

# BLACK WORLD

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

October 2001

ONE NATION

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## DIMINISHING AID THREATENS EDUCATION

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PG. 4

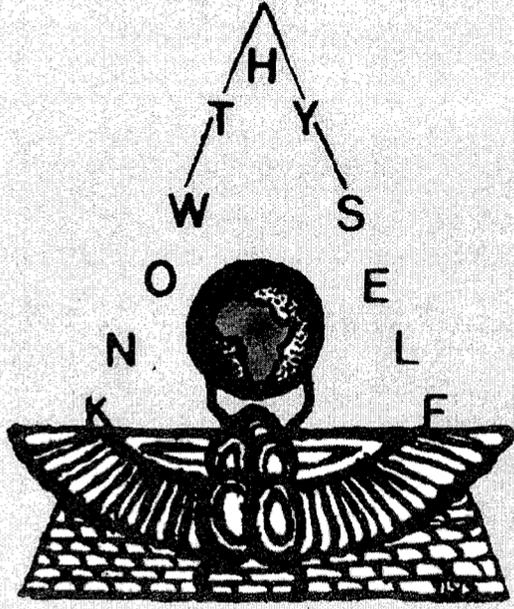
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**BLACKWORLD***For Over 25 Years*

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**From the Editor**

**BLACK PEOPLE, WAKE UP!** Look around. Pay attention.

It's all around us. **WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!**

Budget Cuts. Affirmative action-going, going, GONE. Outrageous drug laws. Outrageous laws. Vouchers. Lack of investment in our public schools. Lack of investment in *our* schools. Glass ceilings. Redlining and Gentrification. Our legislatures attacking us under the guise of progression and *fairness*. Serious lack of representation in important aspects of the American culture. Acceptance of unacceptable practices: Racial profiling. Cops not being properly reprimanded for blatant "unlawful" acts against us.

Are we going back in time? Regression before our eyes!

**NEXT STOP** Jim Crow Laws 1938 Halifax, North Carolina, and Birmingham, Alabama, and Jackson, Mississippi and Memphis, Tennessee.

Am I overreacting? Only if:

It's okay to shoot a black child because you thought his Snickers Bar was a gun.  
It's okay to shoot a black man because you thought his wallet was a gun.  
It's okay to stop my uncle because he is a black man in an S-Type Jaguar.  
It's okay to pay my sister less money than a man, when they are in the same profession, at the same level.  
It's okay to punish a Black or Latino person for smoking marijuana at the same level as a white convicted murderer.

Stony Brook, if we can protest about our meal plans, we can do something about these issues.

There's a saying "If you don't do politics, politics will do you."

Get in touch with your elected officials.

**Support! We are one nation!**

**BLACK FACULTY PROFILE: Tasheka Sutton**

Her drive to support and become a public advocate led her to Stony Brook University where she is the assistant director of fraternity and sorority life.

Jamaican-born Tasheka Sutton, 25, was attracted to the Stony Brook campus because of its size and beauty, among other things. "The first day I came to Stony Brook I was amazed by the passion and diversity of the students," Sutton said.

The position of assistant director entails serving as an advisor to the students of the Inter Fraternity and Sorority Council, coordinating workshops on hazing and pledging, counseling students on their GPAs and helping them with the success of their programs. "I'm their advocate," Sutton said. "I plan to be very supportive to them."

Sutton's passion to work with students started at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY where she was a Resident Advisor and later a Resident Hall Director. At Iona, Sutton received her B.A. in Communications and her M.A. in Corporate Communications. Though her position as assistant director is not related to her degrees, she wouldn't change her decision to come to Stony Brook. "I'd rather be doing what I love than working for a big corporation," Sutton said.

Age and experience are two assets that help Sutton in her position. As a sorer of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated she understands the needs of the fraternities and sororities and can therefore help them make beneficial decisions. She can also relate to them on a level that an older person might not be able to.

Presently, Sutton is learning and growing in her position with the help of the IFSC members. "I need to be here," Sutton said. "I feel comfortable." She is also helping them implement positive changes in their future. Some of Sutton's goals include helping IFSC open their new lounge in the basement of the Student Union on Nov. 1 which will serve as a meeting place to exchange ideas and discuss various programs. She also plans to help them develop their leadership and membership while showcasing the positivity of their fraternities and sororities.

If Sutton isn't at a meeting or an event that involves IFSC she's collecting teddy bears to add to the 120 she already has or she is spending time with her dad and four younger brothers who she calls her heart.

Shaila Mentore, *BLACKWORLD* Staff

# WHILE THE RICH GET RICHER...

by Jonnel Doris  
BLACKWORLD Contributor

In most sectors education is perceived as a fundamental right. It is equated with freedom of speech, liberty and pursuit of happiness. Yet our officials seem to ignore this end.

In most of the industrialized world, education is guaranteed for all citizens. It is a key component of the budget and policy implementation process.

Unfortunately, that is not the case here in the U.S. This land that fosters freedom and liberty continuously shuns its obligation to education. The lack of adequate teaching facilities illustrates the degree to which our leaders regard the right to a comprehensive education.

The National Commission on Teaching & America's Future states the following: 12.5% of school teachers are not licensed. Moreover, the proportion of licensed teachers in schools whose racial composition is 90-100% non-white and schools whose racial composition is 90-100% white is drastically disproportional. Also 25% of new public school teachers were untrained or did not meet state standards. 25-30% of math teachers majored or minored in another subject.

There is a considerable amount of attention that needs to be placed on our educational system. Not only administratively but also in tan-

gible monetarily ways.

The national government generally leaves education to the states. This is commonly an acceptable practice due to the fact that states are perceived as somewhat "closer" to the people. But when state governments implement serious cuts from education and educational programs they further damage the fabric of our society.

Our federal government must step in to protect those that are negatively affected. These cuts jeopardize the future of America's greatest commodity- its children.

The proposed 2001-2002 Governor's budget plan for various governmental sponsored educational programs illustrate such concerns as stated above. For instance, EOP or Educational Opportunity Program, funding has been cut to \$13,700,000. This represents a \$2.7 million cut.

Likewise the Governor's 2001-02 budget cuts \$5.6 million in funding from The Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) bringing it to a funding level of \$16.4 million.

The list continues with the stagnation of funds available in the Tuition Assistant Program (TAP) and a nearly \$3 million cut from the CUNY's SEEK program.

As if to add insult to injury, the Higher Edu-

cation Act of 1998 states that "A student convicted of any drug-related offense be denied eligibility for financial-aid for periods ranging from one year to indefinite". Taking effect this year it has said to affect more than 8,000 students.

