

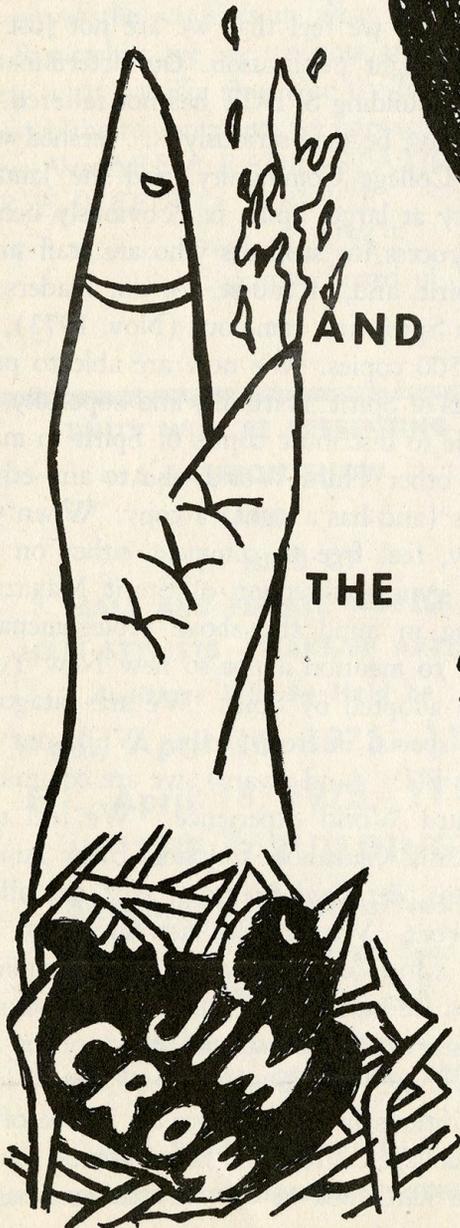
# SPIRIT

VOL. II No. 3 YORK COLLEGE JAMAICA N.Y. APR. 75

SPIRIT MAGAZINE: A THIRD WORLD PUBLICATION

RACISM

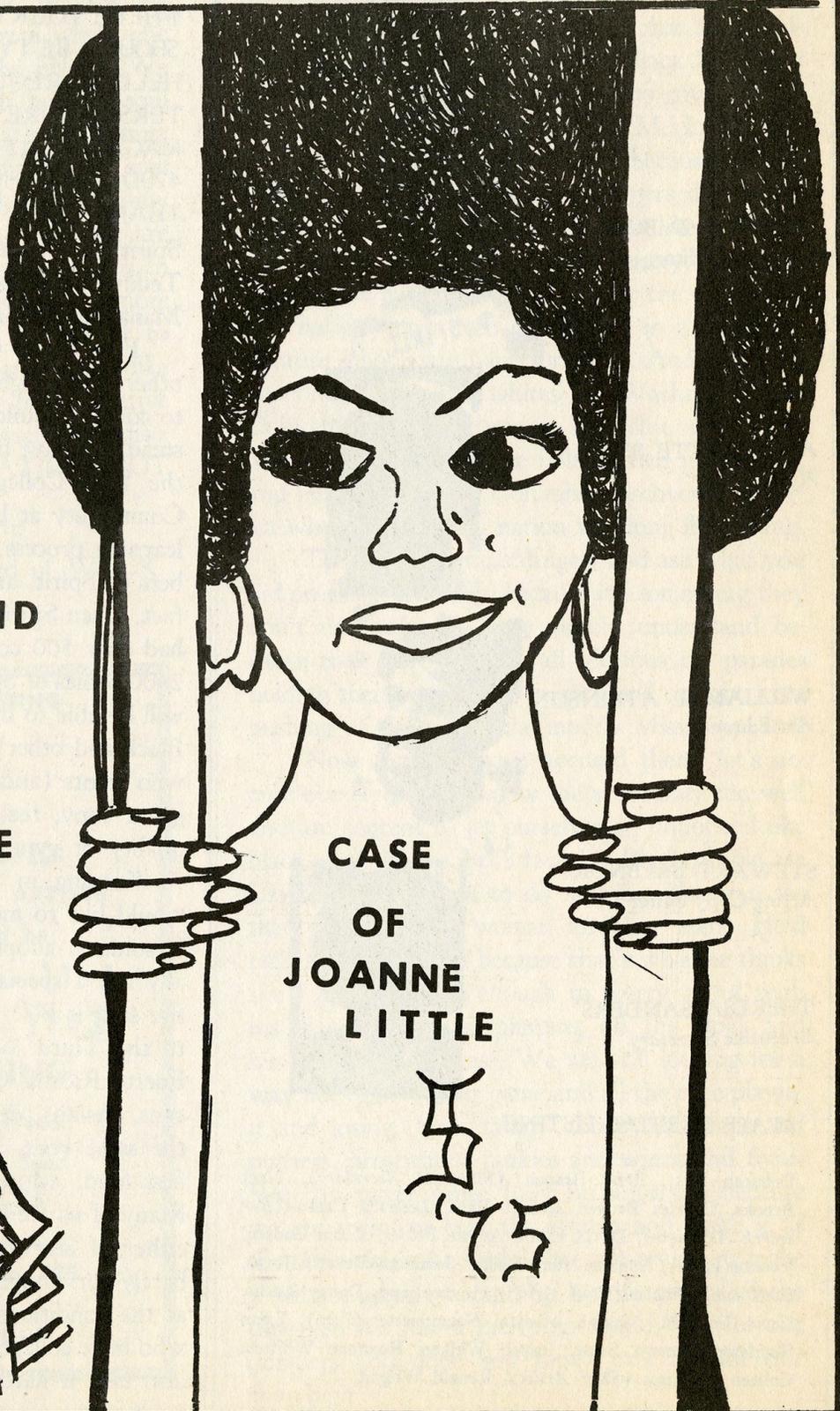
EDUCATION



AND

THE

CASE  
OF  
JOANNE  
LITTLE



## PAN AFRICAN SKILLS PROJECT

by Antoinette Byam

In an effort to unite the struggle and development of blacks in America with those in Africa, The Pan African Skills Project (PAS) has created a project in which skilled Black Americans can practice their trades in Africa.

The project which started in 1970, grew from the fact that there was an abundance of skilled Black men and women who could be of invaluable service to their Motherland. Since 1970, the Pan African Skills Project has been able to recruit over three hundred Blacks to work primarily in Tanzania, a progressive East African nation. Although Dar es Salaam (Tanzania's capital) is populated with a good sum of Black workers from the PAS program. It should be noted that workers are placed in various areas of Africa as well.

Irving Davis, PAS Regional Director for Africa, describes the program's development, "The concept of Black technical skills to Africa is not new. Since 1967 I can recall the concerns being voiced that not enough Africans in America saw the vital role they could play in developing a strong Africa." The program, however, did not begin to take form until 1969 when Davis became the non-government organization representative for SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee)

to the United Nations. The office now operates at 475 Riverside Drive in New York City and Ollis Douglas is PAS Director for the United States.

The PAS recruitment process is a rigorous and thorough one that prefers applicants who have had some previous experience in the struggle for justice. The final decisions of acceptance rest in the hands of the African nation and rejections have mainly been the result of the decision that a person's skill area (eg. social work or physical education teaching) was not in great demand. After being accepted and just prior to departure, there is a three day orientation program. Transportation cost is paid for by the host African nation and after arrival, participants are given an intensive three week program with an emphasis on learning Kiswahili, Tanzania's official language.

Although PAS operates primarily in Tanzania where an office has been established in Dar es Salaam they hope to open offices in both Zambia and Somalia with an eye towards establishing an entire East coast network. PAS is also hoping to establish an office in Washington, D.C. in order to have more constant contact with African embassies.

