

BLACKWORLD

Fall 2001 – Spring 2002

BLACK WORLD

"KNOW THYSELF"
FOR OVER 25 YEARS

Published Bi-Weekly by Students from the State University of New York at Stony Brook

October 2001

ONE NATION

Volume XLII, Number 1

BROTHERS



ON THE D.L.

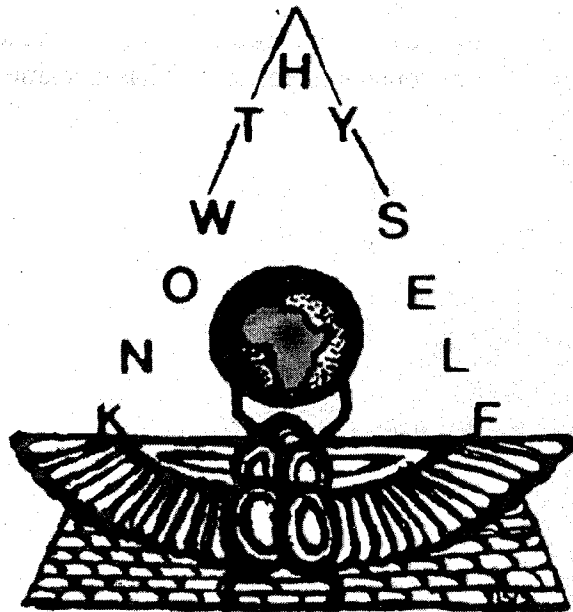
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BLACKWORLD*For Over 25 Years***EDITOR IN CHIEF***Yvonne Belizario***MANAGING EDITOR***Shaila Mentore***COPY EDITOR***Millicent N. Ugochukwu***CREATIVE ARTS EDITOR***Crystal-Joy Medina***CONTRIBUTING STAFF***Christopher Latham**Ralph Ulysses**Alexander Jean-Baptiste**Farah S. B.**Dennis Lozanne*

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From the Editor:

Dear readers, let me introduce myself to you. My name is Yvonne Belizario and I am the Editor-in-Chief of **BLACKWORLD** newspaper for the 2001/2002 academic year. I have been a staff member for the last two years. **BLACKWORLD**, however, has been a well-established news publication for "minorities" for the past twenty-five years. This is our first issue of this year so I'd like to take the time to commend the many young minds that have successfully utilized **BLACKWORLD** as a vessel of communication within our community in the past and present.

The continuity of **BLACKWORLD** has completely rested upon the voluntarism of impassioned students. These students, without monetary compensation or that of credits, have devoted their time to ensuring that the minority community is aware of the pertinent events and information that is often over looked or suppressed. Without scholastic prompting they have spent hours outside of their credit workload and jobs, to uncover and release vital information for you. They only hope to receive your support and understanding.

The current **BLACKWORLD** members are not seeking positions, post-college, in the field of journalism, however, with sincerity and without concern for awards we strive to "put you on" as the upcoming minority leaders of tomorrow. **BLACKWORLD** caters primarily to a black audience in the material that we choose to include in the paper as it pertains to you.

BLACKWORLD will continue to be that informational source for the Black community in particular and minorities in general where you can come to learn about your world in black instead of how others view you.

Support! We are one nation!

OP-ED

Christopher Latham
Statesman Editor-in-Chief

Here is one of the most moving and regretful realizations I have come to accept since terrorists attacked our nation two weeks ago: hypocrisy and ignorance are as integral to human nature as hope and determination.

Sadly, and ironically, that dismal truth is starkly evident among many black people, including my family.

More so perhaps than any other group, black people should reject notions of stereotypes and racial profiling. Did our parents and grandparents not spend decades fighting for our equal rights. Do we not still experience bigotry on countless levels?

Why then have some of the most ass-backward comments on how to deal with "Arab terrorists" come from the African American community?

God willing, that question has a simple answer. Maybe I just know some ignorant black people. I fear, however, that the views held by my acquaintances represent a broad sentiment. If that is the case, we have a serious problem.

It is ridiculous and foolish to become suspicious, hostile or mockful at the sight of a per-

son possessing Arab features. It doesn't take too much gray matter to realize that Arabs and Muslims died in the World Trade Center collapse, just as it doesn't to understand that the number of Arabs engaged in terrorism worldwide is relatively small.

And yet I heard one of my closest relatives say "those people just look like they're plotting something." And yet I heard one of my closest friends say "I'm not even getting on a bus if I see more than three of them together."

Come on, black people. We can do better than that.

I've heard the counter-arguments. That those words aren't to be taken seriously. That they would never be uttered to an Arab in person. Than hey, maybe it pays to be a little cautious right now. My jaundiced eye remains.

Each of those arguments fail to hold up. Here's why. Whether said in jest or in earnest, racial epithets are powerful tools of mind control. Calling someone a "bomb-packing camel jockey" might be intended purely for comic relief, but the notion that Arabs are somehow distasteful lingers in the subconscious. Worse yet, because it's funny,

the joke has the capacity to spread like an airborne contagion. Basically, it has the same effect as calling someone an "African tar baby."

The justification that these insults would never reach an Arab person only turns the speaker into a shady hypocrite. Where is the valor in degrading a person or group while sheltered behind the safety of anonymity? Isn't that akin to donning white sheets and burning crosses, only lacking some of the nerve?

And as for being cautious in dangerous times, that can be accomplished without prejudice. Be more aware of shifty individuals, not individuals that happen to be Arab. Stay out of highly congested areas, not areas with a lot of Arabs. Get it? It's not that difficult.

America might be about to enter another phase of xenophobia. It happened with Japanese during World War II, and it happened with Vietnamese during the Vietnam War. If the pattern repeats itself with Arabs, it would be extremely disheartening for black people to contribute to such gross ignorance.

Hopefully, we can do better than that.

Brothers On The Down Low

Millicent N. Ugochukwu
BLACKWORLD Staff

African American men who consciously deny and hide their sexuality are a contributing factor to the steady increase of AIDS among young, black women today.

