

BLACK WORLD

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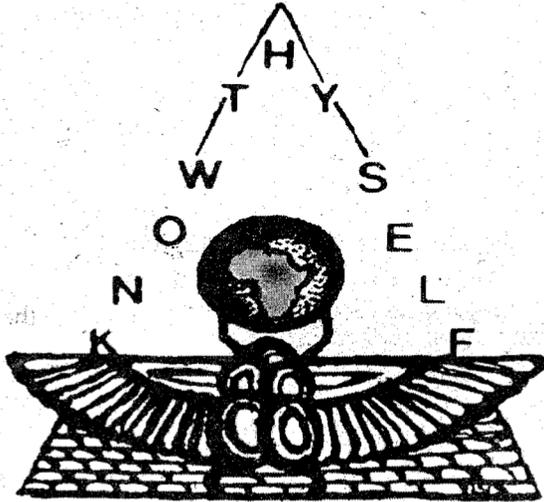
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Letter From the Editor

After reading Mary Crow Dog's *Lakota Woman* in one of my classes this semester about the hardships the Native American faced in this country I was going to boycott Thanksgiving. How can we celebrate someone else's discomfort and hardships, I asked myself? I did not have an answer, however, I thought about what the world would be like if each of us decided we were going to boycott an event because of injustices.

I think it is important for us to show our understanding to the injustices that different races have endured, however, boycotting is not enough; it is only through education that we can truly show that we recognize the pain of the different peoples.

It is important to make your own judgements about life, we cannot listen to society or we will never have piece of mind. There are so many things to make decisions about we cannot possibly follow the multitude. In a few weeks we will be celebrating what is internationally known as Christmas, however, others have their own form of the celebration for different reasons.

Jews celebrate Hanukkah, an eight day long winter celebration that is not religion oriented. The flickering Hannukah lights are a reminder of the struggle, courage, and fragile triumphs of the Jewish people. African Americans on the other hand celebrate Kwanzaa so that they can focus on their culture and history. Kwanzaa claims no ties with religion; instead its emphasis is on the unity of black people.

Regardless of what you will be celebrating this holiday and regardless of the reason remember that the season is not so much about the past but about what it means to us today. It is important to focus on how we are affected as individuals and to make our own meaning of the various celebrations. One thing all the celebrations have in common is they celebrate life, past and present.

Whatever you do this holiday season remember to stay strong, give thanks for your health and your family and keep the peace.

Enjoy your holidays!

HAPPY KWANZAA**TO ALL FROM THE****DELECTABLE STAFF****@****BLACKWORLD**

“Whose War is It?”

By: Dr. Tracey L. Walters
Africana Studies Professor

President Bush's repeated call for war on Iraq is becoming more than a distant reality. As each day passes, news reports reinforce the President's commitment to follow through with a war that is not yet strongly supported by the American people or by our foreign allies.

A recent poll conducted by CBSnews.com revealed that 57 percent of Americans want Bush to wait until the United Nations have thoroughly conducted their weapons inspection before invading Iraq. Forty-four percent of the nation believes we should not attack any country unless they attack us first. However, 43 percent are in favor of attacking any country that might pose a threat to United States security.

While the polls suggest that most Americans would prefer that Bush waits until we have credible evidence to suggest that a war on Iraq is necessary, it appears evident that Bush will wage war on Iraq with or without the support of the American people.

While the public's opinion on whether or not we should go to war is significant, we should also direct our attention to the debilitating effects that this war will have on our country, and in particular, on

those groups which are already oppressed and marginalized by the larger society. Namely, minorities, including women.

The real questions for concern then, are whose war is this, who will fight in this war, and what will we gain or lose by fighting or to be more specific, what consequence will this war have on our nation?

Jake Levich who works for the department of communications and is a member of Stony Brook University's *Coalition Against War*—a coalition of student groups, departments, local and community organizations, and individuals who oppose the threatened war against the people of Iraq is vehemently against the threat of the war on Iraq. “The Bush administration has failed to establish that Saddam Hussein constitutes any kind of plausible threat, nuclear or otherwise, to the security of other nations,” said Levich. “Bottom line: This war is about oil. The US plans

to trade the lives of innocent Iraqis and US servicemen for control of Iraq's massive oil reserves—which will have the not incidental effect of bringing vast wealth to the Texas oil men who sponsored Bush's political career. (Bush, Cheney, Rice, et al. are all former oil company executives).

International law and diplomacy have been abandoned in favor of the

so-called “Bush Doctrine,” a policy that boils down to might makes right. The US is sending a message to the peoples of the world: do what we say or

we are prepared to annihilate you.

This is not a recipe for a stable, secure, or peaceful planet. Meanwhile, on the domestic front, the war serves as a convenient smokescreen to distract Americans from rising unemployment, declining

incomes, massive corporate malfeasance, and further attacks on social

welfare. In addition, the simultaneous assault on civil liberties, including welfare, Draconian immigration policies, arbitrary imprisonments, and the open

embrace of racial profiling, threatens to turn this country into a de facto police state—one in which only the wealthy white minority enjoy rights and freedoms that once belonged to all Americans.”

Stony Brook Junior and English major Allan Katz

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The Necessity Movement: Taking It to Administration

By: Adekemi Akingboye
BLACKWORLD Staff

The movement to reconstruct the current meal plan is reflective of the success of black students on this campus. The black community on this campus is making strides towards unity and empowerment as Stony Brook University is dawning upon a new age.

Stony Brook is progressing and moving towards a greater value, in education and programming. In recent months, Administration has not only made changes in the meal plan, but also in the academic mall, departments and academic programs.

In lieu of this, the black community is beginning to become self-renown: in and of itself. A big problem was lack of involvement and a solution is movement. A movement that is sorely needed, not only because of its direct purpose to change the meal plan, but also to encourage more and more black students to be involved in something that is important to them and the wider community.

The Necessity Movement is making sure and withstanding imprints upon the Stony Brook community, history and administration. On Wednesday Nov. 20, 2002 at around 12:40pm in the Student Union Fireside Lounge, a diverse group of Stony Brook students congregated to express their communal dissatisfaction with the current meal plan. Students took up their “right to bare arms” of intel-

lect and free speech, gathering in the Fireside Lounge under the leadership of Mandel Julien.

Mandel Julien (Coalition, Haitian Student Organization and Student Polity member) and his colleagues in the Necessity Movement coordinated a demonstration to demand a change in the current meal plan. It is a movement with a purpose of helping the entire student body, but its leadership speaks to accomplishment in the black community.

The goal of the Necessity Movement is to attain a student meal plan in which the cost of the meals coincides with its quality and taste. Increase Quality. Decrease Price. Furthermore, the movement hopes to attain better notice from the Faculty Student Association for the student community when there are changes in the meal plan.

Julien and his associates, Frasilie Stinvil and Sandy Curtis, Sophomore Class Representative led about fifty students from the Union to make the journey through the academic mall. Student demonstrators walked up the Zebra Path chanting: “FSA go away!” The movement took the demonstration through the Student Activities Center and its food court chanting the same, and was joined by various Greek organizations whose members held up banners and signs in support of the movement. Demonstrators soon left the Student Activities Center and approached the Administration building. While approaching, the student demonstrators were joined by

protesters *Against the War on Iraq*.

From here the growing group of demonstrators entered the Administration building and took the Necessity Movement outside the office of the president of the university, Shirley Strum Kenny. After sometime of chanting and flexing their rights as students, a door was opened to the students of the movement. President Kenny allowed Julien, Curtis and Stinvil to enter her office and discuss the movement and its goals in a private conference. Other student demonstrators awaited the return of their leaders for

news of how the meeting went.

The most important things that came of the meeting were that Administration was forced to recognize that there was a problem. President Kenny realized that students are not going to sit back and let their voices be ignored. The students demanded change.

President Kenny made no promises to the student body on Nov. 20, however, she did promise to look into the matter. She reassured Julien, Curtis and Stinvil that nothing happens overnight, especially with such a huge budget. Kenny promised to make a team of people to take care of the problem. She also spoke to the student leaders about the meal plan itself. She and the management of Chartwells and FSA

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Death Row Inmates May Get A Second Chance

By: Darise Jean-Baptiste
BLACKWORLD Staff

Death row inmates in the state of Illinois may be granted extensions on their lives. George H. Ryan, Governor of Illinois, has led a campaign in an effort to alleviate the flaws in the state's death penalty system.

After 13 Illinois death row inmates were found to be wrongly convicted since 1977, the State Prison Review Board began several hearings in October. The result of the hearings will determine whether to commute the death sentences of 142 of the 160 death row inmates to life sentences.

Ryan ordered a moratorium in the state putting a suspension on all executions in the state.

According to researchers at Columbia University and New York University, more than three-fifths of states that impose the death penalty have error rates of 70% or higher, and 7% of defendants in retrial cases were found innocent. Eighty-seven prisoners have been freed from death row since 1973.

Anthony Porter spent 15 years on death row in Illinois when days before his scheduled execution, evidence was discovered proving his innocence. Porter was exonerated and released two years later. Porter's rare case represents a possible hope for other inmates who claim innocence.

The American Civil Liberties Union Freedom Network (ACLU) supports Ryan and offers information on the capital punishment system and their findings. According to the ACLU, a relationship between race, poverty, and the death penalty contributes to a necessary review of the capital punishment system altogether.