According to a Focus on Education article released by the State Assembly, the Governor's budget cuts education aid by \$1.1 billion. Finally, with the current cuts tuition increased by 7.7% in public universities as compare to 5.5% in private universities this year.

What do these cuts have in common? I believe that the common denominator is the effect that these cuts will have on low-income communities and individuals.

To be more specific the minority communities of New York. It seems that the state is making it even harder for families of low-income status to send their children to college.

This coupled with the hardships of surviving after the serious cuts and adjustments made in the Welfare Reform act of 1996, may lead to a large number of African-Americans and Latinos without means of attending college.

The Higher Education Act clause of 1998 only

*Continued on pg 10*

## NEW SECURITY PROTOCOLS

by Yvonne Belizario  
BLACKWORLD Editor

If you went to what was supposed to have been the Alpha Phi Alpha party in September you may have noticed a totally different setup in the Student Union as far as party procedures.

This new setup was completely different from what returning students experienced in prior years. From lines being outside the union, to making it mandatory to have ID cards even after the purchased tickets and then photocopying ID's to the totally new security service, it was mind boggling.

Where did these changes come from and what are they all about?

Rich Wolcott, the Director of Facilities for the Stony Brook Student Union and Activities Center, said these changes did not happen over night. This new security plan has been an ongoing project for the last year. It was a team effort that included the Student Polity, University Police, Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corp (SBVAC), Environmental Health & Safety, and SPA Events Management Staff.

One provision of the new plan was to hire a licensed security service. This new security company, Contracted Security Services (CSS), was hired so that the university would be in compliance with the Security Act of New York State. "Although SPA was doing a great job, they were not licensed

to do pat downs or break up altercations," said Walcott.

For parties and concerts, Stony Brook will now have three different types of security services, each serving a specific purpose.

CSS will be in charge of breaking up altercations, pat downs, confiscating narcotics and weapons, and managing evacuation procedures at the close of the event and during an emergency.

SPA officers will be in charge of line control, managing off-campus guests, photocopying ID's, collecting tickets, and stamping people at the events. They will also monitor the restrooms, elevators, the area behind the entertainment and the doors.

The University Police Community Relations Team (CRT) will oversee the entire Union and all events held there. They will also be the principal security team in regards to narcotics and weapons, breaking up altercations, managing evacuation procedures, and supervising the ticket office area. Although CSS also manage altercations, only the officers carry weapons.

All of the final decisions concerning security and parties on campus are reserved for the University Police. For instance, they were the ones who decided to shut down the Alpha Phi Alpha party in September. However, the decision to shut down the

Alpha party did not affect any other party cancellations on campus assured Walcott.

The security plan will affect students in many other ways as well. When fraternities and sororities throw parties, there will no longer be a line for women, men, and VIP's; there will now only be

*continued on pg. 10*

**Limitless**

I stand proudly on the backs of  
my ancestors

My wings soar upon the dreams of  
the slave

I float across the sea of life,  
one filled with the unmarked graves  
of my people

The blood of my ancestors, the  
tears, the sweat of their toil  
runs through my veins

My back is straight because of  
the bowed backs of my forefathers

My skin unbroken by the lash of a  
master

My speech echoes with the Son of  
Solomon sung by my people

I wade in the water once troubled  
by the Lord, now stilled by the  
absence of soulful voices in song

Onyx skin shines with the radiance  
of liberty

Opal eyes, with fire and ice flash  
with the spark of the vision of  
freedom

I am Israeli; my soul has been  
freed

The village has raised this child,  
with pride and reverence for those  
before me

I am limitless...

I control my future because of  
the past

**Bunmi. . .The  
ENTITY**

**Deep or Superficial that is the Question**

*How can I be spiritually deep when  
most people are superficial?*

*Life would be lonely*

*Most people will annoy me cause I  
would not be able to understand why  
people do what they do*

*So I have to be superficial*

*I will enjoy the Nikes, Vasaches and  
shrimp dishes*

*But wait,*

*Being unique is very important to me*

*I prefer the road less traveled*

*So maybe I could explore deepness  
and see what is in store for me*

*Wow, it doesn't seem so bad. Fast,  
pray, meditate, yoga and cleanse*

*myself from within*

*eat beautiful raw vegetarian dishes*

*As I slowly know that I am what I eat*

*Leading me to the knowledge never*

*to eat the flesh of another*

*This is the challenge I put before  
myself*

*One I yearn to continue*

*As I push myself to realize this type of  
life, I begin to assemble my whole*

*Finally, I radiate, I find love,  
friendship and patience*

*No more player-hating, jealousy,  
anger.*

*I cleanse my colon of negative energy  
Aoummmm*

*Hotep*

*By IAI*

***Locomotive Anguish***

My people have lost their train of  
thought

on route to the "promise land",  
somewhere below

The Mason Dixon line and above all  
walls of mental

slavery

on a railroad leading to

Self Destruction

By: Jah 'Starchild'

***Gatorade ( Heaven flavored )***

Sometimes after a long hard day

I like to open my mouth towards  
the sky

to drink the sweet rain,

only to stay connected to my  
Father.

It is He who quenches my  
spiritual thirst.

By: Jah 'Starchild'

## UNTITLED

I wasn't born

I was given birth wrapped in flesh

labeled human and shackled with

form.

Destiny written like a poem I'd never

recite

To believe in fate is fatal.

Consider it as death in possibility.

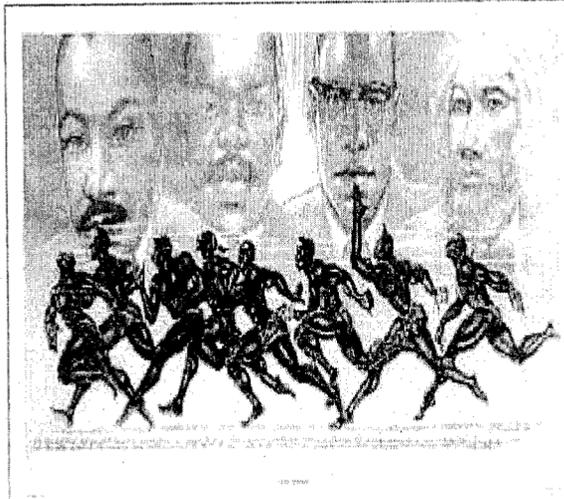
But chances are chance is and I'll take

mine in stride.