Many are speaking up about a secret lifestyle known as the DL, or Down Low, in which (African American) men partake in homosexual acts while simultaneously sleeping with women. "Some apparently learned to like sex with men in prison and began dual sex lives after being released", says Steve Sternburg, a writer for USA TODAY.

Fear of substantial losses such as their families, jobs, status, etc. prevents many men from speaking up. In the case of black men, they are hindered by the taboo, within the African-American community, of making one's private matters public.

"We come from grandparents who said 'What happens in this house, stays in this house,'" says Sandra McDouals, founder of Health Outreach in Atlanta.

African American women unknowingly put themselves in danger by sleeping with men living the Down Low life. As an unfortunate result, black women comprise almost two-thirds of

AIDS cases amongst women.

The problem lies with these men who refuse to acknowledge themselves as gay or bisexuals. "They think of themselves as heterosexual men who like to have sex with men for a change", says Sternburg.

Researchers have uncovered that one in every 50 black men and one in 160 black women in the USA are infected with HIV. Sadly enough, this figure does not do justice to the accurate amount of infected men and women since so many do not even bother to get tested.

Many educators now aim their warnings and messages to women since so many men still refuse to reveal their identities. Women are encouraged to inquire about the sexual histories of their partners. They are also encouraged to suggest the HIV test to their partners and always remember to wear condoms.

Two decades ago, the AIDS epidemic dawned. From that time, epidemiologists have noted more than 754,000 AIDS cases nationwide about 283,000 of them among blacks. Furthermore, a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reveal that out of 8,780 HIV-positive men who had sexual relations with other men, 24% of the black men identified themselves as heterosexual.

King, an HIV-prevention consultant from Columbus, OH, is writing a pamphlet entitled "Secrets: The Official Handbook of the Lifestyles of African-American Men Who Have Sex With Men."

In this pamphlet, King will identify the different personality-types of Down Low men: the "Rough Neck Player; the most sought-after male; the *Brooks Brothers Brother*; a professional who will only deal with other men at his level or higher; and the *Bi-Curious Brother*; who has done prison time and likes to let someone perform sex acts on him. His excuse: curiosity", says Sternburg.

In this day and age, everyone is responsible for his or her own actions. Simply put: please protect yourselves and most importantly, own up to your actions.

Event: Derek Walcott

Date: Thursday October 11, 2001

Place: Harriman Hall, Room 137

Time: 6:30p.m.

Info: (631) 632-7002

About The Lecture: Derek Walcott is the recipient of the 1992 Nobel Prize in Literature. He is the author of *What the Twilight Says* and *Tiepolo's Hound*. This is a Provost Lecture Series entitled: "A Poet Speaks: A Reading with Commentary."

Event: Rethinking African Diasporic Literature

Date: October 11-13, 2001

Place: Student Activities Center

Info: (631) 632-6320

About The Symposium: Transatlantic, Diasporic, and Postcolonial Studies have opened doors for the exploration of literature that has been traditionally ignored by the academy. Fields of study relative to Afro-European, Afro-Canadian, and Afro-Latin literature in English have been overshadowed by the more recognized and established canons such as African-American, Caribbean, and African literature. The rethinking African Diaspora Literature Symposium will allow students and scholars to critically engage in a range of theoretical, pedagogical, and cultural issues pursuant to writers of African descent who are located throughout the Diaspora.

COMING IN OCTOBER

Event: The Neville Brothers

Date: Sunday October 21, 2001

Place: Staller Main Stage

Time: 7:00p.m.

Tickets: \$34/\$31 faculty, staff, seniors, students/
\$17 children

Info: (631) 632-ARTS

About the Show: Aaron, Art, Charles and Cyril have helped lay the foundation for the entire New Orleans music community and at the same time spread their unique R&B sound. The Neville Brothers thrive on an explosive fusion of diversity and unity.



Joshua Redman

Event: Joshua Redman, Jazz Saxophonist

Date: Saturday October 27, 2001

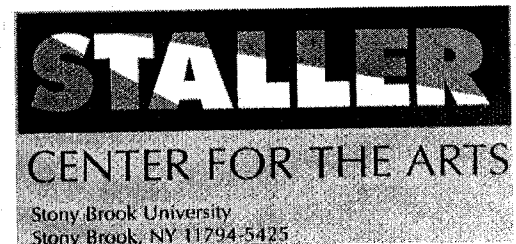
Place: Staller Recital Hall

Time: 8:00p.m.

Tickets: \$30/\$27 faculty, staff, seniors, students/
\$15 children

Info: (631) 632-ARTS

About the Show: Hailed as the "crown prince of the tenor saxophone" by the Associated Press, Redman has come to enjoy a meteoric rise in commercial and critical success since he won the 1991 Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Competition. Redman brings his acclaimed Quartet for an electrifying night of jazz!



The Freshmen Guide to Stony Brook

First and foremost, we here at BLACKWORLD would like to welcome all first year and transfer students to our wonderful world of Stony Brook. Now that you've been here for the first month here are some extra tips that might come in handy:

Universal Do's and Don'ts:

DO:

- Attend your lecture hall classes if you don't have a tutor
- Get friendly with at least one or two people in your classes...it's always better to study in groups
- Utilize the many resources that your professors provide for you i.e. TA's, office hours, tutoring, review sessions, etc.
- Use the gyms located in your quad...being that you pay for it, you might as well use them
- Get to know your RA...you might need a favor now and then
- Go to the library on the weekends...you'd be surprised how much work one can accomplish in only a few hours
- Attend at least one CSO party before you leave or graduate!
- Attend one or two or three of the recreational classes held in the sports complex on various nights

DO NOT:

- Study in your room...you'll only end up falling asleep
- Make it a habit of eating heavy meals after 2 a.m.
- Let a problem with a roommate or hall mate escalate to the point of confrontation...believe me, it will be a waste of your time and theirs
- Be afraid to cry when classes and life get to be too much...we have all done it!
- Take any 8:20 a.m. classes just because you woke up for your zero period classes in high school
- Say "next period", it is "next class"
- Wait for the bathroom pass, just get up and leave
- Compromise your belief system or your integrity just to appease someone else
- Smoke before or during classes

Drink any concoctions until you know who made it and what exactly is in it

GIRLS:

Do:

USE CONDOMS! USE CONDOMS! USE CONDOMS! USE CONDOMS!

