Stop...If you are able to read this, then you have achieved much more than that of our enslaved foreparents. If this were the 1800’s, we would not only be uneducated but thwarted in our quest for education. Reading and writing were illegal, violating the slave codes, and the plantation edicts spelled out in the Machiavellian “Willie Lynch” letter to plantation owners for keeping Blacks enslaved in body and mind. Blacks were not allowed to get an education, because with education comes knowledge, and with knowledge comes power. As an African-American college student, you need to know how powerful you are, and that you have already overcome formidable structural barriers designed to keep you in a disadvantaged position.

Students of color in poorer schools or school districts are institutionally disadvantaged by problems of inadequate college preparatory resources. A policy report by Stanford University appropriately titled, Betraying the College Dream: How Disconnected K-12 and Postsecondary Education Systems Undermine Student Aspirations, conducted a study of six states, and identified these pertinent discontinuities and inequalities in academic resources: 1) Multiple and confusing assessments; 2) Disconnected curricula; 3) Student, parent, K-12 educator misunderstandings about college; 4) Inadequate college resources & connections with postsecondary institutions; 5) Inequitable college preparatory opportunities for all students; 6) Lack of college counseling for all students. National achievement data compiled in 2001 by the Educational Trust, Inc. illustrates the disparities among students who complete the basic A-F curriculum for college eligibility. African-Americans and Latinos are less likely to complete (28% African-American; 41% white; 58% Asian; 24% Latino) the required coursework. (See E.O. 665, page 2)
Attending college and maintaining high grades can be a difficult task. But consider if during your grade school years you were unable to read, did very poor in class, a volatile Black male, and had the nickname of “Dummy.” This is the early life that formed the world’s greatest neurosurgeon, Dr. Benjamin A. Carson. Dr. Carson was born September 18, 1951 to a single mother, Ms. Sonya Carson, in Detroit, Michigan. All the odds were against young Benjamin and his brother. His mother had a 3rd grade education and was unable to read, the family lived below the poverty level, and there was an inordinate amount of crime occurring around him. As expected, the young Benjamin began along the road to failure. Sonya Carson recognized the diverting study habits of her sons, and quickly gained control by limiting their television and play time, and requiring that they read two library books per week. Dr. Carson was noted saying “I hated reading, but after several months of doing those book reports, I realized that through reading I could be anywhere, in my mind.”

After graduating high school with honors, Carson was accepted to Yale University where he obtained a B.A. degree in Psychology. Carson transferred to the University of Michigan Medical School where he later shifted from psychiatry to neurosurgery. In 1983, at the mere age of 33 years, Dr. Carson became the Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the prestigious Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

Four years later Carson made medical history with an operation that separated Siamese twins conjoined at the back of the cranium. He has also made several major innovative contributions to the surgical field. Carson contrived the first intrauterine procedure that could relieve pressure on the brain of a hydrocephalic fetal twin. (See Dr. Ben Carson, page 8)

These findings suggest that African-American students, already comprising the minority of college applicants, will in the future be even less competitive than their peers for college admissions. Furthermore, in a study of California’s Black college students (Stony the Road We Trod), Walter Allen states that greater academic challenges impede college graduation because of more limited academic preparation at the high school level.

Structural inequalities are exacerbated in California without affirmative action courses, and an increased reliance on standardized screening tests for admissions and graduation. In overcoming these entrenched societal hurdles, you may very well be considered public enemy number one. Education is a right that we won through struggle, and was not given to us. Education is freedom. It is freedom from mental and financial oppression, freedom from the stereotypical notions that Blacks aren’t intelligent and freedom from the defeatist idea that we can’t thrive in this society. (See 665, page 9)

The non-traditional category of a single parent/student is often overlooked. In 1986, two parents ran nine out of ten households in the U.S. Today almost one-third of the households in America are headed by single parents, among which 86% are women. While these percentages are extremely high, they are topped by the fact that 50% of two parent families will end up being single parent families, and 50% of children born today will live in a single parent family at some point in their childhood. The most recent studies of the U.S Census Bureau show that 58% of African American males and females are single parents. When the numbers are broken down, there are 12,687,000 female and 4,028,000 male single parent households in the U.S. With this in mind, it is no wonder why single parents seek alternatives to life, such as going to college.

The reality of raising children in a single parent home does not have to affect one’s goals for achievement. Although there has not been much research conducted on the number of African American women who are pregnant who plan on attending college, nearly two thirds of African American independent students attending college have dependents. In addition to that, nearly two thirds of these students are single parents. (See Sky, page 8)
Genocide..., Civil war..., Religious extermination..., Crimes against humanity..., Slave trafficking..., Land alienation and power struggle for oil... All of these charges have been used to describe the current crisis in Sudan. Located in East Africa, Sudan has a population of more than 30 million people. In spatial terms, Sudan is the largest country in Africa, and is about one-quarter the size of the United States. Occupying a large expanse of the Saharan and Nubian Deserts, it is 918,000 square miles, and is the location where the rushing waters of the Blue Nile meet the majestic White Nile, as the famed labyrinth of the Nile River flows north through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea. Historically, Sudan occupies the former site of Nubia, a flourishing African empire that reigned (along with Kemet or ancient Egypt) during Antiquity. Thus the indigenous African cultures in the Sudan predate, by thousands of years, the Arab invasion (740 A.C.E.) and penetration of Islam in Africa. Its contemporary population comprises 52% African, 39% Arab, and 9% other groups. The indigenous African people most affected by this crisis are the Fur, Zaghawa, and the Masalit. In spatial patterns the conflict is between the Islamic north and the traditional African south.

Also embroiled in a 21-year civil war, Sudan is considered a politically unstable land. It is torn between political and ethnic ideologies rooted in religious division between traditional Africans and aculturated black Arabs or Muslims. The traditional Africans are Black and they practice traditional African religions, and have retained African languages as their primary cultural identity. The Sudanese (Sunni) Muslims, or Arabs as they call themselves, also are Black but practice Islam, have adopted Arabic as their primary language, and have assumed Arab ethnic identity. These “Arabs” have formed a militia and have been terrorizing the traditional African people in the southern section of the Sudan. Although for the last 20 years the country has been divided between the Sunni Muslims in the north and the traditional religious Africans in the south, the physical conflict and massive displacement of the traditional Africans has escalated tremendously in the past two years. The Muslims have violently driven traditional Africans, particularly the farmers, off of their own property. Since the onset of this civil war, an estimated two million people have lost lives, and four million people have been displaced.

Like all present-day African countries (except Ethiopia), the Sudan was formed as a geographical entity during European colonialism. Since gaining independence from England on January 1, 1956, several constitutions have been adopted and dismissed.

Map of Sudan with the historical landmarks of the Nubian Desert, Blue Nile & White Nile Rivers

In spatial patterns the conflict is between the Islamic north and the traditional African south.

