

Stony Brook University Addresses Issues Within The Black Community Through Provost Lecture Series and Other Programs



Africana Studies Chair, Dr. Floris Cash (far right), addressing the audience at a recent Black History Month event.

BY PAUL AKINS JR.
MANAGING EDITOR

"We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history..." These are the words of Carter G. Woodson, the man who in 1926 came up with the idea of Negro History week. It was his concept of dedicating an entire week in February—he choose February because it coincides with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln—to showcase the accomplishments of those of African decent. Now, we today still continue the tradition and have expanded the week into the entire month.

Over this past month there have been various events on campus celebrating black history month. Many of these events dealt with the many issues and concerns

that are still plaguing the black community today. Issues such as racism, poverty, education, health and the general history of blacks in the United States.

For instance, the Dr. McAdoo Lecture series dealt with the many diseases and health concerns that face many of African descent. Two such programs were sponsored by Malik Fraternity Incorporated. Both programs sought to address race related issues. One about institutional racism and its effects on blacks today, while the other addressed the issue of internal racism/black-on-black prejudice, in reference to dealing with light skinned blacks versus dark skinned blacks.

"Racism is still around, just not as blatant, it's more subtle now," said Leachien Ricks, a student majoring in engineering. "Why is it that black males

get followed around stores for no reason and are constantly harassed?" she asked. "Why is it that I as a black female engineer am overlooked by my white male counterparts, or it is assumed that I don't know as much as they do?" Questions such as Ricks' were just a few of the many questions that these events attempted to answer. In a program titled "Where have all the Black Males Gone?" the Black Male Leadership Commission tried to answer the question of why there are so few black men in college.

It is well known that there are more young black men in the prison systems than in college. But, it is still not exactly clear why of those black men who are not in jail, why so few are enrolled in college?

Finding solutions to this and other problems is one of the main reasons for many of the events. Yet, while there were

many different topics covered throughout the month, one of the most important was the idea of "remembrance." Many of the events and programs were centered on this idea. One such program which highlighted this idea was the Provost Lecture series featuring Yohuru Williams, who discussed the history of the Black Panther party and its legacy today. Throughout the program Williams spoke about the many lasting effects the Black Panthers has had on the African American community and beyond. A contribution such as breakfast programs for school children for instance has been adopted by many public school systems. He also spoke about many of the misconceptions and rumors that exist about the Black Panthers. He stressed to the audience that they should remember the panthers as a group that stood and still stands for the rights of blacks in this country. He spoke about the importance of not just remembering black history during black history month."

Black History month is important because it helps us as African Americans to remember the courageous African Americans who helped us throughout the years to gain freedom," said Layne Bryan. Indeed the black community has gained much since the early 20th century. And today we are still moving ahead in many ways. Yet, there are many who feel that we have not lived up to the potential that we as a community have shown to possess. And there are still others who feel that we are in fact moving backwards instead of making new progress.

It is clear that though the black community has overcome many obstacles in the past; there are still issues that have plagued us since Woodson first thought up Negro History week. Although the black community is only about 12%-13% of the population in the United States, we still have an abnormally high number of men and women in the jail system. According to the Center We also account for more than half of the new AIDS cases in the country. Then there is still the debate in the black community about the use—or overuse depending on your view—of the "N word".

The question that the black

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FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR

Congratulations!

It's official, Dr. Peter M. Baigent has been appointed as Vice President for Student Affairs. For many people, this has not come as a surprise. Dr. Baigent has been acting Vice President ever since Dr. Fred Preston retired last spring.

As is the norm, a national search was conducted but as was expected, Dr. Baigent led the candidacy for the position. According to university president, Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny, in a press release to all faculty staff and students, she has "every confidence that Dr. Baigent will continue Stony Brook's commitment to student satisfaction and success, and enhance the quality of the campus experience for those who enroll here."

Dr. Baigent holds degrees from England's Nottingham University, and our own Syracuse University. He served in various capacities at Syracuse before coming to Stony Brook in 1993 as Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs.

Blackworld newspaper congratulates Dr. Baigent on his appointment and wishes him all the best in his not so new position.

Undergraduate Student Government

Have you seen the new USG website? No? You must be kidding! Well, as soon as you have made an end of reading this article, please do yourself a favor, and take a look. First I must say it looks very good...Even if there is no substance (and when you look you will understand better why I said that), it is a great improvement from last year. I must

say however, if last year's site cost \$10,000, this one must be costing us a fortune. Would someone from USG care to tell us how much this website is costing us students?

Of course, you cannot visit this site without browsing to the web blog, only because there's nothing there... This web blog is powered by typepad (<http://www.sixapart.com/typepad/>), and I can tell you, it is not free. This service cost \$149.50/yr. Again, why are we paying for a blog that no one uses? And in case you are just visiting from Mars and don't know what a web blog is. According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, a web blog is "a Web site that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments, and often hyperlinks provided by the writer." Do we really want to pay to hear the personal reflections of those who have volunteered to take on the responsibility of managing our student activities fees, especially when there is no direct result in terms of accomplishments? Seriously, what have they done for us lately? When last have you heard of one program that is supposed to be uplifting and beneficial to us being proposed to the Administration on our behalf? Where exactly are our student activities fees going? And how will this affect the budgets of those hardworking clubs such as Blackworld, who's trying to uplift the spirits and elevate the minds of Stony Brook students, come February 27th?

According to USG President Diana Dacosta, in her letter to the school, on the website no one knows about, USG's main purpose "is to foster a spirit of community, diversity and fellowship, to create programs and services for the benefit of all members of the campus community. The Undergraduate Student Government provides leadership that

ensures the undergraduate student voice will be a powerful force in all decisions made at Stony Brook." However, we are really not hearing that voice. It is more like a whisper. And we are not even sure whose ear is privy to this whisper. We wasted \$10,000 last year on a website that had no information for students. This year I haven't gotten the figure yet, but I'm sure we are wasting money if the web blog is anything to go by. We need more accountability within USG for the appropriation of our funds. Having pizza parties, and showing movies, going on trips is all well and good. However, we have serious issues such as the transportation, which, after 3+ years here I can say, has not gotten better, and to date, the USG has done nothing but hold Senate meetings that are unproductive and disburse funds via questionable criteria.

...We have serious issues such as the transportation, which, after 3+ years here I can say, has not gotten better...

It's time we hold USG accountable for their actions. They are the "holders" of our student activity fees, yet we get no report as to how the money is being spent. The website that no one knows about has a link to a financial report; however, I haven't been able to access it. The link is <http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/usg/docs/fstate.pdf>

So if any computer genius out there has the time to figure it out, perhaps you can send me a hard copy. I look forward to reading it.

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The Associated Collegiate Press is a division of the National Scholastic Press Association.

The ACP is the largest and oldest national membership organization for college student media in the United States.



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Celebrating 31 years!

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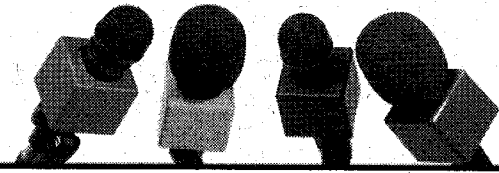
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Opinion & Editorials



Amendment to the Constitution

BY JOAN GUMBS

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Recently, the USG presented an Amendment of their Constitution to the student body which basically stated that all the officers with the exception of the Freshman Representative should be elected before the last day of classes in the spring semester. According to Elections Board Officer, Sharon Weiss, "The amendment passed with 68% of the student body voting yes." She further invited questions if anyone needed to know the reason the Elections Board sought the Amendment. Blackworld made such a request but to date, we have not got an answer.

The requirement to pass a constitutional amendment calls for referenda by the student body. According to the email sent out with the results of the vote, they needed 66% of the student body vote yes.

What I am curious about however is the reason behind the decision for the other 32% who voted no. If I were a betting person I would bet half the number of those who said no, did so because they had no clue as to the relevance of changing the Amendment. I would also bet that the other half knew the relevance and simply didn't care. A little more work here please! If you are going to change an Amendment that affects the student body, at least send out some press release, post some Ads in the student papers, put up posters all over campus, or do whatever it takes to educate the student body on the relevance of changing an Amendment to the Constitution. This Amendment was a rushed job. In order for the Senators to

vote on an Amendment to the constitution, it had to be presented for two consecutive weeks, but because of the deadline in terms of putting it up on SOLAR for students to vote on it, they had the usual "dolly house" deals that goes on at Senate meetings and lo and behold, there is a post on SOLAR a day or two before the deadline for votes, and as is the case these days, the USG had favorable results.

Fortunately for them, they have managed so far to do this and get away with it, partly because the student body is going through a malaise where they feel disenfranchised and have no one to defend them. I have my own gripes, such as professors who have too much power, which I may or may not get into in the future. But for now, we need USG to wake up and see what's going on around them.

Contrary to whatever polls out there are stating, Stony Brook University students are not very happy. The ones who have just arrived and have not yet had experience with the bureaucracy that goes on may be... and that's a may be! However, those who have been here for a few years are dying to get out, and some even do get out. If you think otherwise, just check the records of the Housing office. You will see how many students have cancelled their housing. Not because they prefer living off campus, but because they are transferring to other institutions, or dropping out of college. Paradoxically, for everyone or two that drips out, ten more apply. That my friend is capitalism!

However, the bottom line is we need a more active student government that will fight for the rights of the students who vote to put them there.

The Future of the Black Community

BY PAUL AKINS JR.

MANAGING EDITOR

It never seems to fail. Every event or circumstance that arises that affects the black community, the same old and dull faces appear. It is either the one who needs to be reminded that black men with perms do not seem very imposing. Or it is the other old man who has baby mama drama.

Why are most, if not all of our black leaders old wash-ups from the civil rights era who have long since lost their influence relevance in the black community? This is not to say that they did not have a important role to play in the black community, or even that they do not hold any sway—even if the sway they have today is a meager shadow of what it used to be—but where is the new life?

Besides T.D. and Obama, who are the other national leaders of the black community? I am fully aware that in every black community there are local leaders who do a lot for the black community. But, that does not change the fact that the main faces of the black community are still the same faces we had since the 60's. If I was to say the name Flake, how many of you would know who I am talking about. Would you be able to picture what his face looks like? How many of you be able to think about all the work he has done for his community over the past 20 years? I assume only a few would even know who he is. Yet, I bet no one had a problem figuring out the two individuals I was talking about in the first paragraph.

The fact is that there is no one we

can blame for the current state of black affairs but ourselves. Us, the children and grand-children of the post civil rights era. We the children and grand-children of those who had to risk death just to go to school, and the right to vote. Those grandfathers and grandmothers who left their homelands to come over to America for a better chance only to find hatred and racism. Those grandparents who worked two demeaning jobs to provide for their children and grandchildren.

I know this is a little preachy, but just for a minute, think about all the sacrifices and struggles that had to be overcome to make it possible for us to be where we are today. Think about the fact that for us to be where we are today those in the black community not only had to overcome many obstacles, they first had to come together and unite as A COMMUNITY!!

When Hurricane Katrina hit how many of us actually did anything—for that matter how many of us even remember that the disaster is still affecting people? How many people donated money or food to help? Or did most of us cry and feel sorry for those affected before we went out and brought that new I-pod or pair of Jordans. We have enough people from our generation making money, owning big houses, or with master's degrees and PhDs. It is time now to step forward and take over the control of what and how we as the black COMMUNITY will be defined. And stop letting the old, once powerful, now deficient leaders of the past speak for us today.

HIV/AIDS: Increasing the Awareness

BY KAMOY-YA DILLION

COPY EDITOR

HIV/AIDS first appeared the U.S in 1981. Since then, the numbers of HIV/AIDS infection among whites and gays have decreased. However, the numbers of infections among African Americans have only increased. Currently, there are an estimated one million people living in the United States with HIV/AIDS. In 2004, forty three percent of all Americans infected with the HIV/AIDS virus were African Americans and today HIV/AIDS is the number one killer of African Americans age 25-44.

HIV/AIDS have evolved into a worldwide epidemic which continues to devastate the Black community. While it is true that there are programs geared toward educating the masses about

HIV/AIDS, I still believe that much more can be done to educate and increase awareness particularly in the black community.

Too many people are still unconscious of the ways in which one can contract or spread the virus. Public officials as well as local communities and just about anyone else with the resources should make an effort to educate and improve awareness, especially within the African American community. Young African Americans are the ones most affected by the disease. So why aren't the hip hop artists whom they idolize and emulate doing more to increase awareness in the communities? People of prominence who are widely recognized would be effective in raising awareness within the community due to the fact that they are major influences in the lives of

young people.