- Be weary of the freshman 15
- Drink in moderation...you don't want to get stuck in a situation where you have no control
- Go to parties in groups...it's safer and a lot more fun
- Dress in what makes you comfortable, not what you think is in...people are going to hate one way or another
- Keep whore-like tendencies to a minimum

Do Not:

- invite (strange) guys back to your room even if you think they are "cool" or you think you know them
- Drink past your limit...you will learn how important your judgment truly is

GUYS:

Do:

USE CONDOMS! USE CONDOMS! USE CONDOMS! USE CONDOMS!

- Be respectful no matter how the girl looks
- Remember that courtesy and manners do go a long way
- Know your alcohol limit
- Watch were you stick it cuz you might start itchin'

Do Not:

- holler at every girl as though they are chickens on some corner

Parties:

There is always a matter of respect when it comes to students in parties. Simply put: no man or woman has the right to put his or her hands on the body of another individual. This rule applies to all genders and all ages. Regardless of how tight

the party is or how dark the room is, you do not have the right to violate anyone's personal space. **KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF!!!**

Alcohol:

If you are **UNDER 21**, you are not permitted to drink! Many come to college under the impression that drinking is an already instated tradition. Well we, here at BLACKWORLD, seriously encourage students to avoid alcohol, but if one must drink: please **DRINK IN MODERATION!** We cannot stress this enough. Take the initiative to think ahead and save yourself from impairing your judgment so severely that the repercussions are permanently damaging.

Relationships:

Stony Brook is a big campus. Yet, it would be your mistake to think that your actions go unnoted. Always keep in mind that no matter what you do, at least one person will know about it. So, watch who you call friends and most importantly, be very careful about whom you choose to share your secrets with. This is especially for all you potential booty-callers and booty-callees out there. Be as discreet as possible!

Classes:

Many will probably have already told you that attending classes is not really mandatory but let us be one of the firsts to tell you that it is. Pertaining to lecture hall classes, unless you have a tutor, or unless you have a developed relationship with your professor or the TA, you should be attending each and every class. It is your responsibility to stay on top of your work because no one cares if you do well or not...no one but you, that is. And for the freshmen that were told the first year doesn't really count, that is very untrue. A lot of seniors' cumulative G.P.As are still suffering from the mistakes made in their freshman year. So, take advantage of having easy classes your first year and get your G.P.A. up as high as you can, to make up for the mistakes you will ultimately make in years to come.

Drugs:

Do not put unknown herbs in your body and if you can...**DO NOT SMOKE!**

Call the movers, Building 'B' may finally open!

Shaila Mentore
BLACKWORLD Staff

After weeks of inconvenience, students assigned to building B of the new undergraduate apartments may finally be able to move in, on or around Oct. 23, officials said.

Construction of the apartments came to a halt in late August when the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York and the hired contractors, JM Dennis, could not reconcile differences. The University unfortunately has no control over who is hired and how the process is carried out. "DASNY is the middle man and we're at their mercy," said Baycan Fideli, Associate Director of Campus Residences.

DASNY has since hired Vertex Contractors to complete the construction of the apartments due to a bidding process that qualified Vertex. After days of studying the building plans and deliberating completion of at least one of the buildings, Oct. 23 was the best date Vertex could have given the University.

The average perceptual project takes four to five years; the University couldn't wait that long so they decided to work with contractors and design teams to come up with buildings that take less time to build.

The situation at Stony Brook is a unique one in that there are more students who want to live on campus versus the amount of housing available. Over five hundred students were tripled this fall because of the University's lack of residential space. "In reality we had more triples last year than this year," said Fideli.

The University knows what students are going through and that's why they have been working around the clock to detriple students.

The University is also compensating students by subtracting a hundred dollars every five weeks from their housing costs.

Construction is not easy because of the politics, unions and amount of money involved. The University states they have always been on or close to schedule completing their other projects. "This is one case where the University has no control," Fideli said. "Patience is the only remedy right now."

Rude Awakening

Farah S. B.
BLACKWORLD Contributor

Where would I start to tell you of that day? Where would I begin if I can't recognize the beginning myself? It began at different moments for everyone, I'm sure of that, but I can only share one perspective.

I didn't know where I lived until today. I knew though, that I did not live in Sarajevo. I knew that I did not live in South Africa. I had a belief though, I believed I lived in a land that floated above the clouds, the mecca of prosperity surrounded and supported by a chaotic world. So when I heard about it, I didn't believe it. How could it happen? How could someone get so far as to hijack not one not two but four or five planes, and then to get even farther in this great iron forged nation, to crash them into the heart of a city at the heart of the ideal western world.

I can now say that, "I remember the World Trade Center." I think that scares me the most. It is one of those institutions that you don't remember, for it will be there much longer than you will. A representation of the strength of an elite society, that was inhabited for the most part by common men and women.

Today is the beginning of the march of the dead. Not just the people that lay slain in the streets. Beside there slumped bodies, hopes and dreams and beliefs and good wishes lie dead where rescuers can not venture... in hearts of those left in this days wake.

This is what I mean when I say I did not know where I lived until today. Or maybe I have moved. Maybe yesterday I lived in a city that floated through man's sea of chaos untouched but yet in unchallenged control. We didn't live in perfection, but closer to the strength that resides in harmony and acceptance than anyone on Earth. I lived where my dreams resided; I lived where everyone's dreams resided, in a place that nurtured them. Anything was possible and those wars that were seen on T.V. were left to another world.

My dreams and I floated from day to day in a parallel universe, untouched by the realities of this one. But today my world and dreams unscathed for so long, exploded in a reality check along side the World Trade center and lie in the rubble there. And now I stand here naked without my make-belief ideals and visions in this New Third World. My own rendition of Sarajevo, my own rendition of South Africa... and if this doesn't compare I don't want to come any closer to my empathetic ideas than this.

S.P.A. Events Staff

NOW HIRING!