The 2004 election was most unforgettable because of its drive and passion to encourage young people to vote. Minorities, particularly young minorities are not aware of how much their vote really counts. Rap star, Sean “P. Diddy” Combs, adopted a hard-hitting campaign slogan this year as he attempted to convince members of the hip-hop generation to go to the polls in November’s Presidential election. Founded by this businessman, entertainer, actor, producer, and designer Combs, Citizen Change is a national, non-profit organization created to educate, motivate, and empower more that 42 million Americans aged 18 to 30 years that were eligible to vote on November 2nd—also know as the “forgotten ones.” Citizen Change had one mission: to make voting relevant to the young people and minorities who could rule the world if only they knew the power they possessed. Mobilizing the hip-hop generation with the campaign’s urgent Vote or Die! message, Diddy created a “coalition of the willing” that included media powerhouses, the fashion world, and notable celebrities like Jay-Z, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx, Ellen DeGeneres, Ashton Kutcher, 50 Cent, Mary J Blige, DREW BARRYMORE, Tony Hawk, Jada-kiss, Hilary Duff, Yoko Ono, Alicia Keys, Kanye West, and others.

Map of Sudan with the historical landmarks of the Nubian Desert, Blue Nile & White Nile Rivers

In spatial patterns the conflict is between the Islamic north and the traditional African south.
Complexities of the HIV/AIDS Crisis for Women of Color

By Pearl Celious-Shareef

The HIV/AIDS crisis is a complex issue and exhibits dichotomous disease patterns. There are two contradictory faces of the HIV/AIDS crisis. In Africa the HIV/AIDS pandemic has afflicted the heterosexual population. However, in the U.S., the HIV/AIDS crisis emerged in the white male homosexual community and among intravenous drug users, before spreading to the general heterosexual society. What is HIV and AIDS, and why is it so complicated to identify its etiology and provide effective preventive and treatment health care resources?

According to the MAYO References Services, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is transmitted through sexual contact, by exposure to blood (including sharing contaminated needles and syringes) or certain blood products, or from an infected mother to her fetus or child during the perinatal period. There are two types of the human immunodeficiency virus. HIV Type 1 is common in the United States; then HIV Type 2 is prevalent in Africa. HIV is believed to attack t-cells, which are considered the protectors of one’s immune system, and it is believed that this virus activates antibodies by penetrating the t-cells and transforms them into “virus factories” that attack the infected t-cells. Eventually, t-cells are diminished and then cannot do their job of fighting germs. An HIV infection is generally diagnosed in the United States by a test (e.g., ELISA and Western Blot) that detects the presence of HIV antibodies, in lieu of the actual virus. In Africa, an HIV diagnosis is usually based on a clinical case definition from the presence of certain combinations of symptoms, such as fever, coughing, and persistent diarrhea.

(See HIV/AIDS, Page 13)

Tips for Health Living

Adapted from the American Institute for Cancer Research Newsletter

1. EAT YOUR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.
2. KEEP MOVING.
3. FAT FREE DOES NOT EQUAL CALORIE FREE.
4. GIVE YOUR FOOD THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES.
5. SNACK FROM A PLATE, NOT THE BOX.
6. “HEY UP THERE, CAN YOU HEAR ME?”
7. ADDRESS EMOTIONS.

Recipes for Wellness

By Stephanie Durrett

Seafood Gumbo

Ingredients:
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup oil
- 1 pound shrimp, cleaned, peeled and deveined
- 1 pound crawfish tails, cleaned and deveined
- 1 pound white-fleshed fish fillets, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 2 to 3 cups chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped scallions (green onions)
- 1 cup chopped bell pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 4 to 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 lemon, halved and seeded
- 3 quarts seafood stock (see above)
- Salt, black pepper and hot sauce to taste
- Plenty of cooked rice
- File powder

Directions:

- First chop your vegetables and parsley, mince the garlic, and put your stock in a pot on a back burner.
- Now make a nice dark roux. Once you’ve made the roux, cooked the onion, scallions, bell pepper, celery, parsley and garlic in it, and blended in your hot seafood stock little by little, reduce the heat to a simmer.
- Add the lemon halves and seasonings, including black pepper and hot sauce. After tasting and correcting the seasonings, simmer, covered, for an hour or so, stirring occasionally, before adding the seafood.

Good Mental Health

- Getty Center
- Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens
- L.A. Co. Museum of Art

Free Fun Activities for

* Arboretum of L.A. Co.
* Autry Museum of Western Heritage
* CA Science Center
* Craft & Folk Art Museum

Seafood Gumbo ingredients: 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour, 1/4 cup oil, 1 pound shrimp, cleaned, peeled and deveined, 1 pound crawfish tails, cleaned and deveined, 1 pound white-fleshed fish fillets, cut into bite-sized pieces, 2 to 3 cups chopped onion, 1 cup chopped scallions (green onions), 1 cup chopped bell pepper, 1/2 cup chopped celery, 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley, 4 to 6 garlic cloves, minced, 1 lemon, halved and seeded, 3 quarts seafood stock (see above), Salt, black pepper and hot sauce to taste, Plenty of cooked rice, File powder.

Recipes for Wellness, by Stephanie Durrett: Seafood Gumbo. Ingredients: 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour, 1/4 cup oil, 1 pound shrimp, cleaned, peeled and deveined, 1 pound crawfish tails, cleaned and deveined, 1 pound white-fleshed fish fillets, cut into bite-sized pieces, 2 to 3 cups chopped onion, 1 cup chopped scallions (green onions), 1 cup chopped bell pepper, 1/2 cup chopped celery, 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley, 4 to 6 garlic cloves, minced, 1 lemon, halved and seeded, 3 quarts seafood stock (see above), Salt, black pepper and hot sauce to taste, Plenty of cooked rice, File powder.

With so much competition in the fashion industry, how can multiple designers maintain their position at the top of the trend market? Several hip-hop icons have begun testing the waters in retail, and their ideas and creations have become extremely popular with their fans and admirers. Innovative styles have been formed to express the hip-hop culture of the African American community. However, the fashion, like the music, has cross-market appeal. Despite the recent success of hip-hop moguls in the fashion industry, the overall record of these ventures is mixed. Some endeavors have flopped due to the shifting changes and funky detailing. The male line steps on the scene with fitted caps, t-shirts rocking the Roca-Wear logo and outerwear for those days when a jacket is a necessity.

*(See Roc, page 17)*

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**How do you Roc your Wear? Hip-Hop Icons ’Makin it’ in the Fashion Industry**

By Nakea Jeter

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**STARTING SMALL, BUT DREAMING BIG AT CSUN**

By Conrad Jones

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**Moneywise: Ten Tips To Help Clean Up Your Credit.**

By Karen Pownall

1. Obtain your 3 FREE credit reports from the nationwide consumer reporting agencies.
2. Review the reports and highlight any negative information.
3. Dispute any negative information in a formal complaint to the reporting agency.
4. Under the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, the agency must investigate your dispute within 30 days or delete it.
5. Negotiate settlement payoff amounts with creditors and collection agencies.
6. When filing your dispute, compose own your letter, instead of using the credit agency’s form.
7. Send your dispute by certified mail with a return receipt request.
8. Add pertinent information to your credit file by writing a letter (up to 100 words) on positive information not be reported.
9. If you have too much debt, contact the Consumer Credit Counseling (CCC) office, they will make small payment arrangements with the creditors for you, usually interest and late fees will cease when CCC handles the account.
10. Try to limit applying for new credit until you have made the necessary repairs, inquiries hurt your overall credit score.

