

# BLACK WORLD



# WORLD

"KNOW THYSELF"  
SINCE 1974

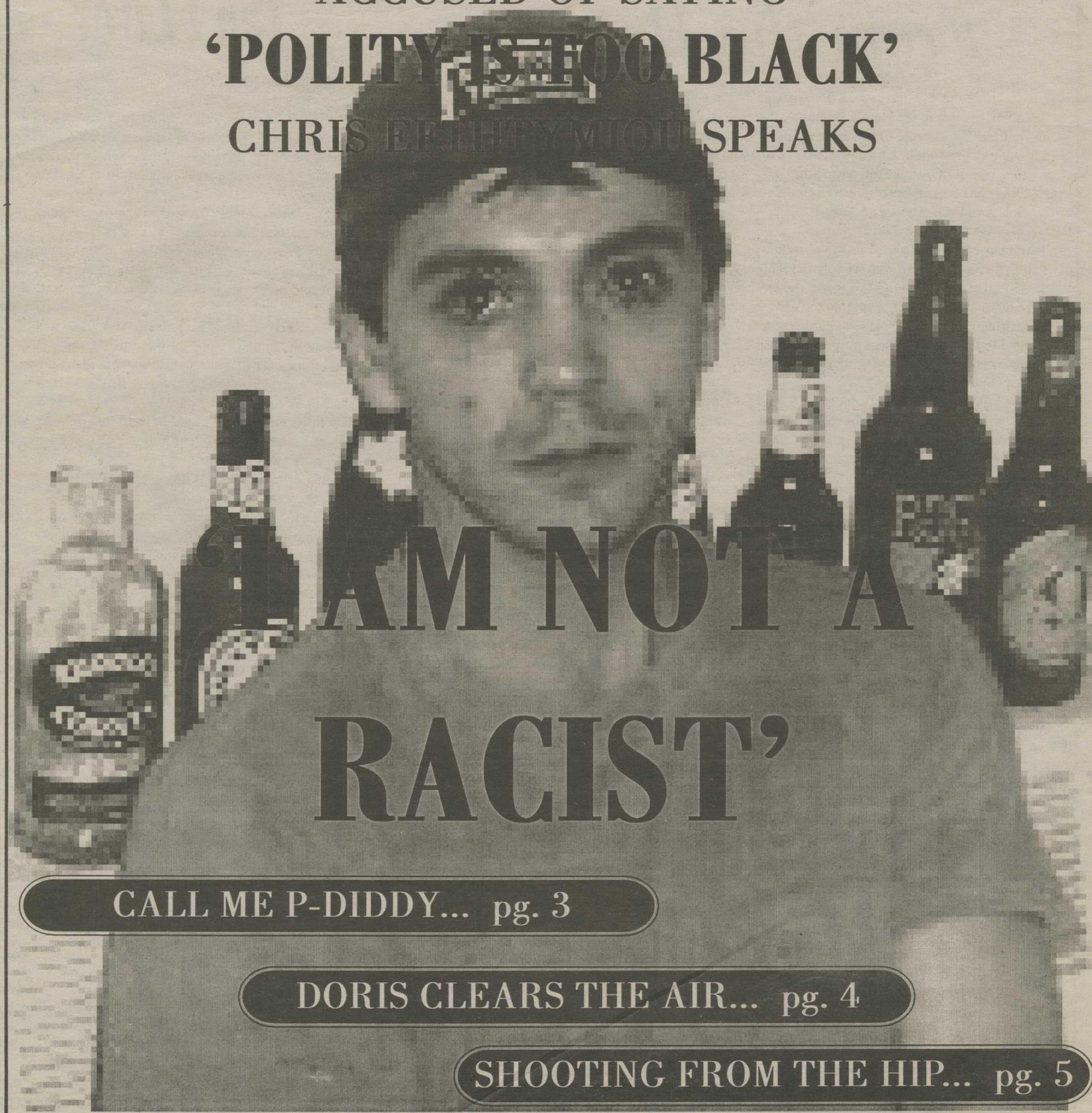
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AIN'T NO HALF-STEPPING

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## BLACKWORLD EXCLUSIVE: ACCUSED OF SAYING 'POLITY IS TOO BLACK' CHRIS EPHYMIOS SPEAKS

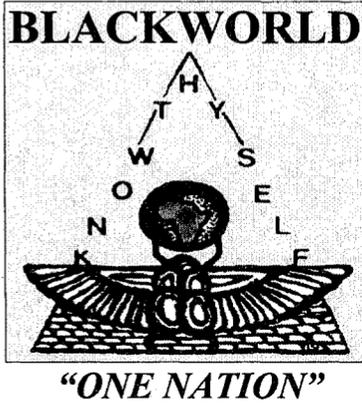


# I AM NOT A RACIST'

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# From the Helm:

It seems that the keyword for recent times has, at least in the black community, been corruption. The concept of government and administration being less than just in its dealings is not new, but in the past few years, the shadiness has been almost as overt as the lynchings and water hoses of the past.