**PICK UP APPLICATIONS IN THE
POLITY SUITE, SAC 202**

Williams Family History

Ralph Ulysses
BLACKWORLD Contributor

Shoving aside any speculation as to who is the best player in her family, Venus Williams stepped on little sister Serena 6-2, 6-4 and successfully defended her US Open title on September 8, 2001.

Venus Williams won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open two years in a row in 2000 and 2001, setting up the first Grand Slam final between sisters in 117 years.

However, in front of a packed house of celebrities and tennis aficionados, she played a cool-headed, efficient match, patiently waiting for Serena to make errors and crack under the strain of trying to upset her beloved older sister in a Grand Slam final.

In perhaps the most spectacular U.S. Open final opening ceremony to date, dozens of stars from tennis great Althea Gibson to pop star Brandy turned out to hear Diana Ross sing God Bless America and watch the first ever US Open final contested between two sisters.

It was truly a historic night. This was a



bold prediction, for the father was a neighborhood tennis coach and he knew that the odds of this happening were astronomical. After all, no Black person has dominated the game of tennis since Arthur Ashe in 1975. No Black woman has won a major tournament since Althea Gibson won the U.S. championships and Wimbledon in 1957 and 1958.

Not only were two sisters playing against each other in a U.S. Open final, the women's final was being played separately from the men's. On that Saturday night, women's tennis would cease being a sideshow to the men's main event. It would truly come into its own and on prime time T.V.

Unfortunately, the play between the sisters was anything but historic. To say that Venus was

too much for Serena to handle would be an understatement. In a brilliant display of poise and sheer power – at the times serving at 115 miles an hour or more – Venus made sure that her younger sister remained securely in her shadow.

Only for a brief period in the second set was Venus forced to break a sweat, as Serena couldn't find the range on her normally reliable forehand and didn't charge the net with the same intensity that she showed in taking out Justine Henin, Lindsay Davenport and Martina Hingis.

Venus served with variety and power, keeping Serena off balance by consistently changing the distance and the speed on her groundstrokes. With each volley, she showed herself to be among the elite of women's tennis.

At the end, all that could be said is that the Williams were both winners. They entered the history books as the first sisters to ever play in the U.S. Open final. They won top honors on prime time T.V. When everything was said and done, they stood arm in arm in front of the sold-out crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium, on Center Court, waving to the spectators amid thunderous applause. On the biggest night in women's tennis, they were the stars.

WHAT TO DO WHEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE INFORMATION KIT

Courtesy of
100 BLACKS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT WHO CARE

IF STOPPED IN THE STREET BY POLICE...

REMAIN CALM

DO NOT reach into your pockets.

ASK why you are being stopped.

You can be stopped if:

1. You are running and a crime has just been reported in the area.
2. You are hanging around with some people who are under police investigation for one thing or another.
3. You are near an area where a crime has just been reported.
4. You are somewhere where an officer thinks people have no reason to be at that time of day or night.
5. You are acting in a way that appears to the officer to be very suspicious, and

you act even more suspicious when the officer sees you have spotted her/him.

6. An officer thinks that you have stolen property in your possession.
7. An officer stops you walking and you refuse to answer simple questions, give false or evasive answers or make contradicting statements.
8. Someone has pointed you out to an officer.
9. You begin to bad-mouth an officer.

DO NOT BECOME LOUD.

KEEP SOME LEGITIMATE FORM OF IDENTIFICATION ON YOU AT ALL TIMES. REMAIN SILENT. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT OF SILENCE, USE IT. YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION - NEVER SPEAK WITHOUT A WITNESS BEING PRESENT.

Remember: Depending upon the circumstances, the officer may think he/she has probable cause to stop you or he/she will use any excuse to harass you.

WHEN THE POLICE KNOCK AT YOUR DOOR...

IF the police knock at your door and ask to come in, you do not have to let them in unless they have a warrant signed by a judge. If they have a warrant, ask to see it.

IF IT IS AN ARREST WARRANT, CHECK the name to make sure they have the right person.

IF IT IS A SEARCH WARRANT, make sure it is for your specific address. **LOOK** to see what is listed on the warrant to be searched for in your home. *IF* the warrant is proper, you must allow them in. *IF* the police do not have a warrant you may let them in **BUT** you do not have to let them in unless they insist on coming in. Try to settle the issue at the door. If they do insist over your objections, then be careful to:

IF you are not sure that they are really police officers

continued on page 10

By Crystal-Joy Medina

My Sister

Petite,
Almond-shaped eyes
Soft,
Little
My baby sister
Caramel-colored—brown
Short curly chest-nutted hair
It twists so gently in the wind

I love her!
Yet, she does not totally understand that word
I'll be her protector, her heroine, her enemy at times
She fits so perfectly in her big sister's arms

Proud, I am
Joy envelopes my heart
I have a gift from God.
A gift I would never give up

Years and miles apart
Daily I hear her in my heart
Seventeen years difference—but
still she knows who I am
She says my name "Kysaal"
Proud to have her in my life
The gift of life and part of me surges through her tiny veins
She is ma petite soeur...

By Crystal-Joy Medina



Diverging Shadows

**We dread the unforeseen,
Gluing eyes shut,
NO one desires the stranger nearby
No one desires to see him stare them by**

**Eerie sounds creep up our throats
Scared to face the beast outside
Is this beast internal?
Buried in the sepulchre of our minds
Is it hidden among the countless lies and tall tales that drip out of our
tongues?
Could death itself roam among us in our very putrid hearts?
Sometimes we pretend that we have no recollection of our dirty deeds
We have no remembrance of the pain we unleash upon our brothers
Can we be so coward as not to own up to all our wrong doings?**

**Sipping on their coffees—french vanilla bean, mocha
Humph! it is no wonder we have masks on**

**Stuck to our faces because we can never reveal the depths of the darkness
that illuminates from these faces
We cover and conceal the truth
Making the world a better place
But in the end when it rains ashes and dust from the heavens
Our deeds will manifest
Our bodies so mortal and flesh will protest
Our Armageddon relived in a millisecond of torture
Stop hiding the truth—set all men free!**

By Crystal-Joy Medina



Exactly What?