Live by faith, hold purpose by my

waist

By: Anonymous



*State of Unconsciousness*

*Purified Soul*

*Many believe that they have found their roots*

*Like Christopher Columbus who thought he discovered new lands Proclaiming "I discovered that I am black. I discovered I am proud."*

*Proud of what?*

*That you've found yourself because you no longer perm your hair or straighten the wooly curls upon your head*

*Many found they have found the knowledge of their ancestors wrapped up in*

*official African headdress*

*Aren't you fed up?*

*Of everyone getting dread up Rocking Bob Marley and the Wailers AND saying "Jah is standing by my side."*

*Only to cut off their DREADS when they reach to the doors of the corporate World*

*If you have found your blackness — You have found nothing!*

*Black means darkness, dismal, and dim*

*Instead, say you have found the colored waters that runs through your veins*

*No one is black?*

*They label black because of certain features*

*Being black to us now means that you have natural hair*

*You are Afro-centric*

*Pictures of Africa, Nelson Mandela hanging on their wall*

*Flossing the traditional African head-dress*

*Adorning yourself in emblems that scream "I am African."*

*Wake up! Black is a state of mind that you do not want to have*

*Colored is your state of reality*

*Black is the color of a Crayola*

*Crayon*

*Colored is a state*

*Through my tiny veins run the bloods of so many —all intermingling*

*The Spaniards—Medina/Perouza*

*The Caribs, the Indians, the Irish and*

*yes the strength of the African*

*people*

*Their strength, because I possess most of their features...so the world*

*outside of myself says that I am black*

*I look at myself and cry to the*

*morning sun*

*"Yes, I live, thousands of generations course through my being. Course through me!*

*Black is an oppressed state of consciousness*

*No one likes it when the lights are out*

*No one likes it when you can't see around you*

*So why be black?*

*Remember you are not black—You are a person of color!*

*You are not black because you sport the dreads or permed hair*

*You are who you know you are!*

By: Crystal-Joy Medina



# WORLD TRADE CENTER THEORY!

Forget about all what the media is saying and let's think rationally together. Let's first agree that the attack on NY and DC was very well planned and organized by SMART people who knew how and where to hit in order to hurt!

Then, let's follow the FBI investigation. Do you think that those smart people who planned the attack are SO STUPID to use their real names in booking the flight tickets and renting cars..Etc. (all 18 names are of Muslims with Arabic origin)?

Obviously, the answer is NO. Do you think that the attackers were so stupid to leave behind their cars and suit cases? Full of Arabic manuals and videotapes teaching how to fly commercial flights?

Of course, the answer is NO. (What! They needed to cram last minute with flying instructions? and besides that- if they learned to fly in the US why are all the manuals conveniently in Arabic?)

That leads us to the next question: Who is suffering the most after the victims? Families and friends? Obviously, the answer is the Arab-Americans who are being harassed everywhere in the

U.S. as well as Muslims and Arabs throughout the world.

Final question: Who did benefit the most from this crisis situation?

The answer is: ISRAEL

First, the attack managed to unify all Americans and the whole world against Muslims/Arabs and Islam in general.

Second, the attack managed to silence all voices asking Israel to stop their terrorism against the Palestinians.

Third, the whole world got shocked with the attack leaving Israel free to torture Palestinians without anyone hearing or seeing or objecting!! If you add it all up, you'll see the hands of "al Mused" the Israeli Intelligence Services behind the attack. They have the resources required to carry out such an attack and to cover it up with all those false leads.

The question now is would the FBI continue the investigation all the way to the end until they find the hands and minds behind the attack or are they going to stop upon identifying all those names of Arabs and link them to Bin-Laden and then rush to destroy Afghanistan?

Unfortunately, the Americans have no willingness or appetite to discover anybody behind the attack other than Bin-Laden and the Islam (we didn't forget the investigation of Egypt air 990)!

Now, how can we let the whole world think rationally that way and not jump to false conclusions?

A few other things don't add up...

1. Al Quran was left behind in the rental car- Muslims know, not to just leave Quran around to be trashed by people who don't understand its significance. Also, a fax from Osama bin Laden was in the car?! The guy is hiding out in tents in the mountains, give me a break. If there was an actual fax, the government would have known about it before it was received.

2. The black box: nothing important was on it? Ok, so the hijackers did this in silence?

3. Of all the cell phone calls made from the planes- none described the terrorists as Arabs...yet that would be the first thing anyone would say! One family, about 4 days after the

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## FACES of POLITY

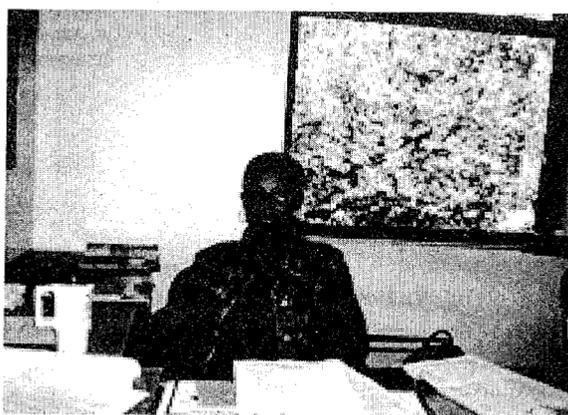


**Natalie Hodgson**

### Student Polity President

**Goals-** Hodgson plans to focus on student advocacy by implementing changes in the prices of tuition and meal plan. "There's been a trend where people come in wanting to do well but the job doesn't get done." Hodgson, however, is focussed and dedicated to serving the student body.

**Message-** "Student Polity is for the students." "You've elected a government that believes that, now it's time to believe in your government." "Thanks to all that supported me, I look forward to a very prosperous year



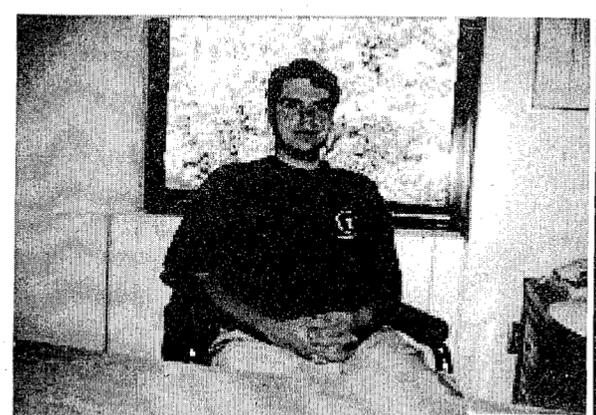
**Akelia Lawrence**

### Student Polity Vice-President

**Goals-** Lawrence's position entails acting as a liaison between Senate and the Polity Council. This year she plans to make Senate more effective, efficient and professional. "I want Senate to be run orderly," Lawrence said.

Another one of Lawrence's goals is to encourage clubs to sponsor more professional programs for the student body. "I want student life to be improved," she said.

