

BLACK WORLD

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ONE NATION

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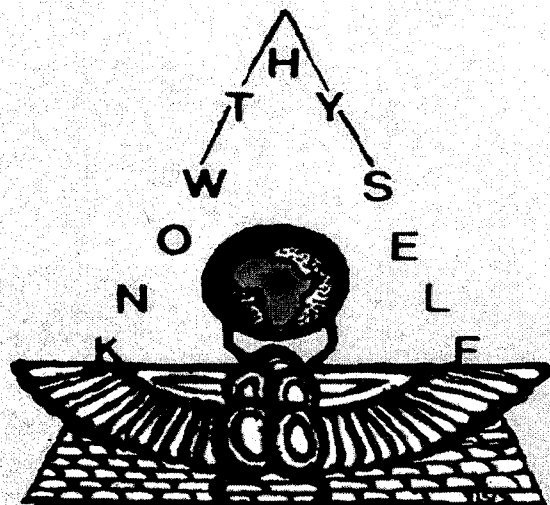
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UCC

**WILL ADMINISTRATION
CHOOSE CLASSES
OVER CULTURE?**

BLACKWORLD

For Over 25 Years



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The academic year of 2001-2002 should be known as the year of survival, not only has the student body persevered through the tragic acts of Sept. 11 but we managed also to survive the harsh realities of terrorism and hate.

BLACKWORLD newspaper has also had a trying year, after myself and current editor Yvonne Belizario decided to act as editor and managing editor, respectively, when the elected editor transferred from Stony Brook during the summer of 2001.

As the newly elected editor-in-chief of BLACKWORLD I would like the student body to know that BLACKWORLD had a good year thanks to our many supporters and contributors. If I have learned anything this year is that taking an active role and taking responsibility for a cause is the most gratifying thing a person can do.

BLACKWORLD has a lot of positive changes in its future and I encourage you all to join us in our quest to be the alternative, positive voice on campus.

As we end the school year I want to say thanks to our readers who still believe that the black voice should not and cannot be silenced.

Letter to the Editor

Black Womyn's Weekend Fashion Show

I am curious to know what kind of message is being sent about the "strong black woman" when they walk out holding their breasts and a wrap that reads "African Spirit" on the buttocks. Weren't there parents and children in the audience? We say don't treat me like a ho but then we walk out looking like one. Supposedly African-Americans have pride in their women and people, but we're going to let our women walk out like this. It was a mockery! It could've been sexy, but it did not have to be overtly sexual. I don't mind fashion shows where women walk out half-naked, however, this was dedicated to honoring black women, they could have put a cap on the lack of clothes that were worn. These things need to be addressed.

Concerned African American Woman

I look forward to working for you in the fall and I hope that together we can help minimize the invisible barriers that separate us as a nation and as a people. Have a safe summer and make it happen, don't wonder what happened!

Yours faithfully,
Shaila Mentore

A Stolen Dream

by: Lakeshia Jemison
BLACKWORLD Contributor

I was raped. I was raped, not with an object or even a weapon. I was raped with words. I was raped with deceit. I was raped by those that I trusted. Like the victim, I felt that if my voice remained silent, then the situation would go away.

But it has not. No matter what you do or what you say, nothing can change the past events or the feelings you try to bury inside. The Committee raped me, and for the first time in a long time I can finally speak about my pain.

It started with a hope and a dream. I always thought that maybe one day I could write this perfect work of literature, something that could capture up all my desires in a neat, tightly bonded package. I never thought that I was an artist, but a person who felt that I must have a talent, and maybe my words were God's blessing for me.

I never made that masterpiece. But a lot of ideas culminated and was launched in a play that I wrote. These ideas would be the foundation of what is "Brown Skin Girls", a play that I wrote, drawing experiences from my own life and that of other strong black women around me.

It had no swearing and no sexual innuendoes. Instead, it had heart and emotions, and was something that I was proud of. I pitched the idea to a member of the Committee; maybe that was my first mistake. Upon talking to him, I expanded my ideas to include the actual scenes. I remember myself feeling so giddy and proud that my mother would have a playwright in her family.

At the same time I was writing down these words, I was facing the possibility that the only person in the world that I loved more than myself could leave me. My mother was diagnosed with a brain tumor. I remember my feelings and passions crossing over to the pen I was holding. I made my characters feel the emotions that I was

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Classes vs. Culture

By: Rachel V. McNeil
BLACKWORLD Contributor

The U.C.C. also known as the U.N.I.T.I. Cultural Center was founded in 1978, with a council consisting of members from various Black and Latino organizations, with the primary purpose of "developing and accentuating" the ethnic cultures on campus. The U.N.I.T.I. Cultural Center is an acronym for the United Nationalities In Transcending Ideologies.

Today, for the 2001 and 2002 semesters here at Stony Brook University, the U.N.I.T.I. Cultural Center, continues to be operated under a student executive board. Our faculty advisor is Cheryl Chambers and our graduate advisor is Lisa Labarbera.

The UCC held elections for the Fall 2002 and Spring 2003 on April 15, 2002. The positions for a public relations officer and second reservationist are still open. If interested and for further information about the U.C.C., you can contact us at 631-632-7520.

In the future the U.N.I.T.I. Cultural Center will be implementing study groups, walk-in tutorial sessions, peer academic advising, office hours, re-building our library, and much more. Our new motto that we would have embraced is, "Embracing Education Beyond the Classroom."



On Monday May 6, 2002 The Uniti Cultural Center held a Town Hall meeting to heighten awareness about possible renovations that might take place in the Multi-Purpose room and obtain input from students about what approach should be taken.