Thirty-six percent of death row inmates are black while only making up 12% of the United States population; 82% of all death sentences involve white victims. Most defendants are economically unable to afford quality legal representation and by the time they reach the appeals stage they virtually have no money.

Ryan has also suggested granting a blanket clemency, which would commute all death sentences to life sentences. Families of the victims of some of the convicted inmates express anger and fury at the governor's actions.

Three convicts whose cases would be reviewed under Ryan's campaign, was convicted of murdering Debbie Evans and her 10 and 7-year-old children in 1995.

Katy Salhani, Debbie's sister describes Ryan as being coldhearted just like the killers. Victims groups disagree with Ryan's attempt at granting blanket clemency.

Flaws in the capital punishment system con-

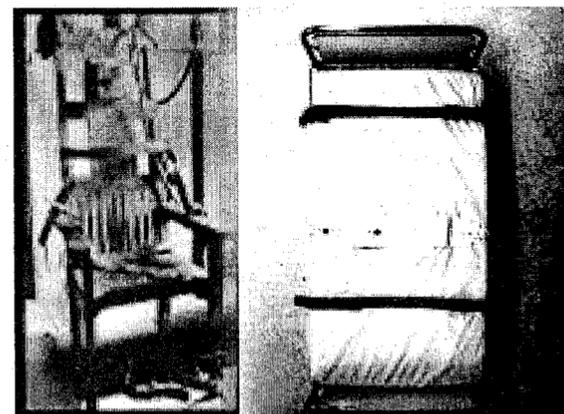
tribute to the unfair

convictions. Faulty testimonies from witnesses, snitches, and police officers, and long time gaps between trial, retrial, and execution are attributed to mishaps in the system.

Ryan wants to make sure everyone on death row is guilty.

In the 2002 gubernatorial elections, Ryan decided not to run again. United States representative Rod Blagojevich won the election breaking the 25-year Republican run for Illinois. Blagojevich was the first Democrat to be elected since 1977. This means that Ryan has until January to continue his campaign, where each of the petitioners was convicted under that broken and flawed system.

Each Illinois state death row inmate will have an hour to have their case reviewed.



Alphas Celebrate "A Night in Cairo"

By: Shaila Mentore
BLACKWORLD Editor

The theme of the evening was "A Night in Cairo" and seven Stony Brook ladies vied for the crown that would give them the opportunity to represent the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated's Rho Rho chapter at Stony Brook University.

On Dec. 7, 2002 Alpha Phi Alpha's Rho Rho chapter welcomed the Stony Brook community to their third annual *Miss Black & Gold Pageant* where they crowned sophomore, Shannon T. Bethel as the queen of the evening. "I'm so elated," said Bethel who entered the pageant because she thought it would be a good experience.

The pageant was coordinated by last year's winner Mateka Fung who said she had a lot of fun and wants to be a part of the program again. "I was a little nervous in the beginning but the girls were very cooperative and dedicated so it was not hard," said Fung.

The scenes included a talent, swimsuit, eveningwear and two dance ensembles that included Fung, Morgan Cato, Kimberly

Solomon, Gina Charles and Racquel Bennett. Cato choreographed the opening dance and Charles and Bennett choreographed the last dance.

During the opening scene the ladies offered various reasons why each should be the next *Miss Black & Gold* while in the talent segment they each showed why they are worth of the crown. Nallely Rodriguez performed the song 'A Moment Like This,' Sasha Buchanon blew the saxophone to a beat that she created and a song that she wrote, Shannon Bethel danced to Michael Jackson's 'You Rock My World' and the other ladies wooed the audience with various other talents.

Though the swimsuit competition was not the highlight of the evening, the ladies sashayed across the stage still trying to prove themselves as the best. It was 'the test of the Queen' that had the audience at the edge of their seats hoping that the contestant they want to win does not answer her question incorrectly. "Sasha should win, she is very talented and possesses all the qualities that make black women unique," said Lottoya Manderson, a Stony Brook senior and strong supporter of

Buchanon who ended the evening as the first runner-up.

Though this year's show went very smoothly, Fung thinks entertainment would be a good addition for next year. "Next year we hope to implement other aspects of entertainment," said Alphonso Vanlow, member of Alpha Phi Alpha. "I think it was a good show, a lot of credit goes to Mateka and the girls who put it together," Vanlow added.

As the winner of the evening, Bethel gets to move on to regional and national competitions. "It was never about winning for me, I saw it as fun," said Bethel. Fung says her year as Queen was an experience that taught her a lot and made her a better person. She wishes Bethel the best and says she hopes the Alphas utilize her in programs and other events.

The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha thank everyone for their continued support!

HASSAN'S MUSIC REVIEW

Well hey there my b-boys and b-gyrls, skaters and headbangers. I'm back with some more in-depth music review for you. I reached out to a few of our own almost famous talents to submit

their album/demos to me to get a review but I got no takers. So I decided to reach out across the country to California, by way of Atlanta, and tap my boy Wale (pronounced Wah-lay) on the shoulder. I met this cat the first day of orientation for my summer internships down in A-Town. We both met minds as two anti-pop establishment musical elitist now being forced to work at white collar corporations to pay for school. I met him at the burgeoning of his producing when only 2 out of 23 songs on his CDs were actually good. Fast forward two years later and he's winning producing battles, having a slew of independent labels beating down his door, owning his own fashion line (Ha! Rocawale) and giving out free music on his website all out of his mom's house! I interviewed him a few weeks, meet the man known as Science Fiction.

Oh yeah shouts to all my OKAYPLAYERS!!!!!!

Oh yeah, any musicians out there looking to get this thing going holla at your boy.

Q: How does an indie rock guitar player become an avant garde hip-hop producer/emcee?

A: Through hours of intense BET/MTV brainwashing. I was convinced to trade my guitar in for a shiny suit and some air force ones years ago while chanting "Give me 2 purrs". Nah seriously, I like to consider myself open-minded. I listen to virtually anything under the sun. (As long as it's not Murder Inc.)

Q: Fo shizzle my Nizzle where you be from?

A: I was born and raised in Nigeria, and moved to the States when I was a teenager. I don't really claim anywhere in particular, but I did spend a few years in ATL so I guess that's the closest thing.

A: Cool edit & fruity loops or pro tools and and SP?

Q: Well it depends on you really. Like I always say, "the tools don't make the masterpiece, the hands and heart wielding them do." There are cats who put their life savings into production equipment and studios and sound like garbage (Listen to the radio if you don't believe me). It's not about what you use; it's how you use it. Personally, I'm into a combination of software

and analog instruments.

Q: Tell us all about the Alphabeats competition?

A: Alphabeats.com is essentially an online forum for producers. Every few months they hold a national beat battle that brings together beat-smiths from all over the nation. I just happened to win Battle

VI a few months ago, which was nice because it got me a lot of exposure and validated all my sleepless nights. It isn't often that producers get to flex their muscle. Emcees can hit up open mics or just battle on the street, but it's a little more complicated for us. So I always advise producers who think they're dope to get out there and test their mettle. Sitting in your dorm room, while your boys gas you up isn't going to get you very far. Gotta go out and get what's yours.

Q: Your Top 5 albums?

A: In no particular order...

Radiohead - Okay Computer

BlackStar - Blackstar

A Tribe Called Quest - Midnight Marauders

Nirvana - Nevermind

Coldplay - either of their 2 albums.

Q: What's in the works for you next?

A: Well, my new album is pretty much done.

We're doing post-production now, working on getting the guests together and picking the best songs. I have actually just been picked up by Third Earth Music (www.thirdearthmusic.com), home of hip-hop acts The Masterminds, the Juggaknots, Jean Grae, Aceyalone, and Mr. Len (from Co.Flow) among others. I'm VERY excited

about it mainly because of the company I will be keeping. We are looking at dropping the first 12 inch single around Jan/Feb, and the full length around April/May of '03. I can sincerely say that the world isn't ready, and that what I'm doing is something entirely new and refreshing.

Q: "Company Flow" indie or "Mos Def" indie?

A: Well there's really room for both. Although lately, I don't mess with people who are 'underground' for the sake of being underground. That's immature. I've been there and done that. All that anti-mainstream sentiment...whatever. Good music is good music. I'm not interested in appealing to backpackers, or anyone in particular. I make music for myself first, and for

people who appreciate a good song second. I love me some Mos Def though; cause dude is so versatile. He can go from 'Brown Sugar' and '2 Words' with Kanye West doing stuff with indie cats like "Prefuse 73." I respect that.

Q: \$2 thrift store or \$40 "vintage"?

A: Hahaha! Can I curse? No? Aight, let's keep this PG-13.

But yo, I scoff at all these 'vintage' stores that charge you the same thing Armani would for some

imitation 1955 jacket with a name patch that says

'Leroy' or something. WACK! I wear what's practical.

And that's usually in the sales rack (yo did that rhyme? see? I'm a natural).

A: Tell us about the "do it yourself" tactics of

being underground (i.e. your website etc...)

Q: It's pretty simple. You have to get with the times. I'm always surprised when big name artists don't have a decent site together. The Internet is the television of our generation. It's the single best/quickest way to get information out there and market yourself. People need to take advantage. Angryrobotrecords.com is a site I built so people could listen to my music, and get to know more about me basically. It's been very successful as both a marketing tool and a way to pick up women. Wait, strike that last part from the record...can't give the tricks away.