Lawrence has been involved in different aspects of student life on campus, including Senate. **Message-** "I encourage you to utilize your resources." "Give suggestions to your student



**Nicholas Kilb**

### Student Polity Treasurer

**Goals-** Kilb ran for treasurer to help students and to support their rights. "I want Polity's budgeting to go as smoothly as possible."

He plans to educate club treasurers on their club's finances and to prepare student Polity's budget several weeks early so it can be approved. Kilb has been the treasurer of several clubs on campus so experience is definitely on his side. He's organized, works well with others and he puts the students first.

**Message-** "I hope you have a fun and en-

of working with you."

leaders and let your voice be heard."



joyable year with lots of successful events.”

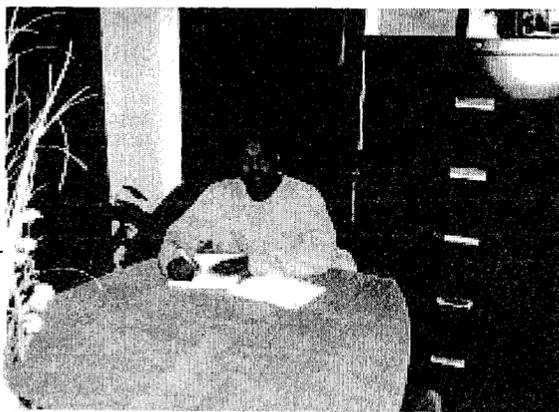
## Shaniqua Williams Student Polity Secretary

**Goals-** Some of Williams' goals include continuing the President's and Town Hall meetings that will give her feedback from students. The Town Hall meetings help her better serve the student body. She also wants to make student media more visible on campus.

Williams also plans to start working on the new Polity website which will be updated bi-weekly. The website will serve as a resource for students and will have a calendar of events and a discussion board among other things.

Williams has been involved with Student Polity for the last four years so her incumbency and experience are assets to her position. Her involvement in other organizations helps her to be open-minded and sensitive to the needs of the student body.

**Message-** “I want to serve you, please feel



free to come to me.” “Remember, Polity is you.”

## Samuel Frederic Student Polity Senior Representative

**Goals-** Frederic plans to do what Student Polity intended-unite students and get more campus involvement. He wants to work on the bureaucracy involved in Polity. He also wants to help promote diversity and unity by attending programs sponsored by different cultural groups.

Frederic has been a resident, a commuter and a member of Senate therefore he knows and understands how Polity is supposed to be run. His sociable and positive attitude will help him in his position.

**Message-** “Do not be discouraged because of the budget and the elections, look at the positive attributes of Student Polity.”



## Jannet Mey Student Polity Junior Representative

**Goals-** Getting students involved on campus is Mey's main goal. Next semester she plans to have a junior banquet that will unify not only the junior class but the entire student body. She's also going to implement programs that will help juniors make the transition from this year to their senior year.

This position is beneficial to Mey because it gives her the opportunity to learn new things and a chance to improve her leadership skills. “I have the opportunity to have a voice and to influence many people.”

Mey is hardworking, open-minded and a true leader. “I'm looking out for the best interest of the students,” Mey said. “It's about what's best for the community.”

**Message-** “I hope we all have a successful year.”



## Sophia Moore Student Polity Sophomore Representative

**Goals-** Moore wants students to say how their money should be spent. She also wants them to have faith in Student Polity.

Her main goal is to hold forums for the sophomore class so they can say what they want to see done on campus.

Moore wants administrators and students to be able to discuss issues that affect students on campus. She wanted to be in student government to have a voice and to be the voice of others, therefore, she's not going to make a promise she can't

keep. “I'm going to put my heart into this,” Moore said.

**Message-** “I will be interacting with each of you on a one on one basis; your comments and concerns are welcome.”



## Lucy Kim Student Polity Freshman Representative

**Goals-** Kim wants to work with the runner up candidates Sandy Curtis and Vlad Frantz to form a freshman committee. The purpose of the committee is to help unify the freshman class with the other classes so they can share ideas.

Kim hopes that technology can play a role in Student Polity because she wants to have on-line programs and eventually on-line elections.

Freshmen are usually overlooked so Kim wants information to be more accessible to them. She plans to make a questionnaire that will give them the opportunity to have their voices heard.

**Message-** “Thanks for supporting me and the other candidates.” “I hope everyone has a good year.”

## Is Your Right To Higher Education Being Threatened?

by Timothy Sostrin  
BLACKWORLD Contributor

The Higher Education Act (HEA), created three decades ago, authorizes many federal financial aid programs. However, a 1998 revision to the act has closed college opportunities to many potential students. On July 1, 2000, the drug clause of the HEA took effect, and in its first year cut aid to over 8,600 students. What the so-called drug clause states is simple: "A student who has been convicted of any offense under any Federal or State law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance shall not be eligible to receive any grant, loan, or work assistance..." Basically, if you are caught with drugs, you will not be able to receive financial aid.

Fine. I understand that maybe a majority of people don't want to see our federal govern-

## What the EOP/AIM Budget Cuts Mean for Our Students

by Brian Kerr  
BLACKWORLD Contributor

Since becoming a part of the State University of New York more than 33 years ago, the Educational Opportunity Program has been the key mechanism that has provided access and opportunity to New York State residents who are academically and financially disadvantaged.

In 1995 Opportunity programs throughout the state were devastated when the Governor cut funding for our programs. I was a sophomore at the University at Albany, and remember helping to advocate by my involvement in the rallies at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) and Governor's Mansion. Over the past few years Opportunity program students have fought along side groups like Student Association of the State University of New York (SASU, USSA, and NYPIRG) for a re-appropriation of the funding that was cut. After a public outcry, the Governor (along with legislators) worked on a supplemental budget, and restored 75% of the monies that had been lost.

Since 1995 EOP has been trying to get back the 9 million dollars or 25% that was originally cut. In 1999 EOP programs were granted another 2 million dollars, making the deficit 7 million.

The recent budget cuts have already started to effect the EOP/AIM program. There has been a hiring freeze for counselor positions as well as tutors. The tutorial component will suffer, and as a result so will our students who rely so heavily upon it. EOP students' direct aid will also be effected. Direct aid is the money set aside to help financially disadvantaged students pay their university bill. It is not a lot of money, but when you are an EOP student every little bit helps. In addition, the EOP program will not be able to offer our AIM courses. AIM 102 (Literary Analysis) and AIM 104 (Expository Writing) has been a core aspect for academically preparing our students in the areas of reading and writing. Lastly, the program will not be able to take in any new transfers or re-

## CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

by Millicent Ugochukwu  
BLACKWORLD Staff

It is important to note that we are all being affected by the recent cutbacks in educational funds. We here at BLACKWORLD, urge all of our readers to look at the big picture and take note of what is happening.

