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# THE MESSENGER

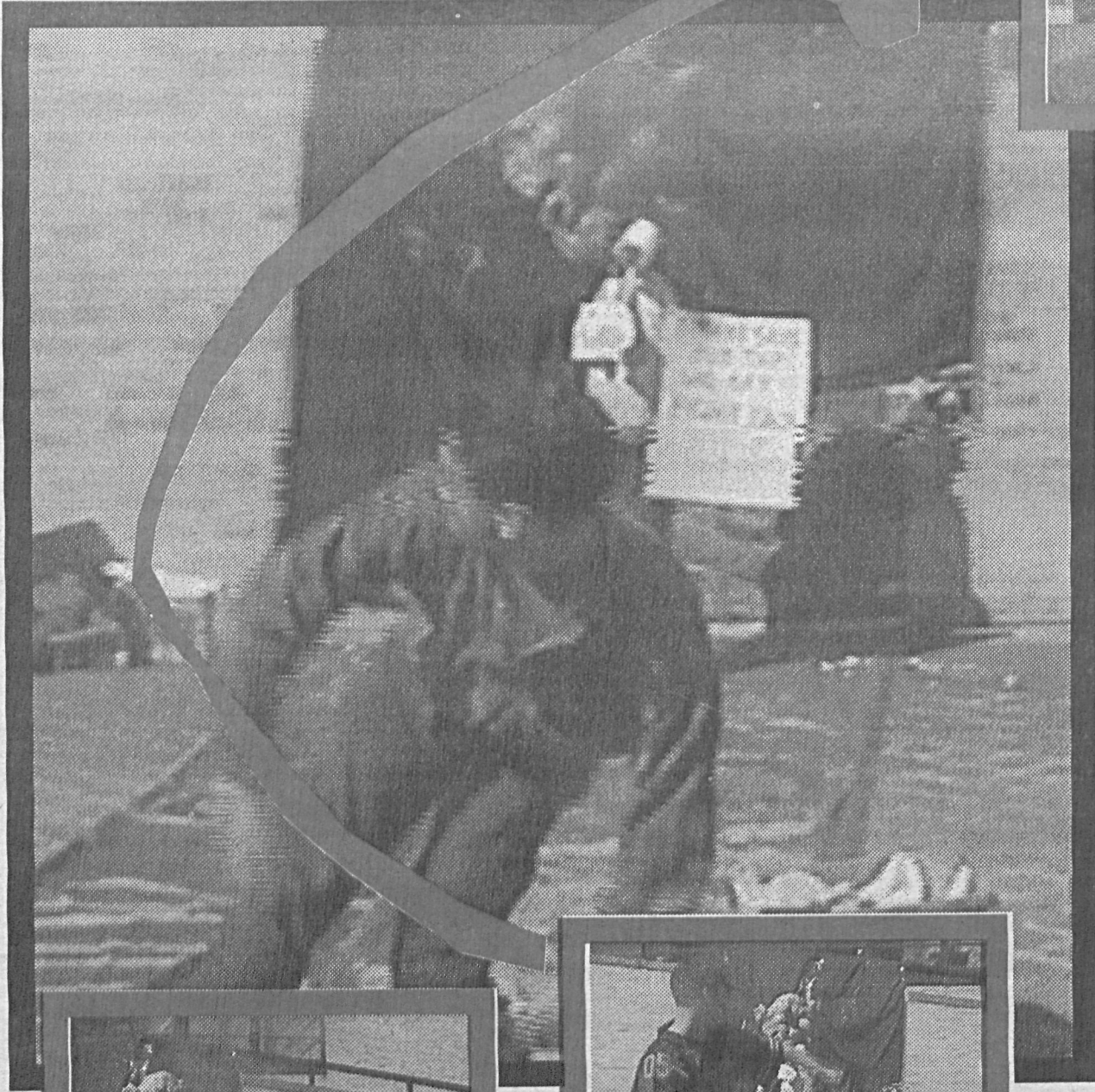
AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

VOL. 1 NO. 4

APRIL 1999

UNIVERSITY OF HARLEM

**TAKE THAT, PATAKI!**



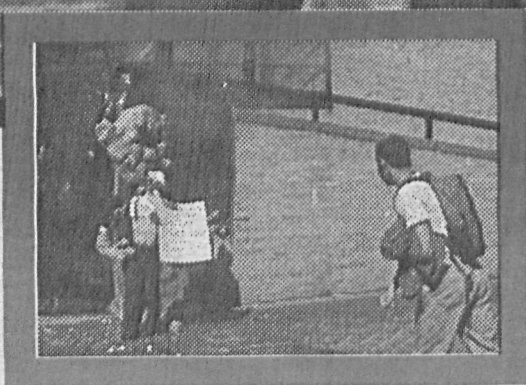
## *CCNY students and faculty speak out against proposal to cut the Tuition Assistance Program*

**By Shenise Ross**

**O**N MARCH 18, 1999, the CCNY Coalition sponsored a speakout / target practice against Governor George Pataki. The event, which took place between club hours in front of the NAC Building, was a protest against the Governor's latest attack on the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). In his budget plan, Pataki proposes to reduce the amount of support TAP provides from 90% to 75%. This plan also proposes to increase the eligibility requirements for TAP from enrollment in 12 credits a semester to 15. As part of the 1999-2000 Executive Budget, a student paying \$320 of the current CUNY tuition, would eventually pay about \$850 under Pataki's proposal.

Since 1995, Pataki has been trying to come up with different tactics for minimizing the education of CUNY students. He has succeeded in withdrawing remedial courses and is currently trying to deprive students of an education. "There's been a continuous attack ever since they opened this place up and started letting working class and people of color in," recalled Mark Turner, a former student who participated in the event.

As protesters marched around the newspaper-made, toilet tissue mouthed figure of Pataki, students and professors lined up to throw rotten eggs and tomatoes at him as a symbolic way of letting legislators know how they feel about the proposal. "We have to keep hitting him (Pataki) in the head because he keeps coming at us," said one CCNY Coalition member. □



**City College students throw rotten tomatoes at an effigy of Governor George Pataki who has again proposed cuts in TAP.**



# No Student Activity Fee hike, no TAP cuts

**S**TUDENTS AT CUNY ALREADY PAY too much for our education. But now both Governor Pataki and the CCNY Administration want you to pay more. Gov. Pataki's proposal to cut TAP is criminal and must be stopped. His proposed TAP cut is a tuition increase in disguise. Everyone who gets TAP will basically be paying \$500 more in tuition every year.

But it's not just the governor who wants us to be paying more. It is also our own campus administrators. They have hatched a scheme to get us to pay a higher Student Activity Fee. Our SAF is already high (now it's \$49.35 for full time undergrads), but somehow we have fewer actual activities going on than other CUNY schools.

The problem is *not* that there isn't enough money available for more and better student activities at CCNY. Currently, the DSG gets \$4 per student every semester in fees (\$4 from approximately 9,000 undergrads adds up to \$36,000), the Media Board gets \$2.50 a semester, and such nebulous bureaucratic entities as the Finley Student Center and Health Services (we have health services on campus?—that's news to us) get \$13 and \$6 of our money every semester. That the case, why do most students not even know where the DSG office, Finley Student Center, or the Wellness Center are, or what they do? What about our newspapers? Columbia University, just down Amsterdam Ave. from us, which has about the same number of students as CCNY, has a *daily* newspaper! We at the *Messenger* have somehow figured out how to put out a paper—without any funding from CCNY so far. This is not to gloat, it is just to point out that lack of money is not the main reason that there are noticeably fewer student activities going on at CCNY each year.

If that's not the reason, then what is? In the *Messenger's* opinion, the main problem is the continual tuition increases and budget cuts that have shrunk and demoralized the student body at CCNY. Student activities can't be done if there aren't enough students to organize and attend them. The second (and related) problem is the administration. It is way too bureaucratic and has its nose way too deep into micromanaging student activities. Anyone who is in a club knows how much paperwork you have to do just to register a club or reserve a room for an event, let alone do anything involving money and have to deal with the bureaucratic nightmare of the Business Office!

Rather than raise the Student Activity Fee, the administration should immediately put all of its staff into full-time organizing to fight the budget cuts to CUNY. Rather than sit in nice offices and twiddle their thumbs, administrators should follow Rev. Al Sharpton's lead and spend their time organizing demonstrations and civil disobedience actions at Pataki & Giuliani's offices demanding they end their attacks on CUNY. In the meantime, they should get their hands out of our pockets. *The Messenger encourages all students to send a message to the administration about its priorities. Vote NO! to the increase in Student Activity Fees when it appears on the ballot during the student government election April 27-29.*—BRAD SIGAL

**Free speech showdown**

**M**OST STUDENTS are probably aware of the "permanent literature table" that has been in the NAC Rotunda for at least 2 and a half years. This table, sponsored by the student groups SLAM! and the CCNY Coalition, provides information about budget cuts to CUNY as well as other progressive events going on at CCNY and elsewhere.

In mid-March, the administration started an attempt—via bureaucratic maneuvering—to get rid of the information table. Rather than saying outright that student groups cannot have tables anymore, the Finley Student Center "approved" the renewal application for the table, but only under the impossible-to-meet "condition" that the table must be staffed 24 hours a day! This is impossible because students are not allowed to stay in the NAC past 11 pm, except at certain times.

At least half of the literature on the permanent table is about the proposed cuts to TAP and the recent elimination of remedial classes. Since there is no regularly published student newspaper at CCNY, it is safe to say that *the literature table in the NAC Rotunda is the only regular source of information for CCNY students about what's happening at CUNY that could hamper our ability to continue our education.* In this context, it is criminal that Finley Center and Vice President Morales's office are trying to eliminate the permanent table. This once again shows that instead of "facilitating" student activities, Finley repeatedly impedes student activities by adding layers of red tape.

In the short term, the *Messenger* demands that Finley end this harassment immediately. For a longer-term solution, we would like to see a referendum run in next year's student elections—a referendum to take away Finley's \$13 student activity fee and give it to the student governments so they, the elected bodies, can create a true student center that facilitates student activities, not frustrate them.—BRAD SIGAL

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# THE MESSENGER

CCNY'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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*The Messenger* is an independent student newspaper at the City College of New York. It is produced periodically by an editorial collective. *The Messenger* aims to serve CCNY students, other CUNY students, and the Harlem community. We seek to do this by reporting on student activities for empowerment, enjoyment, and survival and by exposing the misdeeds of those in power. We seek to help build a powerful student movement at CUNY to win improvements in our lives and changes to societal injustices.

The articles in the *Messenger* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of the *Messenger* or anybody other than the individual writers.

Publishing Date—April 1999 Press Run—5,000



In Shepard Hall we find yet another CCNY hidden treasure: the Music Library. If you need to get away from it all for a few hours but you're stuck on campus, just slip into the Music Library. Ask Nwe Nwe Oo (inset) or any of the other friendly staff people to help you pick out some good tunes. Put on your headphones, close your eyes and clear your mind of all your worries. The Music Library is open Monday 9-6, Tues. - Thurs. 9-7, and Fri. 9-5. Stop by in Shepard 160, or call 650-7174 for more info. And check out the cool stuff in the basement.

# Activity fee increase?

*The Division of Student Affairs is pushing for an increase in the student activity fee so it can fund more administration projects.*

*The Office of Student Affairs, headed by Vice President for Student Affairs Thomas Morales, is pushing for an increase in the Student Activity Fee (SAF): \$12, for a total of \$61.35 per full-time undergrad student per semester. The increase must be approved by the full undergraduate student body in a referendum to be held during the student elections in April if enough signatures can be collected to get the referendum on the ballot.*

*Each semester, the fees are collected by City College and then allocated by the Student Services Corporation, an outside corporation the college set up to indemnify itself of any poor fiscal practices that may occur in the allocation of the fees.*

*In the following commentary, adapted from the DSG Connection, the Day Student Government's newsletter, DSG Vice President for Campus Affairs Rafael Dominguez explains why, in his opinion, the proposed increase in the fee is a bad idea.*—The Editors

**By Rafael Dominguez**

**T**HE STUDENT SERVICES Corporation (SSC) allocates and monitors the expenditures of student activity fee funds.

From highest to lowest, the following allocating bodies receive earmarked funds each year from the undergraduate and graduate student activity fees on this campus: Athletics (\$15 in 1998), Finley Student Center (\$13), Health Services (\$6), Day Student Government (\$4), NYPIRG (\$4), the Media Board (\$2.50), the Child Development Center (\$2), Safety Services (\$1), and the University

Student Senate (\$0.85).