Q: Vinyl or Mp3?

A: Both. Mp3s are great because of the convenience factor, but you usually can't find the really rare grooves. That's when you need to get your fingers dusty in pop's basement.

Q: What are your musical inspirations?

A: Radiohead, DJ Shadow, the Cinematic Orchestra, and Sean Puffy combs. One love to my man diddy. I feel you homie, I need a girl too.

Q: How would you describe yourself?

A: Hahaha is this the part where I try and sell myself to the future groupies? I'm just a regular guy who happens to be very passionate about music. Don't ask me to describe my style (of music) because no one (myself included) has been able to do that successfully yet.

Q: What's your honest opinion on Nelly not Furtado?

A: You mean the antichrist? Nah I'm kidding. I generally don't mess with Nelly's music. But I have to thank him for "Hot in herre," Women love that in the clubs. Therefore *I* love that in the clubs.

Q: Okayplayer.com or Kodefendant.com? (answer wisely)

A: Big up to my girl Ko from kodefendant.com, she and I are on the same wavelength (i.e. we're both lunatics). And as much as I hate okayplayer sometimes, it's basically my 2nd home. And I know I'm going to get a LOT of support from there when I finally drop the record (hint hint suckers. Y'all BETTER cop the album as much as you've downloaded for free).

Q: When and where did you graduate? With what degree?

A: I just got out of Morehouse College in Atlanta this past May ('02) with a degree in Computer Science. Go to school kids, knowing is half the battle.

Q: What do your parents really think of this "music" thing?

A: They're happy about it (for the time being). BUT they have no idea how serious I am about it, and how serious it is about me. My life is about to become a bootlegged, 'West Side story-wrong side

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Violence at Roosevelt High School

By: Monique Russell
BLACKWORLD Staff

As far back as I can remember the Roosevelt high school district, in Long Island, N.Y., has always been in the spotlight. If it is not the violence at the school it is the threat of being taken over by the state that occupied the minds of the school officials.

The issues that surround the high school stretch far deeper than just the eye can see. Within this community there are people who care and want to help their town. Roosevelt School district is a community that is predominantly African American. It is a small town. That has few businesses and yet the voice in this town is strong.

On October 24, 2002, Jonathon Harris, an 18-year-old African American man was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting. That Thursday night, at approximately 9:40 p.m. he was taken to Nassau University Medical Center and pronounced dead at 10:36 p.m. It was alleged that Harris was killed by a group of Hispanic gang members.

Though the incident did not take place on school grounds, the reaction of the shooting caused a hostile environment within school

amongst the students. It has especially drawn a division between black and Hispanic students. Tempers of both blacks and Hispanics rose to such a point that school officials deemed it necessary for police to patrol the school.

On Friday, the day after the incident, a handful of black students struck a Hispanic student and a Hispanic teacher. The violence of the day caused officials to shut down the school at 11:25 a.m. In light of the recent events, Cold Spring Harbor sports team forfeited coming to Roosevelt. The Roosevelt school officials also decided to cancel their Homecoming game against East Meadow, all athletic events and all after-school activities.

Violence is not the only problem that plagues the school, the town education board has been accused of neglecting the grades of children and mismanagement of the school funds. Roosevelt School district was the first school district to be taken over by the state.

Why did this happen? Schools are set up very much like a legislative branch. There are checks and balances that keep records and maintain reports. For Roosevelt, their problems began right there. For years the school had been reviewed by the Regents as having poor grades. The New

York State regent's exams also revealed that the school was falling below the state's standards.

In 1996 only 36 percent of student who entered the 9th grade passed the math regents exam last year. In addition, the students generally were all suffering from the low grades and poor test scores.

Richard Mills is the state Education Commissioner. The take over empowers him to dismiss and appoint the educational board members for the next seven years.

In an effort to fix the budget, Horace Williams, the schools superintendent from 1995-2001 proposed that he wanted to cut kindergarten classes, sport and extracurricular student activities in order to bail the school out of the budget problem. However the community members voted against it.

Many other people in the community have different opinions about the issue surrounding the school district. Darren Connor, the president of the Roosevelt school board feels that the state has failed to give Roosevelt a fair shot at making changes because they have not provided them

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EOP Fashion Show

By: Donovan Davies
BLACKWORLD Staff

On Thursday Nov. 21, the Education Opportunity Program (EOP) held their second annual fashion and talent show in the Student Activities Center auditorium. The show was titled "Shades of Essence" and featured various mixtures of fashion scenes and talent showcases.

The show began at 9:30pm, an hour after doors opened, with the Black National anthem. Immediately following the first talents for the night was the first fashion scene—"A walk back in time." This scene featured clothing worn primarily during the time when hip-hop was emerging. Polyester Adidas suits, converse sneakers, gold chains and throwback dances to music of the old school period. "I thought it was a very good show, I hope EOP continues to put on these programs," said Junior Dorsainvil.

After the "A walk back in time" scene, the program continued with more talent segments followed by a total of four fashion scenes. The talent portion varied greatly, and featured performances of poetry, hip-hop, reggae, Latin dancing, ballet, the USB Step Team, and more. "I thought the clothes were cute and the show was well prepared," said Lauren Lashley. Stan Styll, however, did not agree. "Props kept falling on stage. It was like they didn't

prepare enough for the show," he said.

Talents had the opportunity to perform more than one song, and some even had the opportunity to be on stage more than one time. Some talent scenes actually ran longer than the fashion scenes.

The scheduled show went until close to midnight, hindering a performance by The Coalition; however, many of their members performed throughout the show.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO
BLACKWORLD'S
MANAGING
EDITOR
YVONNE
BELIZARIO**

End The Violence

By: Gary Pierre-Louis
BLACKWORLD Contributor

Very sad news! It has been reported that Merlin Santana was killed on November 12, 2002. He was reportedly shot while sitting as a passenger in a parked car, waiting for the driver to return from a house nearby. This supposedly occurred in the Crenshaw/Adams neighborhood, in Los Angeles. "Please pray for his family and friends in their loss, and that this kind of useless violence against young, black men will end", said a black activist.

Los Angeles police say a runaway teenage girl was charged in Santana's murder. Shortly after the teenager was charged, two other suspects in the case were taken into custody on suspicion of the murder as well. No motives were discovered yet.

While Santana did not live, the driver of the car was not wounded and immediately flagged down police for help. Later, Los Angeles paramedics pronounced the actor dead shortly after the 2:30 am shooting.

During this last decade I've seen a lot of our brothers dying such as Tupac and Biggie Smalls, both of whom were the biggest rap acts

in the game. These are only a few of the many blacks we have lost and are continuing to lose senselessly by our own hands. Why are we performing all these heinous malicious crimes against one another? Our people complain about all the injustices, prejudices, and hate crimes that we're subjected to by the other side, yet we execute these crimes upon each other. We need to keep in mind



all the great leaders such as Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Marcus Garvey who paved the way for us, and helped us get where we are now. These men shared the same vision that we today share, and faced the same injustices that we face today. These men all wanted to bring about brotherhood amongst black people and minorities alike, and they wanted human equality amongst all people in general. Let us not allow their efforts and dreams to have been made in vain.

One thing we need to keep in mind is that before there is ever any type of unity between whites and blacks there has to be unity amongst ourselves. Right now, black solidarity should be our focal point because once we reach that we've surely come a long way—we can then focus on the even larger picture—humanity and harmony on a worldwide scale. Let us work to undo what the system has been doing for centuries, which is turning us against one another. Let us try to put aside the differences that we can, and those that we can not—work those problems out, in a civil manner. Let us not take our brethren's life be-

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Who's War..(continued from pg.3)

agrees with Levich's position that Bush is insisting on a war with Iraq so that he can divert our attention away from the fraudulent nature of the Bush administration. "Bush wants the American people to focus on war and terrorism so that we can ignore the fragility of the economy which has weakened dramatically since he took office," said Katz.

Katz also maintains that Bush wants a war so that we can ignore his role in the numerous recent cases of corporate corruption, which have gained national attention such as Enron and the Martha Stewart debacle. "This is a sordid presidency. With all this focus on a war, no one has mentioned Bush's own insider trading. All of the attention went to Martha Stewart, but Bush is also guilty of wrongdoing" Katz added.

Conversely, 24 year-old firefighter and Stony Brook student Reynold Sinton disagrees with the viewpoints shared by Levich and Katz. According to Sinton this war is solely about ensuring the safety of the American people, "It's not a war about right or wrong, or about opposing our values on those in Iraq. This war is about protecting our interests: our safety as Americans. Some Middle Eastern countries hold the attitude that we Americans are the enemy. We have to protect ourselves from these kinds of potential enemies," he said.

Many share Sinton's view. If the United States and other nations turn a blind eye towards those who can potentially seek to destroy or attack us then we leave ourselves open to the kind of devastating attack

waged upon us on Sept. 11, 2001.

However, Aden Smith, a member of Stony Brook's football team contends that war will actually place the United States in a venerable position. "My sense is that **nobody wants to go to war. People understand the complications of war. If it is discovered that Iraq does have nuclear weapons and we do go to war, this will only make us susceptible to our other enemies. They will realize that we are in a vulnerable position and this would then give them the incentive to attack us. We cannot depend on those who claim to be our allies at this time. If they turn their backs, we will be left to fight on our own,**" said Smith.

