

## EDITORIAL

## What's going on?

By Artelia Covington  
Editor

In the wake of the recent Amadou Diallo case verdict, this editor was left quite bewildered and angered at the American judicial system. I was disgusted to find that we live in a world that allows the relentless murdering of our precious black men. I thought for sure that after the verdict had been rendered that there would be a public outcry from all of our so called black leaders. But there was none. I guess they are still riding on the legacys of Malcolm and Martin to show real concern about the merciless killing of an unarmed black man. I for one would like to know where was Mr. Soapbox himself when the jury of twelve (composed of four black women, two white women, and six white men) found the four police officers implicated in the shooting not guilty. In an article published by the New York Daily News, it was reported that three of the jurors selected have family or other close ties to the Bronx, where Diallo lived and died. But the trial was relocated to Albany, New York where the trial would not be a mini-series like the O.J. Simpson case. But unlike the Simpson case, where there was insurmountable evidence presented by both sides, and a fair trial was given- a verdict was rendered fairly by a jury that did not have to relocate. What makes this case so different? I will tell you what I think, and it is a simple matter of whether or not you are paying attention. There really is no difference, well, maybe one, between the two trials, OJ had a lot of money and Mr. Diallo did not. That does not mean that because of this Mr. Diallo did not have access to the same laws and rules that protected OJ. What the verdict said to me is that even in the year 2000, a year that was predicted to be the "year of years," it may as well be 1960, where we [African-Americans] are still experiencing the "winter in America" that Gill Scott Heron sang about then. Nothing, and I do mean nothing has changed. African-Americans are still considered second rate citizens. It's pretty funny, don't you think, that an entire race of people who in my opinion are the very foundation on which America stands were considered damaged goods. As was pointed out in this trial, we matter just as much in life as we do in death, and now there is an actual case that actually says so. If you remember there was a case much like this one that occurred in 1857, the Dred Scott case. This case denied blacks citizenship, black people weren't people and were treated much like you would treat a lamp, or a table. It 's a pity that in an America that has come so far since the days of Dred Scott we still have so far to go, to understand and treat each other as we should: like human beings. I don't think that the mentality has changed. What I want is for each of you to be aware, and fully understand and appreciate that you are wonderful and wonderfully made. So was Amadou Diallo.

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Campus Police.....	335-3266
ECSU Infirmary.....	335-3267
Elizabeth City Police Dept	335-4321
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Student Counseling.....	335-3273
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