The current student activity fees at City College total \$49.35 for full-time undergraduates, \$33.35 for part-time undergraduates, and \$15.35 for graduate students.

A couple years ago, The New York Public Interest Group (NYPIRG), through a similar referendum, were successful in increasing their allocation

from \$2 to \$4 per student. In 1988, the Wellness Center's (Health Services) allocation increased to \$6.

These increases were justified because NYPIRG is a primary supporter for our students both on- and off-campus dealing with the fight for open admissions and remediation, registering an estimate of 57,000 citi-

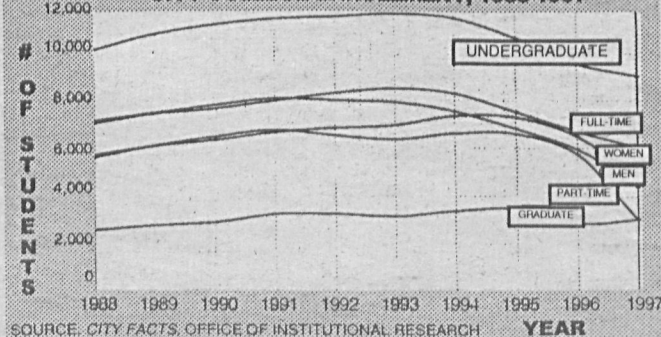
ACTIVITY FEES CONT'D ON PAGE 6

## MORE FEES AND LESS UNDERGRADS

Below you'll find the increases the administration has proposed for the undergraduate Student Activities Fee. The administration knows that as the number of students attending CCNY decreases because of budget cuts and the end of remediation classes (see bottom), they'll have less money to run their programs. So instead of fighting back against the budget cuts and against the Board of Trustees' war on remediation, and thereby assure students are retained here at City, the administration wants to raise fees for the few of us who can still attend CCNY.

Organization	Current Full-time Fees	Proposed Increase	Current Part-time Fees	Proposed Increase
Finley Student Center	\$13	\$14.50	\$7	\$8.50
Day Student Gov't	\$4	\$5.50	\$4	\$5.50
Athletics	\$15	\$16.50	\$5	\$6.50
Concerts	\$1	\$2.50	\$1	\$2.50
Media Board	\$2.50	\$4	\$2.50	\$4
Safety Services	\$1	\$2.50	\$1	\$2.50
Health Services	\$6	\$7.50	\$6	\$7.50
Child Development	\$2	\$3.50	\$2	\$3.50
NYPIRG	\$4	\$4	\$4	\$4
USS	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$0.85

**CITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT, 1988-1997**



SOURCE: CITY FACTS, OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH



# Quack! Quack!

*President Moses is a lame duck trying to limp out of City College. But her talent for fabrication could not get her a new job at the University of New Mexico.*

**P**RESIDENT YOLANDA T. MOSES'S departure from City College appears imminent.

Dr. Moses is a finalist for the University of New Mexico (UNM) presidency. The *Messenger* first learned the news of Moses's application for the UNM job when a reporter from the *Albuquerque Journal*, working on profiles of the UNM finalists, phoned City College newspapers in search of student opinion of Dr. Moses.

However, according to some faculty, she is unlikely to get the job. The president appears to agree with them. In a March 25 announcement, Moses declared she would stay at City even if offered the UNM position, a politic way of admitting defeat.

It is likely Dr. Moses applied for the UNM post for one of two reasons, perhaps both: 1) she wishes to leave City College, 2) she is being forced to leave by the CCNY Board of Trustees. Some faculty, however, believe the Board likes Moses because she is a weak and pliant president.

Either way, we must ask how long Moses can hold onto the CCNY presidency she has shown herself eager to leave.

## MOSES IN ALBUQUERQUE

DR. MOSES VISITED the UNM campus for several days at the end of February. During her stay at the Albuquerque, New Mexico campus, Moses met with students, faculty, and staff at a series of open forums to introduce herself to the UNM campus, present her vision of a Moses UNM presidency, and to defend her CCNY record.

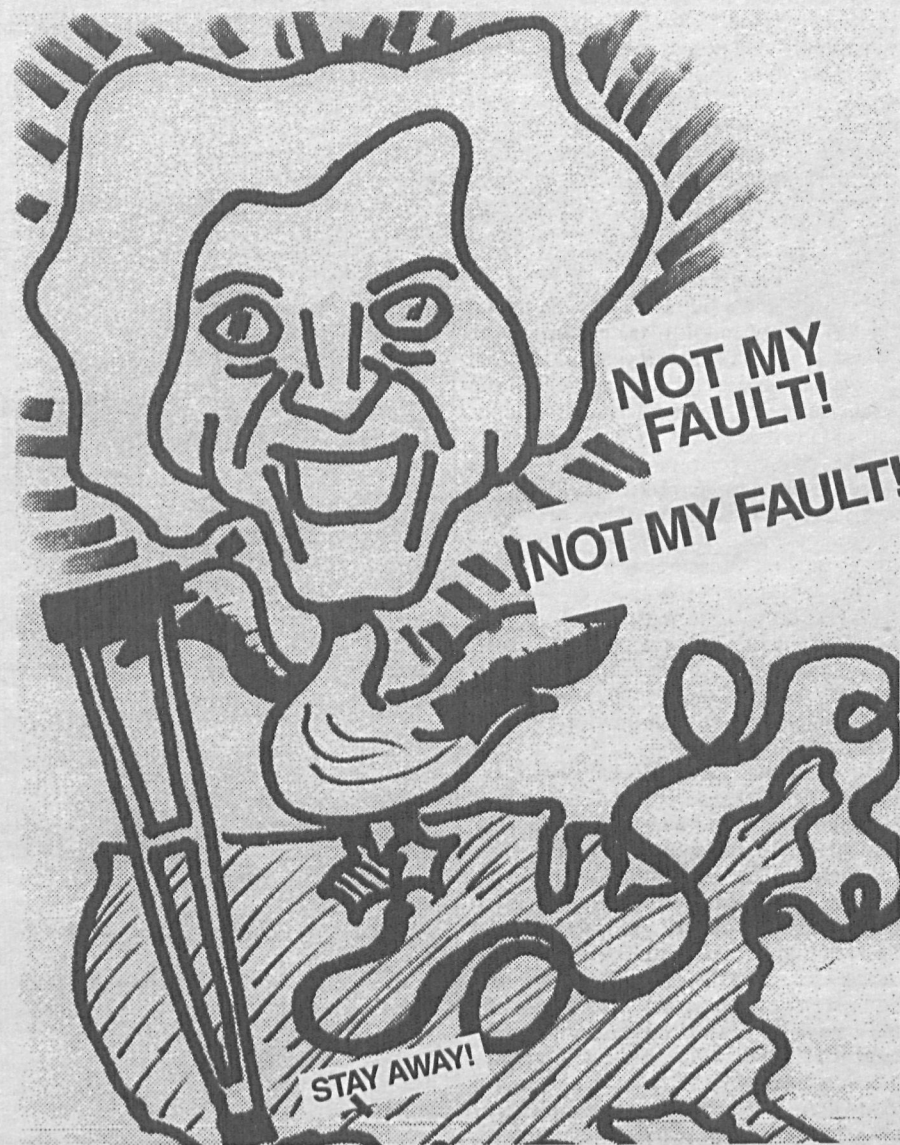
In these meetings she presented what appears to be a self-conscious self-appraisal. Her UNM presentations also included statements contradicted by established fact.

For example, according to the *University of New Mexico Daily Lobo*, the UNM student newspaper, in a meeting with UNM staff members Moses talked of the need to keep open lines of communication. Moses remarked leaders often become isolated. "You have to allocate time to talk to everyone. You can hold open forums annually, and I especially love e-mail for communication."

Good college presidents should convene open meetings, this is true. But Dr. Moses isn't one of them. In fact, Moses attended more open faculty and student meetings in her few days in New Mexico at UNM than she has in the last two years at City College, the school she currently leads. The last open meeting for faculty Dr. Moses attended was a year ago. It was crashed by students upset about her refusal to open up the meeting to the full campus (see the *Messenger*, March 18, 1998). One student remarked that she was glad to be at the meeting, "so that I could finally see what you [Moses] looked like."

The last meeting Moses attended that was open to all CCNY students was held in the fall of 1996, two-and-a-half years ago. That "town hall" meeting was held to discuss Security Director Timothy Hubbard's proposal to arm campus security guards.

President Moses's cultivated isolation—for weeks she goes unseen at CCNY—



contrasts with the behavior of other CUNY presidents. Even as he professes and practices a vile conservative policy, Queens College president Allen Sessoms does hold monthly office hours. So does Hunter College president David Caputo. Both presidents notify their respective campuses about their office hours with posters hung around campus and ads in their local student newspapers.

"Why would any college want Yolanda Moses?" asks David Thurston, a CCNY junior in History. "I mean, what exactly are the attributes of Yolanda Moses?"

At the meeting with UNM staff Moses continued, "I deliberately ask for input from as many sources as possible, and I deliberately schedule visits with people and [staff] units that I don't see very often."

Contrast that self-portrait with CCNY reality. Moses has consistently ignored CCNY's governance requisites and implemented policy without Faculty Senate input. One professor, who spoke with the

*Messenger* on condition of anonymity, provided an example. In explaining to the Board of Trustees what support she received for establishing the School of Professional Studies, Moses declared she had "conferred" with faculty. But when faculty had met with Moses on this topic, they declared their opposition to her plans.

Moses has repeatedly practiced this type of "democracy" with faculty. During retrenchment in 1995 and 1996, she solicited faculty advice, only to implement the policy she had apparently decided upon from the very beginning (see sidebar, this page). Moses's machinations earned her a vote of "no-confidence" from the Faculty Senate in 1995.

According to one CCNY staff member, so out of touch is Moses with CCNY staff that when a union official mentioned another of the campus unions at a recent administration-staff confab, Moses remarked she didn't even know the other union existed. That's hardly a marker of

a college president solicitous of "input from as many sources as possible" and all staff units.

## MOSES ON SURVEILLANCE

THE DAILY LOBO asked Moses about the bruhaha surrounding a surveillance camera CUNY Security hid in a fake fire detector outside a CCNY student activist office (room 3/201 in the NAC Building).

The camera was first discovered by a staff member who then alerted student activists (see the *Messenger*, September 1998). The activists subsequently discovered video surveillance taping equipment in the room next door to the activists' office. The students then filed a lawsuit against the college for violating their constitutional right to free assembly, sparking national media coverage. The case, according to the students' attorney Ron McGuire, is still in litigation contrary to Moses's claim to the *Daily Lobo* that the case was dismissed.

Moses spun the camera fiasco this way to the *Daily Lobo*: "The cameras were placed there to guard against theft. A lot of computers were being stolen, so it was only for the students' protection."

But no computer has ever been stolen from 3/201. Two computers slated for the Pre-University Program, which operates out of 3/201, had been taken a year earlier. But these computers were taken out of the Day Student Government conference room on the NAC's first floor before they ever reached their destination in 3/201. None of the staff of 3/201 had access to the DSG offices from which the computers were stolen. And yet no secret camera was subsequently set up outside of the student government offices.

At the time of the surveillance camera installation, 3/201 hosted only three computers. Down the hall from 3/201 a computer lab holds fifty computers. And yet no hidden camera for that lab either.

Mechanical Engineering Professor Gary Benenson told the *New York Times* that when he asked campus security for help after several computers were stolen from an Engineering lab, he was told by Security to buy his own alarms. For Benenson, the camera hidden outside 3/201 had more to do with keeping surveillance of student activists. "I certainly don't think this is about burglary. There is a history to this, but what just happened is more blatant," Benenson told the *Times*.

Moses continues to deny what her own Security has admitted: That the camera was placed outside of 3/201 for political reasons. When three student activists took City College to court for violating their rights, Security Director Timothy Hubbard admitted in an affidavit:

Finally, the third reason for placing the camera outside room 3/201 was a response to a report of a possible student or non-student take-over of all or portions of NAC, including room 3/201. One of the City College administrators, Charles DeCicco, Director of Public Relations, was informed by a faculty member that a group of students (or non-students) might be planning to attempt to take over the building some time around commencement, on June 2, 1998. Mr. DeCicco informed me and others of this, and we decided that the security staff would keep an eye out for unauthorized persons on the premises, including in and around 3-201.

DeCicco was misinformed and the students were spied on for actions they had no plan to commit. As one activist told the *Messenger*, "It's so silly, anyway. Why would we conduct a take-over of 3/201, a room we already control?"