Moreover, Smith adds that if Bush's intentions are to ensure that Iraq does not harbor weapons of mass destruction that can destroy the United States and her allies, he can find other means to address this issue. "I think that in this day and time we can handle things in an intelligent fashion. We can avoid a war. We have enough allies and resources to get what we want without fighting," Smith added.

One group of Americans who will be forced to fight in this war, whether they agree with it or not, is the men and women of the armed forces, many of whom are black and female. For example, Natasha Lomas, a junior here at Stony Brook and a member of the Army Reserves may be called to fight in the war. "I don't want to be called to war, however, if there is a war I will report to duty," Lomas said. Lomas is a reminder that a number

of Stony Brook students are military personnel and thus this war could have consequences on our campus community in considerable ways.

The war will also have an immeasurable consequence on Iraq as well as on our immediate communities. In Levich's opinion, thousands of Iraqi civilians would lose their lives. "According to Medact, an international organization of physicians, it is estimated that the US attack on Iraq will lead to the deaths of as many as 500,000 people." Levich goes on to add, "On the home front, as always, the working poor will get the worst of it. The likely consequences of the war are clear. Unlike the first Gulf War, which was almost entirely financed by US allies, the new war on Iraq, to cost more than \$150 billion, will be financed by American taxpayers. At the same time, the Bush administration is persisting with its phased tax cuts benefiting the wealthiest 10 percent of Americans."

Clearly, those on Stony Brook's campus appear to have a range of opinions about the war. Only time will tell if and when this war is going to occur. Until then, it is our obligation as residents of this country to exercise our right to either speak out in opposition of the war, or support those who believe in the leadership of the current administration. For those in opposition of the war there are numerous rallies being held across the country.

For information visit: www.sbcoalition.net

JAZZY'S

Hair Corner



Jasmine Gibbs

TIPS FOR COLORING BLACK HAIR

Hair color can be that amazing magic tool that instantly transforms dull locks into fabulous golden highlights that shimmer and shine. Although hair color has the ability to transform, please be aware that with beauty often comes pain. Most unwanted hair color disasters are due to a lack of understanding how to apply hair color.

Permanent hair dyes with harsh chemicals may dry out and damage the hair. To avoid having a hair catastrophe here are some tips for coloring at home. This article is not meant to be a thorough education in hair coloring, but a first step in helping home users of hair color to understand the basics.

Select a color that is most compatible with your life style. If you know you don't have time to redo your roots every 3-4 weeks, you may want to select a hair color shade that is only 1-3 shades lighter than your natural color. The closer you go to your natural hair color, the less your roots will show as they grow out. When your roots are less obvious, your hair color will last longer before you need to have a touch up. Always select the type of coloring product that is easiest for you to maintain.

Apply a deep conditioning treatment to your hair a few days before coloring. The better conditioned your hair is, the easier the color will take and the longer it will last. Recently conditioned hair will also be softer and shinier. As a deep conditioner will protect your hair against any possible damage from the color chemicals.

If you apply color after a relaxer the layers of the hair cuticle will be more open and

the color can penetrate deeper into the hair shaft. This is better for the conditioning benefit as well as making the color last longer. If you are using a semi or demi-permanent color you can apply it on the same day as your relaxer. However, permanent hair color is recommended that you wait two weeks after your last relaxer. Combining these chemical processes simultaneously may cause severe damage. **Your hair will fall out.**

If you have a color in your hair and you plan to swim in chlorinated water, you must protect the hair. The best way is to wear a bathing cap. If that isn't possible the next best thing is to thoroughly wet the hair and apply conditioner (do not rinse it out) before going into the water. If you don't do this chlorine will be absorbed into your hair and may cause your color to fade, turn slightly green or brassy. If you already have the problem described above please see a professional immediately.

Remember, for every level of color you want to go lighter than your natural shade, the dryer the hair will become. When you are going from darker to lighter it is an absolute must that you deep condition the hair on a regular basis.

It is recommended that you see a professional if you:

- 1) want to lighten your hair more than three shades
- 2) want to darken your hair more than three shades
- 3) your hair is relaxed, or damaged in any way
- 4) want to make a major color change and want near perfect results

If you use a home hair color kit be sure to read all the instructions before you begin and always have an extra box on hand in case you run out of the mix, have an unexpected spill or the bottle is damaged in any way. If you visit a salon, be sure that you carefully explain the exact look that you are trying to achieve. Be sure to select a color that you can maintain easily and will fit your wallet.

Happy Coloring!

To submit hair questions,
email
Jasmine at
blackworld74@hotmail.com

AIDS: It Is That Serious!

By: Patrick Blemur
BLACKWORLD Contributor

AIDS is serious people! Not a joke, not just a subject, but it is real and can happen to anyone at anytime.

This message was conveyed at a program on Wednesday, Nov. 20 by Associate Professor Dr. Floris Bennett Cash, PH.D and her AFS 422 class: AIDS Race and Gender in the Black Community. The purpose of this event was to provide a more in depth insight on the epidemic and where to seek help.

The first set of presenters was from the Faith Baptist Church of Coram, which provides on site HIV testing for persons inquiring of their health in relation to HIV. This was kind of peculiar, as you wouldn't associate health issues with a church. The presenters quickly edified that their service was a peace ministry and that they were answering THE CALL to educate. Their workshop is used to illustrate the concepts, steps, and skills employed to develop healing and offer help to those in need of these services.

In addition to the church's on site HIV testing, they also provide weekly HIV/ AIDS

healing quilt projects. The quilts-all large in size-was a physical representation of all those who died because of the deadly disease.

Their mission began with 12 members, from social workers to retirees to ministers of the same faith, who did it not because they were seeking any merit, but to fulfill their obligation of "the calling." They currently have 24-60 chapters in the U.S. including Atlanta, South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee.

All their work and commitment is strictly voluntary. Their door is open to anybody, no special uniform required; no matter who you are or where you are, the goal is to bring people together. The only requirements to participate in the mission is to be compassionate, be respectful, have love, be confident and reflect on the mission together.

Secondly a CHOICE Center representative, Peter, spoke and gave a demonstration on how easily the HIV virus can be transmitted as well as any other disease contingent on sex.

First he randomly selected seven individuals from the audience. Each of these individuals was given a piece of paper with a letter written on them. They were then instructed to memo-

rize the letter, then switch papers amongst themselves and write down the letters of all the previous ones that were received and exchanged. After a series of interchanging, there were different letter combinations of each person.

Peter then asked who had an "A" on their paper, four out of the six people raised their hands stating that they had an "A" on their paper. Peter then went on to explain that when the original six slips of paper were distributed there was only one A. Through the process of sharing and intermingling that number steadily increased from one to four.

This is no different or characterizes how sexually transmitted diseases are transmitted. This exercise, although presented in an informal way, was quite an eye opener as it gave a realistic and simple analogy of the spread of diseases.

He then proceeded to give the statistics on the distribution of HIV, acknowledging that Long Island had the highest concentration of HIV reported cases than any other suburb in America. Of these cases, 23 percent were

continued on pg.13

Necessity Movement (continued from pg.3)

claimed that the prices of food products on campus are the same in every dining hall. Furthermore, Kenny explained that students do have a say in what happens with the meal plan. FSA has a board of employees and actual students who decide whether or not the price of food, drinks and service rise or fall every year.

Are the prices of food products the same across campus? Who knows who any of the students are on this board? Or how the decision is made? How much say they have and how much it reflects that of the general student body? And most importantly, is this information being advertised to the student body like it should be? These are questions that students need to take upon themselves to discuss and figure out in order to make progress. The movement has not been quenched. Students are still discontented. Though President Kenny spoke, words are just words. The movement will continue as such until action is taken and change is seen our current Meal Plan.

**** Take action. Be apart of the Necessity Movement. Contact Mandel Julien in the Student Polity Suite on the 2nd floor of the SAC. Check out his office hours that are posted in the Polity Suite.**

Roosevelt H.S (continued from pg.6)

vated" stated Connor.

Resident David Braxton, said that all people are doing is talking and noting is being done. In his opinion, the children are the ones that are being hurt. The continuous ranting of how bad the school is at some point is going to effect the performance of the students, if it has not already.

Brian Bate, a 10th grader at Roosevelt high school stated, "when you keep telling students that the school might closedown, it makes students not care". Bate's does not want any sudden changes. "The school was taken over six years ago, and it sill didn't do anything. "They're all just talk," stated Connor.

Hope for the future and the hope for any town such as this, is that things will get better. The misfortune that has struck Roosevelt will only continue as long as no one acknowledges what is going on. One way to remedy the problems is too always start with the young people. Local fathers in the town have formed a group called Roosevelt DADS, in which they discuss issues effecting the youth. After the shooting they held a summit on the matters of gang violence. The educational problems has yet to be solved in a manner that will please everyone that is involved in the school district.

Barron at the Brook: Reparations People

By: Patrick Blemur
BLACKWORLD Contributor

On Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2002 the Steel and Velvet brothers of Malik Fraternity Inc. held an event about Reparations with special guest Charles Barron, a former Black Panther and current council member for the 54th district of Brooklyn.

In his presentation, Barron gave an overview of reparations and its importance today. Being the coordinator of the Millions for Reparations Rally in Washington this past August, Barron explained that reparations is compensation for wrongful acts committed, not checks in the mail or items of materialistic values issued. "No, you are not getting no check," said Barron.