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**Consumer Reporting Agencies:**

- **Experian**: P.O. Box 2002 Allen, TX. 75013; 888/397-3742
- **TransUnion Corporation**: P.O. Box 1000, Chester, PA. 19022 800/888-4213
- **Equifax, Inc.**: P.O. Box 740241 Atlanta, GA. 30374 800/685-1111

Effective 12-1-2004, the Federal Trade Commission announced that consumers in California may obtain a compiled annual credit profile by these companies at this Web site. http://www.annualcreditreport.com/

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CSUN campus life is made up of class, study time, organizations and parties. Club parties are the main source of off-campus entertainment. These parties gain the attention of CSUN college students because party promoters spend time and money circulating flyers and disseminating invitations by word of mouth to these social events. Two CSUN students, Johnny Cruz (alumnus) and Chike (current) work hard as event planners to keep other CSUN students well entertained during the school year. As a CSUN graduate, Johnny Cruz (2004 promoter of the year) currently serves as CEO the of Los Angeles Street Team, an exclusive urban lifestyle marketing and promotions company in Los Angeles. Chike is the founder of Made Men Entertainment, and full-time college student at CSUN. With a smart combination of location, audience targeting and business promotion, these young men have created financially profitable businesses using contacts already available to them on-campus.

*(See Starting, page 16)*
Do you know exactly where you want to go in life and with whom you want to share your world, but you’re having difficulty finding a way to get there? You know exactly what you want out of life, but the loving soul mate that you desire is nowhere in sight. Well, maybe your vision is unclear, and your purpose in life is not quite defined— not to mention your hopes for that romantic relationship are slowly fading. It is obvious that everyone wants to experience the light of love, but the question is are you ready?

Love will eventually overwhelm you, and renovate your entire life (in a good way of course). Unfortunately, most of us won’t be in a place to recognize this wonderful experience or understand the impact when it’s happening, because love seldom shows up in the places that we expect. Many of us may miss the shift because of our unrealistic expectations about love. The truth is that until you learn to understand your desires, you are never going to find the love so desperately sought. Love is hidden in your heart, and no relationship with anyone can expose it or trigger it in your life. It has to be something you connect with on your own first.

It is important for us to work hard and become aware of who we are, especially before we enter into a love relationship. As an individual you must accept yourself for everything that you are. Believe me it’s not easy work; as a matter of fact it is often painful and very frightening. You have to take the time to reflect, evaluate and unlearn many of your personal beliefs about love.

Let’s “be real” here, life is all about love. Loving relationships comprise the essence of life. However, neither life nor love requires us to give up our dignity, self worth or career objectives. Sometimes it is hard for us to understand this, because we tend to think that love requires us to sacrifice and give up a part of ourselves in order to attain our soul mate. We do not recognize that the main demonstration of love is the experience and realization of giving more of who you already are by the
(See Love, page 17)

POETRY
By Alexandria Barabin

And he was beautiful
And he was beautiful
But he didn’t know it
Or didn’t realize it always
So he purchased expensive threads of cotton and silk.

To cloak his obsessive search for self identity
His fashionable things and his flashy bling
Blinded everyone from his insecure inner being.

It got to the point that even he was caught up
In the fabric of his fabricated life.

Clubbing
Searching
Dancing
Hurting

Eating oatmeal and grits for dinner so as not to wake up hungry
Because the weekend is coming and the hot spot has a cover charge: $10
But the first two drinks are on the house so it’s all good.

And he searches to find freedom at the bottom of his margarita glass
And in the middle of a crowded dance floor.
(See Poetry, Page 19)
Maximizing one’s profit is an ultimate goal for those in the entertainment industry. There are plenty of ups and downs of this business. Producers and executives want to make it big and become the leading light. Everyone wants to be recognized for “doing it big.” For a prospective African-American business person what do you do when most corporations do not embrace diversity? The response is that you must turn to entrepreneurship. Many business savvy people choose to go into business for themselves; they want to fulfill aspirations of living their lives to the fullest. Entrepreneurship is one of the most difficult undertaking, and success is often unpredictable. However, the thought of becoming your own boss can be too intriguing to pass up. Having the power to dictate your own career, and creating a financial future, is what entrepreneurship is all about. Ownership is key in this business.

I interviewed Bruce Walker, former Sr. Vice President of Motown and General Manager of Urban Music DreamWorks Records. In a bold entrepreneurial move, he is now president of his own recently-formed company, B & B Entertainment. This is a summary of my interview with him about his business and the entertainment industry.

How did your organization form?
Well, after leaving DreamWorks records, I decided I wanted to start my own business. Businesses are changing, and are fusing with television. Television is a great asset for a record label because you’re able to gain more exposure.

What is your organization mainly about?
We do musical and television production, as well as marketing and consulting.

What influenced you to begin your own organization?
I was tired of dealing with the internal politics of corporations.

What are some of the pressures young black entrepreneurs may run into when starting their own organization?
Finances are the main pressure you will run into. My advice when starting your own business is not to use your own money. Don’t focus or settle for a rapid growth, focus on a continuous growth. Expect a profit of only 1/10 of your assets you have in mind, so develop your business plan on the 1/10 profit margin. For African-Americans, color needs to be recognized as a stumbling block as well, because there is no racial diversity. This entertainment industry is controlled mainly by white and Jewish executives. Then the television business is primarily run by gay and lesbians executives.

Do you have any advice to students that are trying to follow your lead?
The entertainment industry is the most competitive, political and hardest to become financially successful. Its growth is based directly on the economy—maintaining a balance of maximizing gains and minimizing losses. Basically, it requires developing a quality product that the consumer desires and is compelled to purchase.

What are some of the important steps for young Black entrepreneurs to take in order to become successful?
Get educated on business first, and then take an extensive look at the marketplace. Survey the market to determine consumers and executives needs. They want to see what makes your product most desirable and compelling.

An article in June, 2003 Black Enterprise, “The Resurgence of Black Business in America,” observes that more African-Americans are striking out and forming their own businesses.

For African-Americans, color needs to be recognized as a stumbling block as well, because there is no racial diversity.

I just came home from viewing “Ray” and all I can say is WOW! I admit that I knew most of the pertinent facts about the life of Raymond Charles Robinson. However, I didn’t have a clue about the profundity of his triumphs over the tragedies and obstacles in his life. I’m happy to say that this assignment turned out to be a fortuitous and gratifying experience.

“Ray” provided the viewer with a glimpse into his impoverished background, an understanding of his feelings of guilt associated with the drowning of his younger brother, his loss of faith pursuant to his blindness, the pressures attendant to being a blind Black artist performing in and traveling through the “Jim Crow” U.S.A., and the fears that propelled him to use/abuse and ultimately become addicted to heroin. It also gave the audience an understanding of his strength—as he withstood the conspiracy between the local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, which were determined to destroy him.

MOBILE REVIEWS: “RAY” BY Pearl Celious-Shareef
(Carson, from page 2)

He completed a successful hemi-spherectomy, that alleviates suffering of infants from continual seizures, resulting in half of their brain removed (the remaining half compensates for the removed half). This is an extremely delicate and complex procedure, which gives children without hope a chance for a normal life. Dr. Carson later authored two books, Gifted Hands (his autobiography) and Think Big. Currently Dr. Carson offers a scholarship program to high school students and is a mentor to thousands across the country. The young child who was once referred to as “Dummy” now has rewarding life and a flourishing career at the apex of the medical profession.