On the national level, the disfranchisement of black voters in Florida was a slap in the face to those who naively thought that the days that we had to fight for basic rights were over. The acquittal of four police officers in the brutal slaying of Amadou Diallo again pointed to the almost useless purpose of our judicial system as it applies to retribution and black people.

On the local front, students at Stony Brook witnessed the hushing of scandal of the Polity impeachment, where intentions were concealed and agendas were carried out behind closed doors, despite "pacification" at the public

meetings.

We are faced with government that is getting sloppier and less concerned about the appearance of its affronts to the people. We are faced with a "president" whose "election" to the leadership of the country is pitted with corruption, and whose agenda is anything but in the best interest of the people.

But I believe that as long as we keep eyes and ears open to the goings-on of our surroundings and use our voices as conduits of awareness and change, we can combat the worst of any attempt to further disfranchise the people.

My name is Valerie Caesar, and I will be the new editor-in-chief of **BLACKWORLD** next fall. The purpose of this paper will be to expose and overturn any obstacles on our way to the truth.

VC

# TO OUR READERS

**BLACKWORLD** learned a valuable lesson about its audience when members of the editorial board read, "Politics, Corruption and Race" published in the April 12 issue *The Stony Brook Statesman*.

After Andrew Murray, the piece's author, criticized Polity and subsequently our paper, **BLACKWORLD** staffers quickly learned that sometimes, but not entirely, it matters what our readers think.

Those who argued that our coverage of the Polity drama discredited the paper's objectivity and moreover revealed Blackworld's social biases have likely forgotten that our paper is this campus' most fitting forum for the expression of ideas.

**BLACKWORLD** does not tailor or otherwise sway away from controversy - the nature of institution and much less our newsmagazine depends on it. One may not always agree with most things in **BLACKWORLD**, but

undermining its voice leaves our readers open to a greater evil - ignorance. And that by far is more harmful than four editorials.

☆☆☆

As this is my last editorial at **BLACKWORLD**, I would like to thank all of those people who support our newspaper through thick and thin - although at times it seemed more thin than anything. It was my baby and you labored through it all with me.

Thank you. I just hope that it was as important to you as it was for me.

Welcome the new editor, Valerie Caesar, as warmly as you did to me. She is a tenacious truth-seeker, and will propel **BLACKWORLD** into greater heights.

☆☆☆

Finally, we thank Mr. Murray for his comments, but will not take this opportunity to reply. FAREWELL all.

DAB

# Can I Live?

**DARISE JEANBAPTISE**

If I pay the \$200 deposit for room selection than why can't I get a room? If you've been at Stony Brook for more than eight semesters, then you might be able to answer this question, but if not, continue reading.

Meet Dennis. Dennis is a senior at Stony Brook majoring in Multi-Interdisciplinary Arts. Dennis lives on campus in Stimson College. Since Dennis has attended Stony Brook for four years - eight semesters. He is being affected by the dratted "eight-semester rule".

The "eight-semester rule" states that any student living on campus for more than eight semesters must find alternative housing plans if they should consider returning to Stony Brook. A few days before room selection, Dennis was received a letter that said that he would have to find housing off campus if he intends to return in the fall. The letter also stated that the University would assist him in finding off-campus housing.

Sure, most would think that living off campus means more freedom, not having to deal with quiet-lifestyles, nosy roommates, and untidy hall-mates. But for Dennis and many other minority students, who are not Long Island residents, living off campus is inconvenient. One of Dennis' major concerns is getting home after work. For him, work usually ends at 3 a.m. and driving home at that hour could possibly mean falling asleep at the wheel.

Latoya is in the same boat. She is a third year transfer student at Stony Brook. Transfer students are also affected by the "six semester rule". She can no longer live in on-campus housing.

Students like Latoya are given the short end

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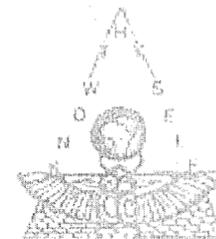
OP-ED

RHAPSODIES

ONE NATION

# Op-ed: The Puffy Question

## Has The Media Gone Too Far?



BY DUANE A. BOURNE

**T**HERE WAS A LOT RIDING on the illegal gun possession and bribery trial of Sean "Puffy" Combs, not just for the flamboyant 31-year-old CEO of Bad Boy Entertainment, but the boisterous enterprise of the newspaper business. It was one of many cases that proved that the media sometimes crosses the line.

First, Combs escaped criminal charges from the 1991 stampeding deaths of nine spectators at a charity basketball game he promoted. Then he was sentenced to a one-day anger management class in 1999 being charged with the assault of Interscope record executive Steve Stoute. Now, Combs has become big news by the same trend that has snared the tabloids – a mouth-watering hunger for celebrity scandal.