Instead he explained that compensation for slavery is indeed necessary for African Americans as it was for Japanese Americans who wrongfully interned during World War II or by the German government who issued monies to those of Jewish heritage persecuted during the Holocaust. That all these were in order and should be in place for African Americans.

In his speech he went on to explain the

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Xmas on the Streets

By Debbie La'Sassier

Yea I'm homeless and I live on the streets.

I'm freezing out here; I need shoes for my cold feet.

I may beg all year round, so what's the big deal?

It's Xmas brotha, show a little love, "please give!"

Remember Xmas only comes once a year

Yo brotha, you got five dollars, I need cigarettes and a beer.

To all you people that got your nose up in the air

Don't forget the true meaning of Xmas,

By the way, you got two fifty for carfare?

All you cheap people, please give a brotha a break,

You think I like being homeless, living on the streets.

I see young girls hanging out on the corner

Young boys selling drugs, trying to make a dollar

I wasn't always homeless; so don't be too quick to judge.

I once had a job, a wife two kids and a dog.

This Xmas when you see some homeless peo

Just remember, it could happen to y

Anyone can end up homeless living on the streets

So Merry Xmas Everyone,

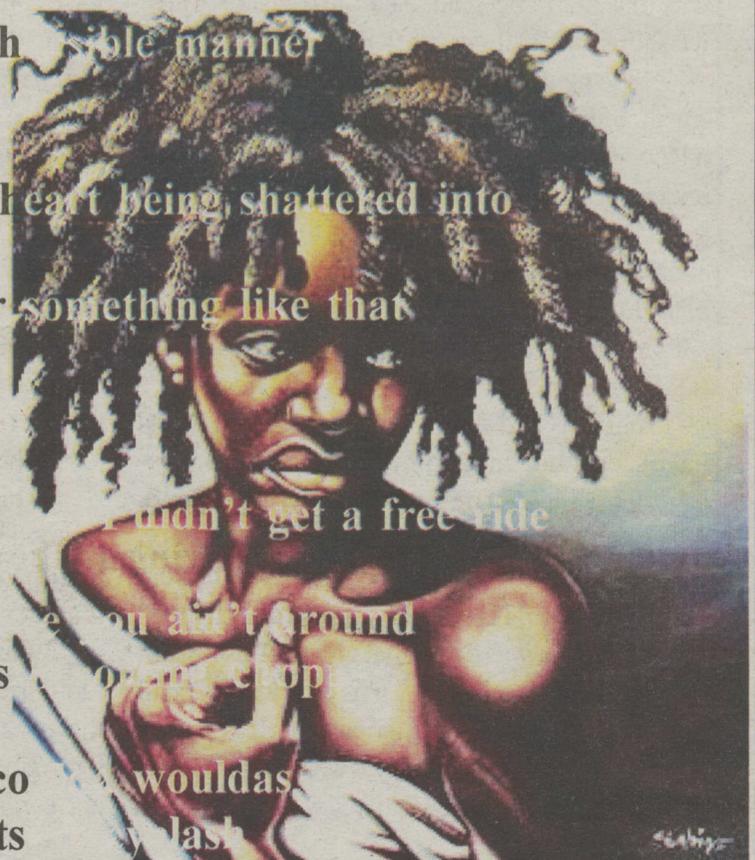
From the homeless people on the streets.



Uninterrupted

By Bunmi...The ENTITY

I'm screaming at the top of my lungs and no one can hear me
 I'm a number, a faceless name with a nameless face
 Existentialistic thoughts form while I'm dying to be heard
 Drowning in a sea of invisibility I need an avenue, a place to vent my rage
 I get so MAD sometimes that I wanna burn this page
 Along with all the other pages filled with useless rhetoric
 Sappy love song shit
 Stories of a newfound love or a broken heart
 A single light that lights the gloom
 Or the shattered pieces of a once perfect union
FUCK LOVE
 My stream of consciousness leads me to another path this time
 You know what?
 I wanna talk about why I'm pissed
 Imma tell y'all why I'm mad!
 I'm pissed because my chocolate skin is a barrier both positively and negatively
 I'm pissed because my heel is broken
 I'm pissed because my brothers don't find me beautiful with my broad nose,
 thick thighs, sometimes-kinky hair, and sometimes-brown eyes
 I'm pissed that love seems to elude me every time
 I'm pissed that he creeps at night
 Shit, I'm pissed that he creeps in the day!
 I'm pissed that I have like 40 midterms and I haven't studied for one
 I'm pissed that I got played
 I'm pissed that I had to play him back
 I'm pissed that I can't seem to be able to straighten out the tangled and confused
 lines that criss cross across my brain
 And get them down on paper in a cohesive, comprehensible manner
 I'm pissed that I can't flow like my boy Has
 I'm pissed that Del and me are not poets
 I'm pissed I can't stand up here and talk about my heart being shattered into
 million microscopic pieces
 And my mind spinning like pulsars in retrograde or something like that
 And my soul not being complete without his love
FUCK LOVE
 I'm pissed that I don't rhyme
 I'm pissed that I have to pay back student loans bec
 I'm pissed that my high is coming down
 Going down, going down, I'm going dooowwn, 'e on an't ground
 Y'all should see how my usually neat handwriting is coming chop
 Much like my thought process...
 Within this muddled mind lies a thousand shoulda co
 I'm screaming at the top of my lungs and no one bats
 wouldas
 last



HASSAN'S MUSIC REVIEW

of the tracks' tale once I go on tour because I intend on making a career out of this, and we all know how the average parent would react to hearing that. It's all good though. You have to follow your dreams. I refuse to be caught 10/20 years from now thinking "What

if..." At the same time, you have to be responsible and realistic about the future. I HAVE a degree, so if things don't work out, I have something to fall back on. But there won't be any falling back... Watch for me in 2003 kids. I was born to occupy the night's skies.

Q: You've been experimenting with live instrumentation in your songs. Is this for creative or for legal sample copyright reasons?

A: Nah, I haven't worried at all about the legal ramifications of my rampant sampling. That might come back and haunt me later, but for now I use what I feel. I've been doing a lot more live stuff because I'm not just a producer; I'm a musician. It was the logical next step to take. You can't allow yourself to stagnate. Boundaries have to be pushed until there aren't any.

Q: How can people get in contact with you?

A: scifi@angryrobotrecords.com or just go to www.angryrobotrecords.com If those don't

work...just throw up the bat signal. I'll be there in a jiffy.

Q: So is the promotional shirts for your label just promotional wear or are you trying to take over Sean John?

A: Ha, my boys and I joke about it. If I ever started a clothing line I'd probably call it "Sci-Fly Gear." In all seriousness though, I would definitely jump at the chance to design clothing. I think I have great ideas. (cue wutang skit with rae and ghost talking about dyed wallabies).

Q: Shout outs?

A: Big ups to Hassan for the interview. I'm coming back through to Stony Brook when we're on tour and the jump off better be waiting this time yo!

Check for my Full length release:
Science Fiction - Walls Don't Exist in 2003
coming out on Third Earth Music.

Peace!
Sci.

hop squared to the umpteenth power.

The album breaks all past constructs of what hip-hop could and should be. This album isn't made by producers, this album is made by true to their craft musicians. I love Timberland and all but what he wishes he could do with music they achieved with this album. I was wondering why Questlove (the drummer) kept posting questions about Frank Zappa and Wilco's new album on okayplayer all summer.

The musical inspirations for this album is extremely vast and it covers all segments of music as a whole but it remains tightly fitted with the Roots. The Roots had been the cool band to say you liked but rarely listened to (or purchased). Now they have produced what is the equivalent of a hip-hop White Album (Think Beatles).

They start it off with "Rock You," mainly an incendiary rap by Black Thought and a percussive riff that sounds like a garbage can smashing into a police car. From there, the group spins through a startling array of hip-hop reinvention, including the hardcore-punk rock scream of "Track 2" (obviously the influence of their newfound guitarist) and the thrilling, rave-rap hybrid of "Track 18."

In my personal opinion the album highlight is their lead off single "Break You Off" featuring Musiq. I recently saw the video and honestly wasn't impressed with the song. I didn't realize that all I heard was the edited radio version. The album version is 9 minutes long and travels the music landscape of Dave Mathew like jam solos that lead into an impressive drum solo that mimics drum n bass percussion patterns to a tee (which most drummers don't have the chops to pull off like Quest). It draws great inspiration from the Beatles song "A day in the life" in terms of arrangement and studio effects.

Roots crew affiliate Nelly Furtado chimes in on the cut "Sacrifice" and gives a stellar performance and lending big name credibility as well as a possible future single. Cody Chestnutt joins in on a remake of a song off his debut The Headphone Masterpiece called The Seed 2.0. The song starts then Cody stops the song because the band didn't come in right and they start over again, lending that necessary sense of tangible authenticity that the Roots give you. The live cut lets you know that this isn't the creation of some guys behind a sampler and a drum machine. The music on this album breathes through you. It's an entity amongst itself with a pulsing heartbeat that dares you to embrace it. This album cannot be denied.

For more information on the roots please please please pretty please go to www.Okayplayer.com. Support a movement dammit.

THE PHILLY INVASION: THE ROOTS CREATE A MASTERPIECE

In 1994 I was watching Video Music Box and I saw a video called Distortion To Static from this group called The Roots. I was blown away, 1994 was the year Illmatic burst onto the scene and lyricism, not monetary possession, was the popular form of hip-hop. This group approached hip-hop in a way that hadn't been done before (outside of coffee shops that is) they were a band.