February 7th is designated as Nation Black AIDS awareness day; however, the fight against HIV/AIDS shouldn't just be limited to one day. People don't just have AIDS on February 7th and they are cured. HIV/AIDS is an issue that many people have to live with for many years, some are not so lucky. I think the same amount of "concern" that's expressed on Black AIDS days and World AIDS Day should be exhibited 365 days. HIV/AIDS have been hindering and claiming people's lives for too many years, and should we continue to be oblivious to the disease, it will only worsen.

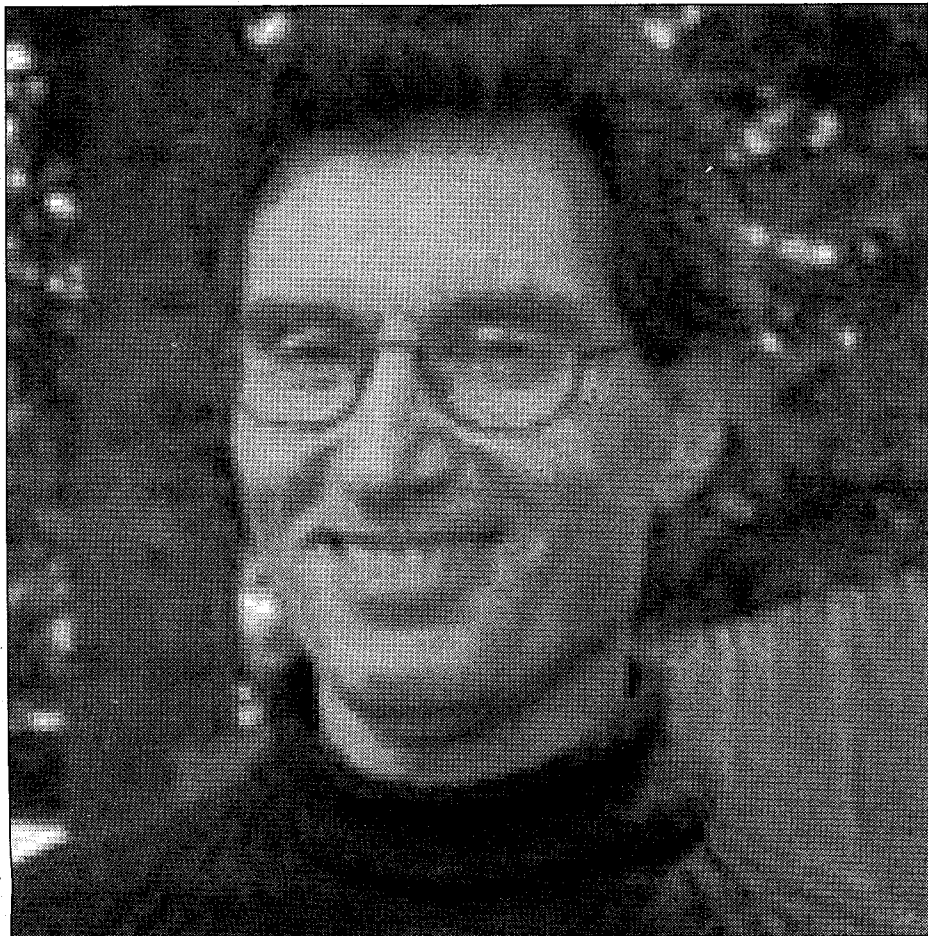
While it is true that more awareness/educational programs won't single handedly eliminate the problem, I do believe that it is a great way to start and can be effective especially in lower

class communities - which are unable to have such programs because of a deficiency in funding and resources- with high numbers of AIDS.

In commemoration of Black History Month, many campus clubs and organization will be putting on programs that address issues such as HIV/AIDS and other prevalent diseases within the black community. But what will happen after February has ended? Chances are there will not be another such program until World AIDS Day- which is about ten months away. Why do we have to limit our efforts to increase HIV/AIDS awareness to a few designated days? The fight against this deadly disease should be a continuous one. Why not demonstrate our care and concern about HIV and other AIDS issues everyday?!



The Daring Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews



Dr. Steven Spector, Professor of the English Department

BY KALANNE ADA

STAFF WRITER

On February 7th, Stony Brook's own Professor Stephen Spector hosted a reading and book signing session of his new book "Operation Solomon: The Daring Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews". The event was sponsored by the Hillel Foundation for Jewish Life in

commemoration of Black History Month. Spector is a professor of English and also a specialist of Christian and Jewish literature at Stony Brook.

The reading took place in a small brightly lit room. There were approximately five to seven people and due to the small gathering, Professor Spector asked attendants to form our chairs in a circle as he began to read from

his new book which details a remarkable rescue effort in May 1991 where more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to Israel in little more than a day. Professor Spector's story started while he was in sabbatical in Jerusalem for two years. While there he learned about the event and decided to bring it to light. He went about taking accounts from many people and researching the event. While sitting there I was astonished at every word he said because I had never heard or learned about the event.

The Ethiopian Jews trace their ancestry to one of the most biblical names. They claim to be children of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Ethiopian Jews live in the Northern Highlands of Ethiopia. In Ethiopia they were known as "Falasha" which means Landless, an Exile or a Wanderer. They called themselves Beta Israel (House of Israel) and in the 1980s the community decided to make Aliyah meaning a rise to Israel. They are about 500 communities of Ethiopian Jews, living as tenant farmers, craft smiths, potters and weavers. The Ethiopian Jews face discrimination by the Christians and Muslims and at times they are referred to as hyena people. In the spring of 1990 an Ethiopian Jewish priest declared that God was calling to Zion. A woman who is not known but was at the forefront of the exodus to Israel was Susan Pollack. She dispatched people to different villages with the help of the Jewish Agency. At that time Ethiopia was in a state of turmoil as the liberation movements were winning the civil war against Dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam. Eventually Addis Ababa was surrounded. For more than a year, the

Beta Israel stayed in terrible conditions in the city as the Ethiopian tyrant tried to use them to get weapons from Israel to fight his enemies.

Professor Spector describes how, at the height of the tension as the buses reached the airport from the Israeli embassy compound, the people calmly and patiently waited their turn. This was one of the main reasons the operation succeeded. Professor Spector spoke of how calm and peaceful the Ethiopians were; he said the children were very obedient and abided to the rules given. It was a harrowing experience in which many Ethiopian Jews died. Susan Pollack went from village to village witnessing the tragedies of how the people suffered from polio, tuberculosis, malaria and some people contracted HIV, which was unknown at that time. Even through all the chaos the movement was very successful. The Ethiopian Jews landed in Israel and were received by Israeli officials.

Professor Spector spoke about the present state of the Ethiopians living in Israel. As of now they are the poorest Jewish community, poverty and violence plagues them but there are signs of success coming from the community. After the narrative, Professor Spector presented a slideshow of pictures taken during the rescue effort. It showed images of men, women and children packed together in vans and he emphasized the serene demeanor of the Ethiopian Jews. After hearing these accounts, it is fair to conclude that there is so much more black history to be learned. Black history is rich and goes beyond the United States and reaches the soils of Africa and beyond.



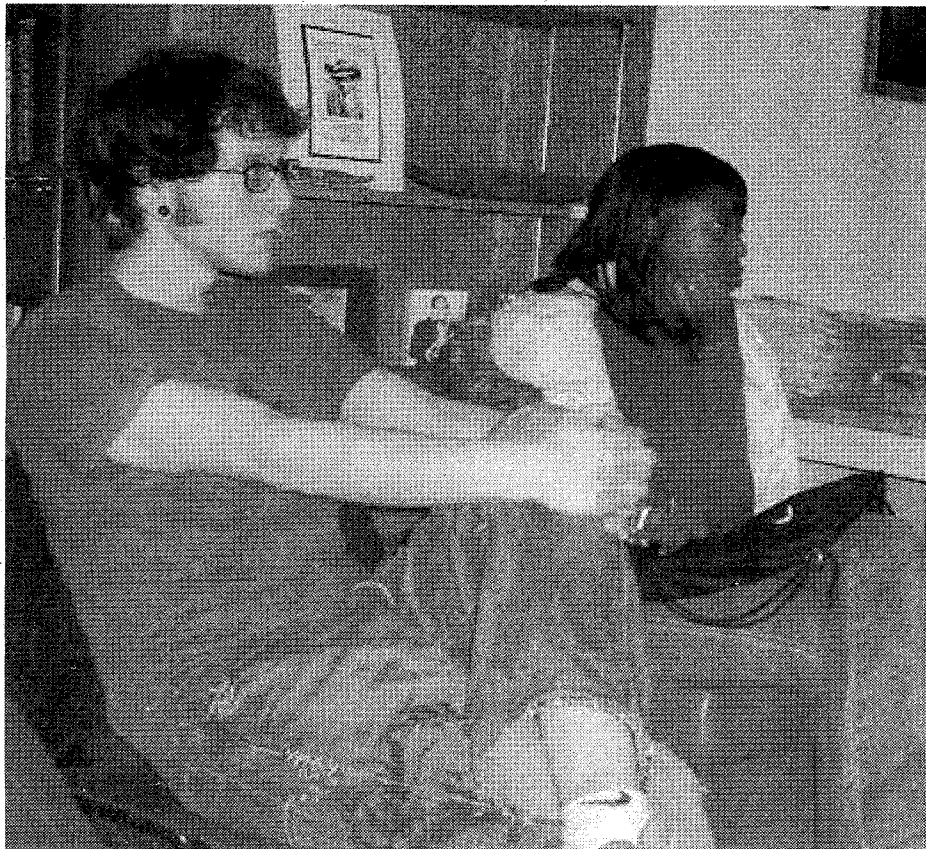
Residents of Roth quad wait patiently outside their building last Sunday under extremely cold conditions.

It was the storm of the decade, as Stony Brook experienced near record breaking inches of snow. In Roth quad, on Sunday, February 12, 2006 students were subjected for over an hour to their "fair" share of it. It started at approx. 6:45 p.m., when the fire alarm went off. "Aw! not now," was the usual sighs as students poured out of Gershwin building. Everyone expected it would be a routine check, as a result there were slipped feet everywhere. Almost an hour later, students were still shivering in the cold as no one had a clue what was going on, not even the Police Officer on site, who appeared as flustered as the students shivering outside.

Approximately, 45 minutes after standing in the cold, the RHD for the building invited everyone to visit the Hendrix's lobby, as she had no idea how long the wait would be. Yours truly went to Blackworld to work on the paper but that was after being subjected to the harsh weather of that fateful night for over 45 minutes. They say hindsight is 20/20, which is why I stayed outside that long. I was only glad that I did not fall ill, but I'm sure others weren't as fortunate. So if you see your fellow classmates with the sniffles they just might be Roth quad residents, trying to get over the side effects of a traumatic Sunday night experience.

This was a personal experience of our Editor, which occurred last Sunday, February 12, 2006.

Credit Overdue to the Black Community



Students watch attentively the film, *Mighty Times: the Legacy of Rosa Parks*

BY KELLEN FELMINE

CONTRIBUTOR

The Western world has a habitual history of neglecting to recognize the contributions of Africa and African descent. Throughout history and even to this day, Black people around the globe are robbed for their contributions to society. For example, the roles of Blacks in religion (Judaism/Christianity) are systematically lessen or completely eliminated. The roles of Blacks in Ancient Egyptian Society, as well as the roles of Blacks in building up and supporting the creation of the nations in the Western Hemisphere have been long ignored. This lack of credit can be seen even in our most modern history. The Provost's Lecture Series dealt with this

neglected credit and also the negative propaganda that backed it.

In the Provost's Lecture Series there were two lectures, "Rethinking the Black Panther Party: Race, Class, and American Democracy in the 21st Century" which was presented by Dr. Yohuru Williams and "Africa Speaks, America Answers: The Drum Wars of Guy Warren" which was lectured by Dr. Robin DG Kelly. Although these two lectures were about two different aspects of society, it shared the common theme of neglected credit.

In the lecture dealing with the Black Panther Party, Dr. Yohuru Williams confronted the myths, lies, misconceptions, and negative propaganda that was associated with the Black Panther Party. He was able to dispel the false beliefs and notions that

the Black Panther Party was a violent, Black supremacist Street gang who hated whites and wanted to kill police officers.