Maybe media coverage of big stars, moreover its most recent tendency of covering rap artists after the deaths of Tupac Shakur and the Notorious B.I.G., indicate that hip-hop in industry parlance is a big-seller.

"... About three dozen news stories and columns alone in the newspaper alone this month," *Daily News* columnist E.R. Shipp wrote in her March 18 op-ed, entitled 'Enough of Puff'.

I have personally collected 37 articles in *The New York Times*, the *Daily News*, the *New York Post* and *Entertainment Weekly* between March 8-24. There were nine pieces alone after the March 16 verdict.

Although *Entertainment Weekly* called this the "hip-hop trial of the century," the way the media handled the Combs ordeal has left an indelible mark on the public's perception of him. But this was not the first time hip-hop artists have been bludgeoned by media portrayals of them.

When west-coast rapper Calvin "Snoop Doggy Dogg" Broadus was acquitted in 1996 of the murder of Philip Woldemarian, who was shot in a drive by on Aug. 25, 1993, journalists had a field day with reporting Broadus' gangster lifestyle and criminal exploits.

Recently a flurry of intrusive reporting stemming from the December 1999 stabbing of music industry executive Lance "Un" Rivera prompted platinum front-liner Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter to release his latest single, "Guilty Until Proven Innocent." The media seemingly ignored the fact that videotape showed Jay-Z talking to another artist at a record release party during the time of the alleged incident – assuming his guilt before his felony assault trial began.

But the Combs trial set a precedence of sensationalism only to be reverberated through time. Every caveat of his life was uncovered. A simple gun possession trial has sparked countless pieces on his past, his breakup with pop star

Jennifer Lopez and his relationship with his mother, Janice, who remained with the rap impresario throughout the entire episode. P-Diddy, as he now wants to be called, was painted as a mink-wearing hooligan whose multi-million dollar business affords him the services of veteran lawyers Johnnie Cochran and Benjamin Brafman.



Is Puff really a 'bad boy'?

Undoubtedly, the six-week trial has challenged the media to dig deeper into the lives of public figures. Some like Shipp questioned why this incident in particular ever garnered so much attention in the newspapers and magazines.

"Even those who are not rap fans now know that his father was gunned down... Is there more or less than meets the eye here? Does this story fulfill a need to get up close and personal with the super rich and super famous? This trial has gotten more ink than a thousand neglect and abuse cases in Family Court," Shipp also wrote.

If the Combs trial was any indication of how the standards of mainstream media are skewed towards four-page spreads of titillating cover shots, then nothing is impermissible. Several newspapers have called Combs a "bad guy," even though he said in a March 17 *New York Times* feature that he regretted promoting himself as a "bad boy".

How did Combs, a black kid from Harlem who literally went from "ashy to classy" (a verse from a song he produced with the late Notorious B.I.G. that implies that he came from virtually nothing) become front-page news in every big-time newspaper across the country and the Internet? The answer is money. His Bad Boy empire grosses more than \$300 million a year, and now

includes his new clothing line, Sean John.

Depending on who you are talking to online media outlets have definitely taken the Puffy shenanigans too far.

According to *EW* writer Glenn Gaslin, "Supermarket journalism's appetite for celeb scandal seems a natural fit for a gossip-soaked Web" (Keepin' Tabs, March 30).

Or is it?

"Emphatically no," said Sean Gallagher, a senior producer of *The New York Times on the Web*. "There is no difference in newsworthy events between the printed Times and its Web edition. I cannot speak to practices of the other major news outlets on the Web."

But what can be said of tabloid Web sites that engaged in acts of unscrupulous journalistic practices during the trial? Most of them apparently fulfilled the one-upping standard most media markets strive for. One Web site in particular, clubplanet.com, ventured away from captivating enterprise reporting to recreate the scene of the alleged Dec. 27 Club New York shooting in a feature entitled "When Rappers Attack". Now that's taking it too far. This site not only assumed Combs' guilt, but proceeded to make light of a serious incident.

But when you thought it was all over, he is back. Combs now faces a \$2 million child support suit from his model ex-girlfriend and the mother of his children Kim Porter, \$1.8 billion worth of civil suits from the shooting victims and reports that he is trying to rekindle his romance with Jennifer Lopez. It is all fair game.

Nothing can be done to reverse the press' perception that celebrity news is above the fold – Timesian theory of where the top stories of the day appear.

If the fiasco has not scarred your image of newsworthiness, then it surely confirmed that there are no holds barred in the newspaper biz. I suggest that the media put more focus on world politics and local crime and less emphasis on our "much adored" stars.

Maybe it's true, "no money, no problems," like Combs said in the 1997 Notorious B.I.G. hit, of the same name. Or maybe it's more problems for stars, but more money for the newspaper biz.

## 6-8 Semester Rule

Continued from page 2

of the stick for simply having to complete their required credits in a longer period of time than designated. Apparently the "6-8 Semester" fails to consider the disadvantages that it puts on students outside of the Suffolk County which are mainly minority students.