The next day I bought their first (major release) album "Do You Want More?" and I became a Roots fan for life. At first I took pride in their underground status. I had my own personal champions that I tried to force down the throats of all my cousins and friends in Westchester who knew only of the Lox (then Warlocks) and an unknown hyperactive rapper known as Dark Man Xtra-Sharp (DMX).

Fast forward a few years later and The Roots have seen moderate commercial success and became the darlings of music journalists (like myself). Last year they collaborated on Jay-Z's live album as the musicians who meticulously and damn near exactly recreated his heavily sampled and chopped up songs. That was a sign that great things were in the works. This summer I was at my wonderful internship in corporate America (cough, cough.) I was working hard, well, okay, I was on the internet talking about how much Talib Kweli looks like a

Sea Monkey on www.Okayplayer.com (OKAAAAYYYYPPPLLAAYA!!!!)

A post came up that The Roots added a new member to the band—Ben Kenney. Now, for all of you not in the indie rock loop, Ben was the guitar player (a black guitar player that effin rocks!) in New Jersey punk hardcore band called Supergrub. And I began to salivate at the mouth at what the new Roots album would sound like with such a new dimension added to the fold.

Fast forward to last night, my homegirl Krystal (sup Brown Girl) came upstairs to my suite with Cody Chestnutt's album (more on him later) and the new Roots album Phrenology. So we called everyone out in the suite, turned off the t.v. and the lights, and turned on the black light. For the next hour I was taken on a sonic odyssey through the depths of Hell, the quiet of purgatory, the humanity of earth, and the joys of heaven.

This right here is the album of the year. If the source don't give this album 5 mics then I will never touch another source magazine again. Yes my friends, it's that serious. I must warn you, you will not find any 3-minute pop songs on here. There is hardly any radio friendly songs you can tap your feet to. But that doesn't mean the album is so obscure that only those guys with the backpacks, black panther T-shirts, and cargo pants can understand. The album is hip-

Merlin (continued from pg.9)

cause when this is done, we are only doing what the system wants to do itself, but we are to blame for the bloodshed. By no means should we cause this to be the case, nor allow it.

For now, let's keep in mind brother Merlin Santana. It's sad that such a young and positive life was viciously taken away from us. Let's remember his achievements, Santana was a regular on the Steve Harvey Show and was nominated for two NAACP Image awards as an outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series. Along with his other achievements, Santana guest starred in "The Cosby Show", "Major Dad", "Moesha" and "Sister, Sister." Also, prior to his death he recorded three rap albums that had never been released.

REST IN PEACE!

AIDS..(continued from pg.11)

present in women and an astonishing 77 percent of males. Whoa!

He also gave an in depth analysis on the lesser known diseases such as herpes, Chlamydia, genital warts, and gonorrhea. Sometimes Chlamydia can show almost no signs or symptoms, while others such as genital warts and herpes cannot be treated or cured.

In his closing he gave the advice that anyone who is sexually active should be tested on a regular basis as it is as simple as wiping your eye with someone's bodily fluids (blood, vaginal secretion, testosterone) in which you can be put at risk in contracting a STD.

The event concluded with a question and answer period in which the guest in the event were welcome to ask anyone of the presenters any questions they may have. Some students were exuberant to learn that a church would be so heavily involved in this crusade, stating that "it is weird yet comforting that you guys as well as your congregation is so involved" said one student.

In all AIDS is as serious as war. It is not just a subject that is to be taken lightly, as it could happen to anyone through an undetectable cut, to the wiping of an eye, to a malfunctioning contraceptive. It is that serious!

For more info on testing please contact the CHOICE Center.

Reparations (continued from pg.11)

timeline of the African American struggle. In 1619 was when the slave trade began with Africans until slavery was abolished in 1861, after the civil war, a period of about 250 years. From 1861 to the Civil rights movement which occurred in the 1950's to the 1960's we have been living in the *Jim Crow* era, as Barron defined, where blacks were overwhelmed with racism, disenfranchisement, oppression and servitude.

This era lasted for about 100 years. Today blacks still face problems concerning their own identity, they still do not have the same opportunities as whites, and are still marginalized and displaced in society. So, adding up these time periods blacks were taken away from their native homelands and brought to the Americas for a period amounting to 383 years in which we have been enslaved for 246 years. Whoa. That's more than half of the time spent here by blacks.

The other common debates or questions raised about reparations Barron said that he encounters most is why should the current government be responsible for the wrong doings of our forefathers? This type of approach or denial is also a stupid question as Barron explained. He gave examples that we as New York residents have nothing to do with the budgeting issues of the state, alluding to the millions of dollars that New York State owes, but yet we as citizens pay the ultimate consequences. He combated the question that "anyone who takes part in the wealth of the nation must partake in the debt owed for the nation as well."

Defining that any individual who takes part in government or claiming citizenship as an American must take ownership and responsibility of the works of greater, older nation as well, both good and bad. If you love claim and identify the way the country is run and how it was built, than you must take responsibility for all its pitfalls, which in this case is slavery.

He then explained the difference between reparations and restitution. Reparations are monies issued by the government for its wrongdoing or unjust practices. Restitution are monies or dividends issued by companies for their wrongdoing. Major corporations such as Aetna Insurance Group and Fleet Bank and countless others are responsible for the plagued themes of African Americans caused by slavery. Fleet Bank was responsible for the making of over 100 slave ships that were used to transport Africans from Africa to the Americas. For this reason they are being held responsible. Aetna Insurance issued insurance policies to slave masters for their slaves. When these slaves were persecuted or killed, Aetna issued monies to

these slave owners as compensation for their losses. For these reasons they are being held accountable. Lawsuits have been filed against major corporations for their participation in allowing slavery and slave practices to flourish in the fashion it did.

He concluded his presentation on what are the possible forms or feasible terms that reparations should be given. He gave examples such as allowing blacks to be exempt from all taxes on the basis that blacks paid taxes throughout the years of slavery but were still denied the right to vote, enroll in institutions of higher education, participate in government and access information. Blacks were not allowed to reap the benefits.

For these reasons he gave justification for his proposal. Yet he said the most vital form of compensation that the U.S. can give to African Americans was land. Suggesting that with our own land and as its principle owners, we can build our own schools, govern our own communities and control our environments.

The event concluded with a question and answer period where Councilman Barron answered various questions from the audience to further foster the dialogue about the future of the reparation debate. Barron admitted that as of right now, various corporate companies were in court with instances similar to that of Fleet and Aetna.

The European government is being held accountable and is being sought to administer reparations for the continent of Africa, as the European government was responsible for the exploitation and drainage of the continent and its population, natural resources and history as with the slave trade. Healthcare reform proposals are being brought out to seek compensation of the millions of women and children who died because of not having access to proper healthcare, during pregnancy.

In his presentation Councilman Barron spoke on an array of topics from ebonics to Healthcare to Politics in relation as to why African Americans should receive and are in need of the allocation of reparations. He felt that reparations are indeed important, but will not alleviate all the problems within the black community but will foster some change for the future and for the better.

"This issue should be discussed as much as possible and needs prompt avocation," said Lynette Andrew, Africana Studies major at Stony Brook University.

Death Came Stealing at Xmas

By: Debbie La'Sassier
BLACKWORLD Staff

"Hurry up Keem, your school bus will be here soon!" I shouted from the kitchen as I began to prepare my son's breakfast. As I waited for my six-year-old son Keem, to come downstairs, I chewed on a piece of wheat toast, and slowly took a sip of decaf coffee. Suddenly my mind began to wander.

Xmas around the corner...

I guess the best way to begin my story is from the beginning. I got laid off from AOL three months ago. With unemployment and a part time job off the books I'm barely making ends meet. My transmission finally went on my car last week. And to add injury to insult, Xmas was just around the corner! Now I was stuck with no job, no

money and no transportation. If I didn't know any better, I would swear God had a contract out on me. Realizing what I just said, I looked up towards the ceiling and said "Just kidding God, just kidding I repeated."

I was forced to cash in my son's saving bonds to get money to fix the damn car. If things couldn't get any worse. My landlord Mike, left a message on my answering machine last night saying, "I sold the house, you have thirty days to move" then he added, "Merry Xmas to the both of you." "What else can go wrong?" I thought to myself as I entered my son's room to kiss him goodnight. "Mommy do you think Santa will know where to find us?" My six-year old said with sadness in his voice. "Oh sure baby, he'll find us." I didn't even sound convincing to myself.

Three weeks later:

I stood in the doorway watching my son struggle to maintain his balance. "Keem, what are you doing, bedtime time is eight o'clock, you were suppose to be in bed thirty minutes ago!" I said to him "But Mommy," he started to say, "But Mommy nothing," I cut him off. "You know the rules!" "Mommy", he said in a low whisper, "Sometimes my leg don't work, something's wrong with my leg," he said while pointing to his right leg. "I was afraid to tell you," he said with tears in his voice. "I thought you would get mad. "Keem, look in my face", I said with a smile, "does this face look like it could ever get mad at you. Sweetheart, don't ever be afraid to tell me anything. Promise?" "Promise mommy," he repeated.