Even in the face of Hubbard's sworn testimony admitting to the political motive to the surveillance, Moses continued to uphold an alternative universe divorced from reality. In her own affidavit submitted to the court during the students' law-

LAME DUCK CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## DURING UNM VISIT, MOSES DISTORTED HER RECORD, SAYS FORMER FACULTY MEMBER

*During her visit to the University of New Mexico, President Moses also made distorted characterizations about her role in the 1995 round of retrenchment when she closed CCNY's School of Nursing, as well as its performing arts and physical education departments. The following response was posted on CUNYTALK—a CUNY-orientated email list—by Joan Johnston, a Lehman College professor and former CCNY faculty member who served on the 1995 retrenchment committee. Johnston quotes and critiques statements Moses made while at UNM and recorded by the Daily Lobo, UNM's student newspaper. The Lobo segments Johnston quotes are in italics.—RW*

As a former faculty member at City College, pre-nursing advisor, member of the Senate Executive Committee, and member of the Retrenchment Committee in 1995, I'd like to respond to some of the statements

that were supposedly made by President Moses in the articles excerpted below. If she was quoted correctly, several statements appear somewhat misleading or incomplete.

Moses answered questions about budget cuts she made as president of City College of New York, including the elimination of the performing arts and physical education departments.

**POINT #1:** The largest "department" that was closed during the retrenchment in 1995 was, in fact, the School of Nursing, which at that time had more than 300 students enrolled in nursing courses and another 500+ in pre-nursing courses.

Unfortunately, CCNY has repeatedly made across-the-board budget cuts, she said. "I made those cuts with school-wide input. I spoke with facul-

ty members who told me, 'We don't want to do this at all, but if we have to, here are the things we think you should cut.' We looked at the programs that were cut, and there were no students in them.

**POINT #2:** As a member of the Retrenchment Committee, I thought that we had been charged with advising the president how to save 6 million dollars. The "easiest" way to do this was to get rid of faculty. According to the retrenchment guidelines, this could be done by across the board "firing" of the last-hired people, or by closing an entire department and retrenching all the faculty. Across-the-board firing was ruled out at the beginning of the process, which only left the second option. There would have been little savings in closing a small department, so the School of Nursing, which had expen-

DISTORTIONS CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



# Closing CUNY's doors

*The Board of Trustees' decision to end remediation will send New York back to an era of educational apartheid.*

By Prof. William Crain

ON JANUARY 25, the City University of New York's Board of Trustees voted to eliminate remedial classes at the 11 senior (four-year) colleges. Soon all students whose placement test scores indicate any need for remedial instruction will have to find a spot in one of the six community (two-year) colleges. CUNY's central administration has estimated that the new policy will bar half of the students who ordinarily enter the four-year colleges.

The new policy creates huge practical problems. CUNY's two-year colleges are already overcrowded and can't possibly handle the influx of new students.

More fundamental are issues of social justice. Within CUNY, a disproportionately large number of students barred from the four-year colleges will be students of color (see nearby "Access Denied"). This fact alone should raise widespread concern, but the policy's unfairness is even more evident when considered in the national context.

The National Center for Education Statistics reports that 81 percent of the nation's four-year colleges offer remedial courses. Most of these colleges primarily serve white, middle class students. CUNY's students are predominantly people of color and poor. To deny CUNY students the same opportunities that most others enjoy is a cruel setback to civil rights and equal opportunity.

The January 25 meeting was rocked by protest. Surrounded by police, an audience of 350 to 500 students, faculty, and community members shouted and chanted in anger. The anger, which was mixed with tears, has deep historical roots. After all, it wasn't long ago that many

state laws prohibited African-Americans from learning to read and write. Even CUNY, whose historical mission has been to provide access to poor and working class students, didn't open its doors to significant numbers of students of color until 1970. On January 25, the doors were being shut. As one faculty member, an African-American woman, said at a meeting the next day, "I had this image of George Wallace standing in front of the school building to block kids from entering."

The audience's outrage also was fueled by the purely ideological nature of the Board's vote. For over a year, the Board's majority had cavalierly ignored all the educational data presented to it—including data provided by its own staff. The board majority simply adhered to the right-wing agendas of Governor Pataki and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who had appointed most of the trustees and had kept constant pressure on them to vote for the remediation policy.

To be sure, the mayor, governor, and Board majority have defended their policy with various arguments, most of which have to do with CUNY's supposedly low standards. But these arguments don't stand up to scrutiny.

For example, Mayor Giuliani has loudly and repeatedly accused CUNY of low standards because, he says, the university allows students to linger for years before graduating. The mayor overlooks the fact that students nationwide are increasingly taking several years to graduate. He also ignores the serious obstacles CUNY students face. Most must resort to several semesters of part-time study because they have to work long hours to make ends meet. In addition, many CUNY students, who tend to be older than students elsewhere, have child-care responsibili-

ties. Given the students' real-life circumstances, their graduation rates are hardly deficient. CUNY's Office of Institutional Research reports that after 5 years CUNY's graduation rates are higher than the national average for public two-year colleges. After 8 years, CUNY's rates exceed the national average for public four-year colleges.

Many trustees argue that CUNY's four-year colleges are admitting students who need so much remediation that they aren't "college material." But the vast majority of the students complete their remedial coursework within two semesters and go on to graduate at nearly the

same rates as those who didn't need remediation. CUNY students take advantage of remedial opportunities efficiently and move forward.

The Board of Trustees' vice-chair, Herman Badillo, has repeatedly attacked CUNY's standards on another count, accusing it of grade inflation. The charge is absurd. Two recent U.S. Department of Education surveys (the Post-Secondary Longitudinal Study and Clifford Adelman's transcript files survey) show that CUNY doesn't give out anything like the high grades that most of U.S. colleges and universities do.

Other indicators point to the exceptional quality of a CUNY college education. The most recent (1997) National Research Council data indicate that the graduates of Brooklyn, City, Hunter, and Queens Colleges are earning doctoral degrees in higher percentages than the graduates of almost every other college in the New York metropolitan area. And other CUNY colleges are achieving national prominence in their own distinctive domains, such as business, criminal justice, and the arts. An impartial person, looking at the New York region's colleges for the first time, would undoubtedly conclude most colleges could learn a lot from CUNY's success. Yet the Board has done little but tear away at our great public university.

Nor has the Board, as directed by the mayor and the governor, finished its job. The mayor has appointed a task force, headed by Benno Schmidt, to recommend ways of delivering remedial courses to private firms. Since private firms typically charge higher fees for these courses, it's likely that many students will find it even more difficult to get a college education.

The January 25 vote occurred one week after Martin Luther King's birthday. When one considers how much African-Americans and other people of color have had to overcome to gain basic rights and opportunities, it's almost impossible to believe that New York public officials could inflict such damage upon them. □

*Dr. William Crain is a professor of Psychology at City College.*

## ACCESS DENIED

ACCORDING TO TWO studies by Lehman College sociologists David Lavin and Eliot Weinger, the Board of Trustees' decision to end remediation at senior colleges will exclude the following percentages of students who, under the old admissions criteria, would have been permitted entrance.

- 60% of all incoming freshman
- 65% of Black freshman
- 66% of Asian freshman
- 68% of Latino freshman
- 45% of White freshman
- 56% of women
- 75% of AFDC recipients
- 81% of low-income women
- 82% of single mothers

Sources: "Proposed New Admissions Criteria at City University of New York: Ethnic and Enrollment Consequences" and "New Admissions Criteria at the City University of New York: The Impact on Women".

## GET ON THE BUS!

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# MILLIONS FOR MUMIA

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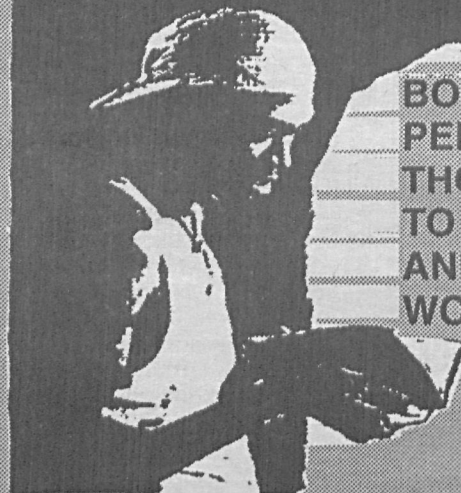
**Buses will leave CCNY at 7:00 am and return back to CCNY the same evening.**

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## It's Right to Rebel!

--Mao Tsetung



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# Security's Mumia melee

*SAFE Team and NYPD disrupt CCNY conference about Black political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal. Once again Sergeant White freaks out. Once again Security Director Hubbard excuses Security abuses.*

By Hank Williams

**N**EW YORK CITY POLICE and CCNY Security officers arrested three participants of an informational conference on death row inmate and political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal, held at City College on February 13. All were released from custody with minor charges, which later were thrown out in court.

The arrests add to the CCNY administration's growing reputation as hostile to free speech and assembly. In June, a CCNY Security surveillance camera was discovered by student activists in a fake smoke detector outside their office. Past incidents include arresting students protesting budget cuts, video taping student demonstrators, and shutting down a newspaper.

The conference incident started when Brian Campbell, a participant at the conference, accidentally dropped two chairs down the NAC lobby escalator. He was transferring the chairs to the NAC Ballroom, where the opening session of the conference was being held. According to conference participants, not enough chairs were available in the Ballroom to seat participants, even as they had paid the college to set up the necessary chairs.

In his Security report, Security Officer Adesina declares "arrogant" Campbell "deliberately let a stack of three chairs fall down a moving escalator."

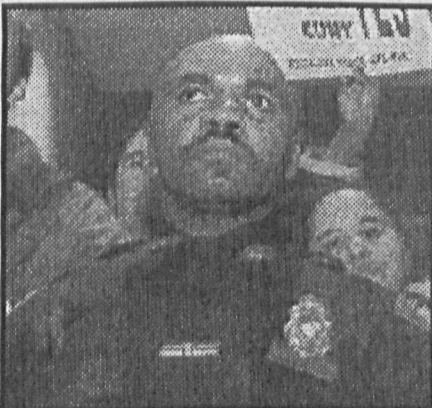
Campbell denies the charge. "They're clearly lying about what happened." According to Campbell, after he dropped the chairs, he apologized to Security. Security Sergeant Doug White, who was at the bottom of the escalator, asked him to return the chairs to the cafeteria. Campbell did. Campbell then returned to an information table in the NAC Rotunda outside the Cohen Library. According to Campbell, approximately ten minutes later he was told to leave the building by Sergeant White. Campbell refused, as he was a registered participant of the conference and had apologized for dropping the chair.

Campbell was subsequently arrested by Security officers and a plain-clothes NYPD officer, who had been loitering in the NAC Rotunda and was apparently monitoring the conference. The Security report declares Campbell "became combative and necessary force was used to effect arrest."

According to Security Director Timothy Hubbard, Officer White felt that there was "an individual [Campbell—who was] causing a dangerous situation." Hubbard also states that Campbell had been repeatedly uncooperative with Security.

Math professor Walter Daum, who attended the conference, told the *Messenger*, "[Campbell] clearly dropped the chairs accidentally."

Johanna Fernandez of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, also a conference participant, told the *Messenger* that the



CCNY Peace Officer Doug White acting in his capacity as SAFE Officer blocking students at the January 25 Board of Trustees meeting where the Trustees voted to end remediation at CUNY's senior colleges.



Security guards jostle students and community members at CCNY conference to organize support for Black death-row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

undercover police officer refused to identify himself when she asked for his name. Officers are required to identify themselves when asked. Fernandez reports that the officer told her: "I do not have to identify myself. I will identify myself later." He never did.

Fernandez notes that she "did not know who he [the undercover officer] was at first. He had just been sitting around in the [NAC] Rotunda—I thought he was part of the conference."

A large crowd of conference attendees started gathering in the Rotunda with the news of the arrest. Security and the NYPD undercover then called for assistance, which resulted in the arrival of approximately 30 uniformed officers. Ms. Fernandez and other event organizers who were trying to keep the situation from escalating report rough treatment at the hands of the NYPD and CCNY Security. Witnesses report being shoved against walls or to the floor by police and Security. Fernandez says that one Security officer kicked her in the knee after she told him that she had a bad knee and to be careful. At a press conference held later in the day, conference participant Jennifer Rodsch, a visibly pregnant woman, declared she was shoved up against a wall by Security or NYPD.

The police, apparently attempting to avoid the growing crowd of onlookers, then forced those being arrested through the doors near Cohen Library that lead to the escalators. The crowd then went outside the Rotunda chanting "Let them go" and "No more Diallos!", in reference to Amadou Diallo, the immigrant vendor killed in a hail of 41 NYPD bullets a few days earlier.