The Humanities building will be closed for renovations starting this summer for about three to four years. In a Polity Senate meeting President Kenny attended this April, senate suggested that the UCC, Bi-level, and the Alliance Room be considered as possible places to supplement the loss of classroom space due to Humanities' renovations.

The UCC board members' complaint is that they were never notified when the UCC was

officially called into consideration for changes. At this point they scheduled a meeting with Dr. Preston to find out if it was just a recommendation. According to them Dr. Preston said it was just an idea that was not concrete.

On April 15 during a meeting the board members were having with Dr. Preston, he found out that renovations had already begun and then made the information available to them. The e-board was very upset because they were not consulted as promised.

They could not do their programming because certain entrances were blocked off, there were paint fumes, and windows were boarded up.

Richard Mann, Vice-President for Administration, oversees the area of facilities, which is the department responsible for the renovations. Recommendations for relocating classrooms was given to Deputy Provost Mark Aronoff. He failed to communicate with facilities when renovations were officially supposed to begin. There was supposedly a huge miscommunication between the two departments. Facilities' understanding was that they were supposed to renovate the UCC for the summer.

The process that was supposed to take place was that after talking with the students, Dr. Preston was to then speak with Aronoff; then Aronoff was to

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The New Voices of Polity

By: Makarios Amerikanos
BLACKWORLD Staff

The Student Polity 2002 election results are in. The election was held from April 23 to 25. The 2002-2003 position holders are Akelia Lawrence, Natasha Elie, Clayton John, Melissa Torchon, Janet Mey, Michelle Morris, Sandy Curtis, Alicia Barclay, Elizabeth Guerra, Erhan Senlik, Judian Anderson, Jeff Javidfar, Timothy Cole and Arif Rafiq.

This semester the voting process was a little different, the votes were held on the Internet. It was the same format ballots, but they were done electronically. The Internet was used to make the voting process more convenient and accessible for students. This technique has been successful in other schools, so Stony Brook decided to implement the idea.

The election was a success. Within the first 24 hours there were over a thousand votes and more voter turnouts than in the past five years. Part of the success was due to the voting time; it was open 24 hours for four days as opposed to only two days from 9am to 7pm. Voters could now vote at any time of the night.

The company that was used for the elec-

tion charged 35 cents for each vote that was cast instead of the approximate 10,000 dollars for the days it was held. The new system also doesn't waste paper for the ballots.

In this election there were no major problems, it basically ran smoothly. The voter turn out increased because there is a longer voting period and it was convenient and successful.

Newly elected treasurer, Clayton John was happy with the Internet election. "I think it was good because more people could vote and it was easier to access from the computer," said John.

John has a lot of ideas for the up coming year, some of which include improving the efficiency of the Polity office and making sure clubs are informed about what's going on.

"I want to bring it back to what it used to be by making sure students have knowledge of their budgets and are able to receive checks in a more timely fashion," John said.

Improvement of the staff and student relationship is also one of John's goals. He plans to have monthly club and organizational meetings where members can meet and voice their

concerns.

John feels that last year student polity became less controlled by the students and he wants to change that. One of his personal goals is to bring Polity back to the students because it is supposed to be student run and student organized. He wants to put students back in charge of their money.

Newly elected president Akelia Lawrence also feels that the election process was a success. "This has been the highest voting turnout since 1997 and some of this has to do with the advertisement," Lawrence said. Advertisements were done by e-mail, fliers, word of mouth and phone mail. Lawrence predicts the voter turnout next year will be even better.

To prepare for next year Lawrence is in the process of sitting down with council members and students to see what things need to be changed for next year and what things they need to accomplish.

Lawrence's main goal is to unify the clubs and organizations and let them know that they represent student polity.

BLACKWORLD'S Tips for Finals

By: Kenneth Pierre-Louis
BLACKWORLD Staff

Many students are stressed out because of finals. Most of them are worried that they are going to fail and might not be able to graduate. On that note, here are some tips to help you alleviate the stress of finals and thus, save you a trip to the hospital.

Tip # 1

Plan your time carefully.

Tip # 2

Use planners and write down appointments.

Tip # 3

Schedule time for studying and time for breaks.

Tip # 4

Don't work at your job too much...you're in school to study and not to work at your part-time job. Most employers understand the schedules of college students and will accommodate you requests.

Tip # 5

Plan ahead to get projects done in a timely manner. If too much is due at once, ask your professors for any possible extensions...they usually understand too!

Tip # 6

Study in a quiet section of the library or your building.

Tip # 7

If you are in danger of failing do not accept it; speak to your professor. There is always a way to make it, even if it's the week of finals. Show the teacher that you care and maybe he or she will give you a chance.

Tip # 8

Allow yourself time in the day to be sociable. Sometimes talking to your friends helps calm your nerves. You also have to understand that you are not alone in this. There are many other students just like you, so don't be worried. You need to be strict with your time during finals week, but that does not mean that you have to

stay locked in your room for 24 hours a day.

Tip # 9

Eating healthy is a major part of being sharp. A healthy body equals a healthy mind. You need as much energy as you can get. If you eat too much junk food you will be sick, then you will really have problems. Feed your body good brain food and let your mind do the rest. Some good foods are fish, chicken, salads, and turkey sandwiches. Your car won't run without gas and your mind won't run without the proper nutrition.

Tip # 10

Proofread all assignments and make sure they are completely done before submitting them.

Tip # 11

No one is perfect, if you are lost the best thing to do is to join a study group, if there aren't any, start one.

These are just a few tips you can implement to keep up during the week better known as hell.

Tattoos: Past and Present

By: Gregory Aime
BLACKWORLD Staff

Other than a 5000-year-old man recently discovered in ice the first evidence of tattoos leads back to mummies in Egypt. The oldest tattoo was found on the mummy of Amunet, a priestess of the goddess Hathor during 2160-1994 BC. The mummy's simple tattoos were parallel lines on her arms, legs, and an elliptical pattern below her navel.