A resident of Irving College, Latoya was also notified that she would have to find alternative housing right before room selection. With no car and a residence in Queens, it would have been exceptionally inconvenient for Latoya to commute to school everyday.

The "6-8 Semester Rule" seems to need some revision. In order to find adequate off campus housing, a student who in this case is most likely a minority must consider everything from



transportation, food, and rent. Fortunately candidates of the recent Polity elections plan to attack this issue. Students should know all those who are affected by the rule have an opportunity to petition to stay on campus. If this is

effecting you, it might be productive in the future to call Campus Residences. If not you'll be a\$\$-out.



# Clearing The Air

*Student Polity President Jonnel Doris Speaks Out About The Critics*

BY JONNEL DORIS

BLACKWORLD SPECIAL

"What is Polity? Is it just a student government? Is it just a bank for student groups and organizations? Is it just a resume builder for those involve? Is it just a bunch of over zealous individuals with very large egos? Or is Polity you? Wen if you did not know the later is correct. Polity is you. Every student pays a mandatory student activity fee that is put into a pool. The Polity treasurer alone with the Polity Senate creates the budgets for each recognized student club and organization.

The individuals in Senate are elected by each of the 26 buildings on campus and about 28 students that live off campus from the Commuter Student Association. Every student group that receives polity funds is considered apart of polity, for those who think that they are some separate entity and consistently use Polity in reference to Polity Council. Council is just one piece to the Polity puzzle. We have our Senate, which is the legislative branch. We have our judiciary branch that is headed by a chief justice. Each branch has its role. Senate's purpose is to meet and review legislation of Student Polity Association. According to the Constitution that we follow Senate is also responsible for addressing the different issues and concerns of our student body. Polity Council is made up elected officials who are elected in Polity general elections. Polity Council is the executive branch whose role is two fold. First it deals with the day-to-day operation of Student Polity Association Inc. Secondly according to the Constitution and the FMP&P, which is the operational manual of Polity, has the power to write policies and procedures of Student Polity. Now that we have a brief overview of Polity here are some sever concerns that I have with the individuals that I will now refer to as the "critics of Polity".

Those individuals that criticize Polity on a daily basis really concern me. As president of Polity it puzzles me that must of our critics are those directly involve in Polity. These individuals are not just members of Polity but seasoned members. The "Critics of Polity" benefit from its wonderful tradition of student activism. They benefit from the fact that Polity is a separate corporation from the University. They benefit when they are quick to put Polity on their resume. Yet on a daily basis they seek ways to criticize Polity. As president I am appalled by such unproductive behavior. We know that no system is perfect, but the "Critics of Polity" continue to bite the hand that feeds them. They bash Polity as if the students involve have no sense of morals or capabilities to run it. So how is Polity still functioning with over 120 student groups and organizations under its belt? How does the corporation run on a day-to-day basis? Professional and student staff is accounted for. We deal with auditors, lawyers, executive staff, insurance brokers, accountants, lawmakers and university officials everyday.

If Polity is as bad as the "critics of Polity" say it is how come we accomplish great measures for our students. How come every cent in the 2.2 million dollar budget is accounted for? How come now more than before Polity has a direct say in what administration is doing. Students don't believe

the hype. I am upset every time I read some piece of media where student leaders within Polity are running it down. None of the "critics of Polity" have ever experience what those that work in the Polity suite go through. They just sit from the outside and complain. They have not taken the steps to help the situation but harm it. Our critics have used every source they can to become part of the problem.

I personally chose not to respond to the mayhem that was taking place in the past two months. I did this for several reasons. Firstly, I really believe in the system we have. I trust that in the end the truth will come out like it did and justice would be served. Secondly, unlike the "critics of Polity" I know that responding to the turmoil would add to students discuss with the situation and loss of faith in Polity. Thirdly, because I am a person of integrity. From my previous role as the director of the Stony Brook Gospel Choir for three years, to the three years I have been a resident assistant, I have proven this. Every position that I undertook in Polity I have maintained that integrity. Fourthly, I really did not have the free time to encourage or feed the "critics of Polity". Lastly, someone had to play the calm and rational one. Now that things have really got out of control and our critics have step out of line with miss-truths and false information I must respond.

Ask our critics what exactly have they done for Polity. Ask them what issues other than their own agendas have they addressed. Ask them, how their constituents that they represent feel about their actions.

Ask them what have their actions accomplish other than increasing the discourse amongst our student body. I really have concerns about people who seek after their personal trills at the expense of others.

Well if you were worrying about what Student Polity Council has done let me give you a brief overview. First if you take a walk over to the infirmary you will see that there is construction taking place. Yes that's more parking for our students. Unlike our critics I will give credit where it's due. CSA and RHA did help in prioritizing when and where parking should go up. Council members sit on numerous standing committees such as FSA Board of Directors that governs the actions of the meal plan, bookstore, Identification cards, laundry machines and much more. University Senate where issues related to the university is discussed is another standing committee. Council takes part in committees formed by President Kenny. Members of Council sit on the Housing Committee that makes decision on housing issues on campus. We also have a direct liaison with campus police and to insure that every student's safety is guarded.