Witnesses voiced a distrust of the practices of police and the security as a reason for the need to observe the arrests. A small group went to the police station, including Michael Warren, who is one of Mumia Abu Jamal's attorneys and was a conference attendee. Those arrested were released by the police with minor charges but were not allowed to rejoin the conference.

In a *Messenger* interview CCNY Security Director Timothy Hubbard says that the plainclothes police officer sighted was the executive officer from the local precinct and was invited at the request of Security. Mr. Hubbard says that such practice is normal for events, though he did not elaborate what type of events were subjected to such special treatment. He also said he feels that the decision to call the police was justified as campus security was severely outnumbered and that the intent was simply to "abate the situation."

#### STAFF MEMBER ARRESTED

MARK TURNER was one of those arrested.

Turner is Director of the Mathematics Computer Learning Center at City College.

Turner, a conference participant and a supporter of the League of the Revolutionary Party, came up the escalator to the Rotunda where he saw the guards trying to arrest Campbell. To see if he could cool things down, and keep Campbell from arrest, Turner began asking the guards for identification and asking why they were arresting Campbell. When the guards tried to move Campbell to the security office on the fourth floor, Turner joined others in blocking the doorway before the escalator in the NAC Rotunda. "I crossed my arms so as not to give them reason to arrest me. I was defending [Campbell]," said Turner.

Turner says that as he and others were attempting to keep Campbell from being arrested, one of the guards grabbed him from behind by the hair and pulled. "Someone said, 'Arrest him.' I think it was Sergeant White. I ran until I figured out there was no where to run and so a 30th precinct cop caught up to me."

Turner says he stop resisting and was calm. The officer then called on his walkie-talkie that "officer needs assistance," a phrase used when an officer is in serious danger. Two minutes later Turner was surrounded by 15 officers from the 30th and 26th precincts. "At that point I'm really scared and everyone else was really scared and everyone assumed I was going to get beat up," said Turner.

"They then rushed me out of the building. Several people were trying to defend me, arguing with the cops, defensively physical-blocking, but no shoving or punching. These people were picked up and thrown [by police]."

Turner told the *Messenger* that once at the police station he was threatened with several different charges including assault of a police officer, which is a felony, and resisting arrest. All charges against Turner and two other arrestees were thrown out of court on February 19.

"The detective who rode me down [to the police station] said something on the order that 'someone needs some retraining' as the call for 'officer-needs-assistance' seemed highly inappropriate," Turner said.

Turner reports that he was arrested previously by Sergeant White at the Board of Trustees meeting in May when the Board first voted to end remediation classes at CUNY's senior colleges. White probably had an eye on Turner, a faculty member told the *Messenger*.

Hubbard says Turner struck Officer White and other security personnel, although those claims are disputed by several eyewitnesses.

"It's a lie. That's a convenient way to

justify the arrests when the whole intent of the guards was to disrupt a conference [which aimed] to free a revolutionary political prisoner," Turner responded.

Director Hubbard noted that the college dropped all serious charges. He stressed that all the Security wanted to do was remove disruptive individuals.

But witnesses at the conference indicate that the only disruptive persons were Sergeant White and the other guards. According to Walter Daum, he saw White harassing participants earlier in the day. "White was argumentative before the chair incident," Daum told the *Messenger*.

"The guards were provocative all day," says Turner. "At the very beginning of the conference, as soon as the literature tables were set up, the guards came over and said 'You can't sell literature here. Money can't be exchanged.'" Turner says that David Thurston, a CCNY student and conference organizer, had negotiated with the college to permit the tablers to accept donations.

"So the guards were breaking their own agreement," says Turner.

#### MOSES DEFENDS SECURITY

AT THE REQUEST of the chapter executive committee of the Professional Staff Congress, the faculty and staff union, Chapter Chair Gary Benenson wrote to President Yolanda Moses about the conference incident. Wrote Benenson in his February 19 memo, "[The individuals who were arrested] were exercising their rights of free speech and peaceable assembly. They were doing so in a college setting, which is ostensibly dedicated to the free exchange of ideas. Presumably, the issue regarding the chairs could have been handled without the use of force or criminal charges."

Benenson continued, "Furthermore, news reports about these kinds of events can only erode the public image of the College, at a time we can hardly afford bad publicity." Benenson asked Moses to have the College drop the charges against the arrestees and to issue a public apology for Security's actions.

In response to Benenson's memo, Moses described the incident as if from the viewpoint of Security: "[T]he individual who was moving chairs threw some down the escalator. This is a very dangerous action. He was asked to leave. When he refused, he was arrested. He called on the crowd to assist him. Eighty people surrounded our officers. Several people used physical violence in an attempt to free him..."

"The PSC-CUNY member [Mark Turner] who was arrested rushed our officers several times and struck them. I believe it is my duty to protect all mem-

SECURITY CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



## PROBLEMS FIXED?

IN A JUNE 17 memorandum back to Taylor, Vice President Dickmeyer acknowledged the problems and presented ten college actions that were to be completed by the end of 1998.

The actions included having Control Technicians inspect the entire NAC, identify the problems, and fix them. Dickmeyer also declared the ninth floor penthouse fan room would be cleared of debris, the leaks the Aronow Theatre would be fixed and its carpet and damaged sheetrock replaced. The leak under the stage was caused by a failure of the sump which would be fixed. And "as a top priority," the cafeteria floor would be waterproofed. According to Dickmeyer, a waterproof layer was never built into the NAC's outside plazas. The layer was re-done a few years ago, but the job was not completed. Dickmeyer wrote his office has appealed for more money from CUNY Central to finish the job.

Dickmeyer also mentioned hiring more custodians to "upgrade general cleanliness." According to one DC 37 union official (DC 37 represents the custodial and cleaning staff), the College did hire 12 full-time workers. These workers are used as a unit to do jobs around the campus. "But we still need people to do the day-to-day cleaning," the official told the *Messenger*, pointing out that some of the buildings had ten cleaners and now have four only. "We are nowhere near where we were in the 1980s. And even now, some of our staff are near retirement."

The *Messenger* toured the NAC Building to see if Dickmeyer's actions were implemented. Many of the areas of the NAC cited by Olmstead are not accessible to students. But the Aronow Theatre was one site the *Messenger* was able to visit. It, in fact, appears to be re-carpeted and the damaged sheetrock replaced. The Cohen Library carpets appear replaced as well.

It also appears, however, as if the limited hiring of custodians is not enough. In areas like the women's bathrooms it appears as if they are cleaned less than they should be and seem to run low on basic necessities like toilet paper and soap.

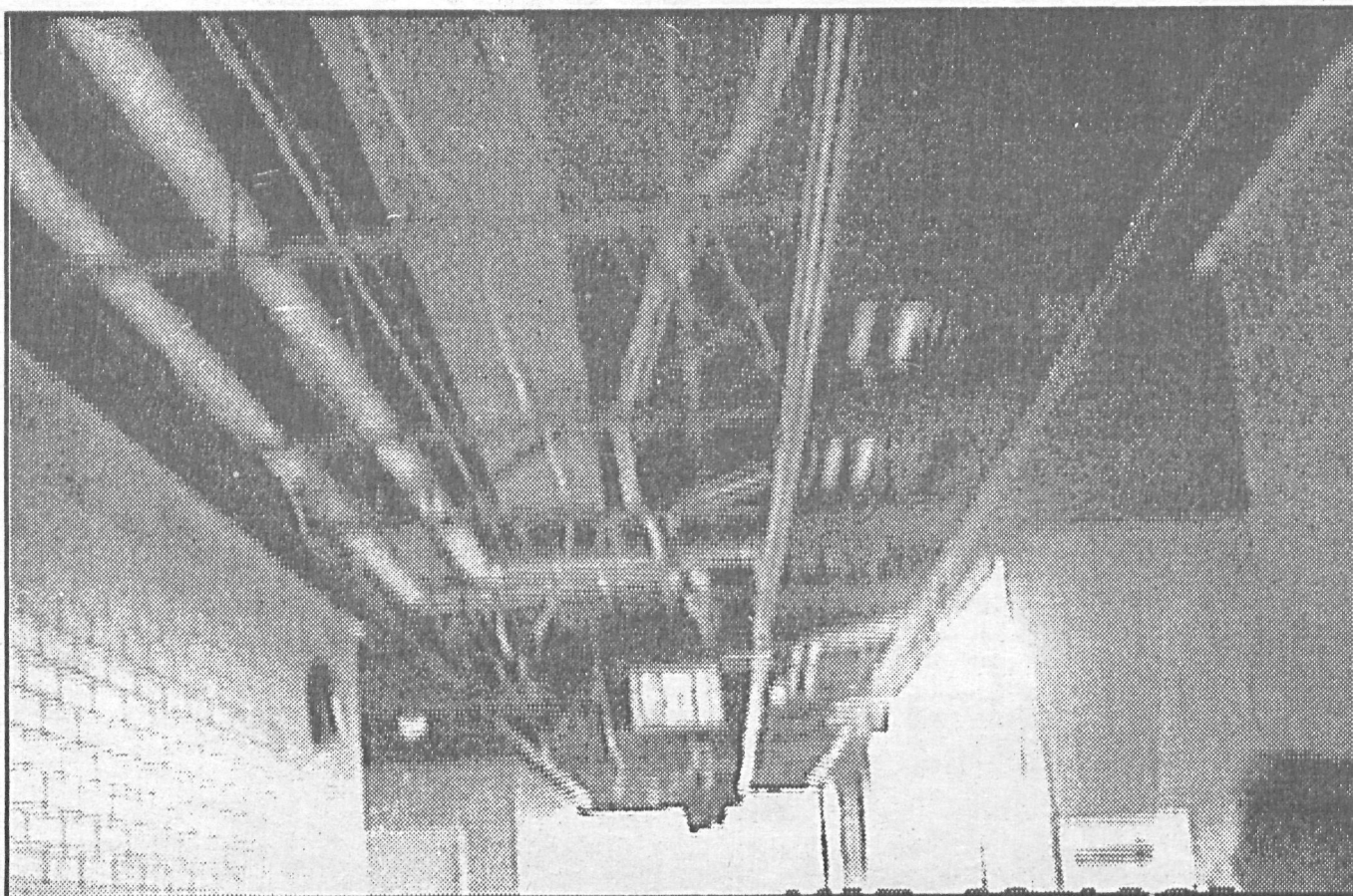
In an earlier report in the *Advocate*, the Student Ombudsman newsletter, Joan Parkin pointed out that the Building and Grounds staff decreased from 269 to 206 between 1994 and 1996. In the same article George Varian of Physical Plant Services stated that between 1995 and 1997 the number of City College painters was reduced from 4 to 1, its carpenters from 4 to 1, its plumbers from 6 to 4, and its electrical workers from 11 to 6. Varian stated that with the staff decreases came with a

25 to 30% increase in work load.

When Dickmeyer was contacted by the *Messenger* about the hole in the NAC, he agreed to direct the problem area to the maintenance supervisor and get it fixed. But the hole remains weeks later. Such a pattern of building management will continue to occur if there is a shortage in staff, a situation unwise for the NAC, which, according to Dickmeyer, is 750,000 square feet and the largest building in Manhattan north of Rockefeller Center. In the *Advocate* article, Varian declared CCNY was so short-staffed that "we can't get a routine down." If a maintenance worker is putting up a bulletin board, explained Varian, he may have to stop his work to go help with an emergency, like fixing a building door.

City College must find the funds to hire more workers and to keep the school in healthy condition.

With the help of students who stop, take notice, and take command of their college's life, we can demand the administration fill the holes in its health and environmental policies. In return, the administration, by listening to the students, can better serve the campus community. □



On the south side part of the NAC Building's third floor, near the elevators, the false ceiling has been removed for more than three weeks now, with wires hanging down and an asbestos-like insulation exposed.

# ToxiCity College?

*A May 1998 report commissioned by the Student Ombudsman showed the NAC Building an environmental dump. Since May some of the reports' recommendations appear to be implemented, but staff cuts assure trouble spots persist.*

By Marcela Putnam

ON THE THIRD FLOOR of the NAC Building, there is a gaping hole in the false ceiling.

As a student it is easy to walk by many of the school's unfinished projects and not pay them much attention. But with such a large hole, it's hard not to notice. The hole, near the bathrooms off the south escalator, runs about the length of the hallway and sports wires that hang precariously low and chunks of water stained asbestos-like insulation. We would not want to come home and find this eyesore, with its potential dangers, in our houses. Why would we want it in our school, a place we spend considerable time?