Egyptologists believe that these designs were symbols of fertility and rejuvenation. The first known tattoo of a person was discovered on Nubian female mummies dating to 400 BC. The tattoo image portrays the god of sex and overseer of orgies, Bes. Another form of early tattoos was cicatrisation. The word cicatrisation derives from the French word cicatrices, which means, "scar".

This form of tattoos was common among dark-skinned people of Africa because tattoos changing the color of skin do not show up as well. Where contemporary tattoos involve puncturing the skin to inserting pigment, cicatrisation involves cutting the skin more severely to create wounds, which result in a decorative pattern of scar tissue.

A popular technique for scarring involves piercing the skin and rubbing the wound with ash



so that it becomes inflamed and later heals as a raised scar. The wounds are then periodically opened, and some are even inserted with a pebble or pearl in order to enhance the raised effect.

This ancient practice has recently become popular in the United States. Though many people do not know the history of tattoos and where they come from. Most people get tattoos because it is popular. In today's society our generation has the highest rates of students getting tattoos.

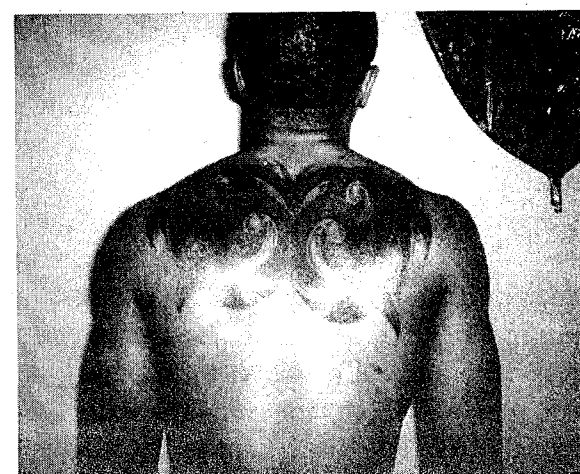
"My tattoo portrays my strength as an African American in today's society, my tattoo follows my famous quote, pain is weakness leaving the body," said student Patrick Charles. Another student, Crystal Kettrell said that her tattoo means "A person should live for today to seek happiness." "It made me realize that a person should

not take life for granted," she continued.

Tattoos are also used to send messages. A Stony Brook student, Max Pilet got his tattoo for religious purposes. His tattoo says "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Pilet said, "I wanted something meaningful to me." "I thought to my self why put something permanent that you can't look at and love".

The majority feel there is nothing wrong with getting tattoos, as long as it looks presentable. Although these students feel tattoos are fine they admit there parents or guardians do not know about them.

But there are also many students that don't



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"Leadership: Personal, Professional, and Global Perspectives"

By: Makarios Amerikanos
BLACKWORLD Staff

Marcia Ann Gillespie, former editor-in-chief of Ms. Magazine spoke at a women's leadership symposium on Thursday April 25, 2002, about fifty people attended the one and a half hour lecture.

From 1971-1980, Gillespie served as the editor-in-chief of Essence magazine, a magazine for African American women. She is the current president of Liberty Media for Women, LLC, which publishes Ms. Magazine.

"Leadership means that we are taking responsibility for our lives," Gillespie said. She talked about how her mom and dad influenced her because of their leadership qualities. Her mom and dad questioned things that were going on in the community and they voiced their opinions.

There is an importance of trusting your spirit and having quiet time. Gillespie pointed out the fact that a lot of women often don't credit themselves in the leadership roles that they take, like giving life.

Women often take charge of their children at home but when they are at their jobs they reform into a little girl and lose confidence and begin to whisper. "You can have the best point of view in the world but if it's whispered no one is going to hear a thing," Gillespie said. "If you don't talk with power and confidence then you don't show any confidence

in yourself," she added.

Marcia also talks about women and people in general dealing with their passive aggression. "We have to leave our passive aggression." She says that been suppressed like racism then the people have developed certain survival tactics to handle situations. Those survival tactics can only get you so far. If you want to step forward and make a change then we have to leave some of those survival tactics. You have to be able to deal with people that disagree with you.

Part of leadership is being clear about what you stand for so what you see is really what you get. We have to be prepared to engage in struggle and define what we are talking about.

Gillespie says that if you want to be a leader you have to be clear about the facts. You will have to do your homework. "It is funny that most people can't even find Afghanistan on a map or don't even have a clue on how to spell it," Gillespie said.

We can't be leaders if we aren't consistent Gillespie said. "What kind of leaders are we going to be if we are ignorant and if we aren't constantly questioning the world we live in?" Gillespie asked. "What kind of country are we if we are not a country of compassion?"

"To whom much is given much is required," Gillespie said. She says we must fill our cup first before we try to feed everyone else. Women are

always taking care of others but they have to learn to take care of themselves first so they don't get left with an empty cup.

In closing Gillespie listed the characteristics of a leader. A leader must be honorable, find his spirit and trust it, be of service to others, learn to work with others, learn to listen, learn to take notes, know his values, enjoy what he does, be smart and not shameful, do the homework and not be ignorant, among other things.



A Stolen Dream

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feeling. And I thought that no matter what, my heartache could find some solace in the words I was giving.

Months began to pass, and my dreams seemed to become more visible. I was even asked could I possibly direct it. Auditions were set for my play and another one. With a horrible advertising strategy at the hands of the Committee, I saw myself facing the possibility that what I was working on for the past few months would not ever occur.