What exactly is love?
A word used as a double-edged sword
Tales of princes and princesses
Climbing up upon each other's hair
Mmmm... maybe a memoir of a man who touched and reached the Promised Land
Only to realize a second too soon
That he was only hell bound and doomed

A phrase whispered to satisfy the carnal knowledge of a hungry, deprived
man
Who can't stand!
Oops!
A man who cannot understand—the sensation of being a woman
Cannot understand the smell of the nectar that runs between her legs
The swish of her child bearing hips
The lick and taste of her sensuous lips

What exactly is that word we use too often, too loud?
Is it momentarily an image of perfect bliss?
The epitome of two horny lovers kiss
Yet, still we view it as the apple on a tree
Hidden in a garden
Is that where we were supposed to be?

Ridden on the tongue of a million men
Is that no one can comprehend the terrain of this vain ideal
For if love was love, my heart he would not steal
Cliché is it not?

Forbidden he is even to peep into the sanctuary of my womanhood
Shackled! Shackled to a wood so rotten and old
Even the prisoner has given up fighting its hold

What is love to you? My friend?
Is it the beginning of a journey or is it the final, the end?
Can you tell me what is stowed beneath my heaving bosom?
What is this figment of our dreamed existence?
What is this sensation of love?
Can you tell me...?

By Crystal-Joy Medina

Cont. from pg. 7

ask for the name of the highest ranking officer present at your door and a phone number where his identity can be verified. Call his/her command number, and even 911 so that a record can be established.

FIRST, Ask for a police badge.

SECOND, Ask them what their purpose is in coming into your house.

THIRD, If you object, make sure you tell them you do not consent to any search of your home.

FOURTH, Write down the names, badge numbers, physical description of the officers and the date and time.

IF the police take any of your property, they are **REQUIRED TO GIVE YOU A WRITTEN RECEIPT** for it.

IF they don't give you a receipt, ask for it. They are not required to give you a receipt for the property they intend to book as evidence such as stolen

property, guns, etc.

The police may also search without a warrant whenever they have arrested a person. They may search his person and the area close by where the arrest was made.

They may also search after consent is given, so if you object, be sure to make it clear that you do not agree to any kind of search.

They may also search when there is an emergency (for example, someone screaming for help inside your home) or when they are chasing you or someone else into your home. This is called the **EMERGENCY EXCEPTION**.

IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY THE POLICE IN YOUR CAR...

A Police Officer can ask you to pull over at any time.

You will be asked for your driver's license and registration. If she/he asks for this information, you

MUST comply.

IF you are stopped - pull over and sit tight.

IF you are stopped at night - turn on your interior dome light.

PLACE your hands on the steering wheel.

PRODUCE your identification when asked.

REMAIN CALM. NO

SUDDEN MOVES !!!!

WHEN AN INCIDENT

OCCURS...

Whenever an incident involving the police occurs,

ALWAYS:

Look at the **badge number** and **name tag** of the officers.

Remember it and write it down as soon as possible.

If badge and name are not in full view, make note of the **physical description** of the officers.

Look for the **Precinct Number** or the **Division** (Transit, Housing, etc.) This can be found on the brass insignia on the officer's shirt collar. Make note of the **number of officers** present. Make note of any **witnesses**. Take note of **where** you are. Take note of **when (date, time of day)** the incident occurred.

ALWAYS WRITE EVERYTHING DOWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!

RESOURCES

100 Blacks In Law Enforcement Who Care. 591 Vanderbilt Avenue, Suite #133, Brooklyn, NY 11238. 718-455-9059. E-Mail: BlacksNLaw@aol.com

American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. Phone: 215-241-7130, Fax: 215-241-7275. Pat Clark, National Criminal Justice Representative

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. 99 Hudson Street, 12th Floor, New York, New York 10013. Phone: 212-966-5932, Fax: 212-966-4303. Liz Ou Yang.

The Anthony Baez Foundation, 6 Cameron Place, Bronx, N.Y. 10453. Phone: 718-364-2879. Iris Baez, Chairperson.

Black Cops Against Police Brutality. PO Box 4256, East Orange, NJ 07019. DeLacey Davis, Phone: 201-926-5717 (home), 201-266-5300, ext. 306 (work)

Black Panther Collective. P.O. Box 20735, Park West Station, New York, NY 10025-1516. Contact: Thomas

Two ounces of weed can ruin your young adult life!

(Well, only if you're Black or Latino)

Never been in trouble with the law before and have a 3.5 average in an accredited university? You're even a reserve in the country's armed forces. So considering all this, if you're brought up on charges for being caught with a couple of ounces of drugs you'll probably serve a couple of months or less, right? Wrong. As it stands under the harshest mandatory minimum sentencing laws in the country you will probably serve 3 to 15 years.

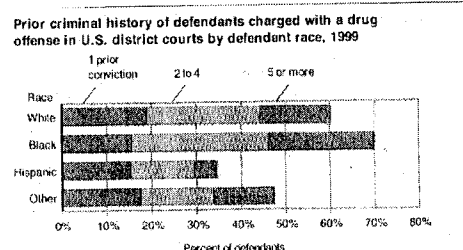
The Rockefeller Drug Laws of New York State sustain that a person in possession of four ounces or sale of two ounces of drugs is a Class A felon and will serve a sentence of 15 years in prison. If you are in possession of two ounces or selling half an ounce of drugs you will serve three years in prison.

Under these laws, judges must give offenders mandatory minimum sentences regardless of their criminal history. These laws are so restrictive because judges do not have any leeway when it comes to sentencing. These mandatory minimum sentences are given regardless of involvement in offense, threat to society or any other mitigating factor that might lead a judge to reduce prison terms.

There is a lot of controversy surrounding these laws and many efforts to soften them be-

cause the sentencing processes under these laws seem so atypical of the federal sentencing guidelines. For the most part, sentences in general are determined based upon the offender's prior criminal history. The longer the defendant's criminal history the more prison time they will receive. It is a wonder why the Rockefeller Drug Laws do not follow these same guidelines.