However, he also spoke about the various programs and goals of the Black Panther Party that helped communities nationwide to survive. The 10 Point Program was a list of goals and demands that the Black Panther Party aspired to achieve. These goals included adequate housing that was fit for human beings, better schools and education, and attempt to eliminate the higher number of police brutality cases, just name a few. The Black Panther Party was also responsible for the creation of many programs that are vital to communities and are still used to this day. For example, the Free Breakfast programs that we know of today, were first created and executed by the Black Panther Party. They also set up free Libraries and Free Health Clinics within various communities.

Another important aspect of the Black Panther Party that was discussed by Dr. Williams was their legacy and influence among other groups of people. Many other organizations were created based on the Black Panther Party and their 10 Point Program. The Young Lords, Grey Berets, Red Guards, are only a few organizations that were heavily influenced by the Black Panther Party.

Unfortunately, the American Government and media were not going to portray the Party in this image. However, due to the negative propaganda, the rightful and deserved credit that the Black Panther Party should own is not in their possession.

In the other Provost's Lecture Series, "Africa Speaks, America Answers: The Drum Wars of Guy Warren", Dr. Robin Kelly spoke about the experiences and legacy of Guy Warren. Guy Warren was a Drum player from Ghana. He came to Harlem, New York in the 1950/60's and began his musical experiments and journeys. Guy

Warren was responsible for the furthering the African influence and fusion into Jazz music.

In that time when being African was pop culture, Guy Warren set out to teach people in the U.S. what being African was all about. His medium for doing this was through Jazz and his knowledge of Drum playing. Warren experimented with many various musical art forms that had African influences such as Calypso and some Latin American musical art forms. Warren also refused to portray any negative or stereotypical images of Blacks from Africa.

Guy Warren was the man who was responsible for the surge and fusion of the Jazz and African musical fusion. However, you don't hear of Guy Warren being credited with this great musical contribution. Even in his own home country today, he is living as a poor man in a house that doesn't have electricity or running water. This points out that he doesn't even get his due in his own nation.

There is a terrible trend that occurs to Black people when it comes to being credited with their major and important contribution to societies. This trend is not by any means a practice that is being executed in modern day history. Like the Black Panther Party and Guy Warren, many of the people of Africa and their descendant have been denied their rightful credit and due for their accomplishments and contributions to civilizations and societies worldwide. It is happening even to this very day. There is rarely any major media coverage about our people doing something positive. On the other hand, you'll get over and beyond sufficient media coverage for a Black person doing something negative. This is something that we can no longer sit down and take. It must start by our people regaining our stolen legacy, so we can begin to do so by demanding our rightful status among others.

NYPIRG Students Deliver Valentine's Day Message to State Senators: "If You 'Heart' Cleaner Communities Support the Bigger, Better Bottle Bill"

Stony Brook, NY -- It was a Valentine's present to remember as students from the Stony Brook chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) delivered 83 handmade Valentines cards to Senator John Flanagan at his district office in Smithtown, urging him to support legislation to update New York's bottle bill. This was a part of a statewide action by local NYPIRG chapters as 15 other Senators also received similar cards. The cards contained different messages including, "Have a Heart for New York's Environment", and "If You Love Cleaner Communities, Expand the Bottle Bill."

According to Kate Contino, NYPIRG's project coordinator at Stony Brook University, "NYPIRG is urging the Senate to update New York's bottle

bill, the state's most effective litter control and recycling program, by passing the Bigger, Better Bottle Bill. The Assembly passed the bill last June with broad, bipartisan support. However, Joe Bruno, who opposes the bill, has refused to allow the bill to be considered in the Senate."

"We want to tell the Senate sponsors of this bill how much we love their support, and to encourage the other Senators to do their part to make our communities cleaner and increase recycling," said Melinda Sobin, NYPIRG's regional organizer.

The Bigger, Better Bottle Bill (A.2517C/S.1290C), introduced by Assemblyman Thomas P. DiNapoli and Senator Kenneth LaValle, would expand the bottle deposit law to include non-

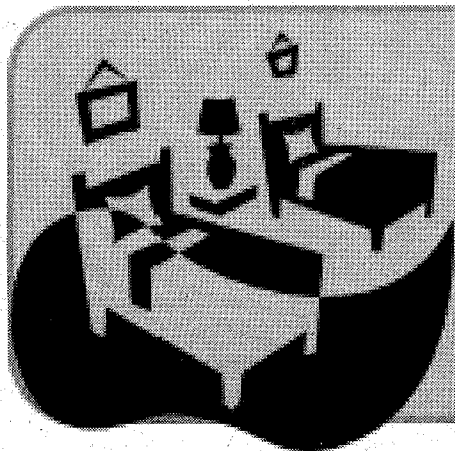
carbonated beverages, such as bottled water and iced tea. It would also provide new funding for local recycling and environmental programs by taking the unclaimed deposits from beverage companies and putting this money into the State Environmental Protection Fund.

"It breaks our hearts that each year, nearly two billion glass and plastic bottles end up in the trash or polluting our state's rivers, streams and neighborhoods because of a loophole in our laws," said Contino. "Because the bottle bill was enacted in 1982, before bottled water and sports drinks became popular, it did not include non-carbonated beverages. But today, it makes no sense for a bottle of sparkling water to be covered under the bottle bill

and a bottle of plain water to end up as pollution."

"Now that the Assembly has passed the Bigger Better Bottle Bill, we're stringing Cupid's bow and taking aim at the Senate," said Laura Haight, NYPIRG's senior environmental associate. "We all share responsibility for keeping our communities clean and healthy. If you love a clean New York, let's make New York's most successful litter prevention and recycling program even more effective."

In addition to Senator LaValle, the Senate bill has seven cosponsors: Senators Bonacic, DeFrancisco, Leibell, Maltese, Marchi, Padavan and Parker. In addition, 17 Senate Democrats submitted requests to cosponsor the bill last year.



Room Selection

MARCH 2006

PLANNING TO RETURN TO CAMPUS HOUSING NEXT YEAR?

Make Sure To Participate In Room Selection
Between

March 13th And April 7th

Don't Miss Out – Residents Who Miss Room Selection Will Not Receive
Housing For The Fall 2006 Semester

To Participate In Room Selection You Must:

1. CLEAR YOUR UNIVERSITY ACCOUNT OF ANY OUTSTANDING BALANCES.
2. Pay Your **\$200 Advance Room Deposit Between March 13th And 24th**
(If Paying Deposit In Person, Deposit Must Be Paid At Bursar By 4 pm, March 24th)

(Deposits Not Required For Graduate Students, EOP/AIM Students, RAs And Full
Scholarship Recipients)
3. Select Your 2006-2007 Room Assignment On-Line Using Solar **Between
March 27th And April 7th**

**THIS YEAR'S ROOM SELECTION PROCESS WILL TAKE PLACE ON-LINE
THROUGH YOUR SOLAR ACCOUNT. MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW
SHORTLY. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE DIVISION OF
CAMPUS RESIDENCES AT 632-6966 OR EMAIL:
RESIDE@NOTES.CC.SUNYSB.EDU**

Celebrating Community . . . and Giving Back



Vice Adm. David L. Brewer III, USN, Commander, Military Sealift Command

The following is an excerpt from the February 2006 edition of *Sealift*, the US Navy's Military Sealift Command Newsletter:

Achieving racial and gender diversity is harder than rocket science. That's what I tell audiences whenever I speak. In other words, it's easier to intercept a missile traveling more than 2,000 miles per hour in space than it is to achieve full racial and gender diversity. Is this assertion overly pessimistic? Perhaps. However, keep in mind that history informs the future. So, let's examine the facts.

I recently had the privilege of attending The Washington Post Book Club's session with the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Taylor Branch. Mr. Branch was starting a book tour to introduce the last book in his trilogy on the King years, "At Canaan's Edge - America in the King Years 1965-68." One of the most profound and prescient perspectives from several of the figures in "At Canaan's Edge" is how humans react to compelling change. After the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights and 1965 Voting Rights Acts, President Johnson correctly predicted that the Democratic Party would lose the South for many years. Some of the Civil Rights activists, ever mindful of what happened during reconstruction after the civil war, correctly predicted an initial improvement in race relations and progress to be followed by a backlash and decline. After the emancipation of slaves and a period of racial progress during reconstruction, the backlash and decline were legalized in 1896 by the Plessy v. Ferguson Supreme Court decision: separate but equal ... The resultant 68 years of Jim Crow laws stifled the previous 30 years of racial progress.

Jim Crow was soundly defeated during the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. African Americans have made tremendous progress since the 1964 Civil Rights and the 1965 Voting Rights Acts were passed. Yet 30 years hence, a disturbing trend is developing. Overt racism has evolved into the covertness of lower expectations and apathy, resulting in a widening educational and economic gap between White America and Black America. There are more African-American males in prison than in college. In fact, the overall prison population in America for all races has doubled each decade since the 1970s ... The socio-economic ramifications of this trend will prove devastating to the United States, because it will result in the criminal justice system morally and economically bankrupting the country ...

Presidential Medal of Freedom awardee and venerable historian, John Hope Franklin, noted in his autobiography, "Mirror to America," that during the 19th and 20th centuries, the African-American male was relegated to peon status, forcing him out of the mainstream and into the underground economy. The result is that culturally many of our African-American males now dismiss academics as unmanly or useless, essentially because their economic role models are in the street economy, glorified by the hip-hop and rap culture.

Given the aforementioned, are we in a 21st-century racial decline? Will we have to wait until 2069, 68 years after the 30 years of 20th century reconstruction precipitated by the 1964 Civil Rights Act, before we experience a 21st-century reconstruction? History informs the future.

I posed a similar question to Taylor

Branch at the book club session. His answers were profound ... He said that ... great change must come from proactive citizens. He said that Diane Nash, one of the 1960s civil rights activists, said after the Birmingham bombings that this is our problem. We have to solve it. Thus, the Selma March was crafted to get the right to vote to empower African Americans ...

But how do we break the cycle of history? Does Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 20th century philosophical approach still apply in this century? How do we finally reach Dr. King's "Canaan," the Promised Land, and establish his beloved community ...

King's beloved community was not a lofty utopian goal with lions and lambs lying down together, but a realistic, achievable goal that could be realized by having enough people committed to and trained in nonviolence methods and philosophy. It was a global vision where all the world's people could share the wealth of the earth. Poverty, hunger and homelessness would not be tolerated, because international standards of human decency would not allow it ... The current escalating incarceration trend and the African-American male problem are national problems, owned by every American citizen. King's words from the Birmingham jail resound, "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

To understand and resolve our diversity issues, we must first intellectually engage, then learn the lessons of history, study the science and, ultimately, have the courage to openly discuss these issues and act ... The action plan is simple to articulate - Keep Hope Alive, Take Five. Never deprive anyone of hope, because it may be all that they have. Do not tolerate dream killers, those who lower the expectations of others. I modeled Take Five after the great jazz master Dave Brubeck's theme song and converted it into a daily formula all Americans can follow.

Take Five hours a month and volunteer your service in the community where you live. Follow your passion and employ your talents. If your passion is saving the homeless, then donate your time to a homeless shelter. If you're talented in math, then tutor an African-American male student. Data reveals many African-American students are cursed by lower expectations in math after the 4th grade.

Take Five percent of your income and donate it to the institutions that empower, such as educational institutions and youth groups. If you have the time, talent, passion and resources, start your own foundation. You can start a foundation for as little as \$285. In the second half of my life, I intend to work full-time with my parents' foundation to empower disadvantaged youth.

Take Five children (not your own) and make a positive difference in their lives. If each adult American nurtured at

least five children, we would exponentially change the cultural and moral landscape of our nation and break the cycle of reconstruction history. Teach them the four "E's" - Exercise, Education and Economics on the bedrock of Ethics. Teach them the benefits of daily exercise and proper diet - more self-confidence, more energy, better grades, enhanced self-esteem and a longer, more fruitful life ... Expose them to the real movers and shakers in this country. The people who pay the role models many of them aspire to be. One of my childhood friends raised her sons by providing them an annual trip to somewhere different every year so they received a tangible education and could make informed choices about their careers. Start travel clubs for disadvantaged youth, so they can see a world other than TV. Teach them that knowledge is indeed power.