This brief biography of Dr. Benjamin Carson is pertinent to understanding the significance of continual education, and that the road to success is there but with encouragement it doesn’t have to be a lonely road. Many students, janitors, scientists and even prisoners can identify with some aspect of Dr. Carson’s life, however encouragement and perseverance determined his results. Very often people seek the wrong outlets to deal with their perceived incompetence instead of seeking the right resolution.

As our daily lives are surrounded with various negative societal influences, they are easily alleviated when we step beyond them by making educated decisions. Unfortunately, many parents who are overwhelmed with working and maintaining a family simply do not encourage their children to take the extra step “at-home” to improve on their reading or math abilities. Once these children fall behind if they are not encouraged to catch up and excel, they will probably lose interest in school and find solace elsewhere, usually in gangs.

In 2003, an estimated 2,085,679 men and women were incarcerated within the United States. The majority of this astronomical figure is minority and lacking basic education. As the African American male remains over-represented in numerous “negative” populations, we must attempt to correct this stigma by fully educating ourselves and our children.

Education is as vital to our lives as food and water. To continue growing we must nourish our minds with valuable information, which we need for developing successful and rewarding lives. Dr. Benjamin Carson was not a miracle, but he was encouraged to excel. Fortunately, his life’s story is a beacon for all of us.

(Sky, from page 2)

Although becoming a single parent is not often a decision that one would usually make, it has its benefits such as discovering the capabilities that you once may have never thought existed. Single parents tend to be more self-reliant and less dependent on others to provide for their children. Granted, being a single parent/student does have its difficulties; it is not always a stroll through the park. Financial struggles may occur, stress will increase and the pressure will most definitely be felt. There are key strategies for overcoming what may seem like a humongous educational hurdle:

1) **Do your research**: Conduct searches on the internet for scholarships from different organizations that may sponsor single parents. Pell grants and student loans are also available for students with dependents.

2) **Know your college campus**: Many campuses offer day care facilities or early childhood development centers for students near or around campus. There is also funding for students through the financial aid department where money for day care is determined by your income. If funding is a problem, some schools offer volunteer services at the daycare center in exchange for a reduced rate or even free child care.

3) **Remember that you are a parent first**: Your child is your first priority! Set up a schedule where you allot a certain amount of time for your child and your studies; and do not overlap these two roles. Be attentive to your child’s needs. Seek support from other family members when stressful academic demands arise, class reports, midterms or finals. Be prepared to have a babysitter arranged during unique conditions. Stay involved!

4) **Leave the parenting outside of the classroom**: When you are at school stay focused on school! Alert your professor in advance about your situation in order to work out a mutual agreement of what to do in case of an emergency (e.g. illness, accidents, or child care problems). Although some professors are empathetic, they are not obligated too work around your schedule, so do not abuse their kindness.

5) **Enjoy the college/parental experience**: Remember that the drive to excel in higher education is something that should be celebrated and enjoyed. Balancing responsibilities for your child and studies may be a difficult task; and you may feel that you are torn between two priorities. However, keep in mind that you are learning and growing more in every aspect of your life. Focus on the fact that you are flourishing as parent and as a student, which is a complex task that many people cannot manage. After completion of grueling assignments, give yourself a special treat. You are a wonderful parent and student who deserves a round of applause.

The storm may seem endless and the battle may appear to be overwhelming, however, do not be dismayed. Keep in mind that without struggle, there is no progress. You can and you will excel. By means of hard work and determination you can and will succeed, just have faith in yourself and in all that you attempt. With your drive for education, the sky’s the limit!
African-American freshmen students this is a special cautionary message for you, particularly those who I see “kickin it” near Sierra Hall between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on a daily basis. Realize that the “Willie Lynch method” and Executive Order 665 are hidden hurdles lurking in the shadows for those students who underestimate the serious business of getting a college education. You should seize the power and get serious, before you are “stopped out” (or expelled) by Executive Order 665, which is a major challenge for many freshmen enrolled in remedial courses. The CSU system seeks to reduce the amount of money spent on the remedial courses. In other words, they are not shelling out any more money on educating the so-called underachieving students.

Initiated by the California State University (CSU) trustees, effective Fall, 1998, Executive Order 665 is a policy mandating that students pass an English Placement Test (EPT) and an Elementary Level Mathematics (ELM) competency exam at the end of their freshmen year, unless exempted. After acceptance into the CSU system, based on assessment of grades and SAT or ACT scores, students may need to take the EPT and ELM—and a “below average” score on either of these tests requires placement in remedial or developmental classes. Referred to as “09 classes,” these remedial courses are offered for “credit/ no credit” and do not count toward graduation requirements. A “credit” in these courses is required for one’s advancement to the regular general education courses, which do count toward graduation. Students are given two semesters to fully complete the remedial education classes. Receiving a “no credit” (signifying failure) in these courses can result in being “stopped out” (meaning disqualified or kicked out) of school by the University.

Before Executive Order 665, 70%-80% of incoming African-American students required remedial math and English courses. According to a CSU Developmental Mathematics performance data, the passing rate for remedial math over the last five years was 82.4 percent in 1997 prior to Executive Order 665, and 39.6 percent in 1999 after its implementation. However, in 2001, a total of 2,200 African-American and Latino students were expelled because of failure to pass the math and English remedial exams. Semester after semester, minority students are kicked out due to this Executive Order. Since Executive Order 665, the upward trend in African-American CSU enrollment has been affected by students expelled for failing math and English remedial exams.

If disqualified, gaining re-entry into the University isn’t an easy feat and most students don’t return, even though it is a remote possibility. According to Dr. William Watkins, CSUN Vice President for Student Life, there is a 21% dropout rate at CSUN of first-time freshmen in the first year. Because of the persistently high rate of attrition CSUN has established an “Early Warning System,” seeking feedback from professors about non-academic and academic indicators of students’ susceptibility for dropping out of class. Warning signs, such as attendance, submission of assignments, grades, class participa-

![Image](image-url)
VOTE, FROM PAGE 3

The buzz on the street was: “GET BUSH OUT.” It was not so much that John Kerry would be the answer, but a Kerry win and a Bush defeat would’ve helped the momentum and further ignited the excitement and passions held by many within the hip-hop community who went to the polls. Instead, what we were left with was a Bush Presidency. Adding insult to injury is the fact that he went from being a man selected (by the Supreme Court) to a man who now holds the elected record for receiving the most votes ever in U.S. history! It was about 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time on November 3rd when the Democratic challenger, John F. Kerry conceded, and George W. Bush was elected to a second term presidency. So, what now? What could have been done differently? Did the numbers of people who came to the polls add up to the expectations? Did the hype match the reality? The toughest pill to swallow after the election was watching the newscasts and reading articles where the question was mockingly being asked—“Where was the Youth vote?” “Why didn’t they follow through?”

There are several crucial factors that influenced the outcome of this election. An accurate analysis cannot be made without considering the heartache people faced in Ohio, which in turn decided the national election. For example these problems reported in the Cleveland, Ohio newspaper affected the tally: “In precincts 1A and 5G, voters from the African American community who had to wait a very long time to vote, many of them gave up in frustration and left. It was estimated to be about 8,000 votes lost for Kerry.”