How has it come to be that many decisions made by our elected officials, regarding the public, do not reflect the wants of their constituents? Also, how is it that despite making claims to give back to our children and communities, they are in fact taking away from us? We should not fall into the habit of becoming a complaisant people. We do have some form of power as voters to pressure these officials for some answers. We must write, call, shout, scream, and fight until they begin to grant us the attention as well as the answers that we deserve. The following addresses and phone numbers are some available resources that you can use to get in contact with your elected officials:

### NATIONAL:

Capitol: (202) 224-3121

Any member of Congress, committee or subcommittee.

Legislative Status Office: (202) 225-1772

Status of legislation and committee hearing dates.

### NEW YORK STATE GOVERNMENT:

**Governor:** George R. Pataki (R )

*State Capital Address:*

The State Capitol

Executive Chamber

633 Third Avenue

New York, NY 10017

Email: [gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us](mailto:gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us)

### BELOW ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS ON VARIOUS WAYS TO CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS.

The letter is the most popular choice of communication with a congressional office. If you decide to write a letter, this list of helpful suggestions will improve the effectiveness of the letter:

- 1) Your purpose for writing should be stated in the first paragraph of the letter. If the letter pertains to a specific piece of legislation, identify it accordingly, e.g., House bill: H.R. \_\_\_\_, Senate bill: S. \_\_\_\_.
- 2) Be courteous, to the point, and include key information, using examples to support your position.
- 3). Address only one issue in each letter; and, if possible, keep the letter to one page.

### HOW TO WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR

Source: the 1997-1998 Legislative Directory of the 90th General Assembly of Illinois)

1. Don't hesitate to write your legislators if you have something to say that you think should be called to their attention.
2. Every legislator is sensitive to grassroots opinion. They keep in close touch with voters in their district. Letters from constituents, which arrive every day at their home or in Springfield, are one of the best indications of what those constituents are thinking about.
3. Thoughtful, sincere letters on issues that directly affect the writer get the most attention. Such letters are often quoted in committee hearings or in debate. You Want Your Letter To Be Persuasive...Here Are the Fundamental Do's:  
DO address your state legislator properly.

DO write legibly (handwritten letters are fine if they are readable).

DO be brief and to the point; discuss only one issue in each letter; try to identify a bill by number and title DO use your own words and your own stationery. DO write when your legislator does something of which you approve. Legislators hear mostly from constituents who are against something; this gives them a one-sided picture of their constituency. A note of appreciation will make your legislator remember you favorably next time you write.

DO write early in the session before a bill has been introduced if you have ideas you would like included in legislation. If you are "lobbying" for or against a bill, and your legislator is a member of the committee to which it has been referred, write when the committee hearings begin. If your legislator is not a member of the committee handling the bill, write them just before the bill comes to the floor for debate and vote.

DO write the chairman or committee members who will hold hearings on your bill. However, remember that you have more influence with legislators from your own district.

DO write the Governor after the bill is passed by both houses if you want to influence his decision to sign the bill or veto it.

There Are a Number of Things You Should Not Do in Writing Your Legislator.

DON'T write on a postcard

DON'T sign and send a form letter.

DON'T begin on the righteous note of "as a citizen and taxpayer." They assume that you are not an alien and they know we all pay taxes.

DON'T apologize for writing and taking their time. If your letter is short and expresses your opinion, they are glad to give you a hearing.

DON'T be rude or threatening. It will get you nowhere.

DON'T send a carbon copy to other legislators. Write

## Latin America: A Reflection

by Eusebio "Junior" Martinez  
Editor in Chief, En Accion

With the conclusion of Hispanic Heritage Month, *BLACKWORLD*, with the assistance of *En Accion*, the first and only Latino newspaper on campus, would like to show some of the attributes that make Latin America a great region of the world. This information will show just how vast this area of the world is, and it will also provide facts on how they influence American life and its status in the world.



### Argentina

Official Title: Republic of Argentina  
Capitol: Buenos Aires  
Population: 32,901,000  
Chief Crops: Grains, Corn  
Official Language: Spanish  
On the Lighter Side: Argentina is instrumental in starting the dance that is now known as the Tango.



### Belize

Official Title: Belize  
Capitol: Belmopan  
Population: 143,386  
Chief Crops: Bananas, Corn, Grapefruit  
Official Language: English  
On the Lighter Side: Erected in 1847, John's Cathedral is the oldest and most important Anglican church in Central America.



### Bolivia

Official Title: Republic of Bolivia  
Capitol: Sucre  
Population: 6,448,297  
Chief Crops: Bolivia economy is structured 50% by agriculture  
Official Language: Spanish, Quecha, Aymara  
On the Lighter Side: Bolivia has the highest population of Indigenous people in the Americas.



### Brazil

Official Title: Federative Republic of Brazil  
Capitol: Brasilia  
Population: 158,739,000  
Official Language: Portuguese  
On the Lighter Side: Capoeira is an aesthetic martial art that originated in Brazil, using instruments that have been around for centuries.



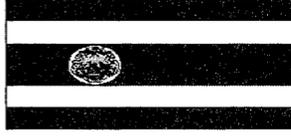
### Chile

Official Title: Republic of Chile  
Capitol: Santiago  
Population: 13,951,000  
Chief Crops: Grain, Onions, Beans  
Official Language: Spanish  
On the Lighter Side: Chile has a national dance, La "Cueca", which was given national status on September 18, 1979.



### Columbia

Official Title: Republic of Columbia  
Capitol: Bogotá  
Population: 35,600,000  
Chief Crops: Coffee, Bananas, Rice, Corn, Sugarcane, Tobacco  
Official Language: Spanish  
On the Lighter Side: The most well known type of music and dance in Columbia is La Cumbia.



### Costa Rica

Official Title: Republic of Costa Rica  
Capitol: San Jose  
Population: 2,300,000  
Chief Crops: Coffee, Bananas, Tobacco  
Official Language: Spanish  
On the Lighter Side: Costa Rica is known for dancing to Afro-Caribbean music, including Calypso.

### Cuba

Official Title: Cuba  
Capitol: Havana  
Population: 106,555  
Chief Crops: Citrus Fruits, Coffee, Milk, Sugarcane  
Official Language: Spanish  
On the Lighter Side: The roots of Salsa, Latin Jazz, and Boleros, originated here.