Teach our children the principles of good economics. Teach them how to budget their money ... The Bedrock of Ethics, Theodore Roosevelt said it best, "To educate a man in mind and not morals is to educate a menace to society." Ethics is right versus right. It is right to tell the truth, but it is also right to be loyal to values that embrace human dignity. It is right to demand justice, but it is also right to show mercy.

Keep American Strong! Keep Hope Alive, Take Five!

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Black History Month Events

Continued from Page 1

community now faces is where will we find ourselves in the next five to ten years? What will we be able to look back on and say we overcame and changed, and what will be our next set of challenges to fix? "I just hope that we will be more united," said Ricks. While some try to look at the future state of the black community with optimism, some still feel that the black community will still have the same issues and concerns. "Ten years from now there will still be racism, that's just something as blacks that we will never overcome," said Bryan.

The black community as it stands today is unlike any other before it. There are so many accomplishments and achievement that the community has made as a whole. In addition the black community in the 21st century has more opportunities than at any point in our history. Yet, the community still struggles to identify and control its identity in an ever changing world. But, maybe what it's not just the black community, but rather the entire nation needs to remember the past in order to change and better the future.

"...What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice." - Woodson.



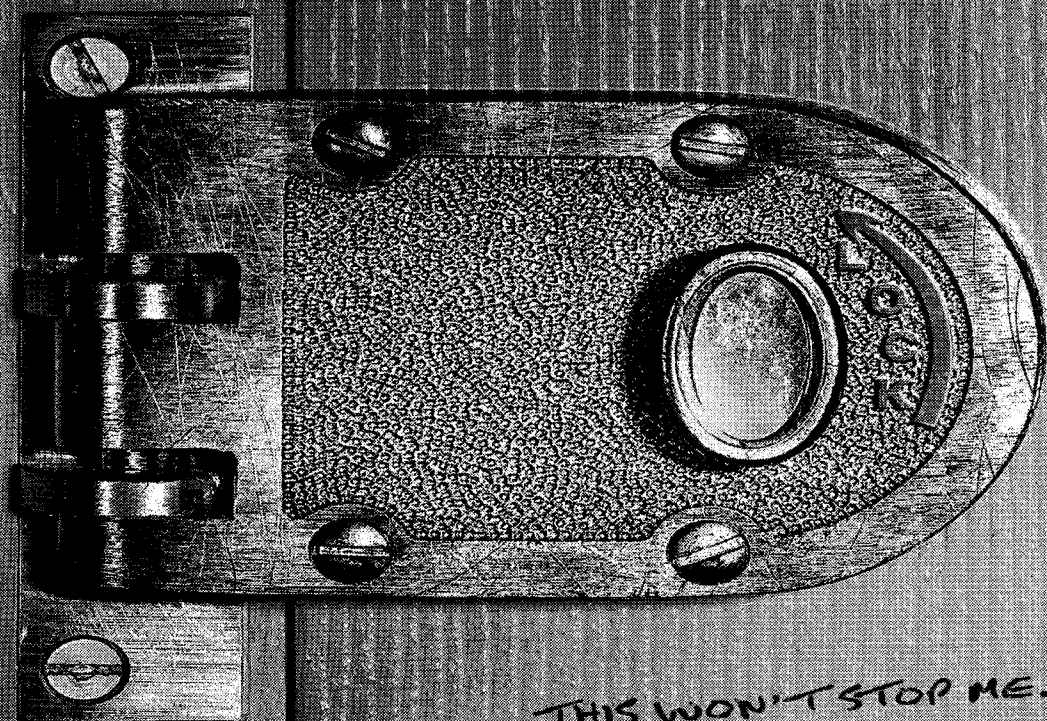
Volunteer



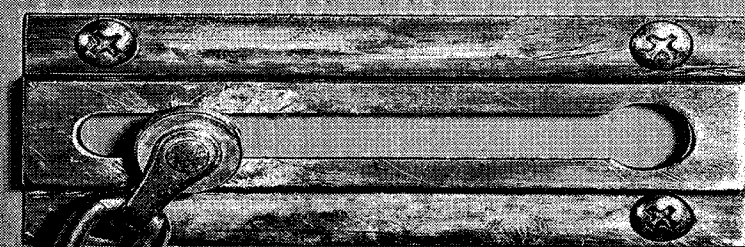
Opportunities

Now, you may be wondering where you can find places to volunteer or how do you go about applying for volunteer opportunities. Well, there are many places on campus where you can volunteer by yourself or with your club or organization. You can volunteer for a short period of time or even for a whole semester. You can also get credits for many of these volunteer opportunities. There are also incentive programs, such as AmeriCorps, that will provide you with a stipend after volunteering for a certain amount of hours during a year. For more information you can contact the Career Center through either their website <http://www.career.sunysb.edu/vcs/index.htm> or call them at 631-632-6812.

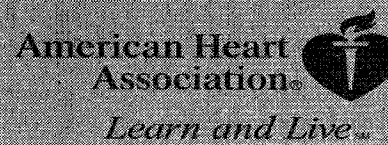
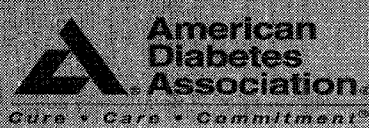
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THIS WON'T STOP ME. I'M CANCER. DIABETES.
HEART DISEASE. STROKE. AND I KILL NEARLY
2 OUT OF EVERY 3 WOMEN. YOU CAN
REDUCE YOUR RISK OF BEING ONE OF THEM.
EAT RIGHT. GET ACTIVE. DON'T SMOKE.
SEE YOUR DOCTOR. AND LIVE.



Start protecting yourself from yourself.
Call 1-866-399-6789 or visit us at everydaychoices.org.





COMING ATTRACTIONS

COMING IN FEBRUARY:

Tyler Perry's **Madea's Family Reunion**



MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION

Starring: Tyler Perry, Blair Underwood, Lynn Whitfield, Boris Kodjoe, Henry Simmons, Lisa Arrindell Anderson, Rochelle Aytes, Jenifer Lewis, Keke Palmer, Tangi Miller, Maya Angelou and Cicely Tyson

Director: Tyler Perry

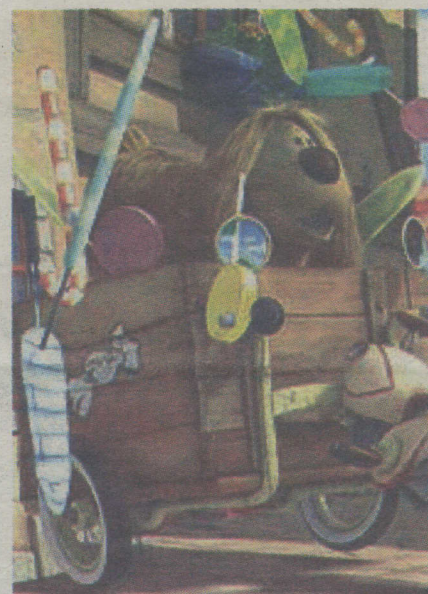
PLOT SPOILER: Based upon Tyler Perry's acclaimed stage production, *Madea's Family Reunion* continues the adventures of southern matriarch Madea begun in the hit film *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*. An unstoppable force of nature, Madea may have finally taken on more than she can chew. Madea must use every tactic in her arsenal to not only keep the peace, but keep her family together.

RUNNING SCARED

Starring: Cameron Bright, Chazz Palminteri, Alex Neuberger
Director: Wayne Kramer

PLOT SPOILER: For over a decade Joey Gazelle (Paul Walker) has successfully juggled his conflicting roles as both loving family man and a low-level employee of the Italian Perello mob in Grimley, New Jersey. However, when Joey ignores the mob's explicit instructions to dispose of a gun used in the fatal shooting of a corrupt cop during a bungled drug buy, he unwittingly puts his entire family in immediate danger.

DOOGAL

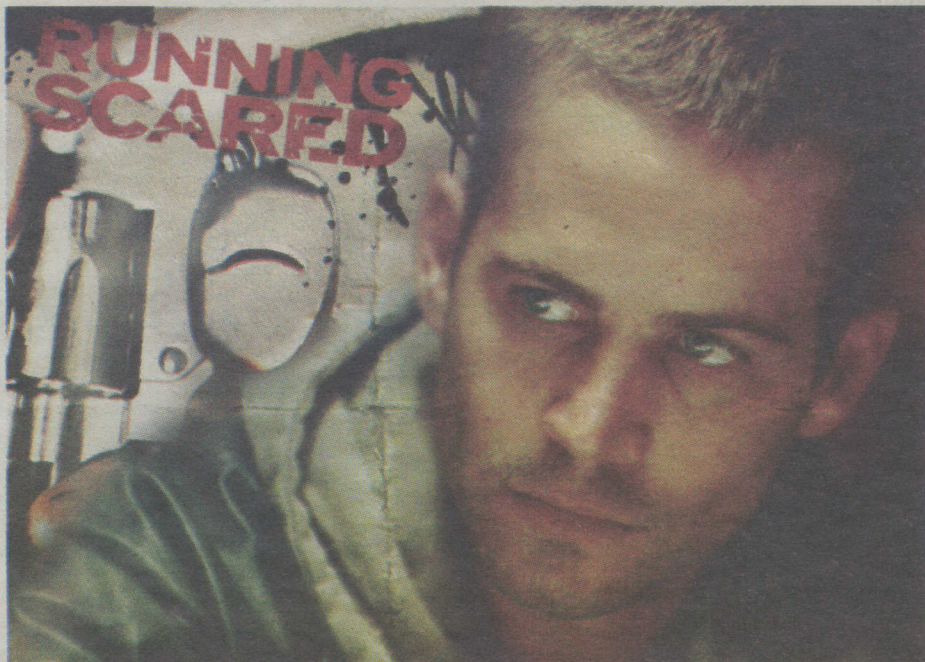


Starring: Kenan Thompson, Jimmy Fallon, William H. Macy, Whoopi Goldberg

Director: Dave Borthwick, Jean Duval, Frank Passingham

PLOT SPOILER: Legend tells of three magic diamonds that, if in the wrong hands, can be united to create a force powerful enough to freeze the sun. When the evil sorcerer Zeebad (Jon Stewart) escapes from his ancient prison, he vows to exact revenge by deep-freezing the earth forever. Determined to save the world, a fellowship of four unlikely heroes band together to foil Zeebad's villainous plot. Led by the candy-loving mutt Doogal (Kenan Thompson), friends Dylan (Jimmy Fallon), Brian (William H. Macy) and Ermintrude (Whoopi Goldberg) all embark on an epic adventure to save the world. In order to find the diamonds before Zeebad, they must climb icy mountains, navigate fiery pits of molten lava, sail across vast oceans and pass through a booby-trapped temple guarded by an army of ninja skeleton warriors. Along the way they learn that the most powerful weapon is their friendship – which even Zeebad's evil magic cannot destroy.

Summary taken from moviesonline.ca



COMING IN MARCH

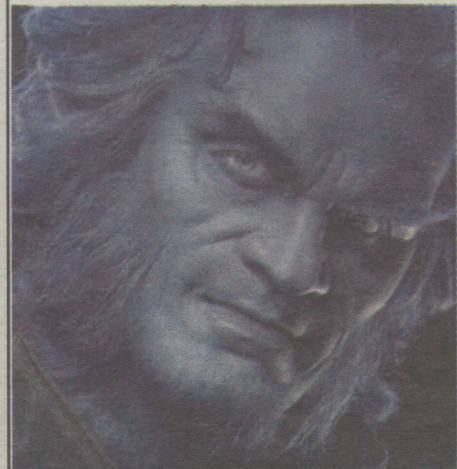


ULTRA VIOLET

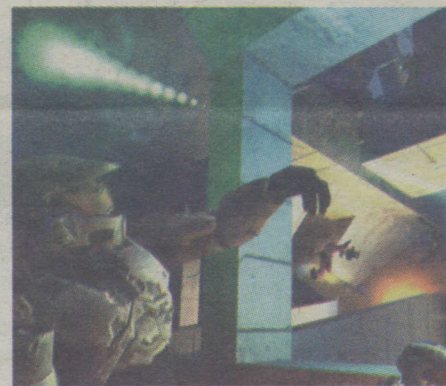
Starring Milla Jovovich, Cameron Bright
Director: Kurt Wimmer
GENRE: Thriller

PLOT SPOILER: One rogue warrior is bent on protecting her race – and seeking revenge on those who changed her life forever. With fierce fighting skills and chameleon-like abilities, Violet (Milla Jovovich) sets out to destroy a government-designed time bomb that will eliminate all Hemophages.