We must also consider the African American vote that went towards Bush for “moral” reasons. It was stated that regular churchgoers voted dramatically for Republicans in the election in protest of gay marriage and abortion. However, they simultaneously voted for the money and oil-driven “war on terrorism” that is taking the lives of thousands every month. Isn’t that a moral issue also?

(See Vote, page 11)
To add insult to injury, the government in Sudan has assisted the violent militia in their human assault by making claims that they are unable to identify any of the culprits, in addition to providing weapons for the Arab militia.

In February, 2003, the Sudan Liberation Army [comprising Africans in Darfur] launched attacks on government positions in the province. During the past two years this conflict intensified in the Darfur province, with the infliction of widespread government bombing raids and massacres by this “Arab” militia, called the Janjaweed, which has a variety of political and social meanings. The Janjaweed have caused thousands to flee their homes in Darfur (the western-most province in Sudan), and find refuge in neighboring Chad. Since Darfur is the size of Iraq, this has created widespread dislocation and destabilization of African communities in southern Sudan. According to the BBC, “The Janjaweed have attacked black Africans from the Fur, Massaleet, and Zagawa ethnic groups with a ruthlessness not seen in the region for sometime.” As a result of blatant “ethnic cleansing,” this conflict has taken the lives of at least 50,000-70,000 warriors and civilians in Darfur, and has displaced approximately 1.5 million of Sudanese people and turned them into refugees. The temporary housing of the refugee camps is not suitable for long-term habitation, and does not provide sufficient protection from the Janjaweed attacks. “More than 75 percent of them are women and children. Their lives are being threatened by hunger, disease, and insecurity” said Hugh Palmer, president of American Refugee Committee. He goes on to say, “Unfortunately, the world has been slow to take notice.” The United Nations and United States have voiced concerns by questioning these horrifying actions. However, no serious peacemaking action has been taken recently, and the Sudanese government has shown little resolve to abide by brokered peace terms. Terminology has been a stumbling block to brokering a peace treaty; this has also hindered the official designation of the conflict as genocide. The Sudanese government has asserted that those claiming Janjaweed simply mean criminals or bandits, and it does not acknowledge any information (to the contrary) about an organized group seeking to prove something. However, others who are living the experience say Janjaweed means the Arab criminals. This confusion over labelling is significant because the language use creates a differing local and international view of the situation. If Janjaweeds are considered a militia and an organized group of religious hunters, the government can be pressured into stopping the source. The U.N. will then follow up with an investigation monitoring the claim of genocide. If Janjaweeds are seen as common criminals, then the government could be asked to investigate each individual crime and continue to do nothing.

VOTE, FROM PAGE 10

When we look back at this election, the most imperative question we must deal with is this: Was it enough to hate Bush alone if you weren’t in fact "feelin" Kerry at all? The fact of the matter is everyone should be aware of the real point of all the hip-hop campaigning that was going on during this election. The purpose wasn’t intended to get Bush out of office so much as it was to flex our power and prove that we could influence an election. Conventional wisdom suggests that “we look and build around small, achievable victories versus trying to get it all in one shot. While hitting a homerun on the first try is great and will create momentum and attention-- playing the entire game will be more beneficial in the long run. It will aid in building a solid, long-lasting foundation and establish important meaningful team relationships for eventually winning the game. It will also allow the accomplishment of important work to be done, minus the roar of the crowd and all the hype that comes when you hit it the ball out of the park.

The bottom line is...the election results may have been disappointing to some and our expectations may have not been met, but that does not mean we failed as a political movement, we went to the polls and gave it our best shot. We will continue to make a difference and demand to be noticed. Don’t be discouraged just keep fighting...the race is not given to the swift but to the one who endures to the end.

"Don’t be discouraged just keep fighting...the race is not given to the swift but to the one who endures to the end."
If this is not difficult and terrible enough, there is a slave trade currently conducted while the war is going on in Sudan. Boys and girls, undoubtedly displaced from the pillaging, have been taken into the slave market and are being sold for a few dollars. The Janjaweed have engaged in systematic abduction and enslavement of Africans, and widespread capture and rape of women—particularly when they venture beyond the camps for water and firewood. "The plight of Sudanese slaves, captured and abused by their own countrymen, has attracted sympathetic attention all over the globe...[however] now that the U.S. is engaging in building its anti-terror coalition, human-rights issues have taken a backseat to geopolitics putting the issue beyond the camps for water and firewood. "The plight of Sudanese slaves, captured and abused by their own countrymen, has attracted sympathetic attention all over the globe..." (www.africana.com) It becomes a more complicated discussion when it must be considered that human rights and Christian groups are purchasing many of the slaves. They contend that it is an act of mercy to buy the freedom of someone undeserving of this type of punishment. While no one disagrees with their kind heart, many disagree with their actions. Those who oppose this individual manumission contend that the money used to purchase one slave's freedom is used to fund enslavement of other kin. It also in-

Executive Summary

The Darfur conflict is a more recent occurrence, which triggered the escalation of oil in Sudan's southern region where undercurrents of international competition have emerged to gain an opportunity to "invest in and extract profits from Sudan's burgeoning oil export industry." The Darfur conflict is a more recent occurrence, which triggered the interest of the west. It wasn't until February, 2003, when the Darfur rebellion erupted, that the U.S. and Europe raised the issue of human rights violations in Sudan. This conflict began when Africans rebelled against the Sudanese government and attacked government property—accusing it of favoring the Arab-dominated north. Retaliatory bombing of African villages by the Sudanese government, escalated this long-running conflict. Dixon further reveals that "[o]nly when the escalating crisis in Darfur threatened to derail the north-south peace deal and prevent the opening up of Sudan's lucrative oilfields to Western exploitation did the U.S. start waving the threat of UN sanctions against Sudan." Currently, China has drilling rights [western countries do not], and has opposed U.N. Security Council moves to label the conflict genocide.

Although the situation in Sudan is grim, organizations like American Refugee Committee and World Vision are approaching this conflict from a humanitarian standpoint by accepting donations and generating survival kits for the refugees. These survival kits include blankets, fuel for cooking, firewood, water cans and agricultural tools. They bring aid and relief to thousands living in the camps. Responding to a worldwide outcry over the continuing atrocities, in September, 2004, the U.N. Security Council decided that the African Union should deploy troops to guard the camps in Darfur. However, the 3,000 troops initially planned for were woefully inadequate for securing such a large territory, and this omission proved to be another stumbling block in efforts to halt the conflict.

(See Crisis, page 13)
HIV/AIDS CRISIS, CONTINUED

(From page 4)

The “Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome” (AIDS) is connected to an HIV positive status, with the onset of additional symptoms, such as a flu-like condition, fever, rapid weight loss– and other signs that the immune system is being debilitated. It comprises any one of twenty-five unrelated diseases (and previously known) that simultaneously occur with an HIV positive status, and diagnosed as a syndrome called AIDS.