I began asking people closest connected to me to audition for the roles in this play. This was mistake two. I was so hesitant in asking them to participate, for whatever reason. I should have followed the feelings in my heart.

Auditions had passed and the play was about to go forward, only one problem. No one had a script. I had written my play at least four different times, in three different ways. And realized that I needed to produce something that was finite and reflected me. I submitted three scenes that I felt most

comfortable with. Not feeling completely sure about the ending of the play. What happened next, I will ask for God's help to understand.

The Committee decided to take the scenes and rewrite the play without my consent and hold rehearsals for the play without my knowledge. In a moment I was reduced from aspiring playwright to hopeless idiot.

I felt myself drowning, wanting to just die. I screamed, I yelled, I pleaded. But nothing stopped the production of the play. It was no longer my play. I spoke with great lengths with another member of the Committee, the only one that I felt I could relate to the most. She was a black woman, like myself and I saw something genuinely kind in her and felt that in the nightmare that I could trust her. We spoke and she told me that her intentions were not to hurt my play or me. So I trusted her and we began to redo something that was a tragic mistake. I made the conscious decision to work with them. Mistake three, compromising my integrity and myself for people who had done wrong to me. They stole from me, and I seemed perfectly willing to work with them to get some of my possessions back. All I can say, that

sometimes love for something can make you do some ridiculous things. And I loved my play, more than anything else in this world.

I went on a trip to Washington D.C. This trip was probably the most wonderful and enlightening experiences of my life. During the trip I met young, progressive people from all over the nation who wanted to change and correct all the wrongs of the world. They were bright and open-minded and being away from Stony Brook helped me to clear my mind.

I realized that I compromised myself and that I was stuck in a situation that I had never wanted. I wanted the play to go on and for my friends to be actors and actresses, but at what cost? My dream? My integrity? So when I came back from D.C, I had no wish to work on this play or with these people anymore and wanted to pull my play or change it.

So at a meeting I had with the Committee, I let all my emotions and frustrations explode. I cried, I screamed and like before nothing changed reality. They felt

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Mr. Sandman Answers

Dear BLACKWORLD,

I would like to thank Ms. Jemison for her great level of unprofessionalism and her inability to meet deadlines. I want to thank her for the two poorly written scenes, which she handed to me with five weeks left to the play date. I also want to congratulate Ms. Jemison for her sub par effort in writing "Brown Skin Girls" and for not keeping her word when she said she would have a completed screenplay for me immediately after the winter break. I want to thank Ms. Jemison for going back on her word and lying to the Play Writers Guild when she said, "I will no longer interfere with the play." I want the entire Stony Brook community to acknowledge how understanding Ms. Jemison was when she left us stranded with only two scenes that were not stage ready with only five weeks left to the play date. In reference to her calling anyone a rapist, her loose use of the term shows the lack of understanding, education, and respect she has for those who have been a victim of this tragedy. I apologize for stepping forward and "filling in the blanks",

by using Ms. Jemison's key themes and concepts to tie together her original unfinished screenplay with her consent. I'm sorry for putting together an excellent presentation for the Stony Brook campus, opening their eyes to the wonders of theater. I apologize for giving all praise and credit to Ms. Jemison for her original screenplay entitled, "Brown Skinned Girls." "Sisters: a tale of Friendship" dealt with several issues in the African-American female community. I apologize to all those who came out to the play and enjoyed it. I'm sorry that my hard work, sleepless nights, and academic sacrifices did not go in vain and that I did my job to the best of my abilities. With five weeks left to ShowTime, I had to step up for the sakes of my cast, the Play Writers Guild, Black Womyns Weekend, and most importantly the Stony Brook community. The annual play had to uphold its long lasting tradition. The show had to go on. The hard work and devotion of the cast could not go in vain. I'm sorry Ms. Jemison could not see that. I'm sorry, that you're sorry.

Thank You,
Brikenner Jean-Gilles ThePresident

No Pride in Halle Berry's Oscar

**An Interesting perspective....
from an African American man.**

I take no pride in Halle Berry's Oscar win. As an African-American man, I find nothing to be proud of in actress Halle Berry's recent Academy Award nomination. I haven't even seen the film, so it's not that I don't think her performance deserves to be recognized, nor is the significance of her nomination, and its potential for opening up more doors and attitudes for black actresses, lost upon me.

I simply find the premise of "Monster's Ball," in which a character played by one of our most prized beauties, falls in love with a racist white prison guard, played by an actor named Billy Bob no less, which led her late husband to his execution, is deliberately insulting. With its profanely incongruous and utterly implausible scenario, the plot of this film is a sneering, in-your-face taunt to all black men.

Imagine the seething indignation that a Jewish man might feel while watching a story in which the widow of a Nazi concentration camp victim has an intimate relationship with

the SS officer that shoved her husband into one of those ovens at Auschwitz!

And for Ms. Berry, "Monster's Ball" is unfortunately just the latest screening, at least since 1992's "Boomerang," in which we must endure seeing her in the throes of passion with white men. Her character boldly exposed her breasts to a white man in the movie "Swordfish," another got down with an old white senator in "Bullworth," and had two white men, husband and lover/co-conspirator, in playing "The Rich Man's Wife."

Of course portraying Dorothy Dandridge required Berry's character, as Dandridge once described her own romantic/marital relationships, to 'throw (herself) at white men. It seems like that's all Hollywood will throw at Ms. Berry.