COMING IN MAY: X3



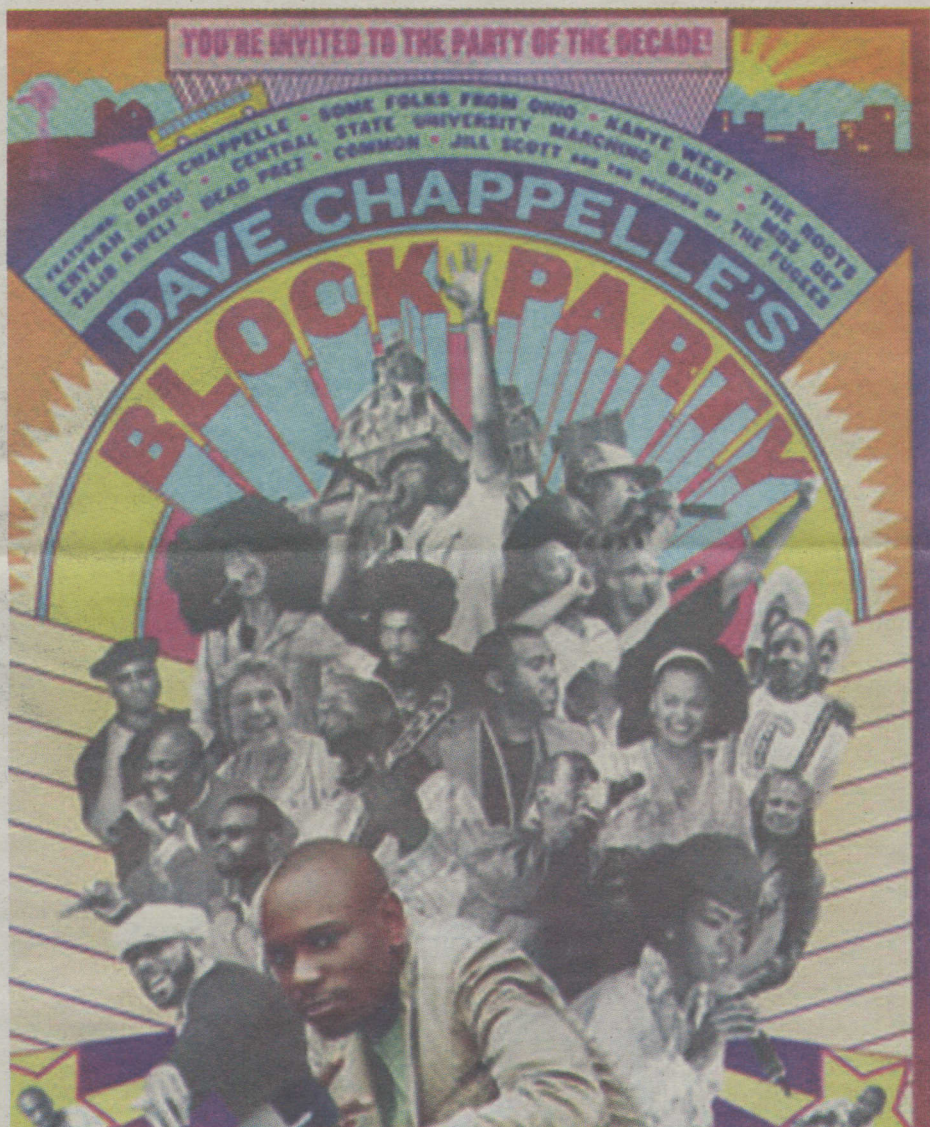
COMING IN 2007: HALO, THE MOVIE



According to Variety magazine, Fox and Universal have finalized the deal with Microsoft for the making of the movie, *HALO*, based on Bungie's hit videogame of the same name. The movie studios will pay Microsoft \$5 million against 10% of the gross. Alex Garland, who wrote *28 Days Later*, wrote the script, approved by Microsoft and Bungie. Former Columbia president Peter Schlessel is set to produce.

While the financial details had been worked out earlier this summer, the creative control issues were still undecided. As of yesterday Microsoft has extensive "consultation" rights over the project, but is denied approval over elements. Members of Bungie staff will be consulting on the project as well. But Universal has final say.

"Our conversations in the last few weeks focused on the level of collaboration needed to bring this complex property to life," said Peter Moore, marketing and publishing VP for Microsoft's Xbox game unit. "Ultimately, Universal is the expert responsible for making a powerfully commercial movie palatable to our demo."



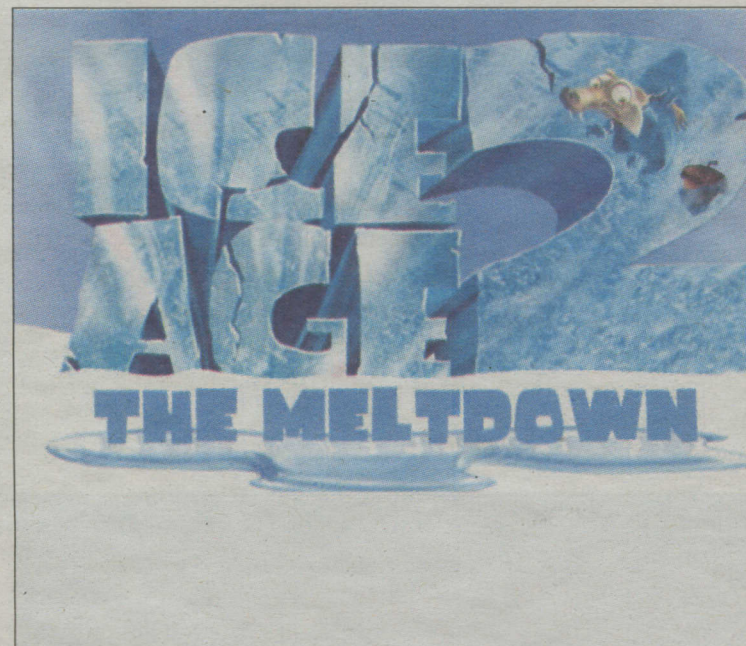
Block Party

Starring Kanye West, Mos Def, Erykah Badu, Dead Prez, Jill Scott

Director: Michael Gondry

PLOT SPOILER: A real crowd-pleaser, "Dave Chappelle's Block Party" spotlights comedy superstar Dave Chappelle in all-new freestyle stand-up material, and also one-time-only performances by Kanye West, Mos Def, Erykah Badu, Dead Prez, Jill Scott, and The Roots, among others. The unprecedented combination of comedy and music was shot on location, as Mr. Chappelle threw a party in downtown Brooklyn, inviting local residents and cameras. Academy Award-winning filmmaker Michel Gondry and cinematographer Ellen Kuras captured the exclusive performances, offering moviegoers front-row seats at a unique experience.

Movie summary courtesy of:
<http://www.moviesonline.ca>

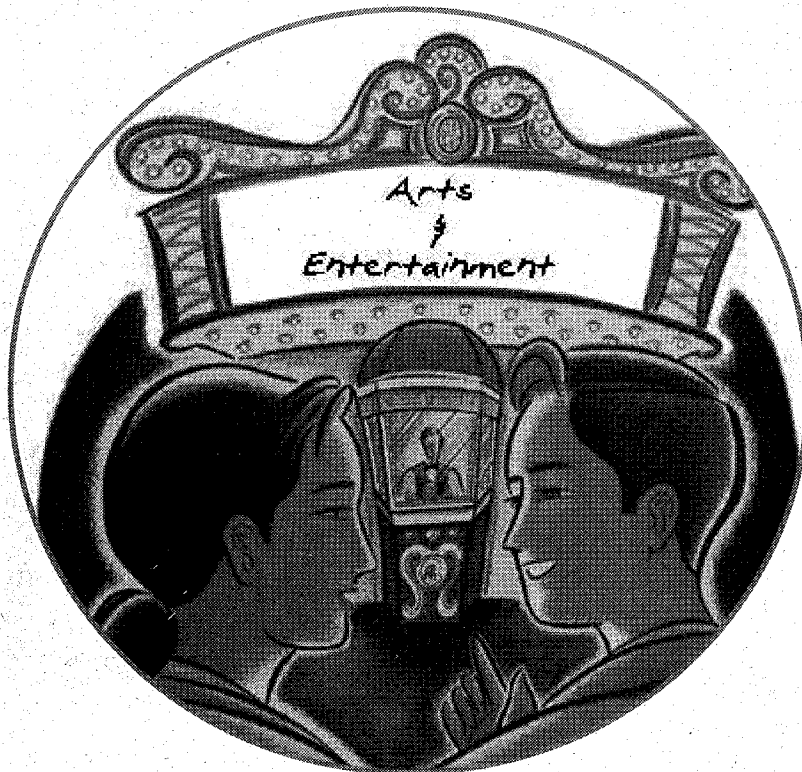


ICE AGE 2

Starring: Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, and Denis Leary
Director: Carlos Saldanha

SPOT SPOILER: Manny, Sid and Diego return in another incredible adventure. The Ice Age is coming to an end, and the animals are delighting in their new world: a melting paradise of water parks, geysers and tar pits. But when Manny, Sid and Diego discover that the miles of melted ice will flood their valley, they must warn everyone and somehow figure out a way to escape the coming deluge.

Movie summary courtesy of:
<http://www.moviesonline.ca>



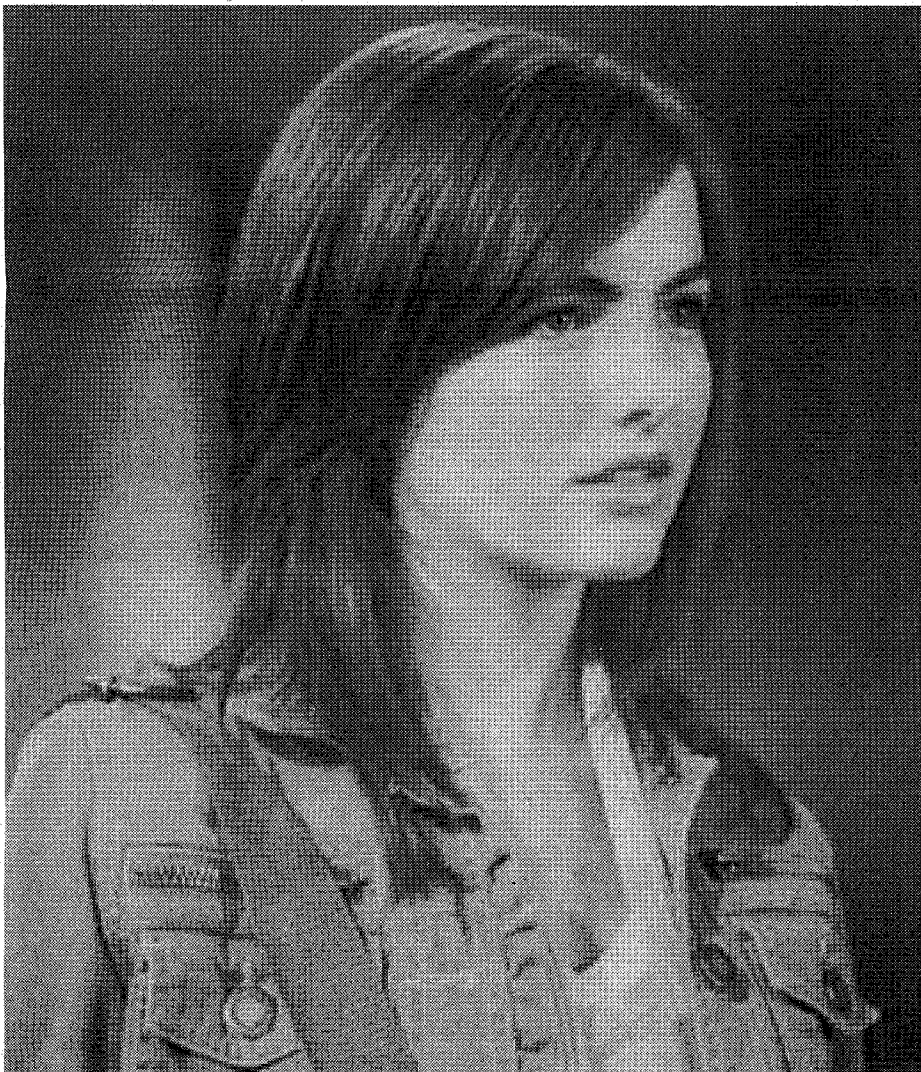
DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), was founded by eight prominent Americans, and that William E. B. Du Bois was the only black founding member?

