minority" and according to stereotypes and the media
I'm not supposed to succeed, but let me tell you all something
I'm dreaming with my eyes open, and there's no stopping me

Until I'm the majority...

How do you know if he ONLY wants to mess around?

Anonymous

Sometimes girls are unsure where they stand when it comes to dating because guys don't always convey what they want. Some men will take advantage of the fact that a girl likes them just to sleep with them because if they tell a girl what their true motives are, then chances are the girl wouldn't be interested in what they have to offer. This is the reason why guys don't convey what they want. In order to avoid guys like this you have to watch for signs.

The guys that usually just want to mess around are text and Facebook messengers. This type of guy isn't consistent when it comes to communicating. The only time you'll hear from him is when it's convenient for him. This is the time when you'll get an "I miss you" or "when are we hanging out" text. The guy that just wants to mess around usually has a preference for hanging out, usually indoors like his house or your house. If he asks you to send him pictures of yourself, this should raise a red flag on what his attentions are. If he tries to kiss or touch you on your first date, it's pretty clear that he only wants to mess around. If you have never met any of his friends or family members, you should know where you stand. When a guy just wants to mess around, he's not going to tell his family and friends about you.

A guy that wants a relationship will pick the phone and call you. This shows that he's interested in you. A guy that wants a relationship will buy you flowers and shower you with attention every day. Unlike the guy that wants to mess around, he won't text you that he misses you. He'll ask about how your day was and take you out on dates from time to time to get to know you a little better. This type of guy will automatically ask you to be his girlfriend, considering that he's interested in you and likes what he sees. Eventually he'll tell his family and friends about you. Once you guys establish a relationship then everything else will fall into place.

S.B.G.C.

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