I don't think that it is mere coincidence. The motivation behind this phenomenon is clearly rooted in the legacy of slavery. Many plantation owners were notorious sexual predators who forced themselves upon slave women and girls of their choice at their leisure, and their men were powerless to stop

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TATTOOS

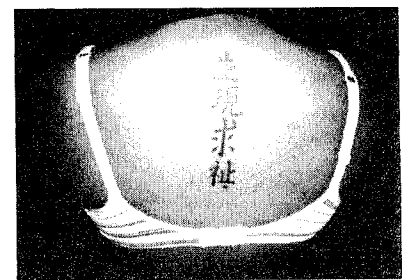
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believe in tattoos. A concerned student, Theresa Wilson said, "It makes no sense to get tattoos, it shows that you have nothing better to do with your self." "It is also against the bible to mark your body," she continued.

There are always a few questions people have before getting tattoos: Does it hurt? Where does it hurt most? These are usually the first couple of questions most people ask. The simple and truthful answer most give is "Yes, it does hurt."

However, the real question to ask is "How much does it hurt?" Most people say it is not as bad as people think. Magdalena Baptiste, who has a tattoo of a tiger on the small of her back, said "The anxiety you feel prior to getting the tattoo is the most uncomfortable part." "But a couple of minutes into getting it you realize it doesn't hurt as much as you thought it would've."

This is because your body protects you from pain by releasing endorphins (pain killers), which



eases the pain. But as the pain varies from person to person it also varies from the part of the body you get the tattoo on.

Areas where you have lots of muscle absorbs the needle better so it hurts less. Places right above the bone are more likely to be more painful than other areas, just like places with a lot of nerves.

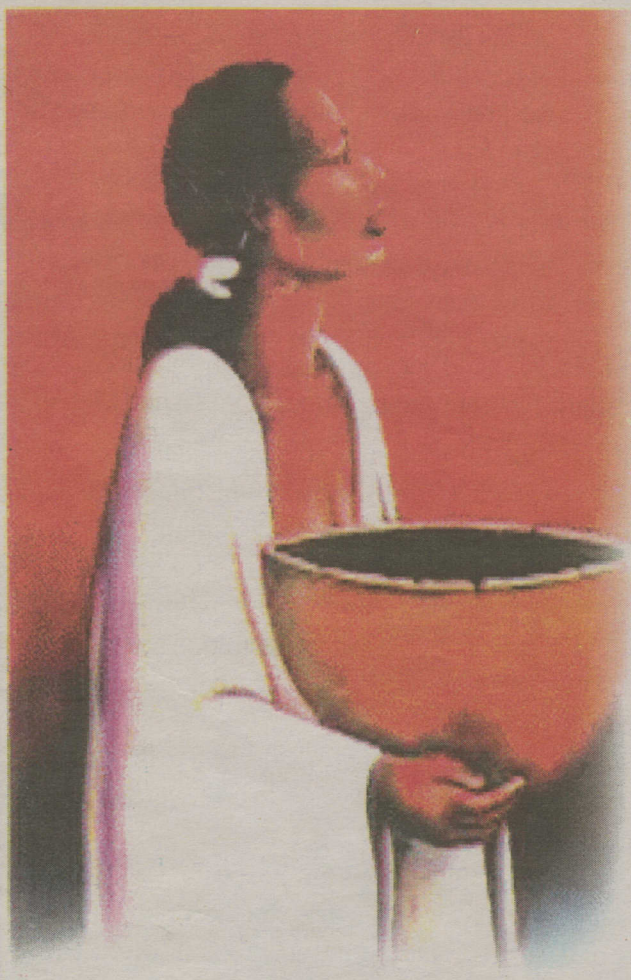
Often times people want to remove their tattoos because they have the name of a lover they are no longer with, received it in a drunken haze, or simply fell out of love with it. Modern laser technology can effectively remove most tattoos within a few visits. Removal is very expensive and leaves some scarring but laser removal is the best method of removal.

A tattooist is not skilled to perform this service; only a certified medical doctor is. A tattooist can only cover an existing tattoo with another tattoo.

Falling out of love with a tattoo is not the only concerns people have. A lot of people have health risk concerns. AIDS is the major concern that people have. But there has never been documentation of someone contracting AIDS from tattooing.

It is highly unlikely, but it is still possible to catch if people are in a tattoo parlor that is unsanitary. In a professional licensed tattoo parlor that is sanitary, there is a small chance of getting the AIDS virus.

As you can see many people have different views on tattoos. It is your choice on what you do with your body, just make sure you fully consider all of the pros and the cons.



Too Soon

*Young sisters yearn to burn
The candles of womanhood too soon
Searching for love and affection
They are easily swooned
Till their flat, girlish bellies balloon*

*Young sisters drown grasping for straws
Of indifference, that lack love and
tenderness
Too soon they give birth and very often they
curse
At their kids, not knowing why*

*And then babies who have babies often cry
Afraid and alone, with the selves they've
never known
While young fathers hang out on corners
Clutching their nuts, watching other butts*

*While their seed, continues to bleed
They wither before budding, and then die
Do young brothers know why?????*

By: Yusuf J. Lee

RHAPSODIES

Z PHI B Call to Sisterhood

*There comes a time in all of our lives
When we have to push, pull, and strive
We won't know how to make it through
There will be times we just won't know
what to do*

*For those times there is something we
must see*

*There is no longer I—but, us, our and we
This is when the call to sisterhood comes
into play*

*When we remember we are one and we
can find a way*

*The call to sisterhood means to be there
when no one is around*

*This means we must lift each other up
when we are down*

*We realize that we may not always get
along*

*But being sisters, if we hang in there, we
will always be strong*

*We will realize our differences and what
we have the same*

We should always be respectful, loving

*and never cast blame
We may get frustrated but this we should
know*

*We are sisters; we must never let anger
show*

*The call to sisterhood requires us to work
together*

*It means should we separate, we are still
sisters forever*

*As sisters we are to comfort and
understand*

*Realize our shortcomings; never demand
Never cause guilt, malice or strife*

*May we remind you, we are sisters for life!
It can be hard at times and we knew that
it would*

*But that is all right for we are answering
the call to sisterhood*

By: Lydia Luxama



UCC

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Speak with Facilities.