Did you know Booker T. Washington founded Tuskegee Institute, one of the leading African-American educational institutions in America, in 1881?

Did you know that Mary McLeod Bethune, a founder of Bethune-Cookman College and the National Council of Negro Women, also served as a special adviser on minority affairs to President Franklin Roosevelt?

When a Stranger Calls... Hang Up



Taye Diggs photo courtesy of REVOLUTION STUDIO

BY MARVIN ALEXIS
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Warning: It's not possible for me to spoil this movie any more than it's spoiled my life, be prepared for a full rundown.

Scream 4? I wish. Scream 0.5 more like it. A remake of a '79 movie by the same name relives every convention the Scream series

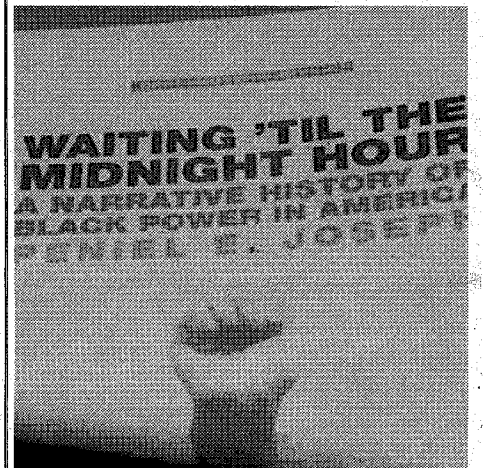
parodies. The basic plot is that this teenage girl is grounded for going over her cell phone minutes (like, oh my gawd!) and must spend the night babysitting for a rich couple in their mansion. What entails is one of the scariest movies ever made for all the wrong reasons. The scariest part about this movie was that people actually wasted their time and money making it, more so that I wasted my time and money watching. If I could ever get any time in my life back, I'd start at the moment I sat in the

theatre to watch this. On the flip side, if there was ever a perfect moment to end my life, it would be the moment I sat down in the theatre to watch this movie.

Upon arriving at the mansion in the spooky secluded woods, the teenage girl receives a tour of the home before the couple leaves her alone. She proceeds to twiddle her thumbs for the next several hours until the phone rings and either one of her carbon copy friends are on the other line, or the more compelling static of a stranger. This goes on for the next hour or so, real time unfortunately, with no real action except cheap scares. The predictable kind where the music builds up and the main character slowly rounds a corner until finally something enters her view, and it turns out to be the cat or a statue or something else with more screen presence than the main actress, Camilla Belle. Up to this point, this alleged babysitter still hasn't checked up on the kids, so it's still unclear as to whether they exist or not, but it is evident the character's babysitting skills are on par with the actresses acting skills.

Other stuff happens, but I'm afraid I'm making the movie seem better than it actually is, so I won't go into it much further. It's hard to tell you where the movie went wrong but if I were to venture a guess it started when the paper they used for the screenplay was manufactured. We don't see "the stranger" until the last fifteen minutes of the film, and even then it's too late to save face. This is just one long barely made for TV movie, but what else could you expect from a PG-13 horror flick from a mediocre, at best, director.

A Book Review: Black Power

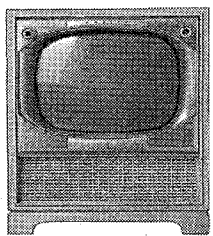


It's finally here... The book everyone's been waiting for, *Waiting 'Til The Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America* by Peniel E. Joseph, PhD, Woodrow Wilson Fellow and Asst. Professor of Africana Studies at Stony Brook University. The book is funded by a fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson International Center and a Ford Foundation grant for related research. According to Professor Joseph in an interview with Jan Wenzel from Rhode Island University, where Joseph used to teach, Black Power studies is an emerging field of study, a subset within African-American history that must be defined and well researched. "Many assumptions, often based on memoirs or first person recollections, have become fact," he says. "Black Power means different things to different people. What were the organizations? What were they thinking? Where were they living?" In order to answer these pertinent questions Joseph has been researching often under-studied organizations and political activists all over the nation. Black Power activism also brought about educational advances as well. Student protests and takeovers led to the creation of Black Studies programs at many American universities.

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ART IN OUR SCHOOLS.

NO WONDER PEOPLE THINK
CARAVAGGIO
 IS A GUY ON THE SOPRANOS.

It's quite hard to believe. Here's a 16th-century Baroque master whose bold naturalistic painting style first created a sensation, then a movement. A guy whose life was filled with the turbulence and excess of a dozen Mario Puzo novels. A guy



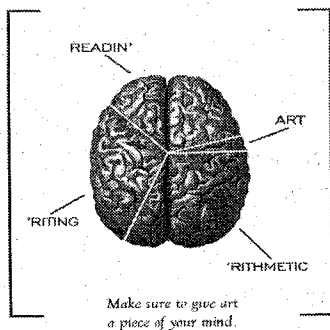
If you're looking for Caravaggio, you're very, very cold.

who, while troubled, ultimately found redemption — and immortality — in his art. But does the kid next door even know who Caravaggio is?

Fuhgedaboutit.

This loss is incalculable. Especially when you consider how much children can learn from the conflicted life of someone like Michelangelo Caravaggio.

He grew up in less than ideal circumstances. Much of his family perished in the plague, and he spent much of his youth on the notoriously treacherous streets of Rome. As a young man, he labored beneath others much less talented than he and had difficulty making a living. He faced adversity at every turn.



And when his legendary temper threatened to get the best of him, he created his most vital masterpieces. The angry contrast between light and darkness that he felt deep in his soul now hangs in stark evidence in countless museums around the world.

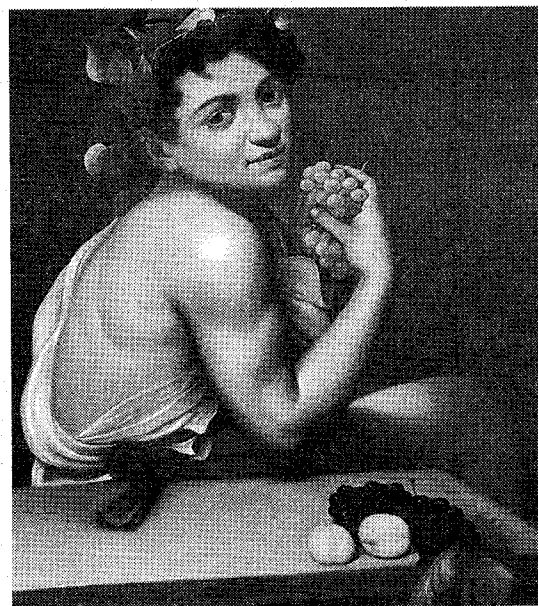
Caravaggio's body of work is not only a great example of the Baroque period, but also a case study in the importance of art as an outlet. One we're fast removing from our kids' lives.

AN IMPORTANT LESSON.

Study after study shows that an overwhelming majority of parents believe the arts are integral to their children's education. They like that dance

and music teach kids to be more tolerant and open. That painting and drama allow children to express themselves creatively. And that the arts help to promote individuality, while bolstering self-confidence and improving overall academic performance.

If only they knew that their kids spend less time in arts classes than they do watching commercials.



A self-portrait of Caravaggio as Bacchus. Let's be honest; he wouldn't last 10 minutes on *The Sopranos*.

LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE.

If the arts are indeed a vital part of your child's education and well-being (and they are), then you should demand your child's fair share. To find out what you can do to help, or for more information about the benefits of arts education, please visit us at AmericansForTheArts.org. Because, as Michelangelo Caravaggio would no doubt tell you, a life without art is torture.

ART. ASK FOR MORE.



Poetry in Motion



Mother Love

Who can forget the attitude of mothering?

Toss me a baby and without bothering
to blink I'll catch her, sling him on a hip.

Any woman knows the remedy for grief
is being needed: duty bugles and we'll
climb out of exhaustion every time,
bare the nipple or tuck in the sheet,
heat milk and hum at bedside until
they can dress themselves and rise, primed
for Love or Glory—those one-way mirrors
girls peer into as their fledgling heroes slip
through, storming the smoky battlefield.

So when this kind woman approached at the urging
of her bouquet of daughters,
(one for each of the world's corners,
one for each of the winds to scatter!)
and offered up her only male child for nursing
(a smattering of flesh, noisy and ordinary),
I put aside the lavish trousseau of the mourner
for the daintier comfort of pity:
I decided to save him. Each night
I laid him on the smouldering embers,
sealing his juices in slowly so he might
be cured to perfection. Oh, I know it
looked damning: at the hearth a muttering crone
bent over a baby sizzling on a spit
as neat as a Virginia ham. Poor human—
to scream like that, to make me remember.

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Mother to Son

Well son, I'll tell you
Life for me aint been no crystal stair
It's had tacks in it, and boards torn up
And places with no carpet on the floor-bare

But all the time
I've been climbing
And reaching landings
And turning corners
And sometimes going in the dark
Where there aint been no light

So don't you stop now
And don't you sit down
Just cause it seem kind of hard
Don't you turn around now
Because I's still climbing
And life for me
Aint been no crystal stair

© Langston Hughes

Courage

O LONELY heart so timid of approach,
Like the shy tropic flower that shuts its lips
To the faint touch of tender finger tips:
What is your word? What question would you
broach?
Your lustrous-warm eyes are too sadly kind
To mask the meaning of your dreamy tale,
Your guarded life too exquisitely frail
Against the daggers of my warring mind.
There is no part of the unyielding earth,
Even bare rocks where the eagles build their nest,
Will give us undisturbed and friendly rest.
No dewfall softens this vast belt of dearth.
But in the socket-chiseled teeth of strife,
That gleam in serried files in all the lands,
We may join hungry, understanding hands,
And drink our share of ardent love and life.

©Claude McKay

*A Tribute To
Coretta Scott King:
First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement
1927-2006*

When we hear the name Coretta Scott King, we instantly think of her husband the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We think about the fight they fought during the civil rights movement. We think about Coretta becoming a widow after 15 years of marriage. We remind ourselves of her struggle to keep her husband's memory and dream alive.

Coretta Scott King was born on April 27, 1927 in Marion, Alabama. She met Martin Luther King, Jr. while studying voice at the New England Conservatory of Music. They married on June 18, 1953. To their union were born four children: Yolanda □ born 1955□, Martin Luther III □ born 1957□, Dexter □ born 1961□, and Bernice □ born 1963□. Shortly after the birth of their first child, the Kings were catapulted into the spotlight. A seamstress by the name of Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus. This sparked a 381 day bus boycott. Mrs. King, along with her husband, fought to get the segregation laws abolished. They challenged Americans to bind together and love one another. She stood for peace and equality. She wanted us all to live in a better America-one where we would not be judged for the color of our skin, but by the content of our character.



Coretta Scott King accomplished a lot in her lifetime. She showed us how to take our tragedies and turn them into triumphs. She continued to fight for racial equality and peace for all mankind. She allowed the nation to grieve with her. She granted us the opportunity to love and appreciate her for her quiet strength. She never backed down when her house was bombed. She didn't turn away when Dr. King was stabbed. She never had any regrets when an assassin's bullet took her soul mate away. Mrs. King carried herself with such dignity. She knew what had to be done to make this world a better place for her four children to live in. In 1968, shortly after Dr. King's death, Mrs. King founded the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Also, in 1983 she pushed for Dr. King's birthday to become a national holiday; which was first celebrated in 1986. She was the author of a number of books. She was a mother. She was most of all the believer and carrier of a dream.

Today and forever the world mourns with the King family. We salute a strong-willed, graceful and powerful woman. We pay homage to a leader who's recognized all over the world. We hold dear to our hearts the struggle for equality that she and Dr. King started so many years ago. Thank you Coretta Scott King for never giving up. Thank you for instilling in us a sense of pride. Thank you for persevering. Thank you for being you-a noble woman.

SB CAD, Motion Graphics, Arch, 3-d Modeling Interest group.