When asked by the *Messenger* about the hole, several students expressed their dismay. "It is very noticeable, and makes the school look bad," said student Raquel Morelos, who is majoring in Electrical Engineering. "It just seems irresponsible," he added.

"It looks dangerous. What happens if debris falls through and hits someone?" said Gabriella Perez, a Psychology major.

Some of the CCNY custodians chose not to answer the *Messenger's* questions about the project, explaining they "did not want to get in trouble." They suggested speaking to their supervisor.

When contacted by the *Messenger*, Shahir Erfan at Campus Planning stated that the hole was made to build sprinkler lines for fire protection, and that it would be completed within a week. He also mentioned that the wires should not be hanging down and that he would send someone over to fix it. Vice President for Finance and Management Nathan Dickmeyer e-mailed the *Messenger* that he would inspect the ceiling. The hole, as of *Messenger* press time two weeks later, still remains.

## NAC'S BACTERIAL INFECTION

THIS HOLE is not the first environmental problem in the NAC Building. A report commissioned by Keeanga Taylor, last year's Student Ombudsman, found numerous environmental hazards in the NAC.

At the request of Taylor, Edward Olmstead, an environmental specialist, visited the campus in early May, toured the NAC Building, and conducted an indoor air quality survey. The investigation involved an inspection of suspected problem areas including classrooms and offices.

Olmstead found water damage on the first, second and eighth floors. The presence of water leaks caused colonies of molds and bacteria to develop on tiles, walls and carpets.

In the Aronow Theater on the first floor, Olmstead found 400 square feet of visible water damage on one sheetrock wall, and about 100 feet on the other wall. In samples Olmstead took in the theater, he found "very high levels" of a toxigenic mold, *Stachybotrys charatarium*, as well as of bacteria. According to Olmstead, this species of mold is a hazard to all students, but especially to those who are allergy prone. These molds and bacteria can trigger symptoms such as respiratory irritation and increase in symptoms of nasal congestion, eye irritation, and skin rashes.

Olmstead found the theater's carpet had widespread water damage and had a "strong musty odor which is indicative of microbiological water damage." Checking under the stage, Olmstead discovered two feet of standing water in which the NYS Dormitory Authority had placed a sump, a special kind of pump, to remove the water.

Olmstead continued down the first floor of the NAC. He found serious visible water damage and wall moisture in the Graduate computer lab where thousands of dollars' worth of new computer equipment and furniture is situated. There were rust spots in the Yearbook office along with 6 square feet of visible mold growth on one of the walls. The Day Student Government's office had 80 square feet of water damaged ceiling tiles and 60 square feet of water damaged walls. The former office of the Ombudsman displayed moldy sheet rock of "a high level of microbiological contamination."

Other rooms down the first floor hallway, as well as the hallway itself, also showed extensive water damage. In the NAC lobby, Olmstead found 50 square feet of water damage in the ceiling above

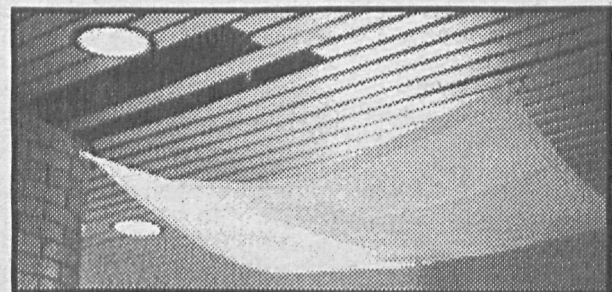
the Information Desk. Last year water routinely cascaded down in the lobby and in the NAC Rotunda. Olmstead wrote in his report that the water leaks are caused by rainwater leaking from the plaza area near the cafeteria. The administration has declared the water damage on the DSG-side of the first floor comes from poor drainage in the cafeteria kitchen above.

The carpeting in all of the first floor offices was dirty, and, according to the students Olmstead interviewed, was rarely vacuumed. "Carpeting is a source of dust containing allergens including mold spores, dust mites, insect fragments including cockroaches, rodent associated allergenic material," wrote Olmstead in his report.

Olmstead found the level of carbon dioxide to be within safe standard guidelines. The amount of carbon dioxide, from human exhalation, is an indication of the amount of ventilation in the building. The building temperature, humidity, water quality, and carbon monoxide levels were also satisfactory.

In the NAC penthouse fan rooms Olmstead could gain access to, Olmstead found one air handler closed. These handlers allow outside air in. If these handlers aren't open, the building's air would become recycled. According to Olmstead, "This will allow for the buildup of indoor contaminants." Olmstead also reported "very poor housekeeping in the penthouse fan room," calling it a "storage room for junk." The fans themselves were "very dirty" with "visible dust inside the mixing chamber of all four air handlers inspected."

Olmstead concluded his report with recommendations. These included removing the moldy and water damaged walls, ceiling tiles and carpet, cleaning up the penthouse fan rooms, cleaning the fans themselves, and developing a pest control program to control reported infestations of roaches and mice.



Water still leaks through the ceiling in the NAC Rotunda, requiring a tarpaulin.



**NEW FEES CONT'D  
FROM PAGE 2**

zens to vote in the past three years, and is currently working on mass transit issues. The Wellness Center (Health Services) provides medical assistance, offers vaccinations, and information on STD's and other health problems to students.

Now there exists a proposed student activity fee (SAF) increase for the Fall 1999 semester. This would entail an additional increase of \$12 to our current \$49.35, for a beautiful total of \$61.35.

As students dealing with expenses of tuition, transportation, food, and books we would have to be sure that any additional expenses must have a strong positive impact on the students.

If we look at the breakdown of our SAF, most of our money goes to Athletics at \$15 per student and the Finley Student Center at \$13 per student. The proposed increase calls for \$1.50 be added to both Athletics and the Finley Student Center.

WOW! Approximately 56.7% of our SAF are currently absorbed by Athletics and Finley Student Center. How much of the college constituency does Finley and Athletics really represent? Hypothetically speaking, if physical education was a required course to graduate, I would finance athletics to better their facilities through my SAF...but

**CHRONICLE**  
For Information: call: (212) 875-1225  
Volume 1, Issue 1  
**APRIL 27, 28 AND 29, 1999**  
**STUDENTS TO VOTE ON  
STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE INCREASE**  
Proposal Will Have Positive Effect on Several Student Services

**"Proposal will have a positive effect?"** The Student Election Review Committee (SERC), which is supposed to run the elections impartially, seems to have an agenda of its own. In posters advertising the election, including this edition of the "New York Chronicle" shown above, SERC has trumpeted the alleged benefits of the proposed increase in the activity fee.

Moreover, the administration is breaking SERC rules on student election referenda. The Division of Student Affairs is using students, hired by the Finley Student Center as office staff, to collect the one thousand student signatures needed to get the activity fee increase referendum on the ballot. Finley is operated with activity fee money. So, in other words, Finley, run by the administration, is using student activity fees to try to raise the student activity fee. That's illegal.—**ROB WALLACE**

*it's not even an offered course!* Although many students do utilize the facilities as recreation, spending \$15 out of our pocket each semester is not necessary.

What about the Finley Student Center? Finley has played an important role in the student life on this campus. For the past decade we've seen just how productive they've been. Fortunately, the current Finley has shown improvement in its internal operations.

Recently, I've taken the opportunity to ask the students if they

have enjoyed the resources and services that Finley provides and these are the three most popular responses: 1) They help support the organization of heritage months, 2) What's Finley Student Center? 3) I hate the club registration process.

Student life on this campus must be revitalized. Every cent we pay must be utilized in a way that directly benefits the students. In brief, be sure to take this information into consideration when voting. EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS!!!

**QUESTIONING  
AUTHORITIES**

**The killing of Amadou Diallo, the African immigrant vendor shot at 41 times in his Bronx lobby, has shaken the city's political landscape. During the break we asked members of the City College community what they thought about the Diallo situation.**



**Dorothy Arthur**  
Graduate student  
Psychology

**What do you think should happen to the four cops who shot Amadou Diallo?**

They should go to trial: They should face a jury of their peers, rather than sit in front of a judge. They should be punished in some way for their crime, possibly manslaughter.

A message has to go out to the police department—and the powers that be—that they can't just harass, brutalize, or shoot someone on the basis of the way people dress, the car they drive, or the color of their skin.

**Ever been stopped by a cop?**

Yes, I've been stopped by police. I was pulled over because of the vehicle I was driving. I don't think there was anything special about the vehicle.

**What do you think should happen to the four cops who shot Amadou Diallo?**

I didn't follow that news.



**Steven Wong**  
Senior  
Architecture

**Ever been stopped by a cop?**

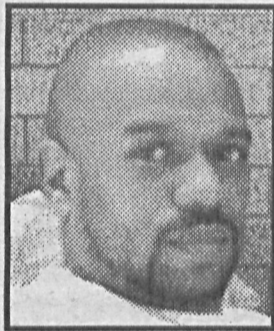
No.

**What do you think should happen to the four cops who shot Amadou Diallo?**

It's already happening—conviction!

**Ever been stopped by a cop?**

Yes, I have. I got assaulted by a police officer for minding my own business. Now what rights are those? Is that justice? We depend on the police for protection, but we have to protect ourselves from them—not all of them.



**K.C.**  
Recycler at CCNY

**What do you think should happen to the four cops who shot Amadou Diallo?**

They should be charged with murder. If they are convicted they should do reasonable jail sentences—about 15 years. If they are acquitted, they should not be allowed to serve on any police force ever.

**Ever been stopped by a cop?**

Oh, yes, please! That's a joke! It hasn't happened in a long time, mainly when I was younger when I didn't wear suits and ties and looked like a neutral member of society.



**Solomon Morris**  
CCNY alum

**What do you think should happen to the four cops who shot Amadou Diallo?**

I think they should get a fair trial. I think they should have time to present their case.

**Ever been stopped by a cop?**

Yes. They wanted to see my driver's license. Then one time they stopped me in the park and they wanted to search us. They said there were Latinos who had robbed somebody in the park. They searched us and I was pretty pissed off.



**Marisol Strickland**  
visiting City College

**SECURITY CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 7**

bers of the campus community and our visitors from attack." But the only visitors attacked were attacked by Security.

Though Moses ends her memo by declaring "I will not tolerate violence, the interruption of activities, and the destruction of property," at no point in her response does she address Sergeant White's violence or his interruption of conference activities.

**SECURITY'S RECORD**

THIS IS NOT the first time Security, and Sergeant White specifically, have been involved in disrupting student activities.

In 1995, Moses had NYPD and the SAFE Team, the political arm of CUNY Security, arrest 47 CUNY students who were hunger-striking against budget cuts proposed by Governor Pataki.

In March of 1997, Security guards videotaped members of the Day Student Government as they gave flyers out during their "Day of Outrage," a day-long protest against another round of proposed budget cuts to CUNY.

In November 1998, at a student-run talent show in the Aronow Theater, Security guards harassed and cursed students and their parents. According to one student performer, one officer pushed her 14-year old cousin attending the show. After leaving the theater, the guards instituted a "hold-it" policy: They prevented audience members from returning to the auditorium from their trips to the bathroom, an potentially explosive action at a three-hour show with 500 people.

At the December 1998 Council of Organizations meeting to address Security abuses, several students cited Sergeant White as particularly abusive. One student described his hostile behavior at the Aronow Theater event.

But it's not a matter of a bad apple. White is a member of CUNY's SAFE Team, a special security unit which in the past few years has been trained and used by CUNY Central to disrupt

student activism at City College and other CUNY campuses.

**SECURITY DISRUPTION FAILS**

OTHERS FEEL that the efforts of Security and NYPD may have been motivated by reasons other than dropped chairs.

Tristen Adie of The Campaign to End the Death Penalty said that the actions were "a clear message meant to intimidate students and others who might try to organize around Mumia's case." The Fraternal Order of Police in several eastern states, including New York, have been critical of Mumia Abu Jamal and his supporters and have tried to disrupt events for his benefit, such as the recent concert in the Meadowlands where ticket purchasers were offered refunds if they turned in their tickets.

The conference continued after the disruption and the 300-plus participants were able to attend workshops on a variety of issues relating to Mumia's case, the death penalty, criminal justice system, and meet in smaller groups to discuss plans for further activism.

Among the speakers present was Pamela Africa, a member of MOVE, the Philadelphia Pan-African organization Mumia covered as a journalist. Africa spoke about Mumia's case and the history of brutality of the Philadelphia police.

Columbia University Professor and Center for African American Research Director Manning Marable spoke about the criminal justice system, noting that more Black and Latino youth in New York are now entering the prison system than SUNY and CUNY. Professor Marable also reported that the state prison budget has been increased over the last ten years by approximately the same amount that the SUNY and CUNY budget has been cut.