We have addressed issues of overcrowding in the dorms and classrooms with President Kenny, Richard Mann, Vice President of Administration, University Provost, and Campus Residence. We have fought for smaller classrooms and more Professors. We have formed an Academic Committee that will work with the Provost and the various deans of the different colleges, to deal with the lack of and condition of academic facilities here on campus. This committee will also look into the current curriculum and make suggestions for improvement. Council has addressed concerns in the area of student activities. A presidents meeting was called to get feedback from all the presidents of the various clubs and organizations on campus. This meeting took place on Feb. 21 in the Union Auditorium. Over sixty

student clubs and organizations were present. Questions relating to Polity procedures and SU&A procedures were raised. Constructive criticism was given to Polity and SU&A after this meeting a committee was formed to take into consideration these concerns. This streamlining committee met with members of Polity and SU&A and will present suggestions for change at the next Presidents meeting scheduled for Apr. 23. in the Union Bi-Level 3-5 p.m.

We have not just address issues pertinent to our campus but that of students both on the State and National level. Members of Polity attended several conferences with students from around the country. They lobbied elected officials on behalf of students. Council is also in contact with officials in Albany concerning getting our Recreation Center off the ground. We have a newly formed SUNY Long Island Conference with student leaders from the various schools in our area. By doing this we will form an alliance with various student governments and work together with them on issues specific to us as SUNY students.

I can really write a few more pages on the other accomplishments of Council this year. Just for the record if anyone questions the validity of these claims they all can be validated with professional staff, University officials, Council minutes, and students. So when the "critics of Polity" insist on accusing us of doing nothing and being corrupt my response is that the record speaks for itself.

Now, we have elections coming up and as your president I am asking that everyone go out and vote. We have to show those who don't believe in Polity that it can work. We are one of two SUNY campuses out of the over 60 that have a student government that is incorporated. This is being threatened by some of the powers that be. We cannot sit back and fight amongst each other constantly and expect them to take us seriously. They don't have to fight us because we do a good job of it ourselves. I love what I do and I know every Council member, every member of an executive committee, everyone that works for Polity does the same. You don't give up 15 to 30 hours a week of your time just because. Most of our critics don't even understand this concept. "Don't judge me until you walk a mile in my shoes."

Finally, as President I sent numerous correspondences to student leaders, club and organizations requesting that they apply for positions in Polity. We have openings in Student Polity Activities Board, Minority Planning Board, Programs and Services Council, Student Polity Events Staff, Student Polity Committee on Cinematic Arts and Polity Judiciary. So if you would like to make a difference, gain tangible, intangible and transferable skills then apply for these positions. And just for those that think friends appoint friends, the hiring process is always with a Committee (which consist of Council members, Senate members, SU&A and Professional Staff) and all appointments subject to approval of the Senate.

So far it has been a pleasure serving Polity and I will continue to do it until my office is up on May 18, 2001. Even though I personally felt that I was wrong in many ways I hold no grudges and still seek the assistance of my Critics, because after all we are all students and part of this great organization called Polity.

# FROM MY PERSPECTIVE:

*IT AIN'T OVER TIL IT'S OVER - AND THANK GOD IT'S OVER. THE LAST WORD FROM CHRIS EFTHTYMIU.*

*INTERVIEW AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY DUANE A. BOURNE*

**T**

**HERE WERE THE ACCUSED** – Doris, Johnson and Auguste. They have been cleared. There were the rabble-rousers – Murray, Zimmermann, and Fiore. They have since quieted. And then there's Chris Efthtymiou, the Greeley senator who was quoted as saying that Polity was "too black".

Perhaps he is a maverick. Or maybe, he's the bold, yet undeniably stalwart voice of reason in last month's Polity impeachment affair. In fact, people can mistake him for a lot of things. Except for one seemingly overlooked reality, he is not a racist. In an exclusive interview with **BLACKWORLD**, Efthtymiou dispelled the myths about him in order to closure to an exaggerated issue.

When it was all over, he was simply Chris.

**BLACKWORLD: Have you been wrongly accused?**

**EFTHTYMIU:** Absolutely.

**In your opinion, why were you called a racist?**

The people who accused me of being a racist are the real racists.

**Why were you called a racist?**

That undoubtedly was the race card. We have an expression called the race card for a reason. It's a tactic. It's identifiable. The bottom line is that the people who were accusing me of this were predisposed to look for something like this. They weren't listening to anything I said.

When you look at the statement I made about SPAB [Student Polity Activities Board], I said that the 'composition' of the SPAB was homogenous; was the way I first worded it. I only said that in response to Andy Auguste in the second committee meeting (and I am on record for making the motion originally for that committee) when he said that we were biased. I'm sitting at this table looking at our little diverse little group here and I'm sitting there noticing that all the students that are black. Then I say 'gee' who's calling who biased here? So I responded in kind, and I didn't even say it at that meeting.