Many "minorities" are incensed at the statistics showing that Blacks and Latinos make up 70 percent of the prisoners under these laws when Whites make up a large percentage of narcotics users as well.



Courtesy of the Bureau of Justice Statistics

While African-Americans and Latinos amount to 32.3 percent of New York's population, they make up 94.3 percent of incarcerated drug felons, even though drug selling and use are reportedly almost balanced among all races. For

Continued on pg. 14

Continued on pg. 11

McCreary. Phone: 212-473-1140, fax: 212-473-3525.

Center for Constitutional Rights. 666 Broadway, 7Th Floor, New York, NY 10012.

Switchboard: 212-614-6464

Ron Daniels, Executive Director, 212-614-6468

Gabe Torres, Coordinator, MSRC, 212-614-6470

David Love, MSRC, 212-614-6470

MSRC Hotline: 800-764-0235

Fax: 212-614-6499

E-mail: CCR@igc.apc.org

Center For Immigrant Rights. Phone: 212-505-6890, fax: 212-995-5876. Roseann Micallef.

Center For Law and Social Justice, Medgar Evers College. 1150 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225.

Provides free legal counseling, referrals and representation at CCRB. Phone: 718-953-4390. Joan Gibbs.

Citizens' Commission on Policing. 348 West 49th Street, Suite 1D, NY, NY 10019. Phone: 212-974-0294.

New organization for monitoring the police, exposing and mobilizing against police abuse, educating the public and law enforcement agencies. Publishes a newsletter called *NYC Cop Watch*. Contact Hector Soto (former Commissioner CCRB) or Joe Catrambone (former Deputy Commissioner, CCRB)

Civilian Complaint Review Board (New York City). Phone: 212-442-8833 or 800-341-2272.

Community Justice Center. 1825 Park Avenue, Suite 604, NY, NY 10035. Phone: 212-427-4545; Fax: 212-427-3132. Edie Ellis.

December 12th Movement. Contact: Roger Wareham. 1851 Th Avenue, Suite 20, NY, NY 10026. Phone: 718-398-1766, Fax: 212-678-2548, Beeper: 917-967-8776, E-mail: RSW@talkingdrum.com

Latino Officers Association. P.O. Box 09-0595, Brooklyn, New York 11209-0595. Phone: 212-726-3351. Anthony Miranda.

The Legal Aid Society (NYC). 212-577-3355. 718-286-2000. 718-722-3100. fax: 718-286-2286.

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. 99 Hudson Street, NY, NY 10013. Phone: 219-1900. Fax: 212-226-7592. Ted Shaw or Gloria Browne.

National Association of Korean Americans. 276 Fifth Avenue, #806, NY, NY 10001. Phone: 212-679-3482, fax: 212-481-9569. E-mail: NAKAUSA@aol.com. John H. Kim, General Secretary.

National Black Police Association. 3251 Mt. Pleasant Street NW, Washington, DC 20010. Phone: 202-986-2070, Fax: 202-986-0410. Ronald Hampton, Executive Director.

National Coalition on Police Accountability (N-COPA). 59 East. Van Buren, Suite 2418, Chicago, IL 60605. Phone: 312-663-5392. fax: 312-663-5396.

Contact: Mary Powers. N-COPA publishes a newsletter called *Policing By Consent*.

National Conference of Black Lawyers. Phone: 212-864-4000. fax: 212-222-2680. Florence Morgan, 718-286-2181.

National Lawyers Guild. 126 University Place, NY, NY 10003. Phone: 212-627-2656, Fax: 212-627-2404.

Neighborhood Defenders Service of Harlem. Phone: 212-876-5500.

N.Y.C. Commission on Human Rights. Phone: 212-306-7500. Bias hotline: 212-662-2427.

New York Division of Criminal Justice Services. Phone: 518-485-7576.

Parents Against Police Brutality. Antonio and Margarita Rosario. 2784 Claflin Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468. 718-601-1863.

Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund. 99 Hudson Street, Suite 1401, NY, NY 10013. Phone: 212-219-3360, Fax: 212-431-4276. Juan Figueroa.

Queens Coalition Against Police Violence. P.O. Box 656592, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365-6592. Phone: 516-627-4262.

Rev. Al Sharpton, (National Action Network)

Headquarters: 1941 Madison Avenue, NY, NY 10035. Phone: 212-987-5020. Fax: 212-987-5024.

Victim Services Counseling (NYC). Manhattan: 212-577-3800. Brooklyn: 718-827-4700.

WBAI (99.5 FM). 505 Eighth Avenue, NY, NY 10018. Phone: 212-279-0707. Fax: 212-564-5359. Listener sponsored, community oriented radio station. Utrice Leid, Errol Maitland, Bernard White, Jose Santiago.

The Distinguished Brothers of
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Present
Miss Black and Gold '01
December '01
The brothers are looking for
well-rounded women
who are interested in becoming
Rho-Rho's next Miss Black and Gold
For more information contact
Rhomaro @ 6-4545 or Mark @ 6-4082
Another Sphinxmen Production...

The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha are looking for well-rounded ladies who are interested in becoming the next Miss Black and Gold. The competition consists of a talent segment, a question & answer segment and an evening wear segment. The winner has an opportunity to win \$10,000 in scholarship money by participating in the national Miss Black and Gold competition. This contest represents more than beautiful women, articulation is a must.

For more information contact:

Rhomaro Powell @ 6-4545

Kedar Wilson @ 6-4094

Alphonso Vanlow @ 6-5342

Where do We Stand Now: African-American or American?

Yvonne Belizario
Blackworld Editor

The terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C. left African-Americans as well as all other groups horrified by the extent of man's wrath. Sadness and anger consumed our hearts as we watched the images on television September 11, 2001.

But are we shaken to the extent where our race is now saying "we" need to retaliate instead of "America" needs to retaliate?

Talking to the older generation of Black people, the answer to that question would be yes. And it is not only the older adults that were born and bred here in

I think the blood of our fellow Americans in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon is on America's hands. Those groups have been fighting since biblical times and America was senseless to think that they were going to get in the middle of it and take a side without being burned. They were fighting since before Columbus robbed the Indians of this country and they will fight long after we wash our hands of the situation.