### Dominican Republic

Official Title: Republica Dominicana  
Capitol: Santo Domingo  
Population: 7,826,000  
Chief Crops: Sugar, Cocoa, Coffee,  
Official Language: Spanish  
On the Lighter Side: The Dominican Republic is known for two styles of music, Merengue and Bachata.

### Ecuador

Official Title: Republic of Ecuador  
Capitol: Quito  
Population: 10,262,271  
Chief Crops: Bananas, Coffee, Cocoa  
Official Language: Spanish  
On the Lighter Side: Volcan Catopaxi is the world's largest active volcano at 19,350 feet.

### El Salvador

Official Title: Republic of El Salvador  
Capitol: San Salvador  
Population: 5,515,000  
Chief Crops: Coffee, Cotton, Sugarcane  
Official Language: Spanish

### Guatemala

Official Title: Guatemala  
Capitol: Guatemala City  
Population: 9,734,000  
Chief Crops: Coffee Beans, Cotton,  
Official Language: Spanish  
On the Lighter Side: The Marimba is the musical medium of Guatemala.

### Honduras

Official Title: Republic of Honduras  
Capitol: Tegucigalpa  
Population: 4,000,000  
Chief Crops: Bananas, Coffee



### Mexico

Official Title: United Mexican States  
Capitol: Mexico City  
Population: 92,202,000  
Chief Crops: Cotton, Coffee, Wheat,  
Official Language: Spanish  
On the Lighter Side: The Mariachi is the most famous form of music.

### Nicaragua

Official Title: Republic of Nicaragua  
Capitol: Managua  
Population: 3,878,000  
Chief Crops: Cotton, Coffee

### Panama

Official Title: The Republic of Panama  
Capitol: Panama City  
Population: 2,529,902  
Official Language: Spanish  
On the Lighter Side: Panama is diverse in their preference for dance, enjoying themselves with Salsa, Merengue, Reggae and Samba.

### Paraguay

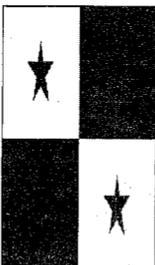
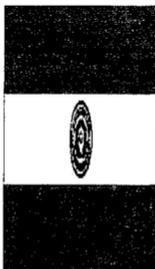
Official Title: Paraguay  
Capitol: Asuncion  
Population: 4,007,000  
Chief Crops: Seed cotton, Sugarcane, Corn,  
Official Language: Spanish  
On the Lighter Side: In the Colonial Period, Paraguay adopted the Polka and added to it, making it the dance we know today.

### Peru

Official Title: Republic of Peru  
Capitol: Lima  
Population: 23,999,000  
Chief Crops: Bananas, Cotton,  
Official Language: Spanish and Quechua  
On the Lighter Side: Cuzco is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the continent of South America.

### Puerto Rico

Official Title: Commonwealth of Puerto Rico  
Capitol: San Juan  
Population: 3,522,037  
Chief Crops: Sugarcane, Livestock  
Official Language: Spanish and English  
On the Lighter Side: Puerto Rico is best known for Salsa, both on the mainland.



*continued from pg. 3*

targets federal drug offenders. This shows outright discriminatory motives. Why not rape or robbery or even white-collar crimes? Scholarly reports have shown that African-American males are imprisoned at a disproportionately higher rate than Whites. The minority community is clearly being targeted.

Over and over it appears that our elected officials are taking away from our children and most importantly the ones who need it. It is time that the minority communities begin to fight back. We are constantly being undermined and ignored. This is clearly evident.

As a black male who had to work to put himself through college and now graduate school, the actions of the government in ignoring the needs of communities and individuals who need programs and special aide is a serious injustice.

Affirmative Action is also being threatened.

## WTC Theory

*continued from pg. 6*

attack, happened to remember that they were told by their loved one that they had an Arab accent....they didn't speak Arabic to each other? People hijack planes in their second language.

4. Of the 4 names they did find- one dies two years ago in a car accident, the other (I believe his brother) was an elderly man walking along the beach w/his kids when he heard that he just hijacked a plane. The third name-al-ghamadi is one of the most popular names in Saudi...at least every block has an al-ghamadi.

5. EVEN if Arabs actually did the hijacking, they were far from Muslim-if indeed they thought it was a valid jihad, they would have done it on a weekend or over night! The death of women, children, and innocent civilians in general would be a heavy burden on their souls.

6. As for the Palestinians dancing, I heard

Many believe that our society does not have use for it anymore. Or that it has already fulfilled its task and racism or sexism does not exist anymore in American society.

Women are still being paid at a percentage of what men make; African Americans have to work twice as hard to establish themselves; and African-Americans and Latinos are still being followed in department stores. Our jails are disproportionately filled with minorities due to the overwhelming over policing of minority neighborhoods. Racial profiling is an accepted means of enforcing law; and minorities are denied jobs not on the basis of merit, but due to their ethnicity.

Again, I insist that we the minority community stand up to our elected officials and demand them to address these injustices facing our children and people. Voting and contacting your elected officials are effective ways to getting your voice heard.

it was old footage from 1991 when Iraq invaded Kuwait; but lets give them the benefit of the doubt...a couple of hundred Palestinians of amongst 3 million or so....all the Palestinians I know said what most Muslims are saddened and terrified....Palestinians would know that the Israelis can begin slaughtering them w/o having to worry about international pressures.

7. How conveniently times this attack was...shortly after the Durban conference, and shortly before they were to draft a report calling Israel a racist nation.

8. Last but not least- Osama bin Laden stated that he gave bayya (an oath of allegiance) to the head of the Taliban and he swore not to get involved in any terrorist actions while in their country...why would he stab them in the back after they have provided him with safety and took a couple of bombings for him already? Even if his views on jihad are not mainstream-Muslims don't do that....more importantly, he said he did not do

*continued from pg. 3*

just a male and female line. Also, when the weather is nice, lines will be outside because it is safer. It gets congested in the union when crowds form especially with all the furniture, said Walcott.

Money for the new security service will be made up by prices going up for tickets. For an organization to rent the ballroom, prices will go up 160 dollars. To rent out EOB, organizations will have to pay an extra 70 dollars. The Bi-level increase will be 285 dollars for organizations.

The procedural plan that is in effect for the Union, is the same one that the university hopes to implement for the Sports Complex.