**Was SPAB wrong?**

So here are all these non-racist, non-biased, non-bigoted SPAB members who don't even have the commonsense to find a different way to finance one of minister [Louis] Farrakhan's minion. Not only was there no dissent, but they tried to disguise it by saying it's Black History Month, and it's about Egyptology. If it were about the Nubians, maybe I could talk to you. But what they were going to do is a type of revisionist history that groups like the Nation of Islam are trying to spread around college campuses... Afrocentrism is a racist view that discredits Egyptian history and discredits Hellenic (Greek) history.

**But do you think that's racist?**

Of course, I think that racist... but when you see that there's only one person supporting a view and you see the entire establishment disagrees with that view, you have to ask yourself, what they're really trying to achieve.

The reason David Muhammed was here to talk about Afrocentrism was because of the racist religiosity of the message of Afrocentrism, influencing him trying to spread it to other people. They were trying to say it was about Egyptology, but they are not telling the truth...

There is no scientific basis for Afrocentrism; it's radicalized, racist, revisionist history. Then, they were saying that Muhammed was not here to talk about anything religious. I guarantee you that if Muhammed was not a member of the Nation of Islam, he would have nothing to do with Afrocentrism.

Then, they say on the flier that, oh, we didn't know that thing in Arabic was a religious thing... So not only did they try to pull the wool over everyone's eyes by saying that he was here to talk about something he wasn't here to talk about, they were saying that he was going to talk about something

that wasn't influenced by religion. And these are the people calling me racist... They are the racists, the ones who invited him.

**So in your opinion it had nothing to do with Black History Month?**

No, it had to do with an agenda. It was veiled.

**You mentioned conspiracy before, do you think that the Polity impeachment thing was this grand conspiracy people have made it out to be?**

I eventually went against the impeachment. The reason I went against the impeachment was because of the credibility of my group, the Senate. I couldn't go forward with an accusation when my group itself lacked the credibility to enforce it. I believe if we were more organized something much more tangible would have occurred. People got complacent and they wanted the path of least resistance. Once the race factor was brought into it, half of these senators turned into cowards because they fed right into it. There was some works to be done.

Remember this about the committee. Ask anyone that was on the first committee, I challenge anyone of the senators on the first committee from Adam Zimmermann to Gina Fiore to say who was the only person against that impeachment initially. It was me. All five of them were on the same page with each other. Adam Zimmermann wrote up the impeachment articles. I asked Adam, I said are these solid I'm new here... we're really jumping

into some stuff here. He said it was locked, airtight... I was the person who suggested a liaison. I was the person who suggested an oversight. Nobody else, it was me in between all the disrespect that SPAB showed to the process, I was the one in the second committee meeting who said that we'll need to continue this two more weeks. Nothing is getting done.

Now, you want to hear the laugh in it all. They tried to kick me off the committee.

**You mentioned to me something about Dr. Preston earlier. What's the issue with him?**

I engaged Dr. [Frederick] Preston about the conduct of SPAB and inviting the Nation of Islam speaker... When I brought this up I asked Dr. Preston about the impeachment, and how the student affairs director felt about this sort of thing, they've been calling me a racist. I didn't come away with a good impression of him. I said to him, 'you can't understand why I said that the composition of them [SPAB] was wrong'. If it was African history, I could understand. But this was Black History Month. But I said that the Egyptians were not black. And you know what Dr. Preston said to me? He said that 'white people should not tell blacks people about their history'.

I'm calling for him to respond to that statement, that he's not a racist. And if he's not a racist, he's an angry black bigot.

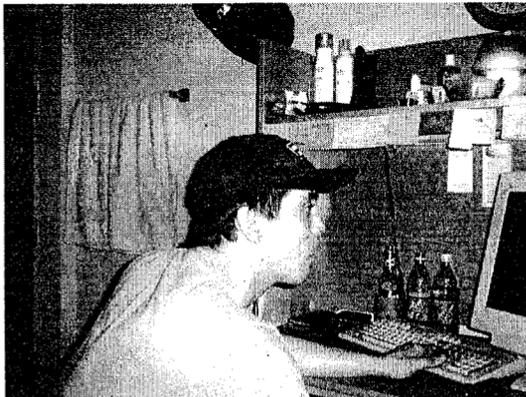
**What?**

It's not for white people to tell black people what black history is. If anyone's not shocked about Dr. Preston statements, I want them to reverse the tables.

**But why?**

The statement I made about SPAB's composition... because all you guys were all so scared that the race card was being played on me. Did anyone of those senators back me up and say, Chris it so not a racist? Andrew Murray [Commuter Student Association president] could have. Jonnel [Doris, Polity president] could have. They had enough conversations with me to know what I'm about.