-Diana B.

In the dictionary patriot is defined as somebody who proudly supports or defends his or her country and its way of life. America's "way of life" involves killing innocent black men in the street and giving their murderers called the NYPD desk duty; sending thirteen-year old black baby boys off to jail for life because of an accidental wrestling move that took a life; and excusing spoiled upper-middle class white boys of psychological problems to soften the blow when they find out their own tries to blow up entire high-schools with bombs for absolutely no reason. So did that terrorist act spark patriotism in me-HELL NO!

-Khalid "Nogovernment"

America that feel this way. These Blacks that have a stronger sense of patriotism since the terrorist incident come from many different countries such as the Dominican Republic, Trinidad, Guyana, and England. Some of the reasons why these Black Americans say they will stand behind their country in whatever decision she decides to make is because although America still has its racist issues with blacks, this remains the best country in the world for us. Those that were born in other countries say that they know what real injustice is, which is why they came here to the U.S.

But if you ask the younger generation- ages 18-24- if the horrific incident on September 11, 2001 sparked

Due to what happened I now feel included in the nation. Because it hit all of us, it didn't single out race, gender; it didn't hit one sector. But also I feel like our policies in the past has been too entangled, although I don't feel like there is any justification for the loss of life.

Cyrene Crooms

I feel more united; part of the country. I never felt connected to the American community before-even with strangers you have common ground. Getting involved with foreign affairs got us to where we are now. You can't rationalize the terrorist actions.

-Toyin Arubela

At a time like this we should strive to better understand the motives of the people who did this. It makes no sense to retaliate without knowing why they did it and exactly who was involved. Otherwise, we risk the chance of really making this whole situation worse.... We might end up killing many innocent people. That would make us no better than these terrorists.

- Anonymous

a sense of patriotism in our hearts the answer would be a strong "NO!" Hosana Wilson, a graduate of Stony Brook University stated, "Of course we're affected by the casualties, but a terrorist act against America, does not negate all the wrong that has been and is still being done to my race."

For the most part, they sympathize with the victims and agree that America shouldn't allow this to happen again. But you don't really get a sense of the "we need to stand together" attitude from you get from other groups of people. Why do young Black adults feel this way? Some Stony Brook students gave BLACKWORLD their insight.

America's whole involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict contributed to the strife that they are going through now. The U.S. went over there and gave land to the Israelis that wasn't theirs to give. What happened to the U.S. is something that happens to these people everyday in their country. This happens here, now we want to go attack all Muslims, and go to war with entire nations over secluded terrorists acts. So now I'm supposed to run around waving American flags due to retaliation because of our corrupt foreign policies. No I don't feel more like a patriot.

-Natasha Delbe

To the nation

Crystal-Joy Medina
BLACKWORLD Staff

In my opinion human nature is a very eerie phenomenon. This statement became a revelation when those two planes crashed into the World Trade Center. The act itself was an atrocity and to know that human beings were capable of so much despair and destruction is unnerving. In the aftermath, everyone is suspicious of the other and engaging in racial profiling. I want everyone to know that not because you look like a Muslim or Arab means that you are the enemy. Stop! Please think before harming an innocent person. Do not take your anger out on an innocent person because they appear to be of Arab or Muslim descent. Hate does not solve anyone's problems—blacks have been facing this kind of hatred for years and this institution has not made this nation any stronger within its social interactions.

Everyone is still confined in their ethnic cat-

egory; we need to embrace each other's differences or at least respect each other.

I am upset, furious and sad at this whole situation but I will not go out and harm innocent people. The entire situation was surreal and horrific. I cried that entire week, feeling in the pit of my stomach a numbing pain that the individuals in the World Trade Center are never coming back. These terrorists caused a plague that cannot be assuaged. Many children will never see their mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and uncles. I could not imagine that.

This scenario plays over and over again in my head: suppose it was my father and my step-mom at the World Trade center that day. They came for vacation this summer and they were there shopping and enjoying the scenery. It scares me to think about my little sister and I, waking up and realizing that daddy and mommy are not coming home. What would I tell a two-year-old, who knows nothing but daddy and mommy?

What are relatives supposed to tell these chil-

dren? Are we going to have a generation of children that are unfeeling and cold because they read in the history books or heard from their grandparents the events of September 11, 2001?

Human beings fear anything or anyone they don't know...are we going to be a nation that is fearful of all that is alien to us. I hope and pray to God that something good emerges from this tragedy, as they say, it is always dark before light.

These cowardice terrorists harmed the innocent; hopefully the United States will not retaliate by doing the same. We are a powerful nation and hopefully we can rise like the legendary Phoenix from the fire ashes. Showing those that hate us that we are no longer the sleeping-sleepers. We are ready for anything and that we will stand together—a nation united not separated within its own confines.

BLACKWORLD and many others send their condolences to all the families that lost someone on that horrible day.

WE ARE ONE NATION

Know Thyself: A Little History

First published in 1974, Blackworld is a newspaper created by the students of Stony Brook University. It is a club/organization that is part of the Student Polity Association.

Its Purpose and Goal

- The purpose of Blackworld is to serve as an unbiased source of information to the campus community.
- To promote positive attitudes about ourselves and support our community by voicing our opinions and concerns.
- Its goal is to not only address problems and concerns of other ethnic cultures, but to celebrate the accomplishments and aspirations of our brothers and sisters, to affirm ourselves, our culture, our Blackness.



Activities where help is needed

Editorials, Political Issues, Interviews, Creative Arts (including poetry, short stories, cooking recipes, etc.), Advertisements, Personals, Sports, Photography.

How To Become Involved

Join Blackworld and make a difference in your campus community. Blackworld meets weekly on Mondays at 10:00 p.m. in the Student Union room 072.

For more information, please call (631)632-6494 and leave a message stating your particular interest so that you can be directed to a Blackworld representative.

HETEP!