Workshops, skills, working portfolio in:
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Maya, Lightwave, Sketch-up, Bryce, Carrara,
z-Brush, Vectorworks, Poser

Portfolio and Professions in Architectural and Urban
Planning, Fashion design, Product design, Event De-
sign, Film Art Direction, Game Design, Digital Media

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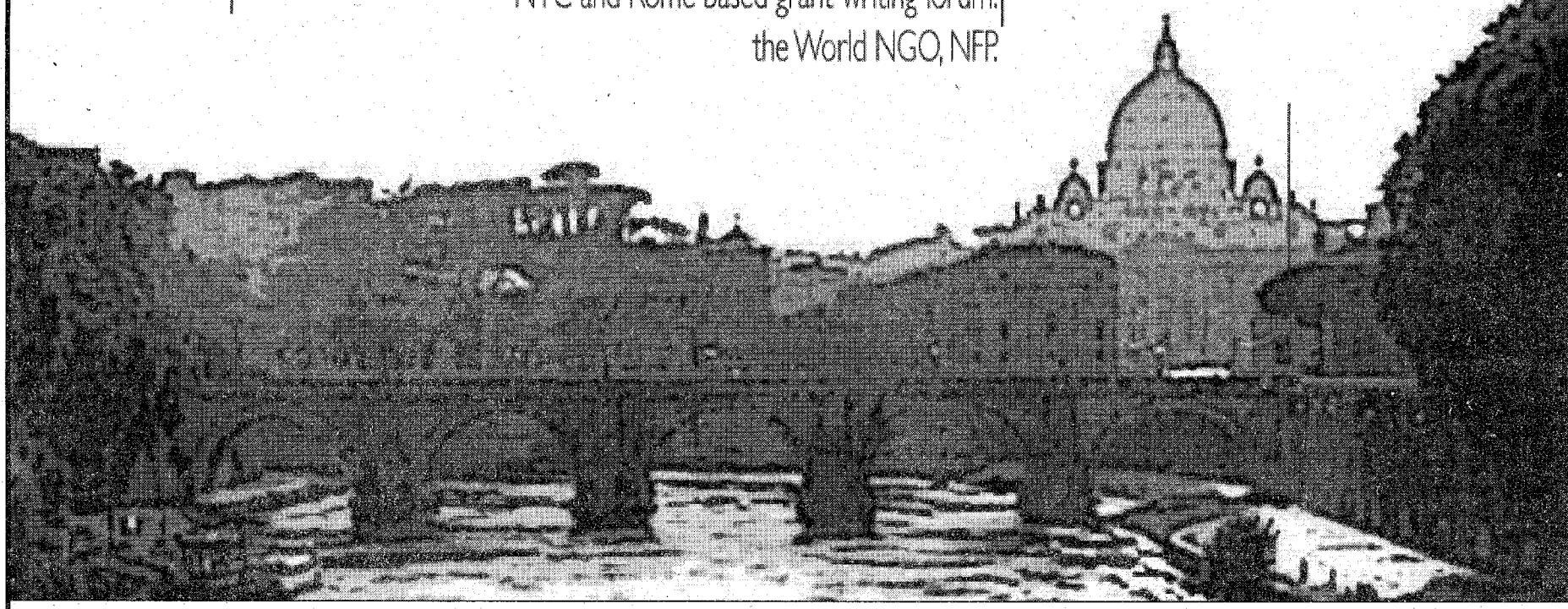
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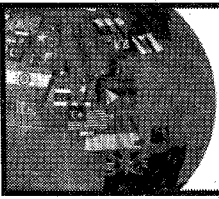
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Digital Video and
Photo Ethnography

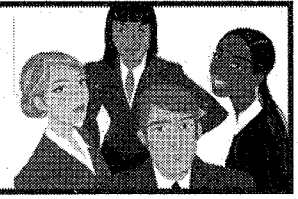
Film and Media Criticism

NYC and Rome based grant-writing forum:
the World NGO, NFP.

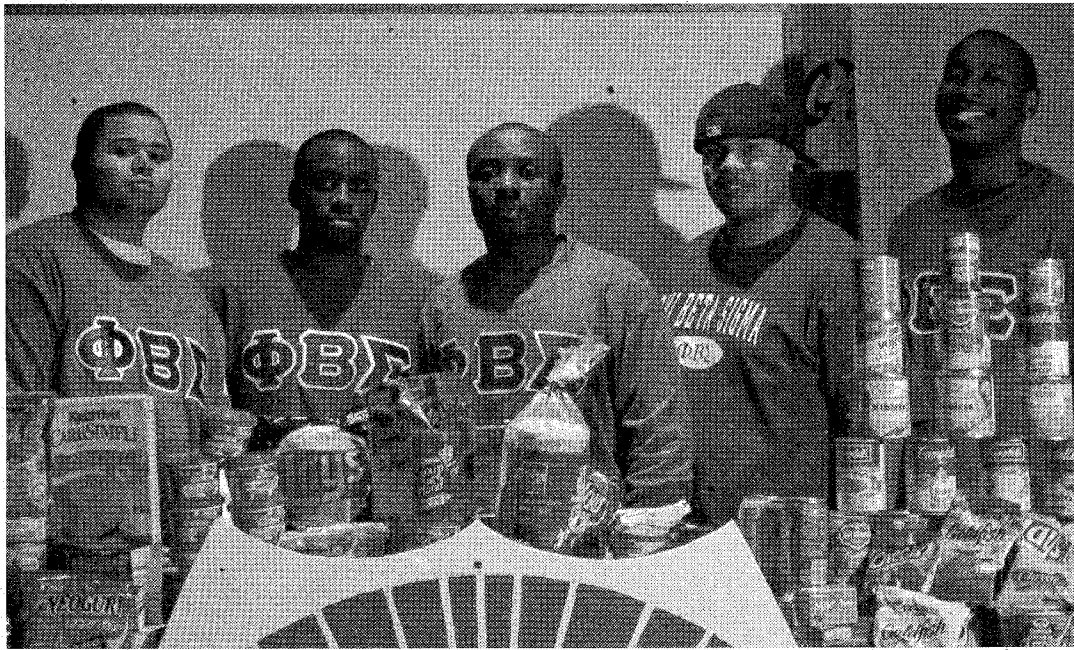




Community Service



PHI BETA SIGMA COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE



Past and present members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. giving back to the community

BY EMMANUELLE GYAMFI
CONTRIBUTOR

Community Service is very important in every aspect. It helps create social change. With community service, we are able to examine and experience

the academic, cultural and social factors that put children and youth at risk for a variety of non-productive behaviors ranging from substance abuse, to dropping out of school, to early parenthood. Community service is an awesome display of how much the service of one individual can affect the

lives of many.

Serving the common good can be broadly defined, but essentially it means making a positive impact on the community, contributing in some way to the cultivation of a collective life. Serving the common good can come in an infinite variety of forms. There are so many different types of service opportunities that people often overlook all their options.

Community service also involves making services accessible to communities by locating the heart of neighborhoods and

becoming familiar with residents to nurture their hope, self-value and ability to succeed. It addresses problems that plague urban areas like drugs, violence and crime and organizes individuals into community protection and empowerment groups through innovative methods. Community services helps foster civic responsibility and strengthen the ties that binds us together as a nation.

Community service also tackles poverty on many fronts, bringing a unique perspective to the field of urban poverty. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. have helped a local church distribute food to the homeless on Thanksgiving Day. This experience taught us that one of the most satisfying, fun, and productive ways to unite is volunteering for community service projects. Not only does it help bring families together, volunteerism also sets a good example for the children and is helpful to the community as well. We were humbled and astonished at how much our being there, helping prepare and serve these New Yorkers a hot meal meant to each and every one of them.


Service also helps respond to critical needs in communities—and is a part of problem-solving initiatives in education, public safety, the environment, and other human needs. Therefore, we also aided the victims of Hurricane Katrina by sending a box of clothes for the needy. An activity like this can strengthen your family, while helping those in need. Volunteerism is a wonderful way for families to have fun and feel closer to each other to boot. We learned the satisfaction and pride we feel when helping others are important reasons to volunteer. When we commit our time and effort to an organization we care about or a cause we feel strongly about, the feeling of fulfillment can be endless. Service helps people expand their sense of community so that they look first to themselves and to one another to improve their lives. Service furthermore, promotes

partnerships at all levels of society and builds bridges among seemingly disparate groups to improve the quality of life of people in our nation.

The founding fathers of Phi Beta Sigma have embraced the ideals of service for numerous reasons. From its inception, the founders also conceived Phi Beta Sigma as a mechanism to deliver services to the general community. Rather than gaining skills to be utilized exclusively for themselves and their immediate families, the founders of Phi Beta Sigma held the deep conviction that they should return their newly acquired skills to the communities from which they had come. This deep conviction was mirrored in the fraternity motto, "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity". Phi Beta Sigma provides services and assistance to promote healthy family relationships and gives families the opportunities to take part in their local communities. Some of the organizations that of Phi Beta Sigma is associated with are: (1) The National Urban League (Campaign For African American Achievement), (2) The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund (Preparing a New Generation of Leaders), (3) The National African American Leadership Summit, (4) The National Head start Association, and (5) The National Boys Club Of America. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity is an organization that is concerned and involved in meeting the needs of the community. Phi Beta Sigma has also camped outside in order to raise money for Hurricane Katrina victims. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity acquired donations as well as non-perishable goods, clothing, diapers, canned goods and anything else that can be used for the victims. In addition to fundraising efforts for Katrina victims, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity also is continuing Books Behind Bars, a program it has recently started that collects books for prison inmates.

We believe community is a great way to develop academic and practical skills, self-esteem, and a sense of civic responsibility while meeting community needs. We understand the need for community service in creating a better world for everyone. We also understand that service helps respond to critical needs in communities and should definitely be a great part of problem-solving initiatives.

We have learned there are an infinite number of needs for service in every community and that service is more fulfilling than any other activity. The non-profit field is widely accessible and we to spend my career there. We plan to commit ourselves to helping communities by promoting strong community partnerships and encouraging everybody, from individuals to businesses, to make a difference.




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February 28, 2006

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or contact Pat Cruso
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Phone: (631) 632-4309



What's Happening...

Wednesday, February 22, 2006
Recreational Sports and Fiess Day
SAC 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

SAC A 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Spades Tournament

Friday, February 24, 2006
Gospel Choir presents Black Art in Motion

Sunday, February 26, 2006, 2 and 8p.m. Staller Center Theatre 1

The Department of Theatre Arts presents Origins and Destinies, a dance/theatre company directed by Professor Amy Yopp Sullivan, performing an original work, "Immigration and Transmigration." This provocative performance examines the complexities of immigration, recalls the past memories of those who have traveled before us, and reflects upon the issues of today. The performance promises to engage both the heart and mind as one witnesses the tender, yet powerful, human experiences of leaving and arriving.

For tickets, call the Staller Center Box Office at 631.632.ARTS.

Monday, February 27, 2006
SAB Rock Mondays
SAC Ballroom B 7 – 10p.m.

February 28, 2006
Stony Brook Day in Albany

Come join hundreds of your peers in Albany as they meet with Legislatures to

If you haven't already done so, visit www.stonybrook.edu/albany and register for the trip.

SAC 309, 12 -2 p.m.
Free Blood Pressure and Cholesterol screening

Friday, February 24
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., SB Union Auditorium
Black Art in Motion

A night of music, dance, and poetry in honor of Black History Month. Sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Stony Brook Gospel Choir. For more information, contact Annlyn Bristol, 632-6470.

Monday, February 27
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. HSC Galleria Level 3
A Taste of Food from African Ancestry

Sponsored by the School of Social Welfare and the Black Faculty & Staff Association. For more information,

contact Dr. Francis Brisbane, School of Social Welfare, 444-2139.

Cultural Slam
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., SB Union Auditorium
Several student organizations will compete in a "slam" competition. Hosted by a Haitian guest comedian. Sponsored by the Haitian Student Organization. For more information, contact Pojanee Fleury, (973) 493-3436.

Tuesday, February 28
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., UNITI Cultural Center, SB Union
Malcolm X Vigil

Sponsored by MALIK Fraternity, Inc.

Wednesday, March 1
8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., SAC Ballroom A
Black History Month Closing Ceremony

All are invited to this campus-wide celebration of Black History Month. Featuring performances by selected student groups and special guests. Sponsored by the Black History Month Coordinating Committee. For more information contact Cheryl Chambers, Cheryl.Chambers@stonybrook.edu, 632-9968.

Thursday, March 2

8:00 p.m., UNITI Cultural Center, SB Union
A Taste of Africa

The African Student Union serves up a variety of cultural dishes during this educational and social program. All are welcome!