Walcott encourages students that have questions or concerns about the plan to bring them to the Union. "The more feedback the better," says Walcott.

it...he may not be a model international citizen, but since when was the US government, or worse, the Israeli government, the truth-tellers of the world. It wouldn't be the first time that the moussad did something like this. Although, we may never know the truth. Just a thought Information as given is based on our general experience and is given in good faith, however, because of the many factors affecting the use of our products which are outside our knowledge and control, no warranty is given or is to be implied with respect to such information. Join lively, daily nigerian issues

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## Interfaith Center Response:

*Yvonne Belizario  
BLACKWORLD Editor*

Rabbi Joseph S. Topek, Chairman of the Interfaith Center, disagreed with the majority of the opinion piece. According to him, even leaders of radical regimes in the Middle East denounced claims in opposition to Arab terrorist groups bombing the U.S. Topek said that even Arab newspapers wrote that of course an Arab group did the bombings. He continued saying Al Queda, Osama bin Ladin's organization, claimed credit for the bombing. "If terroist claimed they did it you can't say it was somebody else" said Topek.

The one legit question the article did raise, he said, was what is going to become of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the aftermath?

He disagreed with the piece about now

this war provides Israel with an open door to terrorize Palestine. "Israel is not the initiator" of violence said Topek. "It was hoped after the September 11 attack that a signal went up for Palestinians to come back to the negotiating table which they left in August of 2000 to take arms against Israel."

He then gives a brief history on why they left.

At Camp David, the U.S. put a proposal to give Palestinians, additional territory, compensation and a capital in Jerusalem. The capital was to be in the eastern part of the metropolitan area in Jerusalem.

"Afafat had 98% of what he wanted," said Topek. But the Palestinians wanted to re-divide the city of Jerusalem and Israel refused to split the city again.

Arafat then left the negotiations without

even providing a counter offer. A few weeks later riots broke out. Arafat said that there was no way he could stop the violence, but then he pronounced a ceasefire after the bombing in the U.S. This is the only time he put pressure on the Islamic Jihads and the Hamas to stop said Topek.

"Arafat's not doing his job" said Topek. "If he doesn't Israel has to act," Topek adds.

Sister Sanaa Nadim, the Chaplain of the Muslim Interfaith Center, said she believes there is so much misconception about the Islamic and Arabic world. "It's up to the good people of the world to look for peace if they want peace they will find it," she said.

In reference to people pointing fingers to

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different groups Nadim said, "It's easy to lay the blame on anybody, but only God knows."

"I believe that there are good people in every faith group, but there is also evil." "People

take their philosophies and use it for their own political gain," Nadim said.

She says in Arabic and Islamic context terrorism is unacceptable. "I know that in Islam there is no hate, terrorism, or killing of innocent

people." "Courage, love and humbleness are what the Muslim and Arabic culture calls for."

**For Your Knowledge:**

Islam is the faith itself

Muslims are those that believe in the Islamic faith

Arabs are 20% of the Muslims in the world

Arabic is the language; the culture of Arabs

# back 2 bashment

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Special thanks to Minority Planning Board

# LIFE EXPECTANCY OF BLACKS VS. WHITES

by Gilberto G. Belizario  
BLACKWORLD Contributor

The average Black person in the U.S.—male or female, can expect to live on the average, approximately six years less than their White counterpart.

The life expectancy gap between the races is growing. In 1984 the gap between both sexes of the two races was 5.2 years. In the year 2000, the gap grew to 6.2 years.

The biggest difference is the life expectancy of the men: 73.4 years for Whites, 65.9 years for Blacks. That is a difference of 7.5 years!

What are the facts behind the shorter life expectancy of Blacks vis-à-vis Whites in this country? There are many theories that offer explanations. One of the best known and most widely believed is the "Black Culture" theory. I call it the "blame the victim hypothesis."

It goes like this: during slavery, Whites gave the cheap, undesired foods that they would not eat to Blacks. Foods that were better fit for the hogs of the masters than for the slaves. These included slabs of pork or cow fat, pig feet, cow entrails, ox tail; cheap greens like spinach, and of course, for dessert, Black folks favorite

watermelon! Such low quality foods, the theory continues, required a lot of spicing and salting to make it edible. Over the generations since the end of slavery, this diet has evolved to our present, fine Soul Food Cuisine.

The Black American diet is as a result, high in fat, salt, and sugar—the deadly trio. This trio is responsible for the deaths caused by heart attacks, high blood pressure and the diabetes that is mowing down Blacks.

Now here is the kicker. Do you know who people actually blame for the shorter life span of Blacks—men in particular? The Black woman, of course. They say her cooking is poisoning her family! That's the theory.

The real truth behind the reality that Blacks live shorter lives than Whites in this country is not a simple but, in fact, complex matter. Yes, the reasons do include how and what we tend to cook and eat. We as a People, should and must improve our diet.

But guess what? The Standard (White) American Diet—S.A.D for short, is also abysmal, by comparison to the rest of the "developed

world. Fast foods, packaged foods and snacks, which constitute a large percentage of the S.A.D, is packed full of fat, salt and sugar... the same deadly trio. Black and White Americans, the wealthiest, most educated, most blessed people in the history of the planet, lead the world in deaths caused by heart attacks, cancer, hyper-tension, diabetes, you name it.

No, the standard African-American diet is not solely, or principally responsible for the difference in the Black-White life expectancy. The major factor in this puzzle is the pervasive racism in the American Culture. Let's examine one aspect: the American Health Care system.

The following are common expressions Black patients use in describing their visits, diagnosis and treatment experiences with their doctors.

Have you heard your older family members complain like this: "They never find anything wrong with me." "They think it's all in my head." "My doctor thinks I'm just faking to get a out of work." "He doesn't know what's wrong with me." "He thinks it might be this or

*continued on pg. 14*

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*continued from pg.8*

ment provide monetary assistance to drug dealers. However, the clause makes no distinction between major felonies resulting from distribution and misdemeanors for simple possession. Indeed, upon close inspection, we see that this provision of the HEA is not nearly as simple as it appears to be.

An argument can be made that what this clause actually does is further immobilize those at risk of marginalization in our society. Firstly, this clause hurts working families and those of less economic means and not those who could afford college without financial aid. According to the Coalition for HEA Reform, "denying financial aid to students hurts only those students who need the aid. Potential students of well-to-do families need not worry about losing their college opportunities; they can afford both a good lawyer and a good education."

Another major problem with the clause is that it has a discriminatory impact on minorities. In New York State, almost 95% of those in prison for drug offenses are people of color, but studies show that the majority of drug use and sales occur among whites. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, African Americans, who comprise approximately 13% of the population, and 13% of all drug users account for more than

55% of those convicted for drug offenses. These disparities in our drug laws set up a system in which the drug clause has a disproportionate impact on people of color.

Lastly, there is no similar provision in the HEA which would deny financial aid to offenders of any other crimes, including rape and murder. Does this mean that congress views these crimes as less offensive than drug possession?