Sarah Lawrence College Professor and former Black Panther Kathleen Cleaver spoke about the history of repression that Panthers like Mumia have suffered at the hands of local and Federal law enforcement. Professor Cleaver related that Mumia was assigned an FBI file at the age of 15 because of his

involvement with the Panthers and activism in his school. Cleaver also said that the FBI considered Mumia a threat because he was "too eloquent" and on the back of his picture had written the word "dead."

Mumia's case stems from the 1981 murder of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner. Mumia was moonlighting as a cab driver and stopped when he saw his brother being struck by Officer Faulkner. In the ensuing struggle both Mumia and Faulkner were shot. Mumia was seriously wounded and Faulkner was killed.

Mumia has been imprisoned in Pennsylvania since 1981 for Faulkner's murder. The conviction rests on evidence that supporters feel is shaky and circumstantial in nature, such as a confession that Mumia was supposed to have made while lying wounded in the hospital. Three months after the shooting Officer Faulkner's partner claimed to have "remembered" the confession although the officer guarding Mumia reported on the day of the shooting that Mumia "made no statements."

Other inconsistencies in the case are the failure of police ballistics experts to match the bullet that killed Officer Faulkner to the gun licensed to Mumia and contradictory testimony provided by prosecution witnesses.

Supporters of Mumia claim that his conviction is political in nature, resulting from his membership in the Black Panthers and his work as a journalist exposing racism and brutality in the Philadelphia police department. He was especially critical of the city's treatment of the MOVE organization, including the police firebombing of their house.

The conference was organized by the CCNY chapter of the International Socialist Organization and the Campaign to End the Death Penalty as part of a build-up to the Millions for Mumia rally in Philadelphia on Saturday, April 24. Those interested in participating in upcoming events should contact the Campaign, ISO, SLAM, or CCNY Coalition for more information or tickets for buses to the April 24 demonstration in Philadelphia.



**LAME DUCK CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 3**

suit, Moses wrote, "City College has not conducted any surveillance against any of the plaintiffs or any students or visitors to City College." It's a delusional vision—if not a lie—Moses continued to promote during her visit to UNM.

When asked by a UNM student how she would handle an environment seemingly hostile to minorities and women on the UNM campus, Moses, the president who had 47 CUNY students arrested for hunger-striking against budget cuts and who condoned video surveillance of activists, responded, "We need to create spaces where students can openly talk about those types of problems."

**WHY CAN'T MOSES  
TALK ABOUT RACE?**

MOSES, an anthropologist, had been scheduled to speak at UNM months previous, before the finalists for the presidency had been announced. During her visit to UNM she lectured on "Race, Higher Education and American Society".

On the other hand, here at City College Moses has refused to address this very topic. The CUNY Board of Trustees voted this January to end remedial courses at CUNY's senior colleges. The Board's decision turns the SKAT assessment tests into entrance exams. Any student who fails any of the tests will be denied entrance into the senior colleges. This December 62% of City College freshman failed at least one SKAT test. Under the new criteria none of these students would be allowed to continue here at City.

CUNY's own studies show ending remedial education will keep some 50% of Black, Latino, and Asian applicants from entering the senior colleges. Studies by David Lavin, a sociologist at Lehman College, and his colleagues show the damage will be worse (see story on page 4).

Moses, who has lectured at campuses across the country on multicultural education, remained completely silent in the face of the Board's attack on remediation and students of color, save offering a plan to reduce remediation at City College



**The many faces of Dr. Moses: At the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, our president explains why she wants to be UNM's president.**

albeit to a lesser extent. Moses's plan, *City College for the Twenty-First Century*, called for blocking remediation for students after one semester, denying applicants who fail all three SKAT tests entrance into CCNY, and requiring SAT scores and Regents credits. In sum, Moses's plan aimed to make entering and staying in City College much harder.

And yet at UNM, Moses offered hope, false hope given her record here at City College, to minority applicants. According to the *Daily Lobo*, when Moses was asked by a student how she would address the problem of the low number of students entering UNM from Albuquerque's poorer high schools, she responded, "If we want a diverse population, we must go out and get them proactively. We have to work with the students and parents, making them understand that it is not their fault."

"There are inconsistencies in her rhetoric and her actions are of concern," says Education adjunct professor Jeanne Olliviere of Moses's response to the attacks on remediation. "How loud has her voice been in defending her students?" The *Messenger* thinks not a peep.

**SOUR GRAPES**

IN HER MARCH 25 memo to the College, Moses explained her UNM application this way: "I am frequently sought after as a candidate for Presidential positions and in this case I decided to examine the position more closely."

"After careful consideration, however, I have decided not to accept this position if it is offered to me," she wrote. That begs

the question why she applied for the UNM job in the first place.

Moses quotes her own February 16 letter to her fellow City College administrators, "I will stay at CCNY as long as I believe I can do the job I came here to do. . . . My decision to be a candidate for the University of New Mexico position does not alter. . . my commitment to CCNY."

But in describing her CCNY record to the *Albuquerque Journal* a few days later, Moses said, "I think New Mexico would be a good next place. I'm 52, and I know I've got at least one more presidency in me." That's a reasonable approximation of talking out of both sides of your mouth. Which is it? Does she want to go to New Mexico or does she want to stay at CCNY? The fact of the matter is she can't be the president of both schools.

"That the president is circulating her resume gives me cause to pause and question her commitment to City College," said Olliviere.

In all likelihood, Moses realized after her trip she wasn't going to get the UNM job, particularly as word of her bad record at City College had begun to leak to UNM faculty, staff, and students. So now that she can't have the job, she's playing sour grapes—she doesn't want the job anyway!

"She has irreparably damaged the confidence CCNY has in her. She believes her own bullshit—the queen of diversity image—but the rest of the school doesn't," one professor told the *Messenger* on the condition of anonymity "The thing is, if she wants another job, she has to do her job here. Any other colleges which might hire her are going to ask for references. They will read the newspaper articles about her," the professor continued. In other words, there is no way Moses can escape the reputation she establishes here.

"If the captain is about to jump ship, what's going to happen to the ship? What is the future of the college?" asks Olliviere. "Do we just have the appearance of a presidency?"

If Moses is unsuccessful in blocking the image that she no longer wishes to captain this ship—as appears to be the case—she will turn into a lame duck. Reputed to be on her way out, she will be not be able to maintain the albeit tattered respect her position commands. That's why she tells UNM she's leaving CCNY and tells CCNY she's staying.

Several faculty have pointed out that Moses wants to bail out now because she will likely be seen as responsible for two major problems at CCNY. First, City College's computer mainframe for student academic records and registration is antiquated and has an unsolvable Y2K problem. IBM has told the College it will not service these 1970s computers come this June. The administration hired a consulting service to redo the computer system, but, likely because of incompetence on both sides of the contract, the computer problem wasn't fixed. If you thought registration has been terrible the past few years, we will likely see worse come next academic year.

Second, City College's shrinking student body will likely suffer worse hits as the effects of the ending of remedial classes, the increases in high school graduation requirements, and more cuts in TAP, begin to take their serious toll.

Even before this upcoming onslaught, CCNY continues to leak students. From Fall 1997 to Fall 1998, the student body dropped another 6.1%. In a memo to the campus, Vice President Nathan Dickmeyer declared the loss in tuition led to CUNY decreasing CCNY's budget by \$750,000. In response, CCNY has once again frozen spending and new hiring.

"Can we afford a lying, self-centered jelly fish to run City College at this point?" asks one student about Moses. ☐

**DISTORTIONS CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 3**

sive-to-run clinical courses, requiring a ratio of one faculty member for every ten students, became a prime target. Although Phys Ed and Theater were smaller, the closure of all three departments, along with some other adjustments, "saved" 6 million dollars, according to the figures presented by the retrenchment committee, and this became the recommendation—by a majority, but no unanimous—vote.

**POINT #3:** The other large (and expensive) program that was considered was the School of Architecture, but since it was the only CUNY architecture program, while there were two other "generic" baccalaureate programs; Hunter and Lehman, and three more RN/BSN programs; CSI, Medgar Evers and York, apparently the nursing program at City was considered expendable.

**POINT #4:** As a result of the closure of nursing, phys ed and theater, enrollment at City dropped about 10%, with the result that funding further decreased, offsetting some of the savings.

Moses also said one of her main interests in the presidency is UNM's cultural pluralism. "Cultural diversity here in this state is a reality, not something that was to be created," she said.

**POINT #5:** If she really said this, one has to wonder where she has been for the past several years since she came to New York. City College is one of the most diverse colleges in the nation, and it was like that before President Moses came. In fact, students in the School of Nursing, reflecting the college's diversity, came from thirty different countries. In addition, over the previous ten years, more than 20% of the newly graduated Black baccalaureate nurses in the State of New York were from CCNY. (This number included women—and men—(about 10% of our graduates were men), from the US, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, Guyana, St. Vincent, Dominica, Haiti, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, South Africa and several other countries!)

Moses added that she thinks the faculty need not be 100 percent diverse, but should include more minority faculty members.

**POINT #6:** All of the eighteen faculty members retrenched from the School of Nursing were women, and included three who were Black and two who were Asian.

One of the audience members' main concerns was whether Moses would work with them on collective bargaining. "I work with it," she said. "My goal is to work on behalf of an institution to make it stronger. If you [staff] were to form an organization, I would, in good faith, sit down and work with you. I'd see it as an opportunity to sit down and clarify our values and goals."

**POINT #7:** Eight of the eighteen faculty members in the School of Nursing were non-tenured, which made it easier for the school to be closed.

Moses said leaders often become isolated, which is a hazard of the job. "You can hold open forums annually, and I especially love e-mail for communication. I deliberately ask for input from as many sources as possible, and I deliberately schedule visits with people and units that I don't see often."

**POINT #8:** President Moses was very reluctant to talk to either faculty or students while the process [of retrenchment] was going on.

I hope that the faculty at UNM will do their homework before they make a decision as important as hiring a president, and contact a sample of people who have worked with President Moses during her tenure at City College.

—Joan Johnston, Associate Professor, Lehman College

Professor Johnston's response, as comprehensive as it is, doesn't cover all of Moses's distortion about retrenchment. The 1996 round of retrenchment, which eliminated four ethnic studies departments, was characterized by another bushel of fabrications from Moses. More on this in the future Messengers.—RW

**STUDENT LIBERATION ACTION MOVEMENT! PRESENTS**

**Columbia**

**THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND LIBERATION**

**12-2pm in NAC 1/211**

Ivan Rada of the Columbia Media Project will speak. A video on the history of FARC-EP will be shown. For more info, call Brad, x5008

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# CCNY's Mr. Manners?

Dean Bobb's "Civil City" replaces struggle with polite deference to power.

IN EARLY 1998, Associate Dean for Student Affairs Dean Paul Bobb won a \$5000 grant from the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation (AEC) to put together a project to foster greater "civility" at City College. The AEC collects revenues from the school's vendors (like the bookstore and the cafeteria) and turns it into grants to CCNY groups. As the AEC executive board is made up of a disproportionate number of administrators, too often the AEC just turns its funding over to administrators for asinine projects like Dean Bobb's "Civil City Project," instead of to active student groups.

Apparently Dean Bobb thinks that there isn't enough "civility" at CCNY. But what exactly is "civility"? When asked this at an AEC meeting Dean Bobb replied, "I will display civility by not addressing that question." So, in other words, "civility" apparently means being disingenuous and evasive.

In Dean Bobb's mind it seems, "civility" has something to do with niceness and patience. But students, faculty, and staff at City College are pissed-off and impatient because 1) tuition goes up and aid goes down, 2) service is bad at City likely because 3) staffing is short and 4) salaries and benefits are frozen and 5) top administrators refuse to fight for CCNY and won't let anyone else fight back instead. All these cause great demoralization.

Saying "excuse me" and "thank you" doesn't change the fundamental inequities and injustices that cause anger and hostility. In fact, "excuse me" covers the inequities.

What Dean Bobb aims to do is to turn CCNY into a barnyard of polite sheep. And he's willing to pay cash prizes to do so. \$950 in prizes are up for grabs for poetry and art designs "promot[ing] and/or exemplif[y]ing civility." This is not surprising for an administrator who is paid by

the college to be nice. In interacting with students and student groups, Dean Bobb too often acts as "the good cop" to Vice President Thomas Morales's "bad cop" as they together maneuver to win the Division of Student Affairs' uncivil agenda.