Once the members complained to Dr. Preston renovations halted.

After renovations ceased, the e-board and Aronoff had a meeting discussing viewpoints about the UCC. Aronoff and other administrators said that classrooms would not only help the space allocation problem, but being that the UCC needed a "make-over" for a while, the renovations would benefit both parties.

The board members gave their suggestions as to how the renovations should be if plans to go ahead with changing the UCC were still an option.

But the problem for the members lies here: plans are possibly still going forth with the space allocated to their organization without consulting or informing them or the rest of the student body as to what changes should be made, if any.

Because Dr. Preston does not have direct control over the situation the board members are going to take their case to President Kenny at a meeting on Monday, May 13.

During the forum, UCC President Kathy Henry dispels rumors of the UCC being shut down with the clarification that the Main Center Room is not being touched. The Multi Purpose Room in Roth Quad is what is being questioned, not the organization.

But most of their programming takes place in that room. Although one-third of that space officially belongs to them for many years they have been

the only ones utilizing the entire place.

The board members are trying to compromise with Aronoff by saying if they agree to allow the space to be used for classrooms, the new changes should satisfy an environment that is "program-friendly" and conducive to the mission of the UCC.

However, what Henry and the rest of the e-board stressed is that they do not want classrooms at all.

But Aronoff is not going to make it easy for the members if their plans for classroom space are heavily considered. He said classes maximum amount of students is 125, but the minimum has to be 80. Aronoff did say he would contact different departments to find classes meeting those requirements. The UCC board members have also contacted departments but have not received much of a response.

Many students at the forum gave many heartfelt suggestions on what they thought should be done about the situation. "We were disrespected," said Rachel McNeil, UCC Vice-President. "If we work with them they are eventually going to take away the entire center."

She then went on to ask the forum participants if they should fight to keep it as the UCC alone or compromise with facilities. Henry said their main goal is to reclaim the space for UCC alone but the compromise would be to plan out a setup, not necessarily for classrooms.

The forum then became very heated as suggestions and rebuttals flew back and forth throughout the room.

Ayisha Young an EOP student said, "We need to go to President Kenny's office as a whole if they

are not listening to the e-board." Victor Escobores of Lambda Upsilon Lambda fraternity echoed her sentiment with his statement, "A demonstration must be in order."

IFSC President and a Malik fraternity member Patrick Blemur said, "We should draft a contract to have something in writing that we can hold them to, to solidify whatever the outcome of the meeting is." "If they do not honor the contract then we should take direct action," he continued.

Although some students felt that was a good idea, the remaining students said they were weary of making deals with administration. "Contracts mean nothing to administration," said Knisha Sharpe, Production Manager for SPAB. "If they did we would still have Polity Print Shop and not Kinkos." "When administration sees a lot of students get unified that's when they pay attention," she continued.

Henry quickly made clear to the students the actions the board wants to take. "Protest is the last option," she said.

Suggestions for the meeting with Kenny on Monday were taken to end the forum off. The participants said that the board should present her with an itinerary of projects that would take place during the day while the UCC is not normally in use. If their recommendations are not even considered then their last option could possibly be protest, but they do not want it to come to that said Henry.

"After the meeting on Monday we'll know what actions we will then have to take," said Henry.

Who's the COALITION?, We're the COALITON!

By: Kenneth Pierre-Louis
BLACKWORLD Staff

Many students wonder who is behind most of the talent shows, and plays on campus. These select few people are known as the Coalition (Community Of Alliances Living In Total Independence of Negativity.) Their mission is to change the face of the Stony Brook campus through artistic expression.

The Coalition started in the spring of 2001 with a few students who decided that they wanted to make a difference. The organization started to help many talented students come out of their shell the right way. Since the beginning of last spring Coalition has taken Stony Brook by storm. The students that are in Coalition feel that it is more than an organization; they say it is more like a family.

"Coalition is a beautiful organization that is changing the Stony Brook Campus for the better. It's uniting the talent and giving us all (no matter what race, religion, or sex) a chance to shine," said Dahlia J. Anderson.

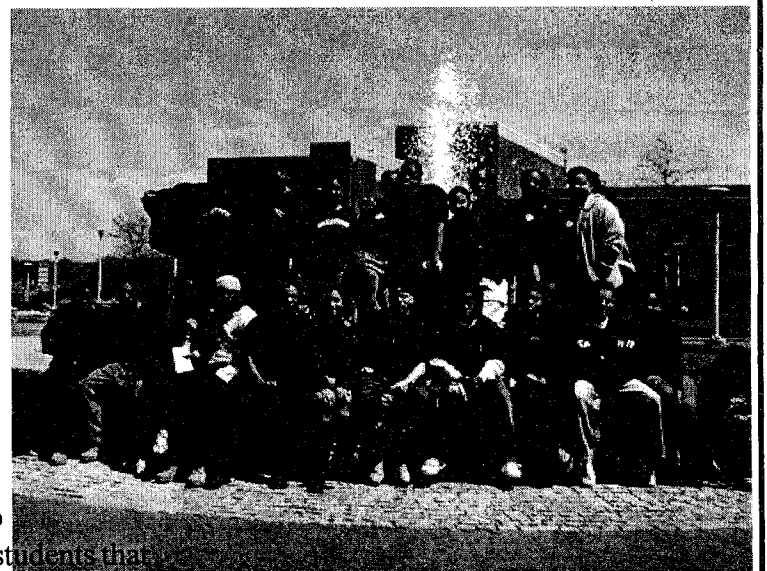
The Coalition has set meetings every week to discuss how they can better the Stony Brook campus by bringing out

its diversity.