Information for the above article was taken from IFCO News, Feb. 1972, Vol. IV Issue 1.

**JOIN THE NATIONAL FREEDOM MARCH ON BOSTON**

**SATURDAY, MAY 17**

**DESEGREGATE THE BOSTON SCHOOLS NOW  
KEEP THE BUSES ROLLING**

**STOP RACIST ATTACKS ON BLACK STUDENTS**

**MAIL TO: NATIONAL STUDENT COALITION AGAINST RACISM  
Columbia University, Room 306, Ferris Booth Hall  
New York, New York 10027 / Telephone (212) 866-8830**

- I want to help build the May 17 National Freedom March on Boston.
- Please send me information about buses leaving New York.
- Enclosed is my contribution of \$.....

Name .....

Address ..... City .....

State ..... Zip ..... Phone .....

School / Organization .....

**NATIONAL STUDENT COALITION AGAINST RACISM**

## THE SEVEN-THIRTY-ONE

by S. Murray

On Wednesday, October thirteenth, nineteen hundred seventy-four, I awoke and felt mean; and it seemed as though the whole world felt mean too. That feeling started after my mother had awakened me while I was proposing to my girlfriend Ann; I was dreaming. The feeling was intensified when I got from under the covers and stepped onto the floor of a very cold room. Somehow, I got on my clothes and was on my way to school. I took the "A" train to East New York and trotted up the stairs to get the "J" train—the seven-thirty-one from Manhattan. While doing that and hurrying for school, I may add, I unintentionally bumped into four male high school students. They were walking as if they owned the stairway and were practicing for a funeral procession. "Sorry" said I, but they looked at me and said that they would kick my a--s. They retorted "we ain't meant you no harm, black." I got on the seven-thirty-one to Jamaica, and there, two young Black junior high school students were talking:

"You think you're mad, niggah! I'll show you," said Sammy.

"No motherf---, but no one is gonna walk over me. You try it, dude-- if you don't know what's good for you," said Butch.

As though they had reached the point of no retreat, both boys sprung on each other and began to fight as if the survival of the whole world depended on each other's victory. Thick, rich, red blood gushed from the combatants' faces while other boys and girls and some wise adults shouted these words of wisdom to each of the opponents-- "Kill the niggah!" While that was happening, we the wiser adults, we Americans who like to insure that justice prevail in every corner of the world, sat pensive, and, as most New Yorkers do, minded our own business. The two fighters, who later on in their lives may become lawyers, doctors, crooks, or presidents, were not our children or brothers or relatives; so we let them proceed to the point where they nearly had taken each others own worthless lives.

I thought that I should have gone and tried to separate them and even try to show them that they could sublimate that destructive energy into something constructive. After I had watched them

*(continued on page 17)*

## A QUESTION OF DISCRIMINATION

by Howard Walters

In my investigation of the Human Rights question on the York College Campus, I found no new developments. It appears that the opposing forces concerned (the administration and the committee that brought charges of discriminating practices at York) are awaiting the court's decision. The Health, Education and Welfare Department is anxious to come in to investigate but the York Administration is employing delaying tactics.