As of 1999, AIDS in the U.S. became the leading cause of death for African-American women in their prime (25 to 44) years, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In that same year, 2,400 African-American women died of ARC (AIDS related complex), that’s almost 7 per day. By the end of 1999, 37,862 African-American women had died of AIDS since the start of the epidemic. By the year 2000, African-American women made up 16% of all AIDS cases but only 6.5% of the total population. The CDC estimates that 1 in 160 African-American women are infected with HIV and that, in the 34 states that have HIV reporting, 68% of reported HIV cases, among women, occurred in African-American women and among those women 1 in 4 were diagnosed at age 24 or younger. These rates were 21 times higher for African-American than they were for Caucasian women. In that same year (2000) in sub-Saharan Africa, which accounts for nearly 70% of HIV/AIDS cases worldwide, women represented 58% of adult infections. On July 7, 2004 Stephen Lewis, UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, announced that he “found it both startling and terrifying that in Africa 75% of all those infected, between the ages of 15 and 24 are young women and girls.” Why has AIDS gone from being primarily a “gay plague” to becoming one affecting so many women of color? Why are African and African-American women so disproportionately represented in the statistical data of HIV infections and premature deaths from AIDS?

The actual timeline on HIV/AIDS has been highly debated by the medical industry since 1978, when gay men in the U.S.A. and Sweden began to show signs of the illness that would later be called AIDS. However, the problem of HIV/AIDS affecting/infecting African women in Africa and the Diaspora women did not begin to show up on statistical charts, until the mid-1980’s. The major problem is that even after it became clear that the infection rates for women, especially women of color, had begun to rise disproportionately to all other groups, there was insufficient effort in finding the reason(s) for this increase, due to these following actions by the medical community.

1) Women tend to get diagnosed later than men, thus are sicker when they do present themselves for medical attention. 2) Women are more likely to receive less aggressive treatment, e.g. in the case of a male and female complaining, to a physician or to a hospital emergency room, of the same symptoms, the male is likely to receive diagnostic tests while the female will likely be told she’s suffering from stress or that she has the flu and will be sent home with an aspirin. 3) Women, usually lower on the economic scale, therefore, are lacking the resources to demand quality or consistent healthcare and they generally allocate whatever resources they do have to the care of their children. 4) Women experience a decreased ability to demand safer sex (latex condoms) because in many cultures that request is construed to be an admission of their own sexual infidelity.

More covert reasons range from the institutional racism, which imposed disparities on health care access for women of color, as well as lack of health care insurance to pay for the expensive AIDS cocktail treatments.

(See HIV/AIDS, page 13)

CRISIS IN SUDAN, CONTINUED

(From page 12)

Sudanese government officials agreed to a framework giving Africans in the southern provinces rights to self-determination and sharing proceeds from future oil profits. There are still many unanswered questions about the mechanisms for implementing this peace treaty, so external pressure to live up to the agreement is still needed.

What are you going to do about it? [The aforementioned organizations are legitimate and accept donations; write to your congressional representatives, the president, the governor, or other political organizations]. The world will be watching for our actions to bring this tragic era to an end.

In January, 2005, the north-south parties to this conflict [excluding the Darfur combatants] signed a U.N./U.S. brokered peace treaty in Kenya. Bowing to international pressure,
More covert reasons range from the institutional racism, which imposed disparities on health care access for women of color, as well as lack of health care insurance to pay for the expensive AIDS cocktail treatments. Additionally, there may be biological reasons that could explain why women may be more vulnerable to contracting an HIV infection during sexual intercourse than men (women have a larger mucosal surface, the vagina, which is more susceptible to tear during the sex act than is a man’s penis). Even after HIV infection is present, the course of the illness differs in men and women. Women tend to get sicker, progress from HIV to full-blown AIDS and die faster from ARC’s faster than men. Many doctors believe that one difference is the effect of the hormone estrogen excreted in women; another difference is differential medical treatment reaction in men and women.

High risk sexual behavior has increased vulnerability of women, and possible exposure to HIV/AIDS. In the U.S., known as the “Down-Low” (“DL”), simply stated the “DL” is practiced by men who are either bisexual or closeted homosexual but occasionally have sex with women or are married but still having sexual relations with men (men having sex with men/women MSM/W). Unaware of this homosexual activity, wives and girlfriends of these men are, subsequently, more vulnerable to contracting HIV/AIDS. In Africa, the traditional marriage practice of polygyny (marriage of one man to two or more wives) may inadvertently contribute to the spread of HIV/AIDS. In fact, a United Nations publication, UNAIDS, Report on Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic, 2002 identified married women as a high risk HIV/AIDS group. “Marriage is no protection against HIV. Married women have higher rates of HIV than unmarried sexually active women do.” While on the surface this statement may sound unbelievably strange, married women in Africa and the U.S. are indeed vulnerable.

Numerous research studies reveal that married women in the U.S. (legal or common law) feel that as long as they are in a perceived monogamous or relationship, AIDS is not something they need to be worried about. Traditionally, safe sex was defined as engaging in monogamous relations or using a condom. They offer numerous excuses for not insisting that their husband/sexual partner use a condom, the primary one being that their partner says that he doesn’t experience full satisfaction when wearing a condom, followed closely by his refusal to wear one. Another reason, often given, was that their husband/significant other would accuse them of being unfaithful if they suddenly insisted on condom use. Married women (regardless of ethnicity) do not perceive themselves as high risk, which has generally been defined as homosexual men, intravenous drug users, and prostitutes. Women not fitting this HIV/AIDS high risk group have not been properly educated through research and preventive services about their vulnerability. The onus is on those of us who are aware of the problem(s) to enhance the public’s awareness. Just as we are constantly being reminded of the European plague, we need to remember that currently there is no cure for HIV/AIDS and that it is neither diminishing nor is it under control, especially within the African-American community. AIDS drug cocktails and Protease inhibitors are useful for improving the quality of life for HIV patients, but one unfortunate downside is that because they help to stave off the progression from HIV to full blown AIDS and give the appearance of health, a lot of the fear associated with HIV has dissipated.

Just as the HIV/AIDS crisis emerged from contradictory effects, the AIDS incidence in Los Angeles County reflects this dichotomy. According to the January, 2004 Los Angeles County HIV/AIDS Semi-Annual Surveillance Summary, 1982-2003, males had a substantially higher (43,891) incidence of AIDS cases than females (3,737). Among this population it affected 9,727 African-Americans, 14,054 Latinos, and 22,510 whites. In addition, the Los Angeles County data indicates that the majority of AIDS cases are still in predominantly white communities (West/Hollywood [Metro L.A.], South Bay and the San Fernando Valley).

(See HIV/AIDS, page 15)
HIV/AIDS, CONTINUED

Contrary to local HIV/AIDS incidence patterns, on the international scene the HIV/AIDS pandemic is concentrated among African people. Despite the staggering scale of the disease, preventive and treatment health care resources are woefully inadequate, and slow in providing access to health services. Ironically, in 2003, the Bush administration initiated the HIV/AIDS Act, which committed $15 billion over the next 5 years to fight AIDS abroad. However, according to Salih Booker, Executive Director of Africa Action “The $15 billion commitment President Bush announced to fighting AIDS in Africa is a cruel hoax because none of this money is being made available now. Faced with this most deadly global threat, the Bush Administration continues to stall and its empty promises are costing thousands of African lives every day.” According to the AIDS Treatment News, Bush’s HIV/AIDS policy creates more questions than answers.