This newly formed organization has already brought many different events to the campus although it is only PSC funded. What this basically means is that this organization is not funded by Polity and has a very small budget to work with. Just to show you with the little money they had, they not only held numerous successful events on campus but they also created their own audio CD consisting of many different students that attend Stony Brook.

The Coalition is really working hard to be funded by Polity. This way they can do more for the campus in terms of everything.

Although this organization is just a club many students feel it is more than that. "Coalition is the unity this campus needs and the family I've never had," said Blair Robinson, Coalition member.



The Coalition plans to expand into many different chapters and spread to many different schools. They have also received many awards for their activities, including an award from Polity for "Best Programming." For anyone that would be interested in joining Coalition it is not a joke," Coalition said.

A Stolen Dream

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they had given me the chance to "prove myself" and give them input. I didn't want the chance; I wanted to be able to have my play. With my input or not, the play was going to go on.

I became so sad; I did not know what to do. I had not spoken to anyone about my feelings prior and decided that maybe that was the wrong decision. I let people know what happened, and how I felt. Mistake four. If you are going to be outspoken and vocal, always be outspoken and vocal. You cannot be silent, then vocal. I let cast members know the situation, a very 'PG' version of it. And even in speaking to them, I still encouraged them to do the play. I was an idiot.

I wanted to please everyone so much, that I neglected to please myself. I even tried to contact the person in charge of the Black Womyn's Weekend Program. She was very direct in her manner, choosing her words carefully. She seemed quite sure of herself, and that was enough to make me believe that she could help me. I told her the situation and she promised to call me back after speaking to other people. She never called me back. I called her relentlessly seeking her input, but she was never home.

When I finally spoke to her, she dismissed my cause and me with profanity, ridicule and arrogance. I was insulted and demeaned by a person over the phone. My next line of action was to try again to speak with members of the Committee, in particular, the one member that I felt closest too. She was angry with me, and I was angry with her. But in my anger, and through all this I still wanted to make things right, solve everything.

Mistake five. She wouldn't give me the opportunity to work with them on my own play, because I was not able to "prove myself" earlier to them. I then asked for them to at least change the name of the play and characters. I asked the rapist, to be careful how he raped me. It was agreed and I walked away from the play. What a ridiculous situation.

Let me backtrack. I needed permission to give input on a play that I had originated. That drove me to near insanity. I trusted no one; I did not care for anyone. And I wallowed in sadness and humiliation for a long time. Not able to speak to many people and secluding myself from the one thing I cared about the most, my dream.

The play went on. I believe it was a success, though I could not bring myself to see it. It was such a gross misinterpretation of my original ideas that I could not in any way bring

myself to that auditorium. My friends were able to be actors, at the expense of what, I do not know. The names of the characters that I asked to be changed, for the most part remained the same.

The Committee was able to produce a play and get accolades about how great it was. I received no mention, no plaque, no meaningful acknowledgement or apologies and I was the black woman behind the Black Womyn's Weekend play. So what now?

I realized a few things. First, that the horrible situation that occurred was due to mistakes done by the Committee and myself, no party is more innocent or guilty. Second, that the Lord has a path for us all, and my path will lead to me writing a play again one day. Third, is that I realized who my friends are and I thank them for loving and supporting me. Fourth, to all the people that raped me of my thoughts it will be okay because I still have the talent that you did not have to write your own play.

This is my story, in all its glory. If you ever feel raped in a way that you cannot understand, I understand you and remember that what they took is not as important as what you learned. I love you Mommy.

White Student Pardoned for Using 'N' Word

By: Davey D

BLACKWORLD Contributor

A major WACK Award goes out to those who insist and continue to use the N word. Whether you spell it NIGGER or NIGGA, you still get the WACK Award. Weekend before last, the ridiculous logic of using this word came back to haunt us.

A San Jose, California judge allowed a white student who committed a hate crime against his black female teacher off the hook. His defense reasoned successfully that the white guy did not commit a hate crime when he vandalized school property because he spelled the N word N-I-G-G-A and not N-I-G-G-E-R. Yep, the white guy used the "friendly" version of the word and got away with it.

Dude wrote 'Thanks Nigga' and had an arrow pointed to the teacher's name. For those who are still shaking their heads in disbelief, here's what went down. A white student at a San Jose high school got upset with his African American teacher for suspending his white friend. In retaliation he spray painted a school wall with the teacher's name and the N word which was spelled N-I-G-G-A.

The police were upset. The teacher

was upset and the community was appalled. Dude goes on trial for this hate crime and his defense attorney brings in some witness to testify to the judge that there is a difference between the two spellings of the N word. The judge listens and lets the white dude off and says no hate crime was committed and thus a dangerous precedent is set.

San Jose's Black Police officers association were extremely upset over the ruling. After all, they know all too well what this will lead to.

Next time some cop pulls you over and hurls the 'N' word he can get off by saying he said N-I-G-G-A and not N-I-G-G-E-R. Should you be careful before you file a racial harassment suit against a coworker or an insensitive boss?

After all, he or she may actually be using the 'NIGGA' spelling of the word.

I couldn't help recalling the speech that Minister Farrakhan gave at the most recent Hip Hop Summit in LA. He emphatically warned us, "If we keep putting something out there we will one day have to answer for it." This recent court interpretation of this hate crime and the use of the N word was proof. Think about it.

**CONGRATS
TO
ALL
THE
STONY
BROOK
GRADUATES
OF
2002**

Halle

continued from pg.6

it.