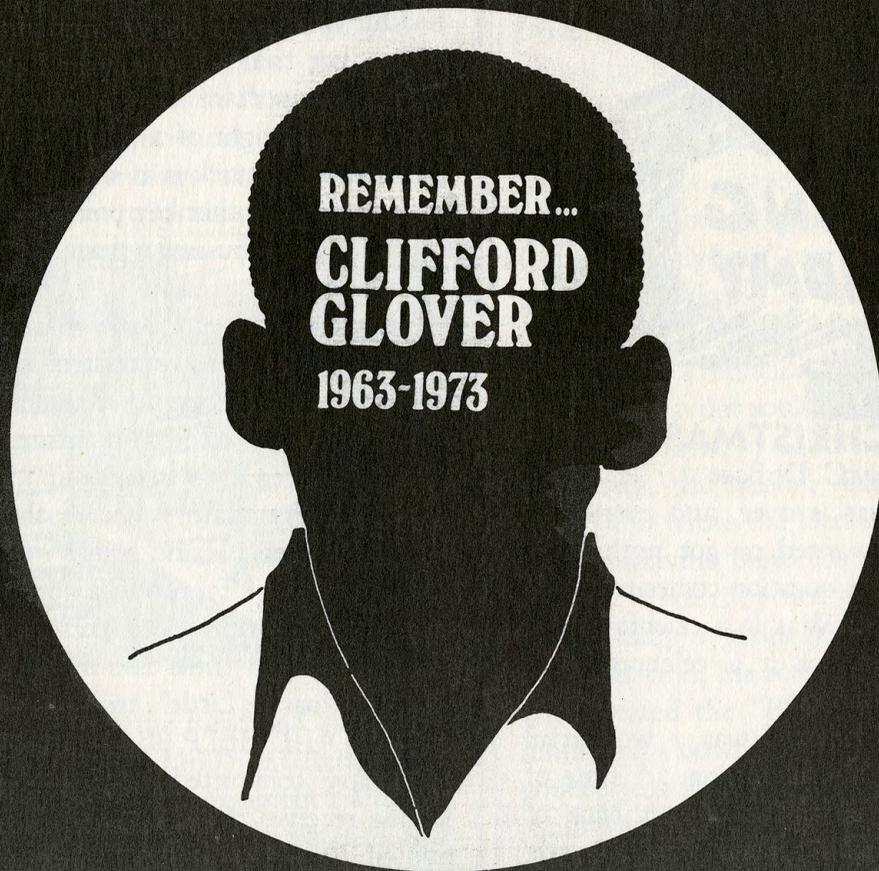


**President Bassin refuses to accept Human Rights Committee findings on racism and discrimination at York College.**

In order to trace the situation, we must start with certain members of the York faculty who informed the president of conditions and actions in the school which they construed as being racist and discriminatory. The answer that they received was one that asked for further proof which would enable him to take steps leading to the eradication of such practices. These instructors, who were members of the Human Rights Committee at York College, then distributed a statement of purposes, proceedings and a questionnaire to the York College Community. The questionnaire specifically asked for information dealing with the result of any meeting held with the Dean of Faculty, Dean Lewis J. Bodi. The results of this questionnaire, were not at all flattering to the dean. When this information, which detailed a description of the hiring practices of that department, was subsequently brought before the President, he once again refused to accept it as being conclusive.

*(continued on page 18)*

**What Do You Want To Be...**



**...If You Grow Up?**

(continued from page 7)

## DISCRIMINATION

The hiring of instructors by the office of the dean of faculty, is based on a tenure system. This means that after five consecutive years of being "rehired" by the school, the instructor is contracted on a relatively permanent basis. It should be realized that those who do get tenured, quite often are those who best represent and express the views of the administration.

In essence, I believe that the instructional staff of this school is not performing adequately in areas which contribute to smooth and productive interaction with the Jamaica Community — the Community of which this College was intended to be a part. This lack of initiative to innovate programs which involve, to a wider extend, the local citizen, cannot be blamed on the non-tenured instructors, but on the hiring practices of the York Administration. The effect of an dissatisfied teaching staff is often felt by students when they have to deal with an instructor who because a need for personal economic security, must work at other jobs which may conflict with his area of instruction.

Once the faculty and administrative section of the educational system begins to operate on a just and effective basis, we can all expect to receive quality education. Until then however, I believe that whatever is required to achieve that goal should and will be done. In the case of York, let's hope that an understanding is reached before too long, perhaps before the new campus is built.

### **Stop Complaining!!! Black Students**

The Independent Black Organization  
I.B.O.

dares you to come to a meeting  
We are in Room 111 main Bldg.  
Club Hrs. 11-1 p.m. If you have  
so much to say that's the place to do it.

## YORK COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL CLUB VARIETY SHOW



Jamaican dance (above) and Touch of Evil (below).