In the following excerpted speech, delivered at "The Conference on Higher Education and Civic Responsibility," Jeremy Smith of the Center for Campus Organizing addresses "civility" in higher education.—**ROB WALLACE**

**C**IVIC IS ANOTHER NICE-NICE word that avoids the core of participation in public life, which is political. By political, I'm referring to the competition of social forces around scarce resources and common values. Today, at an earlier session, I was told that we must put aside self-interest to build a better world. But the privileged always ask the dispossessed to put aside our self-interest, in exchange for some vague idea of charity and civility.

No, I don't believe that we have a "civil" society, and I don't believe in service. I believe in activism and politics, in confrontation with a system that denies people their basic means of survival, their basic human rights. We need fewer servants, but more rebels.

What does this have to do with colleges and universities as citizens in a broader community? Well, universities, in order to know how to best cooperate with the community and provoke its students and employees to participate in political life, must be able to see past euphemisms which are designed to mask conflict. To be effective, universities need to look at the central problem that all educators in a capitalist democracy must face, and that is the problem of inequality.

The economic system in which we live needs winners and losers in order to func-

tion. Our discussion here is really how to cope with the people whose communities have been downsized, ghettoized, and otherwise deprived. It's a political problem, because there are people—the winners—who benefit from this situation and who take steps to maintain it. When we try to change things, the winners are the people who stand in our way...

One of the primary obstacles to a healthy civic life on campus is the corporate model that too many schools have adopted. There are a lot of people out there...who think that universities ought to be "lean and mean." Mean being the operative word, as in mean spirited, as in Big Bully. This is logical. Now that federal and state funding for education has declined, universities are inviting more and more corporations on campus, seeking their help and money, accepting strings that are attached. Trustees, and even many administrators, are recruited from the ranks of CEOs and top corporate managers, and it's no surprise that universities are changing to reflect their view of the world.

Loyalty to university employees, a commitment to involving students, faculty, and staff in decision-making, remedial learning, diversity—all these things are criticized as inefficient, as if education is about producing widgets...

The State University of New York (SUNY) system behaved like a corporation when it raised tuition, phased out 1,600 full-time professors, shifted 40% of its coursework to adjuncts, and then nearly doubled the salary of SUNY chancellor



Office of Student Affairs  
325 East 80th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021  
212-649-6074

M. M. MORANDUM

Date: April 25, 1998  
To: Dean Paul Bobb, CCNY Office of Student Affairs  
From: Sheila Thomas, Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Re: CCNY Hunger Strike 4/25/98



**Was it civil of Dean Paul Bobb to use the "enemies list" of student activists CUNY Central compiled during the 1995 struggle against budget cuts? In the above 1995 memo Sheila Thomas, at that time CUNY's Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, responds to a memo from Dean Bobb. She writes, "As per your request, the CUNY Office of Student Affairs has verified the CUNY enrollment status of participants in the CCNY Hunger Strike of 4/25/95 on the attached pages."**

**The enemies lists consisted of the names, races, birth dates, Social Security numbers, home addresses, and arrest records of students arrested in the NAC Rotunda by CUNY's SAFE Team and the NYPD at the request of President Yolanda Moses. The students' great crime? Hunger-striking against budget cuts proposed by Governor Pataki.**

John Ryan. These are the actions that damage civil society...

Inequality begins at home. Universities are not just intellectual centers, but also workplaces...I would argue that part of any civic responsibility project has to be encouraging democratic participation on campus. This means permitting the formation of labor unions, bringing students to the table when big decisions are being made, reducing the influence of market ideology and corporations on campus life...

That's democracy, a way of life that is messy and inefficient. The sooner students learn that and get involved in democratic processes, the better. But it can't end there, because students—indeed, all members of the university community—have to know who wins and who loses outside the classroom walls. The primary challenge for our democracy is the conflict between the haves and have-nots. In that conflict, we each have to ask ourselves, whose side am I on? You can't be on both sides.

CUNY

→ ADJUNCTS

→ UNITE!

is an organization of CUNY adjuncts fighting for adjunct rights.

→  
The next monthly meetings of CUNY Adjuncts Unite! will be held on Friday April 23, at 3pm, and on May 21st, at 3pm, at 25 W. 43rd Street, in room 400.

Dominicans 2000 and Students for Educational Rights present

.....  
a symposium on

**Dominicans in the Media**  
.....

May 22, rm NAC 3/201,  
Time TBA. For more information,  
call 650-5008.

**THE MESSENGER**

CITY COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

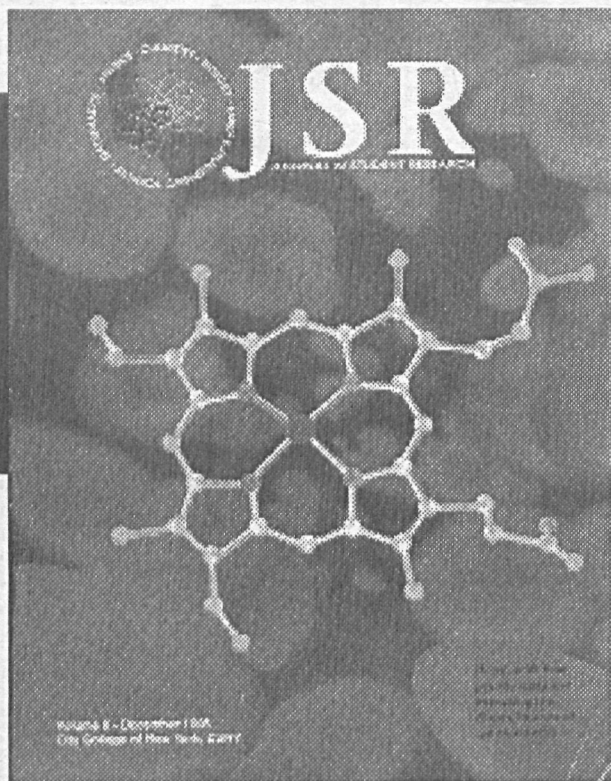
needs writers and photographers.

It's fun! And you'll learn a lot.

Call x5008 for more information.  
Ask for Brad or Rob.

SONY Theater movie tickets available for \$6.50 from the SSC Business Office in NAC 1/210





The *Journal of Student Research* publishes original scientific papers by City College students.

The 1998 edition of the *Journal* is now available! Those interested in obtaining a copy may pick one up at the JSR office, J537.

We encourage students to join the editorial staff for the year 1999-2000 issue. For more information, contact Jason at x6582

# Help contribute to the defense of CUNY!

## The CUNY Emergency Legal Defense Project engages in systematic legal defense of CUNY

and its student and faculty activists. It is also pursuing numerous lawsuits to defend open admissions and remedial classes in CUNY and halt the erosion of the freedoms of speech and association that has occurred at CUNY over the last ten years. The Project has defended hundreds of CUNY student activists from criminal and disciplinary charges resulting from their activism.

The Project needs your help to continue this work. The attacks on

CUNY and its students continue, generating legal battles on many fronts.

Your contribution of \$10 \$25, \$100 to the CUNY Emergency Legal Defense Project will help this vital work continue.

Please make contributions payable to the Center for Campus Organizing and mail to the CUNY Emergency Legal Defense Project, 275 Fort Washington Ave #6C, New York, NY 10032. Call (212)568-7346 for more information.

## CASTLES



BY ANNE I. NAUGHTON

**CASTLE:** Two bedroom apartment in West Harlem

**WHO:** Michelle Weekes, full-time mother of three, full-time second grade teacher and full-time Graduate student, son Darique, 8, and daughter Jonnise, 22.

**CITY UNIVERSITY CONNECTION:** Michelle graduated CCNY with a BA in Psychology, she is currently working on her Masters in Anthropology.

**COMMUTE:** M100 or M101 up the hill 13 blocks, shoe leather express back down.

**You're on the 20th floor right off of 125th street, but you have the windows in your bedroom and the living room covered up with heavy drapes. What about the view? Tired of the skyline?** Actually, I like the dark. That's where I'm coming from in terms of black drapes. It depends on my mood. I really like being inside and I like it dark. I like it being nighttime all the time. I don't really like daytime too much. When I'm in the mood I love, I'm so in love with being up here. I love birds. I love seeing birds. Birds fly by my window like that 'Whoosh'.

**Pigeons? No. Gulls. Seagulls 'cause I'm right next to the river. I get a couple of other kinds of birds but mostly I'm fascinated by the seagulls.**

**So I guess the bird fascination explains the empty birdcage in the living room which is by the way, enormous. It's standing on what looks like a Roman column and now that I look closely I see that it's not empty. In fact, there's the likeness of a parrot painted on a slab of stone hanging inside the cage.** I bought a beautiful little coquatil and I named him Johnny Cash. But it appears that Johnny Cash was, uhhhh, actually June Carter Cash. She laid eggs. I thought it was a male. I went away. I came back three days later. There were eggs on the bottom of the thing. I was freaked out. Unfortunately, she died shortly after that and I haven't had another bird since.

**Michelle, all this talk of birds makes sense with one of the most unusual things about your apartment which is that one entire wall in the living room is wallpapered with what looks like a giant photograph of a Brazilian Rainforest. Maybe you ought to focus your anthropology studies on a tribe down there so you can spend more time with birds.** You see, I love plants too. But I haven't a green thumb. I love stuff like this. That's why I want to go to the suburbs. And I like grass and stuff. When I have to come out into it, I love the smell of grass.

**I can't help but notice that you have a formidable collection of vitamins and various "natural" health enhancers: ginko biloba, ginseng, Echinacea, vitamin A, vitamin E...** I had stopped taking my vitamins for a little while and I was just dragging. Before I was only taking one or two vitamins and that was working when I was working for the registrars. O.K.? But now that I have taken on three jobs at once; my son, he's a job. That is a full-time job you could have and never need or want to do anything

else. And college, full-time with nine credits and working full-time as a teacher. I need those six and more. 'Once-A-Day' is not enough.

**125th St. has an amazing amount of African Hair Styling Salons. I often see the hair artists on the street aggressively competing for business. Even there is the story about the German tourist who was forced into a weave on her way to check out the Apollo. Is this an urban legend?** I never heard that. I go to one between Eighth Avenue and St. Nicholas Avenue and they are quite aggressive. It's a phenomenon. These people are fiercely competitive and the skill is unbelievable. I don't understand why more African Americans that are here haven't done it. We all have the same kind of hair. Why did Africans have to come here to make braids a fad? I guess it's historical, where the braids emanate from. We were on another trip in terms of what we thought was beautiful. I'm quite taken with these African businesses. I never kept a hairstyle this long before. I'm just totally into it. I have never been so comfortably with a hairstyle. And carefree. I don't have to do anything. I put a scarf around my head at night, get up in the morning and spray it and I'm gone.

**What would happen if she saw you going to someone else?** Oh, she would get very angry. I went one day and the woman who does my hair wasn't there. I waited three hours and finally I let one of her friends do it. When she got there she was dressed in very fine garb, with the head wrap and the long skirt. She was done in her native dress. She had just come from a wedding and she said, 'Why did you let her do your hair?' I was amazed that she thought I would wait there. Maybe I should have waited because I was *not* satisfied with her kinsman's job. It's worth it. I like that it's so multicultural around here. I have my Korean friend who runs the cleaners right there. I like having these relationships with people from different places.

**You are known around campus for your seemingly bottomless closet. Someone from your Urban Issues class told me that in a semester and a half you have never worn the same shoes twice. And your outfits are often color coordinated from hat to boots in a solid color. How do you manage?** It's not a pretty sight. I have boxes upon boxes upon boxes. I don't know, I'm not going to say it's a fetish...maybe. I'm very, very into clothes. It's my mother's fault. I'm an only child.