Keem unfolded a large piece of paper and handed it to me. "Here Mommy, I drew this for you." I looked at this precious picture. Jokingly I said to him, "Keem why

Continued on pg. 15

IFSC PROFILE: Kappa Alpha Psi

By: Leah Habersham
BLACKWORLD Contributor

The canes, the pretty boy image, the crimson and crème, the playboy bunny—who immediately comes to mind when you hear these words? Kappa Alpha Psi...

The brothers of KAPsi aren't large in numbers on the Stony Brook campus, with only seven members and thirty alumni. Yet, we all still know who they are.

With such a long and rich African American history, you have to wonder: Is there more to them than just the image? The simple answer is "yes."

Kappa Alpha Psi was founded on January 5, 1911 at Indiana University at Bloomington, by ten young men, including Elder Watson Diggs 'The Dreamer,' and nine others. Their fundamental purpose was and is "achievement in every field of human endeavor", and also the promotion of unity amongst the 23 blacks on that university campus. At that time blacks couldn't congregate legally on the Indiana University campus. Therefore the legal way for blacks to meet up was to have a fraternity or some other nationally recognized organization. Their goal was "to bring all college men, not just black together... in

patriotism, honor, and in a bond of fraternity." They have now grown into a fraternity comprised of approximately 100,000 members nationally.

Brian Watkis-Kappa member since spring 2001- said today, the Kappa's here at Stony Brook try to uphold their founding purpose. Part of their reason for being so few in numbers is that they seek quality people who have the qualities of a Kappa. "We would rather quality over quantity; if we have two members, we rather hard working members than a whole group that doesn't do as much," said Watkis.

Their main focus is bettering themselves, and anybody who wishes to join their organization. "We train for leadership," said Watkis. They feel that "Kappa doesn't make the man, the man makes Kappa." When asked do they only accept black members, Watkis said, "We are a predominantly black organization, but we don't limit our organization." Also, the Kappas don't consider themselves Greek—only a Greek letter organization.

They aim to be involved through programming, education and anything that serves the SBU community. They do not

have one set endeavor. They simply try to help in whatever way they can—through food drives, adopting families for Christmas, or giving scholarships.

Just to make things clear—the men of Kappa Alpha Psi do recognize what their image is, but they would like it to be known—it is confidence, not cockiness. When asked why they have pretty boy reputation Watkis answer was, "Look around, we're some fine looking brothers." He then cleaned up the mildly arrogant statement with a simple addition, "Everybody is pretty in their own way." And the cane is a symbol of knowledge, thus used by knowledgeable men.

The Kappa Sweethearts are not sorority sisters to the Kappas. They do not have any Greek letters. He simply said, "They're our hearts. They help us out with programs and other things." "Just like behind every good man is a good woman," continued Watkis. They as Kappa's show appreciation to Sweethearts.

They are proud of their history and the brothers that represent them. Some fa-

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Oprah Inducted into the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame

By: Chantel McGee
BLACKWORLD Contributor

Oprah Winfrey was among this year's eleven inductees into the 12th annual Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held at the Marriot Marquis Hotel in New York City. The attendees represented all facets of the media world. As Winfrey accepted her award, she couldn't help but recall what her mentor Dennis Swanson said to her when he signed her to host *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. "The only problem you're going to have, young lady, is how to handle your success," Swanson said. In response to Swanson at the ceremony, Oprah replied "I did not understand what you meant at that time, but I have managed to keep my feet on the ground even though I'm wearing better shoes."

The hall of fame was established in 1991 to recognize excellence in television, cable and radio. The Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame has grown to 224 men and women who represent the best of the electronic communi-

cations industry. The black-tie event benefited two organizations: the Broadcasters' Foundation, which helps broadcast veterans deal with medical or other crises, and the IRTS Foundation which provides funds, internships and seminars to further knowledge of the television and radio business.

Oprah: (Op-ra'h) Talk show host, actress, creator, producer, magazine founder, Editorial Director, Entrepreneur, Educator, Activist, Philanthropist, African-American woman, Inspirator.

From her humble beginnings in rural Mississippi, Winfrey's legacy has established her as one of the most important figures in popular culture, not to mention one of the richest, her net worth is currently estimated to be \$900 million (Forbes Magazine). Winfrey's contributions can be felt far beyond the world of television into areas such as publishing, music, film, philanthropy, education, health and fitness as well as social awareness.

As host of "*The Oprah Winfrey Show*," she entertains, enlightens and empowers millions

of viewers around the world. Oprah has been rewarded with the most prestigious awards in broadcasting. In 1997, she was named Newsweek's most important person in books and media, and TV Guide's "Television Performer of the Year." Winfrey also received the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences life time achievement award.

The Oprah Winfrey Show has also received 35 Emmy awards, seven of which were for Outstanding Talk Show, among many other notable accolades.

Winfrey began her broadcasting career in Nashville while still in high school. At the age of nineteen, she became the youngest person and the first African American woman to anchor the news at Nashville's WTVF-TV. Winfrey then moved to Baltimore's WJZ-TV to co-anchor the six o'clock news where she later became the co-host of their local talk show "People are Talking."

Winfrey moved to Chicago in 1984 to host WLS-TV's morning talk show, A.M. Chi-

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Death Came Stealing at Xmas (Cont'd from pg. 14)

rushed over to my son, picked him up and carried him to his bed. "Keem how long have your leg been like this?" I wanted to know. "Since we went to Grandma's house. I musta hurt it then..." he paused then continued. "Yea, I think it was then," Keem said with a matter of fact look on his face. Then he added, "I didn't want you to worry Mommy. I knew you wouldn't have enough money to have my leg fixed." Keem said with his head held down. Suddenly fear entered my mind before I gave it permission, the last time he saw his grandmother was almost three months ago. Now I was worried.

I took Keem to the Coram Health Clinic the following day. They took a x-ray and found nothing wrong with his leg. The doctor said it was probably growing pains and there was no need to worry. During the weeks that followed, I thought Keem's leg had gotten better. Maybe it was just growing pains, I thought to myself with relief.

Months later:

It was my turn to take Keem and his best friend Tee to karate class. I arrived at school ten minutes before dismissal. As I entered the main entrance, I saw Tee running towards me. "Ms Deb, Ms Deb!" I heard him yelling from down the hallway. You better come quick Keem hurt his leg He kept falling down in gym, Mr. Eric carried him to the nurse's office. Keem can't walk no more! You better come quick!" Tee said all in one breath.

I was running through the school like Marion Jones, Tee was doing his best to keep up with me. "Miss Lady," this little three foot, three inches hall patrol monitor screamed at me, "you not allowed to run in the halls," he said with authority in his little voice.

Xmas Eve:

I rushed Keem to the emergency room at Stony Brook Hospital. The doctor ordered stat blood work. They took another x-ray, nothing showed up. The doctor ordered a spinal tap and rushed Keem down for a stat MRI. . Nothing in this world prepared me for what the doctor said.

The doctor adjusted his glasses and spoke softly. "Your son is very sick, he may even die." The doctor paused then continued. "Your son has leukemia in the fourth stage." I felt I had been hit by a Mac truck. "My son has WHAT! What the hell is Leukemia?" I stood there with my mouth wide open, I tried to speak, but no words came out. Tears poured from my eyes like water from a glass. Tears rolled down my cheeks, I didn't even bother to wipe them. The doctor continued to explain Keem's condition. "This can't be true," I said over and over again in my head. The doctor talked for an hour or so, but it seemed like eternity. I repeatedly heard the word "Chemotherapy!" Then I lost it! I put my hand on my chest and I swear I could feel my heart bleed. I called God's name out in vain. I prayed in three different languages. Someone, somewhere had to hear my prayers. All I kept asking was, "WHY, Why God, why my only son?" Just weeks ago, my only worry was getting Keem something, anything for Xmas. Now I'm fighting for death not to come take my child. If death came to steal my son, Xmas will never be the same, ever!

Months later:

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Peer Health Education Program

By: Chealynn Feaster
BLACKWORLD Staff

Did you know that depression is the most common mental illness on a college campus? Do you know how to recognize a friend or family member with a dependency problem? Do you know where to get condoms, six for a dollar? These are just some of the questions peer educators can help you answer.

The Peer Health Education Program is an internship that prepares students to design and present workshops for a variety of groups, classes and other students. Peer Health Educators are trained in health education and behavior change theory as well as program development. Students work in collaboration with the CHOICE Center (choosing healthy options in the college environment), the preventive education component of the Student Health Service (also known as the Infirmary).

Students are educated and gain current information on topics such as contra-

ception, substance abuse, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, holistic health, nutrition, fitness and mental health, the students then in turn, educate on this same information. The peer educators reach out to their peers creating bulletin boards displays, sitting at information tables, and handing out flyers and exploring student's concerns.

The Peer Education Program is not just about dispensing information; it's about forming relationships. The peer educators become liaisons between the staff of the Student Health Service and their peers to find out the needs of the student population and target groups. The peer educators form bonds with each other and work as teams on health promotion and prevention strategies.

"The best part of being a peer health educator was putting on programs because of the interaction with the audience. I felt knowledgeable because I had the answers when I was asked a question about a cer-

tain topic. I felt like an instructor" says, Anthony Watson, a peer health educator for the 2002-2003 semesters.

The Peer Health Education Program is a full year three credit internship under the Health and Wellness minor it includes one class per week, Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 at the Student Health Center-S/U grading. All interns are required to attend a full-weekend training in September and commit to spending two hours per week on health education and promotion activities. A journal is kept to record the insights gained throughout the experience. Students interested in becoming a peer health educator can stop by the Student Health Center room 213 or call the CHOICE Center at 632-9338.