So I was originally going into Senate and dump on the committee like



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# I AM NOT A RACIST

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guys you know what's going on here now... This is politics; I am not even going to bring up that this happened. A lot of senators don't even know that they attempted to remove me from the committee. But I kept it quiet. I wanted the credibility of the committee to be in tack. They don't know politics as well as me... I see a system that's working as well as it should. I don't see a system that's diverse. I don't see a system that inclusive. I see an old guard... So I have to stay with that because I feel a responsibly to that. I'm all about inclusion and diversity. I want everyone to get their piece of the pie. The status quo is not acceptable.

## And for Senate?

None of these senators would defend me. And now, one of these idiot CSA senators, tried to apologize for me. And I turned around and said, 'don't you apologize for me, I'm not apologizing and I don't need your apologies.' She's one of those brainwashed liberals who think that I'm some terrible white guy or something. The only person I told an apology to is me. I'm the biggest victim in this whole thing because if anybody was wrongly accused of something it was me.

Nothing tangible was accomplished. I am personally embarrassed by the Senate conduct, and I hope I can be more of a leader in the future. I hope that I can get some credibility back with the minority students. They're going to understand that I'm there fighting for everybody.

## I think that's what needs to be said.

People were ready to jump out and say he's the bad guy. It's so predictable, so sad... How am I going to reach all of those people? It's like being in the belly of the beast. I enjoy it.

I'm glad it happened because now they all know who I am. If I stick with it, it's going to work out. I knew this was going to happen. I have no regrets.



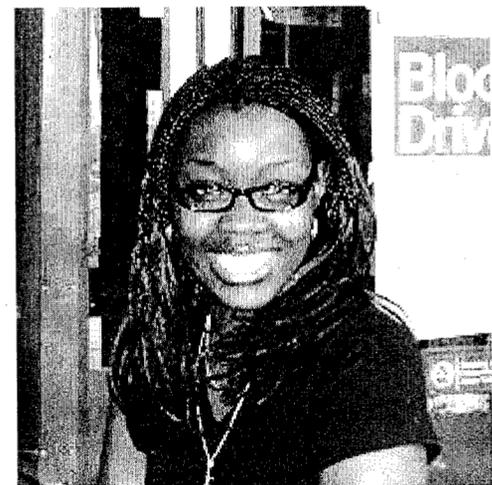
## OUR OPINIONS

Q: *What do you think of Polity?*



HASSAN ABDUL BAQI SPRUILL-  
SOPHOMORE, BUSINESS MANAGEMENT MAJOR

"It has a lot of potential as far as actually making the life on campus worthwhile, but it doesn't have support from students and Polity itself. It's not getting internal support there."



BUNMI OLOSUNDE-  
JUNIOR, ECONOMICS MAJOR

"Polity is a sham. It's a cliché full of friends. It's looking for the sophomores though. I think things get done, but if you have a discrepancy as a student, nothing happens.

There needs to be unity amongst Polity and students, instead of just Polity. Students need to feel that they have a place in Polity."

# SHAPSOODIES

## "Notes On My Mother: The Image of Love"

"She ain't beautiful...Damn, she ain't pretty" were the words that trailed after her as she strolled down the gray street, lightly swinging her hips from left to right, right to left, left to right. The faint shadow of a smile was the only indication that the words had not fallen on deaf ears. Laughing silently, she tilted her head up a notch, engulfing the image of a queen upon her throne, that even the (next word italicize) wind was compelled to obey. Laughing silently, she agreed, there sure wasn't anything beautiful about her. She was hot cocoa. Yes! That was the color. Now don't get it twisted, pure cocoa, not the one mixed with milk...pure cocoa, all over. Her hair...huh...(next word italicize) nap-py! Coarse as barley, the tight curls were matted into a fro and held by a lime green cloth tied on her forehead. She didn't believe in getting her hair permed. She held no affection for chemicals, and you can bet your last dollar, you would never catch her with a weave. She was (next word italicize) au natural! Her almond shaped eyes were huge, wide, glossy and hazel. Her lips were...Well, God must have been confused, because they're too full and succulent to be a simple heart shape. Her lips are that of a woman, a full grown-knows her worth-woman. "Hmm, there is nothing beautiful about me...just mesmerizing," she mused. She knew, as sure as the sun would rise in the east and set in the west; as sure as Venus is the mother of Cupid, she knew it. She was love and love was she.

Strolling pass the church with its white picket fence, she began to hum a soft hymn. Not quite like the one sang on Sunday morning service, nor like the one Harriet sang on the plantation. It was a hymn with no words. Yet there must have been words, because it was understood. The throaty sound could seep through the skin and vibrate endlessly in the hollow section of the heart, then massage and coax all muscles. Leaving its victim mellow and well loved.

Crossing the barren street, she continued. Passing the children playing hopscotch; passing the police car giving a poor soul a ticket; passing the men at the corner with their catcalls and the "Ohh you so sexy," measuring her rhythmic walk she continued.