The drug clause masks increasing restrictions on access to higher education behind a controversial drug issue. Federal representatives should be passing laws to make it easier, not more difficult, for all people to obtain a good education. Further marginalizing young offenders right as they are making steps towards positive personal advancement is counterproductive to both the individual and society as this may set the offender on a downward spiral and actually increase the abuse and sale of illicit drugs.

NYPIRG, along with many organizations nation wide, including the NAACP, Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, the American Civil Liberties Union, NORML, and others are all doing work to get the drug clause repealed from the HEA. Many student governments from across the nation have also taken formal stances to repeal the drug clause including the United States Student Association, and the Student Association of SUNY. Here on

## Little Known Facts About Blacks: Charles Drew

Charles Richard Drew's phenomenal mass blood donation systems saved thousands of lives during World War II. Prior to the war, he established the first successful blood plasma bank at Presbyterian Hospital in New York. In 1940 Great Britain, already deeply entangled in the war, hired him to lead a mass-volume "plasma project" that became a model for blood banks throughout Europe. A year later, he was assigned to create a similar system for American GI's. But due to the times, he had no control over segregation policies in the U.S. Armed Services, where blood collected from blacks could not be transfused to whites.

## MADAME C.J. WALKER: AN INSPIRING SELF-MADE MILLIONAIRE

*by Maria Hércules*  
BLACKWORLD Contributor

Sarah Breedlove a.k.a. Madame C.J. Walker was one of the first black female millionaires in American history. Madame Walker is most noted for inventing The Walker Method, which used various ointments and herbs and existing hot metal irons to soften and straighten hair. Her pioneer work in black hair and beauty products revolutionized the way black women did their hair.

She was born in 1867 to two ex-slaves/plantation workers in Delta, Louisiana. Her parents died when she was young. She got married at 14. In 1885, she had a daughter, A'Lelia. Two years after that, her husband died. She moved to St. Louis, Missouri and worked as a laundress to support herself and her daughter. In 1905, Madame Walker started experimenting with her own hair products. After perfecting her products on herself and her daughter, she started to sell them in her neighborhood. She went door-to-door selling her hair products and showing women how to use them. Later that year she moved to Colorado, Married Charles J. Walker (that's where she got Madame C. J. Walker from). In 1906, she created a mail order business where women who were not in her traveling range could send her money for her products and instructions. In 1908 she opened Lelia College, a beauty school that not only taught the Walker Method but gen-



eral hair care and hygiene as well. Madame Walker traveled around the south selling her products. By 1910, Madame Walker had two plants that made and sold her products, thousands of employees who made, shipped and sold her products and many beauty schools across the country. Madame Walker's products went beyond hair care. She also developed products for the face and skin. Madame Walker died in 1919 leaving her daughter acres of property around the US, many companies and schools and millions of dollars.

Madame Walker contributed thousands of dollars to various black organizations to help the black community. She donated money to the YMCA, the Young Men's Christian Association who worked with the poor and homeless. In 1918, she bought Frederick Douglass' house so that it

could be preserved as a museum. Madame Walker also created scholarships for black colleges such as the Tuskegee Institute and the Bethune-Cookman College so that young black people can get a good education.

I think that Madame C.J. Walker is an inspiration to all black females. She started out poor and through determination and self-motivation created a beauty empire, complete with schools, factories and a lot of money. With her money, she improved the lives of blacks and paved the way for future blacks to invent their own companies and beauty products. Madame Walker should serve as a model for black women today, showing them that even through racism and sexism, they can make their dreams come true. In a conference for the National Negro Business League, Madame Walker said: "I want to say to every Negro woman present, don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come... Get up and make them!" (Taken from <http://www.princeton.edu/~McBrown/display/walker.html>)

To get more information about Madame C. J. Walker and other pioneers like her email us at [blackworld79@hotmail.com](mailto:blackworld79@hotmail.com)

*cont. from pg. 12*

that, but he doesn't seem willing to order the tests to find out for sure." "Getting my doctor to order a test is like pulling his teeth, although my insurance is paying for it."

Racism is so insidious, so culturally subconscious, so institutionalized, so socialized, so deeply a part of our thinking, feeling and behavior patterns, that with few exceptions, even the best of us—White and Black doctors who by and large want to help others, practice it without intent, awareness, or guilt; but nevertheless, with deadly results.

Numerous studies have shown that doctors order less tests, prescribe less medication, approve shorter hospital stays, operate less and later and diagnose with less accuracy on their Black patients, as compared to their White patients. In short, studies confirm the existence and deadly effects of racism in the hospitals and clinics of our nation.

How does racism affect the interaction and decision making of doctors when it comes to their Black patients? Class differences. Human beings, even educated and well meaning ones, tend to fear, and distrust what is different. Doctors, by their presumed intelligence, education, and social status, are regarded by themselves and others, as falling into a different socio-economic class than most of their Black or White

patients.

However, their Black patients are even further removed from their doctors by the ever present class of race. To Black doctors, their Black patients are removed from them by two classes—social and economic. For White doctors, their Black patients are removed by three classes: social, economic and racial.

Doctors are trained to overcome the socio-economic differences with their White patients. They are not trained to overcome the racial differences with Blacks. As a result, the distrust that these differences cause between doctors and their patients is manifested with their Black patients as racism.

The other cause of racism from doctors is the perception that Black patients are more docile, less educated, less knowledgeable of their right to good treatment, less likely to sue for mal-practice than Whites. As a result, if doctors are feeling lazy, tired, overburdened, burned out by their case loads, or if they are being pressured by their employers—hospitals, clinics, other health-care organizations, to reduce costs, then Blacks are the best ones to skimp on. "They won't complain; and if they do, they're less likely to be heard, taken seriously or believed than Whites."

The ladder that Blacks have to climb to gain

equality in the American society is slippery, tricky, dangerous, and twice as long as what immigrant Whites such as the Irish, Italians, and other racial groups had to climb.

At one time in our history, we could not afford good health care. It was understandable why we did not get it then. But today, many working and middle class Blacks can afford the cost of group and even individual health care. When we put the same dollars into the health care system, we should not get half the benefits.

What is the answer? What is the solution? Which generation of Blacks is going to bust through? And How?

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# Quotable:

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**Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.  
Our deepest fear is That we are powerful beyond  
measure.**

**It is our light, not our darkness, That most frightens us.  
We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous,  
talented, and fabulous?**

**Actually, who are you not to be?**

**You are a child of God.**

**Your playing small doesn't serve the world.**

**There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that  
other people won't feel insecure around you.**

**We are born to manifest the glory of God that is within  
us.**

**It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.**

**And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give  
other people permission to do the same.**

**As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence  
automatically liberates others.**

**- Nelson Mandela**

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