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HIV/AIDS, Continued

Tips for winning a business contract:

This combination of skills can be enhanced by these additional tips for success: 1) **Do Your Homework** research your prospective client; 2) **Needs Analysis** perform an assessment of your client’s product potential; 3) **Product Pricing** determine if your prices are consistent with client’s goals 4) **The Competition** identify your competitors and their pricing; 5) **Unique Selling Proposition** develop a 3-minute sales pitch; 6) **Sales Objections** be prepared to defend doubts about your proposal.

In conclusion, this industry is filled with many ups and downs, mostly defined by money. As Bruce Walker emphasized, a thorough knowledge of the industry is imperative to build a successful entertainment business. Although entrepreneurship is not the road for everyone, it is an alternative for those looking to make a personalized mark in the world by pursuing their unique interests. Remember, ownership is the key to success.

DREAM BIG, CONTINUED

(From page 7)

The majority worked in corporate America, and are turned off with the struggle against racism or turned on about pursuing their own dreams. Here are some of the assets African-Americans are bringing to the entrepreneurship table.

**Slowdown in the economy is creating new opportunities** as people are nudged out of the corporate nests, African-Americans are turning their high-level expertise into business leadership ventures.

**Experienced executives start businesses** a new breed of community business persons, who represent bold risk takers in the service-based industry are starting technologically-based businesses.

**New business environment** meeting today’s demands requires multiple skills in product development, marketing savvy, computer skills, management competency, and financial expertise.

Dream big, continued
These statements are highlights from my interviews with these aspiring promoters.

**How did your organization form?**

Chike: We were looking for a way to bring together the black youth (18 and over) in the community.

Cruz: I thought there was a need for quality entertainment. I always enjoyed putting events together, since I was in a fraternity.

**What is your organization mainly about?**

Chike: Basically, we advocate a good time. We throw parties and events so people can be entertained.

Cruz: Providing quality events for an urban college demographic.

**What influenced you to begin your own promotion company?**

Chike: I wanted to earn my fair share of what was due.

Cruz: I wasn’t happy with what others [promoters] were doing. So I thought I had the potential to do a better job.

**Where do you want to take your organization? [Goals]**

Chike: I want to become the head and lead promotional organization in Southern California. I also want to become more than just a party-throwing entity. I would like to organize more major events, concerts and promote various artists. I basically want to build a promotional empire.

Cruz: We don't focus on profits, we concentrate on image.

**Is your organization involved in the community? How?**

Cruz: Yes, that's how it started. My organizations are all 100% college students.

Chike: We recruit our members from the community.

**Do you feel that your organization has an impact on students here at CSUN [or any college]?**

Chike: We have an amazing impact on students on campus. We give them something to talk about when they get back to campus.

Cruz: Yes, you have to be a full-time college student to be part of my organization.

**“RAY,” CONTINUED**

Jamie Foxx seemed to become, not just act the part of, Ray Charles. He seamlessly walked, talked, and used the same facial expressions that were characteristic of “Baby Ray.” The talented Mr. Foxx, in addition to his obvious acting ability, is an accomplished musician, who can sing, but he began his career as a stand up comedian. In order to play “Ray” he had to pass the Ray Charles test as a part of his audition. For his superb performance in “Ray,” he won a Golden Globe Award for “Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy” and was nominated for an Oscar for Best Actor Academy Award. If I were a member of the Academy nominating committee, he would have my nod. If I could cast a vote, it would be for him.

(From page 7)

(See Carter, page 18)
(From page 6)

Unfortunately many people enter relationships looking for love to fulfill us. Often times we forget to set boundaries in our relationships, because of that, there never seems to be enough love to fill the void we have all, (at one time or another) felt in our hearts. The bottom line is people cannot fulfill your needs—even though they may want to or they may try to live up to these expectations. Aware of such expectations, they may even convince you that they can, but they cannot. The only thing people can do for one another is share the intensity in achieving personal goals, and make the quest seem less urgent. When we enter into relationships without knowing who we are, unfortunately this may create a distraction and derail one from achieving personal goals.

Out of a desire to maintain the relationship, we may impulsively assist one another by substituting a pressing need with a temporary gratification. However, the drive to fulfill personal goals does not disappear, because although people seek nurturance through loving relationships—the affirmation of love only exists in your own heart.

Spelman College professor Beverly Guy offers these tips for a positive relationship in her book, Gender Talk, which are directed towards young women, but could also benefit women and men.

Start from a place of power: The first thing to do is overcome the sense of desperation about finding a suitable partner.

Boost your self-esteem: If you have a pattern of unhealthy relationships, perform a realistic assessment about emotional readiness for self-love.

Set nonnegotiable standards: Form a set of criteria for your soul mate and stick to it.

Tune out negative messages: Don’t be swayed by the prevailing opinion about the scarcity of good men as a reason to “settle” for an undesirable relationship.

(From page 5)

Kimora Lee Simmons, the wife of the very talented hip-hop icon Russell Simmons, always had an eye for fashion. At age 13, she became the muse to the house of Chanel and its designer Karl Lagerfeld. This gave her insight to the world of women’s fashion and how women express themselves through their clothes. Baby Phat was first introduced on the fashion scene as Russell Simmons promoted his men’s clothing line Phat Farm. Kimora produced baby tees for models to wear on the runway which gave her the idea of launching her own clothing line. Baby Phat has created denim separates, tees, outerwear, accessories, lingerie and shoes. Baby Phat influences young women to be confident, sexy, and fashionable. With the sexy kitten logo, any average woman can feel and look like a runway model.

Sean “P.Diddy” Combs, a successful rap artist and producer, always had a dream to start his own clothing line. In 1998 he gained the confidence to fulfill his dream and launched his own brand called Sean John. This brand included jeans, sports wear and outerwear. For three years, Sean John has won prestigious awards for his designs and creations. You see his clothing line on everyone of all different ages from infant and toddlers to teens and adults in all lines of work. In February 2001, Sean John produced its first nationally aired fashion show on the E! Network.

All these prestigious African American designers have accomplished the unthinkable. No need to worry about what they are going to wear to the next hip-hop show because they have their own designs. They have quenched the thirst of those who have longed to make a bold statement with hip-hop attire. With all these great selections how can you choose just one?
However, the Associated Students allocated only $500 for the entire event, which included guest speakers and a culminating evening of entertainment and dinner. Discouraged, but not defeated, ASO took the issue to other student leaders. At the following Associated Students board meeting, members of ASO and BSU attended. One by one, they spoke out against the financial insufficiency and demanded that the board reconsider the allocation. To the pleasure and surprise of many, the allocation was adjusted considerably.

This unified front gave ASO the opportunity to plan an excellent program with informative and enthusiastic speakers, as well as professional entertainment. The opening ceremony included traditional dancing, drumming, libations, and Audrey Kitagawa from the United Nations was the guest speaker. The ceremony was rich with African culture, followed by an art exhibit and a documentary at the Black House. Other events that week included a faculty panel discussion on continental topics, a lecture on the crisis in Sudan, and an African Banquet with a fashion show of traditional African attire.

As if Africa Week weren’t enough to keep one’s social calendar full, the Black Student Union (BSU) organized “A Week of Activism” to commemorate the “Valley State 19” (original BSU members) who fought for and formed the Pan African Studies Department. The BSU decorated the Black House with activist memorabilia and historic moments. Photos of Angela Davis, Kwame Ture (born Stokely Carmichael), founding BSU members, and other activists in the 60’s and 70’s movement adorned the walls. Additionally, the BSU held its first annual Black Homecoming Formal in the Grand Salon. The formal included a court of distinguished men and women on campus. From that court, an interview committee selected a king and queen. Sky Kuku and Alexandria Barabin (that’s me) were crowned at this historic event.