Saturday, March 4, 2006

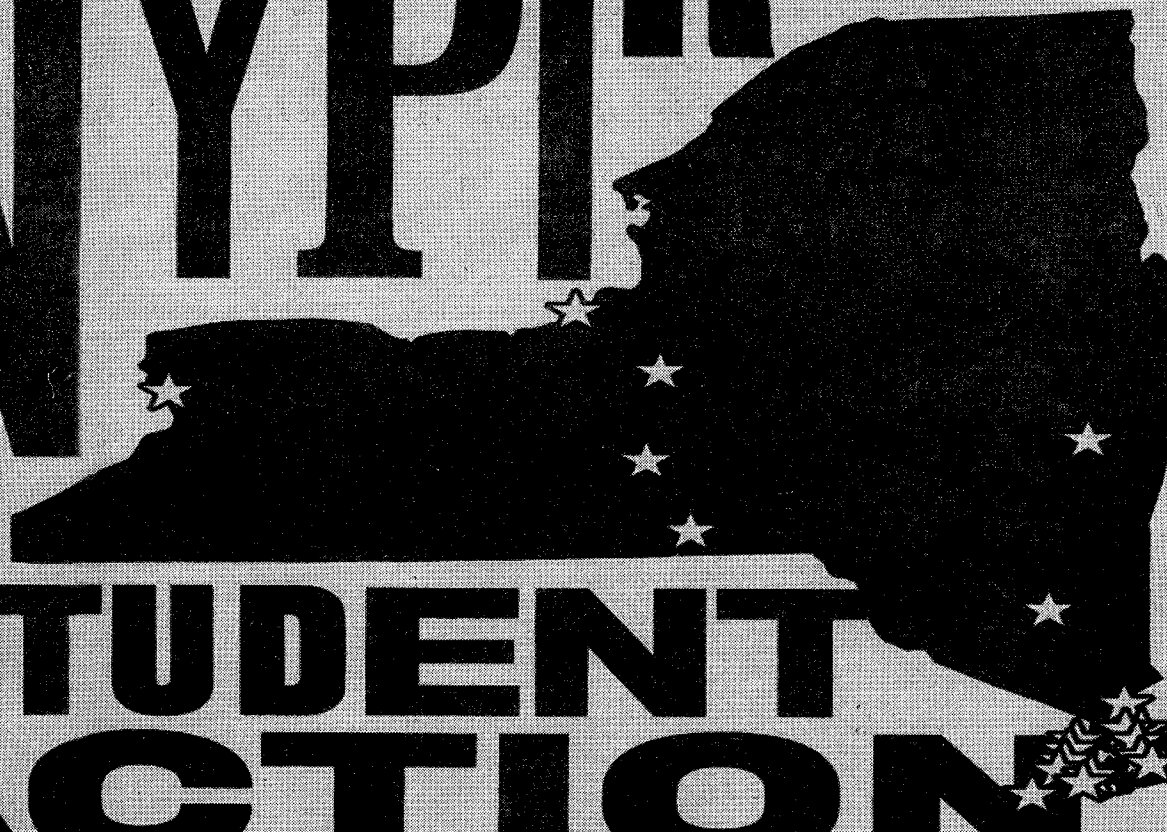
Location: Staller Center Recital Hall

The James Carter Quintet pays homage to Billie Holiday and the music of her era, drawing on Carter's latest album Gardenias for Lady Day. James Carter will "blow the house down" as he and the other musicians in his band are joined by Miché Braden, the accomplished vocalist on Gardenias.

A hot baritone saxophone player who has mastered the whole family of reed instruments, James Carter and his Quintet are gaining a reputation for grabbing a wide following for America's only indigenous art form-jazz. Carter has performed, either live or in the studio, with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, the Charles Mingus Big Band, Aretha Franklin, Sonny Rollins and many others.

Call (631) 632-ARTS or visit the Staller Center for tickets and more information.

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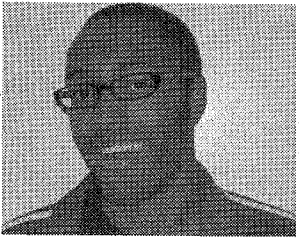
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THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE FOLLOWING TIME IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATION:
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 7P.M. IN SAC BALLROOM B



Guard Your Grill



BY JUSTIN WILLIAMS
SPORTS EDITOR

Racism, N. The belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior to others.

At the end of a long month marked by reflection on racial/national progress, I remain bothered that sport is still such a key battle ground in the fight against racist stereotyping. But unlike the past racism which dictated African-American athletes were mentally inferior to their white counterparts, the new, sinister racism hides itself in a complimentary veil by stating blacks are inherently gifted in athletics. This type of racially deterministic rhetoric is a direct descendent of the same faux-science that justified enslavement and genocide during colonialism throughout the world.

If you're still not sure what I'm talking about, perhaps talk of African-Americans having "extra muscles" in

their legs should come to mind. Or maybe African-Americans are just better at basketball because "they can jump higher". The sad thing about this bizarre world view is it legitimizing itself without any shred of actual scientific proof. For example, journalist Jon Entine's recent book, *Taboo: Why Black Athletes Dominate Sports and Why We're Afraid to Talk About It*, argues the predominant black presence in sports such as football and basketball is due to DNA. The only problem with this thesis is African-Americans in the United States are so genetically diverse, that someone like me could be more Irish and Native American than East African. But of course this book does not offer actually genetic evidence to support its claims and as a review in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* stated:

My discomfort with Entine's presentation is that he applies the gene-environment interaction unevenly. Entine never ascribes a genetic advantage to the Jewish, or to the Irish, sports stars that he writes about (including baseball and boxing in addition to basketball). But he does explain the superiority of African derived sports stars in basketball, American football, and running in genetic terms. Moreover, he says that the genetic advantage of black elite athletes

is a population characteristic, rather than just the genetic good luck of the individual athletes.

This essentially means all the talk about black supremacy in sports is racist crap. But what we can explain is basketball is a part of inner city culture, baseball is a huge part of various Latin American societies and hockey does not get played in either of those places. To assign inherent qualities to race is to demean the hard work of athletes and strip them of their individual humanity. Sure it helps to be born big, but as Yao Ming and every offensive lineman in University of Nebraska football history has proved, being big and strong is not "a black thing". I'm neither big nor strong, but I am black. Where is my god given ability to dunk a basketball?

In a time when Army head football coach Fisher DeBerry blamed his loss to Texas Christian University to his lack of "Afro-American kids" that "can run very, very well", it is our duty to slam him for perpetuating the same harmful stereotypes that dictate any group has inherent qualities. Oh and by the way, the last most valuable player of the NBA and the two best players in college basketball are white. I bet they played ball as much as kids at Rucker park when they were younger.



DO YOU KNOW YOUR BLACK HISTORY? SEE HOW MANY OF THESE WORDS PERTAINING TO PROMINENT AFRICAN AMERICANS YOU CAN FIND...

WORDS:

August Wilson

Harriet Tubman

Bill Cosby

Madame C.J.

Walker

Booker T.

Washington

Malcolm X

Charles Nestle

Martin Luther

King Jr.

C.O. Bailiff

Maya Angelou

Coretta Scott King

Oprah Winfrey

Colin Powell

Rosa Parks

Frederick Douglass

Sorjourner Truth

Garrett Morgan

Thurgood

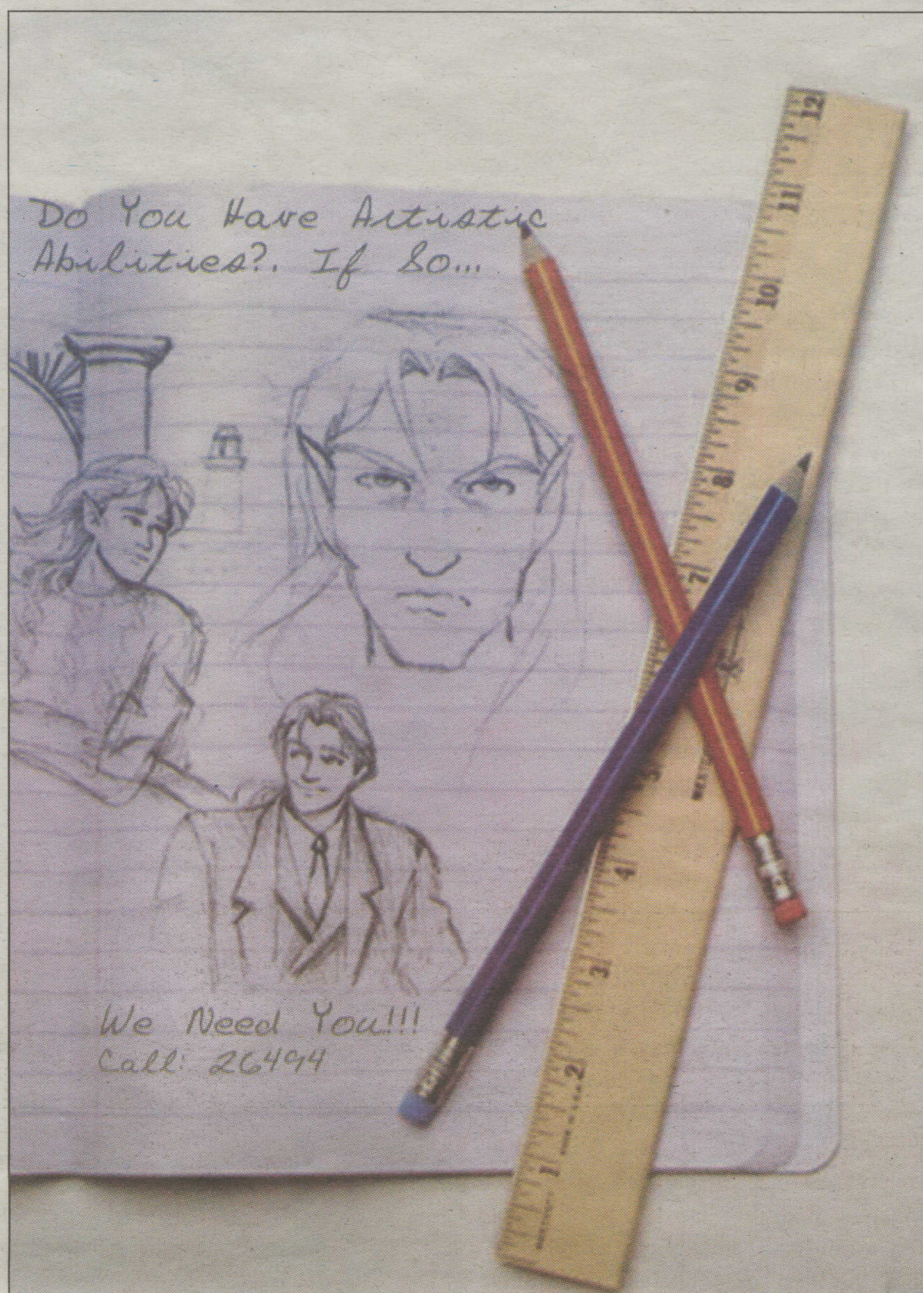
Marshall

George Washington

Carver

W.E.B. Dubois

Q F R E D E R I C K D O U G L A S S Y U G R E
W R E V R A C N O T G N I H S A W E G R O E G
I G M T A C K W Q G O P R A H W I N F R E Y O
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A U B F A U G U S T W I L S O N S A E M B E O
M S Q H I N T P O N R O S A P A R K S L N J R



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Do you have the time and energy to remain until the end of production to ensure the accuracy of layout and production of a newspaper?

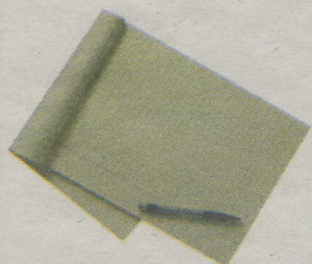
Do you have what it takes to be a liaison to other organizations on campus, to the student body, and the faculty and staff of Stony Brook University?

If this sounds like you, we are inviting you to join Blackworld newspaper. We are looking to find a replacement for our Editor-in-Chief who will be vacating the position soon.

The Editor has to be a member of Blackworld newspaper and elected by majority vote. Therefore participation in the club is encouraged.

Come join Blackworld and be a part of the next phase!

We are currently the NUMBER ONE newspaper on campus according to popular opinion, and we intend to keep it that way! We are looking for a leader to take us to that next phase... THAT LEADER COULD BE YOU!!



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