On today's plantation, Hollywood confirms that 'old times there (truly) are not forgotten' as they recreate those longed-for days of unrestricted dalliances with their chattel by casting the best looking black actresses with white actors.

At the same time they marginalize black men, both in front of and behind the camera, into cinematic inferiority and insignificance, denying them access to the opportunity to tell passionate tales of black people in love. Except for the all-black film adaptations of "Carmen" and "Porgy and Bess." The latter having been referred to by some black actors as a 'coon show,' "Dandridge," always near the top of any list of all-time most beautiful African-American women, never had an on-screen black lover, or an off-screen one for that matter, since only white men could advance her career.

Lena Horne never played opposite white actors, but felt compelled to marry a white man just so that she could more fully enjoy the accouterments of her show business celebrity.

Fast forward to 1992 with Whitney Houston who starred in the movie, "The Bodyguard." As one of the most successful pop singers in history, with cover-girl looks and proven crossover appeal, she could have



made a romantic drama with Denzel Washington, Wesley Snipes, Morris Chestnut, etc., that would surely have been a box office smash.

Instead, Hollywood produced a big budget heavily promoted blockbuster in which Whitney's character takes a white man as her protector and lover. I felt snubbed and disrespected, having to just stand by and let 'Massa' take my woman for himself, just like before.

Now let's flip the scenario as we consider the country music vocalist Leann Rimes. She is a beautiful, successful recording artist who surely will act (?) in movies someday. But can you imagine her first role being analogous to Whitney's,

that of a singer with a black bodyguard/lover? It's inconceivable! Why? I think it's because the media has so successfully demonized black men that the movie industry would run the risk of offending white male viewers with such a pairing. But they obviously have no such concerns about our sensibilities.

Angela Bassett, a critically acclaimed and enchantingly beautiful actress, was Robert DeNiro's character's girlfriend in "The Score." (DS's take: DeNiro is notorious for liking chocolate). Thandie Newton's character in the second "Mission Impossible" movie was shared between two white characters. (DS: Not to mention playing Sally Hemming to Nick Nolte's Thomas Jefferson) Even the original super-sister Pam Grier had a white lover in "Foxy Brown." (DS: And falling for a white bail bondsman who helped set up the murder of a black man, Samuel L. Jackson, in "Jackie Brown.")

The main purpose of the movie industry is to create fantasy, and it's pretty obvious whose fantasies Hollywood is trying to satisfy. I want to go to big-budget, action-packed, exciting, romantic, heavily promoted and critically acclaimed movies and see beautiful black women with guys who look (at least somewhat) like me, so that I can fantasize about them being with me, just like the white men do when they go see movies with beautiful white women like Sandra Bullock and Julia Roberts. Obviously Hollywood couldn't care less about what black men would like to see.

The sex scene in "Monsters Ball" is so graphic that according to Berry, her husband walked out of the theater. I feel you there, Eric. I don't even want to see it. We must remember that when the movie industry finds that a particular type of movie is successful, it makes a whole bunch more just like it.

So you can bet that if Halle wins an Oscar for "Monster's Ball," and maybe even just because of the acclaim her portrayal has generated, we can expect to see more movies with fine black women gettin' down with mangy, white redneck 'billybobs' that dehumanize and execute their black men; after all, vicious racists need love too. I find that prospect truly monstrous.

My spin on things:-Rachel McNeil

After reading this article and his objective, he sparked my motivation to write a short commentary about his thoughts. I felt that he had expressed many of the same sentiments I had always thought about.

This year's historical event of the Oscars definitely got a lot of people raving and vocal about the issues at hand. Was it an outstanding performance or accomplishment

that two fantastic actors Washington and Berry received awards for their roles, or was it due time, or was this a pity award and we won't see a moment like this for another 10 years.



Some can also speculate that this was some kind of conspiracy theory to blind us to what is really going on, you be the judge! In this day and age, it still continues to blow my mind that no matter how intelligent, successful, and talented, we are as people of color, we are still typecast in roles that diminish our value as human beings; and then the industry takes it a step further by awarding us for them, and not other positive images and outstanding feature films. WOW! SHOCKING, ISN'T IT?!

Times have changed but they have not changed entirely. Before the Oscars I have had discussions with people about issues like this one. One person brought up movies like the Body Guard or the Broadway play Aida, where white men are always saving the black woman. He even pointed out the film Godzilla in which he signified King Kong as a black man kidnapping an innocent white woman. These insights may sound ridiculous and funny to some, but I find this nothing more than subliminal messages if not just straight up racist and prejudice ideologies that swarm our television EVERYDAY!

However, the world is not as black and white as these statements and perspectives seem to be. Another friend of mine once told me that she ultimately sees the stage and media as venues for social change and I agree with her.

In order for us to mobilize and be proud of who we are and our accomplishments, we first need to see that we are deserving of such awards for the positive images we portray. In addition to also being aware of certain subject matter and setbacks in order to continue discussion among the public and hopefully come to a consensus about the world around us and the messages that are sent out to our society.

Quotable:

How far you go in life
depends on your being tender
with the young,
compassionate with the aged,
sympathetic with the striving,
and tolerant of the weak and
strong.

Because some day in life you
will have been all these.

George Washington Carver
African-American Scientist

JOIN BLACKWORLD

THIS IS A CALL TO STUDENTS OF
COLOR AND ALL OTHERS INTERESTED

BLACKWORLD NEWSPAPER IS
LOOKING FOR WRITERS,
COPY EDITING ASSISTANTS,
WRITERS, TYPISTS, PRODUC-
TION ASSISTANTS, WRITERS,
DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANTS,
PHOTOGRAPHERS

AND JUST IN CASE YOU ACCIDENTALLY GLANCED OVER THE WORD

WRITERS