I was very impressed with the amount of preparation and planning that went into each activity. It was a blessing to see the different Black organizations come together in celebration of one another. I have been on campus for 4 ½ years. Never have I seen CSUN students with such enthusiasm and passion for reflection and progression outside of Black History Month.

Oppressed people of Africa and the Americas, Sons and Daughters of traditional African royalty keep the fire burning and press on!

“Coach Carter” Movie Review
by Alexandria Barabina

Lean on Me meets Remember the Titans. That is the cinematic image that comes to mind when I think about the new Samuel L. Jackson film, Coach Carter. Based on actual events, the story of Coach Ken Carter and his experience at Richmond High School is one of motivation, discipline and progress. Jackson plays the lead character as he takes charge of a mediocre basketball team. He accepts the job of a coach, but takes on the role of guidance counselor, teacher, mentor, father and friend.

After forcefully instilling team discipline, the “Richmond Oilers” are undefeated on the court. However, Carter realizes that their academic and personal lives were suffering. As Coach begins to demand the same excellence in the classroom that he requires on the court, he receives criticism from the players and their parents in addition to pressure from the principal and local school board to stop his promotion of academic success. After all, he is only a basketball coach, right? Determined to do what he felt was right, Coach Carter faced media backlash, even unemployment, to continue doing what he thought was best for his players.

Coach Carter also addresses other social issues: educational standards, school funding, low graduation and high incarceration rates, and an unbalanced emphasis on sports. It is also clear that, although education is more essential, sports are the only available alternatives to drug and criminal life.

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cense, and they were not enough, he contin-

nitive Order 665 (see Stephanie Dur-

rt's article for explanation). The first professor I met was Dr. David Horne and he explained to me, with serious passion and conviction, how the system did not want me. If that was not enough, he contin-

ued by telling me that I was never to be comfortable here because there was no room for compla-

cy. He told me that I would have to fight to stay here. Once I was really here (out of E.O. 665), he said I would have to fight for my seat in classes outside of the PAS department, that no one cares if a little Black girl doesn't get priority, and that counselor often gave out wrong or mislead-

ing information to Black students. For such actions, many Black students were often misinformed about proper classes and not graduating on time. He, and a former student, T. Foxx, told me that I better keep a copy of my en-

trance catalog to keep track of my pro-

gress. "This is your student bible. You live by this. If they change the rules later on, you open up your catalog and make them adhere to the rules you came in under," T. Foxx said.

Dr. Horne made me realize just how adverse this system was: "You can't expect anyone around here to do it for you. Most of them don't care if you graduate or not. Most of them don't expect you to graduate, just as long as they get paid. You have to fig-

ure out a way to work the system... They were both right! The message seemed grim, but its warning prepared me, and led me to my present status as a graduating senior. So with the same passion and motivation, I tell the incoming freshmen who enter the PAS writing lab enrolled in 097 or 098 courses, "This place does not want you and will not help you. You have to prove yourself and your existence every time you enter the class or you will be stopped out of school." I want to warn and prepare them for what is to come.

It is with the same guidance and love that I have embraced the position of editor of this newsletter. I believe that every article in this news-

letter speaks to the needs and wants of Black students, covering such topics as entrepreneurship, professional suc-

cess, art, social events and more. I be-

lieve the readers are interested in read-

ing about the genius of Dr. Ben Car-

son, the AIDS epidemic, or commen-

tary on Black love. I know you want to hear about Black ownership in the entertainment business because the paper chase is real. I know there are many single parents still pursuing a Bachelor's degree, who need to be encouraged. I know enough of us made a New Year's resolution to change our eating habits in an effort to start the year off right who need some guidelines for healthy eating. I have confidence in hard-working stu-

dents juggling jobs and their studies. I am praying for the student experienc-

ing severe family problems, yet man-

aging to attend class everyday. I give it up to all of those who came back to see another semester rather than giv-

ing up over the break. You are still here.

I hope you enjoy reading our Sankofa Newsletter, as much as we've enjoyed creating it. I believe the year off right who need some guidelines for healthy eating. I have confidence in hard-working stu-

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I hope you enjoy reading our Sankofa Newsletter, as much as we've enjoyed creating it. Remember to take some things personally and make a commitment or contribution to change. Become the change that you see. Christ Bless and Salama (Peace)

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Christ Bless and Salama (Peace)
Sankofa Book Recommendations

Thought Provoking Non-Fiction (The Real)

Anthony, Earl- Time of the Furnaces
Achebe, Chinuha- Things Fall Apart
James, George- Stolen Legacy
Michael Sokolove- The Ticket Out: Darryl Strawberry and the Boys of Crenshaw
Ellis Cose- The Envy of the World: On Being A Black Man In America
Stanley Crouch & Playthell Benjamin- Reconsidering The Souls of Black Folks:
Walter Mosley- What Next: An African American Initiative toward World Peace
Paulo Freire- Pedagogy of the Oppressed
Yvonne Bynoe- Stand & Deliver
Pan African Studies Dept.- Student Voices: The Hip Hop Generation Speaks Out
Randall Robinson- The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks
Bakari Kitwana- The Hip Hop Generation
Joseph T. Hallinan- Going Up the River: Travels in A Prison Nation

Creative Stimulating Fiction (The Art)

Denene Millner/ Nick Chiles- a love story
Timmothy B. McCann- Forever
Victoria Christopher Murray- Joy
Walter Dean Myers- Monster
Michael Datcher- Raising Fences: A Black Man’s Love Story
Patricia Jones- The Color of Family

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Karen Pownall

Editor’s Note—Reflections on Life @CSUN

This newsletter is the result of the Pan African Studies 355 (Black World News Practicum) class taught by Dr. Rehema Gray. My classmates and I have worked continuously all fall-semester to produce the Sankofa Fact Sheet and the Sankofa Newsletter. As the semester came to a close, I asked myself, “For what?” Why are we working so hard on these projects? We have already been warned that students are not going to read serious articles, and teachers may not be supportive of student projects. So, why then have we been putting so much effort into this project? For whatever reason, be it naivety or faith, I believe differently.

[See Reflections, page 19]

Black History Month Re-Cap

1-Opening Ceremony
2-Film series Begins @ the Black House
3- Speak Your Mind Poetry Slam
7- Black Health Fair
10- Importance of Soul Food
18- Today, Tomorrow Hair and Fashion Show
22- Sister Circle @ the Black House
23- Black Men Unit @ the Black House
28- Closing Ceremony

Africa and Activism

by Alexandria Barabin

Habarini wote! ....October and November of Fall 2004 was surprisingly eventful. Usually, Black CSUN students wait until February to have a calendar full of events, however not this semester. Between the African Student Organization (ASO), Black Student Union (BSU), and other Black organizations on campus, we were saturated with several social and educational events.

Monday, October 25 began Africa Week sponsored by the African Student Organization (ASO). Its existence is a testimony of the alliance formed between the Black organizations. Initially, the ASO proposed a budget of approximately $3,000 to fund activities for Africa Week.

[See Africa, page 18]