"One more block," she silently calculated. Scanning the houses furtively, she searched for a familiar wrinkled face. Upon locating Mrs. Jenkins, a slow smile crept across her face. Not the smile the saleslady gives at Macy's when she asks, "May I help you?" Nor is it the smile one would give to a guest that has overstayed his welcome. No, this was the smile that makes you feel warm, loved, and embarrassed all at once. This was a smile that didn't ask for one in return, but demand it. With a "Hello Mrs. Jenkins how was your day?" she continued on her way. Allowing the raspy "It's going great, Sugar" reply to trail after her.

Slowing down, she measured each step she took. Knowing her destination was close at hand, she savored the way the brisk breeze loved her skin. The way the sun had eyes only for her. She savored it all.

Now, she has reached the pearly white gates that imprison our house. The only barrier between she and I. Opening the gates with one of "those" smiles, she reached out to me. Grabbing my waist, I was twirled lovingly in the air. Laughing gaily, I finally understood who she was and there forth what I was. She is Kerlyne and I am Frasilie. She is my mother and, I her daughter. She is the "professor of Love" and I, her faithful pupil.

*Frasilie Stinvil*

### *She Is The One*

All my life. I said to myself  
That one day I would find a lady  
Who would make me happy  
And who can look deep into my eyes  
And know what I feel is real  
But until today  
My heart has stopped searching  
Because as I close my eyes and pray  
My lord, I know she is the one for me  
A Blessing  
And she is whom my heart has longed for  
She is my soul mate, my destiny  
Someone who I want to be my one and only  
And I never felt this sure  
About how much I care for a person  
A Certainty

## *poesy*

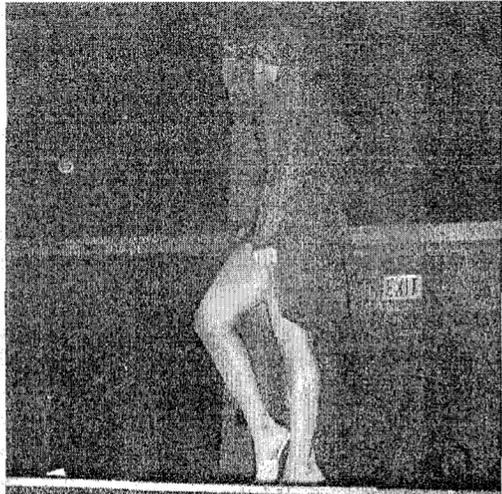


That she is the one  
And I think about her constantly  
And my kisses would love to embrace her face  
And I've never seen beauty  
So heavenly put into place  
And no one can compare to her  
Because her character  
Which is so perfectly put together  
Can only be described in one word  
Angel  
A rare being that I adore  
And I am so sure  
My Lord,  
She is the one...

*Andre Rawle*

# ONE NATION

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RODNEY MORANDI



*Latin Fashion: Show me what you're working with.*



*1...2...3...up the ladder.*



*More fire! The clash a' burn down da Brook*

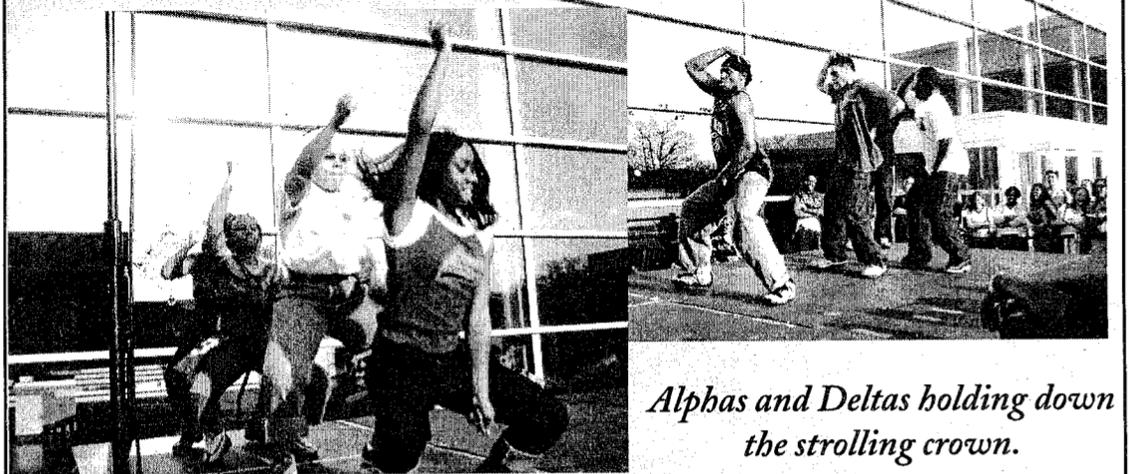


*All smiles!*



*The massive; ready fe de war.*

*Fire and Ice: Get ur freak on...*



*Alphas and Deltas holding down the strolling crown.*



*The crew chilling at Black Womyn's Weekend Makeover Day*



*Greek love! The Great Eight all the time.*