Student Profile: Samantha Philemond

By: Marvin Hayes
BLACKWORLD Staff

On Oct. 20, 2002, Samantha Philemond was appointed freshmen representative of the Student Polity government.

Philemond has been involved in politics since she was in high school. She was a member of the Student Alliance, which she explained to be a "student government."

Philemond was and still is a member of the Council for Unity and the goal of this council she said is to "empower others to take an active role in their community."

Some of the programs run by the Council for Unity were raising money through washing cars for the families of firefighters after September 11th 2001. She also talked about another member who visited an orphanage in India and did not like the living conditions that the children had to endure and as a result raised money to buy clothing and school supplies which were shipped to the orphanage.

The Council for Unity also has food

and book drives.

Philemond said she felt good about the election and that all the candidates did the best they could to advertise. She said that she is the best person for the position because, "after talking to students in my class, I was told upper class students don't get info to freshmen and to reach them you need social skills and time, which is a quality I have and all representatives should have."

Among her concerns, were that students were not aware of services provided by the school.

"Some commuter students did not know they have their own organization. Some students do not know how the meal plan works and they think it will not affect them in the future," Philemond said.

Philemond made it clear that her plans for freshmen and Polity are to have more forums to make students more aware of issues such as the meal plan.

Her view on the current state of polity is that students should know.

"The president and vice president are trying hard to let the students know we're

here to represent them and help them though polity is under 'reconstruction,' Polity is still working for the students," Philemond said.

Philemond's last words and message to the students were "don't give up on our student government; it has fully qualified representatives and staff. You can talk to us and approach us, don't loose hope and talk to us before you judge."

**VISIT YOUR
FRESHMAN
REPRESENTATIVE
IN THE POLITY
SUITE SAC
ROOM 202**

Death Came Stealing at Xmas (cont'd from pg.15)

looked like one of those third world kids. I did everything I could to keep it together for Keem. Every night I got on my knees and prayed to God. I prayed like I've never prayed before. I had a protracted talk with God Almighty. I alleged my sins to him. During the months that followed, Keem had more bad days than good. I wondered when God was going to give us a break. They say God won't give you any more than you can bear, I found myself wondering about that.

Two years later:

Keem's still in remission and is doing very well I'm happy to say. His hair came back jet black and curly. Keem still can't figure this one out! God only knows how we survived these last couple of years. I'm working an extra job just to make ends meet. On the weekend I attend college. I need a better job with benefits, other wise; I'll be paying Keem's medical expenses forever.

We still don't have a lot, and most of the time we have to do without. We turned vegetarian about a year ago cause groceries are cheaper without red meat. My car is running on a wing and a prayer. I just got our television out of the shop for the third time this month. It's Xmas Eve, and I don't have two nickels to rub together.

But...Keem is well and coping very well with his Leukemia. For me, well, I'm trying to hang in there. I have good days and bad days. I don't know how long Keem will be in remission. Together we will enjoy each and every moment.

Xmas Eve (two years later)

I stopped by the Goodwill store on my way home from work. With my last fifty-three dollars and twenty seven cents. I got Keem a nice coat with a hood. I found an almost new bike and several toy trucks. I wrapped the coat and the toy trucks in some silver and red Xmas paper. I found a red Xmas wreath bow, and tied it around the bike handle. Keem eyes lit up like a Xmas tree when he saw the bike. He was so happy! If I could only freeze this mo-

ment in time, I thought to myself with a smile on my face.

Keem said with a brilliant smile on his face, "Mommy, it doesn't get any better than this, right?" "Right baby," I said, "Life doesn't get any better than this." I closed my eyes and thanked God for giving my son yet another healthy day. True we don't have a lot, and chances are, we may not ever have more than two nickels to rub together. But we have our health and we have each other. Yea, life doesn't get any better than this. "Merry Xmas Baby!" I said with a brilliant smile on my face.

Kappas (Cont'd from pg. 14)

mous Kappas that they are proud to call brothers are Johnny Cocran, Montell Jordan, Cedric the Entertainer, Arthur Ash, and Wilt Chamberlin. But fame is not as important to the Kappa's as a brother that is going to represent them properly along with carrying out their goals.

So, the next time you see the crimson & crème, the cane, one of the fine brothers, or the playboy bunny mascot—just keep in mind that there is more to them than just that. Being one of the few African American Fraternities on campus and in the nation, and having such a positive foundation, they really stand out and should thus be recognized.

Oprah (cont'd from pg. 15)

just one month after she began. In less than a year, the show expanded to one hour and was renamed "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

In 1986, *The Oprah Winfrey Show* entered national syndication and has remained the number one talk show for sixteen consecutive seasons. *The Oprah Winfrey show* is currently produced by Harpo Productions (Harpo is Oprah spelled backward); it is estimated to have 21 million weekly viewers in the United States and is broadcast in 105 countries, in addition to being the nations highest ranked talk show in television history.

**CONGRATULA-
TIONS
OPRAH.
KEEP UP
THE GOOD
WORK.**



V E N T C

I know it seems like everyone is hatin' on the hip-hop artists and the amount of money they make. But I swear I hate their frivolous spending so much that I actually wish they all go bankrupt and have to go back to the ghettos where they came from, broke and ashamed. And I know as a black person I should always support a black person that made it and is doing well for themselves.

But think about this, Baby from the Big Tymers was on 106 and Park talkin' about he has so much money that he can afford to wear the shirt that he had on which was a white t-shirt with diamonds in it, that cost \$15,000. L.L Cool J once threw a \$15,000 chain into the audience cause he could. Another hip-hop artists has fifty cars. And these ain't Maxima's and Q45's, these are those expensive-ass foreign cars that you only see in the magazines and James Bond movies.

I just think it is so evil and selfish to spend

that much money on bullshit deprecating assets. Knowin' that those same neighborhoods that they came from is still economically and socially suffering, and that not even 10 percent of their income for one year could send that neighborhood on it's way to being successful forever. That t-shirt he had on could be somebody's college education, or \$5,000 more and that's somebody's yearly income who's living at the poverty line. How do they not think about that?

Now they try to say "oh yeah I do give back" but that's all political talk and moves just to shut certain people up. Because the extent to which a lot of these poor, black neighborhoods, children, men and women are suffering, a camp that fifty kids go to every summer ain't gonna do shit to really help that situation out. All that money that they have and the only thing they can do to give back is have a summer camp or give a free concert in their old neighborhood. Gimme a break!

Charter a school, build a recreation center to keep latch-key kids out the streets.

I know the counter-arguments: "it's their money, they worked for it, they can spend it however they want" or "I got to the place where I am on my own and nobody gave me shit. So, why should I help anybody out, when nobody helped me out?" Logically it makes sense, but it doesn't appeal to my morals. And for that reason, as long as there are sites that I can download their music for free, and not support them financially while they take my money and do nothing with it but throw it back in my face and say "look what I got and you don't," I will download for free. I'm not going to spend fifteen to twenty dollars on their CDs, which at this point is weekly transportation money or food out my mouth, so that they can floss harder. Hell No!



I am sick of hearing white people complain about affirmative action. They all, (at least the ones I've listened, or talked to), seem to think that all black people are getting a free ride. I was watching this Phil Donohue show titled, "Angry White Men." I believe that every single white person on that show who made a comment basically felt that black people only complain and whine about their problems, and are all too lazy to get off their asses and do something. I was ready to reach through that T.V. screen and choke all of them. Pat Buchanan added his 50 cents too, basically saying something to the affect that 'rich white males sons aren't getting into Harvard because minorities are taking their spots.' Fuck him and fuck all the rest of them. They're all full of shit, and I'll tell you why. See, as soon as something unjust happens that is related to race, they're ready to say how much things still have to change. Furthermore, 99 percent of them

assholes would never send their children to one of our schools. With this said, how could they honestly feel there is no need for affirmative action? Minority children, myself included, don't get the same education. Those suburban white kids get most of the money for public education, so of course—if their education is better—how can they expect us to achieve at the same level. Shit is not fair, shit is not right. Do not tell me I am only whining and complaining when you are sitting on your ass chilling with a good education and the chance to do whatever you want in life.

And now they're getting ready to get rid of affirmative action, which isn't surprising. Now they can say that they gave us the chance to 'catch up,' and we have no reason to complain anymore. This new face of racism will smile and soon after slam doors in our faces. I'm scared for our future. If they don't have to hire us, they won't; if they don't have to let us in their schools, they won't.

Why should they? Especially the racist ones, which in my view, seems to be 90 percent of white America. History is just repeating itself; we are reverting to the past that we thought we had escaped from. America seems to be nothing but a bunch of bullshit to me.

And just to clear something up for all the ignorant motherfuckers, affirmative action isn't only meant for Black people—it is meant for any minority, including women, even white women.

RESPOND

To respond to these comments email us at:

blackworld74@hotmail.com

Responses will be printed.

Anonymity suggested.

The comments on this page do not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of the BLACKWORLD Staff.

Quotable:

“I believe in pride of race and lineage and self; in pride of self so deep as to scorn injustice to other selves. Especially do I believe in the Negro Race: in the beauty of its genius, the sweetness of its soul, and its strength in that meekness which shall yet inherit this turbulent earth.”

-- W.E.B. Du Bois

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