***"Without struggle
there is no progress"***

Frederick Douglass

Cont. from pg. 10.

women sentenced to prison for drug offenses, Hispanics make up 82 percent and African-Americans make up 71 percent compared to 41 percent of white women. More than 21,000 people are serving time for drug convictions in New York State, about 95 percent of them are Black or Hispanic. About 70 percent were convicted of nonviolent crimes. All together, the Rockefeller drug laws are responsible for one-third of all New York prisoners.

These laws were enacted in 1973 when drug usage was high. In recent years crime rates have been at historic lows giving another convincing argument to soften these outdated laws.

But to realize the exact effects of these laws consider this: Class A felons receive the same maximum sentencing as convicted murderers, arsonists, and kidnappers. They are given a harsher punishment than those convicted of rape, robbery, and manslaughter. And keep in mind more than half of these drug offenders do not have prior criminal records.

Some feel these laws were made to directly discriminate against "minorities".

It seems that there is a lot of political pressure from these groups and many others to change these laws, but there are also a lot of other groups who deem it necessary to keep these laws in existence.

Prosecutors are the foremost defenders of these laws. What do they have to do with anything? It is not judges or the police officers that control what kind of sentencing a defendant will receive, it is the prosecutor. For instance, if a verdict states that you murdered someone in the first degree, the jury or judge will not give you the death penalty if the prosecutor did not request it. Prosecutors are the ones who can ask that you be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, or that you receive a light sentence. They virtually have total control over sentencing of an offender. The New York State District Attorneys Association, representing all 62 county prosecutors, strongly opposes softening the drug laws because they say it is their strongest defense against drug offenders. So until these drug laws are changed these county prosecutors will continue to ask that the offenders be prosecuted under these laws.

The New York State Assembly and Governor Pataki are in the process of trying to change these laws but the process is moving very slowly due to the split in Congress. Democrats feel that Pataki's proposed bills in the past were still too harsh and Democratic bills are viewed as too lenient. In the end, more and more people are being sentenced to these outdated drug laws.

Neo-Conscious Soul Bringing R & B into the millennium

Yvonne Belizario
BLACKWORLD Editor

In an interview, Erykah Badu explained what the title of her recent album, "Mama's Gun" meant. Her gun being the lyrics in the songs, is indeed an accurate description of not only Badu's sound, but of the sound in which she assisted in perpetuating into mainstream music.

To broaden the range of her metaphor, neo-conscious soul is the nine-millimeter and the bullets are the artists, which are being fired out of the barrel. The definition of this new type of music is the artists themselves, such as Bilal, Musiq, Jill Scott, Common, India Arie, D'angelo and of course Erykah Badu.

This is definitely a new type of music because never before has there been such a complete fusion of modern rhythm with jazz, blues, and even reggae from our generation.

These artists saturate their songs with lyrics of loving ones self and ones blackness. In India Arie's first single off her debut album "Acoustic Soul", the song "Video" denounces society's practice of objectifying women and making them feel like they have to be something they are not. In her next single brown skin she uses a myriad of metaphors to describe just how beautiful black people are. Instead of conceding to the notion that dark skin is undesirable, a line from the song says, "your skin has been kissed by the sun". This is how most of these artists try to instill pride in a race that spouts "black is beautiful" but doesn't seem to really believe it.

At a time when our generation is stuck on an idea that one cannot sell without expensive videos; half-naked women; and the habit of recycling the same beats and lyrics, these soulful artists have proved that artistic freedom and the ability to reinvent the game with dignity can do well on the charts.

But that is our style. While others are just discovering hip-hop- twenty years later- we are already in the midst of creating another form of African-American music that is sure to prove, once again, just how talented we really are.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT BLACKS: Ralph J. Bunche

In 1948, when Ralph Bunche was appointed chief assistant to the United Nations mediator in the Palestine crisis, it was the turning point of international statesmanship. Two years later, he won the Nobel Peace Prize for organizing an Arab-Israeli ceasefire. Bunche was the first African-American to win this award. He was highly regarded throughout the world and welcomed as a hero when he returned to the United States.

In 1955 he became undersecretary for special political affairs at the United Nations in 1955 and undersecretary-general in 1967, playing a significant role in molding that organization.

McCALL SPEAKS AT SBU

Yvonne Belizario
BLACKWORLD Editor

New York State Comptroller Carl McCall gave a speech here at Stony Brook on October 5, 2001 regarding the Democratic platform for the upcoming elections. McCall also spoke about the importance of young people taking advantage of their voting rights.

One of the most important issues on McCall's agenda for the speech, was higher education as it relates to the economy. Governor Pataki and Chancellor Harold Levy are not committed to alleviating the educational problem in the state of New York, says McCall. "Investment in higher education, is an investment in the economy."

The Comptroller spoke after local democratic candidates such as Anthony Speelman, Carol Bissonette, and Vivian Vilorio-Fisher. He implored New York voters to not only vote him in as governor, but to check the names off any candidates on the Democratic ticket because they will fight to make the necessary changes for the state as a whole.

But the emphasis was on young people because in the 2000 presidential election the voting age group between 18-34 did not constitute a large percentage of the voters. McCall said if candidates felt that young people were going to vote more, they would then focus on issues that affected the young more. If they do not vote, then the candidates are going to continue to focus on issues such as health care and social security because this is what the people who do vote feel is important.

To the students who believe they do not have any political power, McCall reminds them of the Civil Rights Movement and of the Vietnam War days, when most of the protests began on college campuses. According to the Comptroller, the students were the people who "provided the energy" and brought about the political and economical changes in those times.

McCall then told students that he would fight to save budgets for programs such as the Educational Opportunity Program—because this and the like are important to educational development. McCall assured students already involved in politics that if they mobilize groups among their peers to vote candidates like him into office, beneficial changes would be made for them.

Quotable:

**Every race and every nation
should be judged by the
best it has been able to
produce, not by the worst.**

– James Weldon Johnson

JOIN BLACKWORLD

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

BLACKWORLD NEWSPAPER IS
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COPY EDITING ASSISTANTS,
WRITERS, TYPISTS, PRODUC-
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AND JUST IN CASE YOU ACCIDENTALLY GLANCED OVER THE WORD

WRITERS