# CITY COLLEGE CALENDAR

THE MESSENGER CALENDAR FOR APRIL 5 - APRIL 30

WANT TO GET YOUR EVENT ON THE MESSENGER CALENDAR? CONTACT BRAD OR ROB AT THE MESSENGER x5008.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
APRIL 5	6	7	8	9
<b>S P R I N G B R E A K !</b>				
<b>Men's Tennis 12</b> CCNY vs. Jersey City State. 3:30pm at the Plaza Level Tennis Courts, Science Building.	<b>Recital 13</b> Olga Gak, piano, 3 pm in Shepard Hall, rm 95. <b>Applying to Graduate School?</b> Forum 12-1pm in NAC 1/202. Sign up at the Career Center. <b>Swimming!</b> with the Swim Club. Mahoney Pool (Sci. Building). Every Tues 5-6:30pm and Wed 10am-12pm. <b>African Dance</b> African Dance Ensemble meets every Tues 5:30-7:30pm in the NAC Ballroom and Thurs 6-8pm in the Aranow Theater.	<b>Amadou Diallo and Police Brutality 14</b> Forum 6pm in NAC 1/201.	<b>"Don Quixote" 15</b> presented as a part of the Humanities Spring Film Series. TV Studio, NAC 5/220, 12-2 pm. <b>CCNY fellowships</b> Informational Recruitment Meeting, NAC 6/141, 12-2 pm. <b>Book Fair</b> English Composition Program book fair. 11am-4pm in Rifkind Room, NAC 6/219. <b>Salsa-Mambo</b> Fun and FREE dance classes. Every Thursday 4-7pm in NAC Ballroom.	16
<b>Student Gov't Election Campaign Begins 19</b> Watch out for all those posters & campaigners! <b>Paris Exchange Program</b> Orientation Meeting. 12-2pm. Social Sciences Conference Room, NAC 6/141. <b>Carolyn Ferrell</b> Author of <i>Don't Erase Me</i> to read her work. 7:30pm in the History Conference Room (NAC 5/144).	<b>Columbia: The Struggle for Human Rights and Liberation 20</b> 12-2 pm in NAC 1/211 Speaker: <b>Ivan Rada</b> of the Columbia Media Project A 15 min. video on the history of the FARC-EP will also be shown. Sponsored by SLAM! x5008 <b>Foraging by Antarctic Seabirds</b> Dick Viet of Department of Biology at CSI, 12:15-2pm in rm 801 in the Marshak Science Building. Refreshments served at noon.	<b>Ma Raine's Black Bottom 21</b> A student performance of the August Wilson play. Directed by Eugene Nesmith. Two shows: 12pm and 7pm in Theater B, Aaron Davis Hall. Shows also on the 22nd and 23rd at 7pm.	<b>CCNY Club Fair 22</b> NAC Plaza 12-2 pm <b>Candidate's Forum</b> Day Student Government Presidential Debate, 12-2pm NAC Student Lounge <b>Schools not Jails!</b> <i>Fiesta!</i> 4 - 9 pm NAC Rotunda Speakers, Poets, Musicians, and Free Food! Invited are Junot Diaz, Welfare Poets, Manning Marable, and other notable people for some edu-tainment! <b>CCNY Jazz Band</b> 12:30pm, Shepard Hall, rm 95	<b>Ma Raine's Black Bottom 23</b> A student performance of the August Wilson play. Directed by Eugene Nesmith. 7pm in Theater B, Aaron Davis Hall. <b>Millions for Mumia</b> Demonstration in Philadelphia. Buses leave the CCNY campus at 7am. For more information and tickets, call Brad at x5008
<b>Faculty Recital 26</b> Music of Bach, Mozart, Verdi. 2pm in Shepard Hall, rm 95	<b>CCNY Student Government Elections (Day 1) 27</b> Vote all day in NAC Rotunda. All registered students may vote Vote <b>NO!</b> on Higher Student Activity Fee Referendum! <b>Electric Fish</b> "Gonadal steroid effects on structure and function in weakly discharging electric fish," Peter Moller of Hunter College, 12:15-2pm in rm 801 in the Marshak Science Building. Refreshments served at noon.	<b>CCNY Student Government Elections (Day 2) 28</b> Vote all day in NAC Rotunda. All registered students may vote Vote <b>NO!</b> on Higher Student Activity Fee Referendum! <b>Piano Recital</b> Students of Alison Deane. 2pm in Shepard Hall, rm 95.	<b>Last Day of Elections 29</b> Results announced at 9:15 pm in NAC Rotunda. <b>Cultural Festival</b> 12 - 2 pm NAC Plaza Featuring <b>El Grupo Morazan</b> from El Salvador (their 1st performance ever in the US!) <b>Lift the Sanctions</b> Forum against sanctions on Iraq. International Socialist Organization, 12-2pm, NAC 1/201 <b>"Keita"</b> presented as a part of the Humanities Spring Film Series, TV Studio, NAC 5/220, 12-2 pm	<b>CUNY Job Fair 30</b> 11am-4:30pm at the Jacob Javits Convention Center 11th Avenue between 34th and 35th Street. Register beforehand at the CCNY Career Center. <b>Dance Festival</b> "Out of Time" is a weekend-long dance festival of young choreographers' works hosted by three renowned choreographers. At the Aaron Davis Hall. Program A: Friday 7:30pm, Saturday 2pm, Program B: Saturday 7:30pm, Sunday 3pm. Tickets \$15.

## the poet's corner...

**Luchemos**  
(03 - 22 - 95)

Está apunto de surgir un problema, un problema de gran magnitud. Esto afecta a casi todo el mundo, especialmente a la juventud.

Fígense bien lo que pasa, se le piensan hacer cortes a los estudios. Se están cerrando programas de ayuda, se nos obligará vivir en los suburbios.

En las universidades se eliminarán programas, SEEK y TAP son dos de ellos. Debido a esto muchos estudiantes, jamás podrán realizar sus sueños.

No podrán educarse, ni obtener una profesión. Todo esto porque Pataki,

quiere hacerles cortes a la educación.

Aparte de cortar estos programas, también piensa aumentar la matrícula. He analizado cien veces sus ideas, y cada vez la veo más ridícula.

Estos cortes afectaran de lleno a CUNY, y aunque no lo crean, esa es la intención. En CUNY estudian las "minorías", esto es un acto de discriminación.

Hay muchas personas como Pataki, que no quieren que las "minorías" se superen. Se la ponen bien difícil, para que a ningún lado estos lleguen.

Vean por ejemplo a Nueva York, Pataki ha aprobado la pena de muerte. No hay trabajos, quita la educación, que creen que el don trae en mente.

Si nuestros jóvenes no tienen trabajos, ni lugar donde obtener una educación.

Se convertirán en criminales, y la pena de muerte entra en acción.

Luchemos contra estos cortes, no nos dejemos pasmar. Si no hacemos nada hoy, con nosotros van a acabar.

Johanny Garcia

### Hi-Life Bar and Grill

Taking kind bud on a side street, in through the bouncer to the dark, saluting Ed on the wheels scratching on a funk classic. We joke "Low Life", but isn't this what it's all about? Of all skins, the lithe bods bopping lit, steamrolling licorice from the rock of night?

Rob Wallace

INTERESTED IN GETTING YOUR BEST POEMS PUBLISHED? SHARE THEM WITH THE MESSENGER! PLACE POEMS, ALONG WITH YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO ROB WALLACE. LEAVE THE ENVELOPE IN NAC 3/201.



# Breaking down the Blue Wall

*How one Washington Heights' block organized to keep the NYPD from imposing martial law*

By Brad Sigal

**I**N THE EARLY DAYS of March, a group of residents of 159th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam stood up to the cops. The NYPD was planning to close off their block with military-style blockades and checkpoints, in an effort to weed out drug dealers, through the NYPD's "Model Block" program. This means that anyone entering the block has to show ID to a cop and give some proof that they live there. No cars would be allowed to pass through the street, and nobody would be allowed to play or hang out outside. There is no time limit on this draconian lockdown. It is imposed by the NYPD indefinitely.

For example, on 161st and 163rd streets, the two nearby blocks where this program has already been implemented, cops hit a pregnant woman when trying to break up a group of kids playing football on the street. The police were even reported to have taken away dominoes from elderly men playing outside, according to an article in *El Diario*.

Some residents of 161st and 163rd street are in favor of the Model Block program. One 51 year-old Dominican woman who lives on the block was quoted in *El Diario* as saying, "Model Block is the best thing that has happened to us. You get used to the police presence. Those who aren't doing anything wrong aren't suspects."

But such acceptance of military-style occupation is not the only view. Residents of 159th Street have united in opposition to being turned into the next "Model Block." They have organized



159th St. residents demonstrate vs. NYPD on March 16. Below, the block.



themselves into a group called Community Forces United, and have teamed up with groups such as the Nation of Islam, 100 Black Law Enforcement Agents Who Care, the ACLU, and Dominican Youth Union.

They have already organized a community forum against police brutality attended by over 200 people, a demonstration and a press conference. They do daily outreach and education work in the neighborhood.

In light of the Amadou Diallo assassination in February and the epidemic of police murders under Giuliani, residents and progressive groups warn that the NYPD will more likely harass and kill innocent people than stop the neighborhood's drug dealers.

The community residents have devised a plan to stop drug dealing on their own, rather than have the police come in literally like an occupying army.

The 159th street residents are planning their own community patrol in conjunction with labor and religious groups. They prefer to organize themselves and keep their block open, rather than accept police occupation and inconveniences such as not being able to take a taxi to the front of their building.

"In white communities, residents walk around freely. Why can't they do it here?" said Christopher Dunn of the American Civil Liberties Union, emphasizing the racism inherent in such a police occupation plan.

*El Diario* reported that the police plan to close the street at a yet-undetermined date. The police wouldn't confirm reports that eventually the NYPD plans to close off all the streets from 155th to 160th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam. A police spokesperson also said that the program wouldn't be imposed if residents were against it.

Elected officials are trying to mediate between 159th Street residents and the NYPD. Their efforts to portray the block residents as helpless victims caught between drug dealers and the police ring hollow though, in the face of the community residents organizing themselves to take care of their own problems.

In this situation, the politicians are not being "neutral" as they may claim, but in fact are trying to help the NYPD impose their will on residents who have clearly said they can solve their own problems and have put in place a program to do so.

All New Yorkers should learn from the residents of 159th Street and organize themselves to oppose the growing police state the ruling class is imposing under Giuliani.

## It's a crime, not a tragedy

*Diallo's killing shows it's no accident that cops protect the rich, punish the poor.*

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

The following is excerpted from an article written by political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal on Feb. 10, 1999.



**A** YOUNG woman, engulfed in a diabetic coma while sitting in her car, is repeatedly shot by a corps of cops, who say they are threatened by the young woman.

Tyisha Miller, of Riverside, California, becomes a statistic.

A young man sitting in his car in North Philly is surrounded by a phalanx of armed cops, whose guns are pointed at him from all points. He is ordered to raise his hands. When he does so, he is shot to death by one of the cops, who insists he thought he saw a gun. The 18-year-old is unarmed.

Donta Dawson becomes a statistic.

An emigrant from the West African nation of Guinea comes to America, taking an apartment in New York's Bronx borough. When four NYPD cops approach his door, reportedly because of a suspected rape (he was not a suspect), he is shot at 41 times. Nineteen shots hit him.

Amadou Diallo was unarmed, and will never return to West Africa.

In case after case after case, in city after city, from coast to coast, such cases arise with alarming regularity, worsened by the realization that, in most cases, cops who have committed these acts, that if committed by others would constitute high crimes, will face no serious prosecution, if any prosecution at all.

They are, the corporate media assures us, "just doing their jobs," "under an awful lot of pressure," or "in fear," and therefore justified in what they do. In the language of the media, the very media that make their millions off of the punishment industry calling for the vilest sentences known to man, turn, in the twinkling of an eye, into paragons of mercy, who lament that the "fine young men" who "served their community" are in "trouble" or have "suffered enough."

The suffering of the slain, because they are young, and Black, are all but forgotten in this unholy algebra that devalues Black life, while heightening the worth of the assailants because they work for the state.

The worst lie that is often trotted out when such cases occur is when politicians and media people sing the praises of such people, who are called, by virtue of their jobs, "public servants." Since when have servants (of any kind) acted in the vile, arrogant, monstrous manner that many of these cops do in Black, Hispanic, and poor communities? Since when have such servants been in the position to slaughter, shoot, humiliate and imprison the very public they are



Rev. Al Sharpton, here with Amadou Diallo's father Saikou, rode a groundswell of anger and protest by a cross-section of New Yorkers that pushed back against the criminalization of Blacks, immigrants, and the poor.

sworn to serve?

They serve the interests of capital, of the wealthy, of those who run this system from their bank vaults and corporate offices.

They do not serve the poor, the powerless, nor the uninfluential. They never have.

They are an armed force organized to protect the interests of the established, and those who own capital. The history of labor in this country is splattered by the blood of trade unionists who were beaten, shot and crushed to the earth for striking against the trusts, combinations, and megacorporations of capital.

Who did the beating? The shooting? The crushing?

The cops, who served the interests of a state that declared, as did the Supreme

Court, that unions were "criminal conspiracies," and that "the Constitution was ... based upon the concept that the fundamental private rights of property are anterior to government and morally beyond the reach of popular majorities."

Capital's voice (the media) and their agents (the politicians) unite in a chorus of support for their legalized killers, who bomb babies with impunity (remember May 13, 1985—Philadelphia), who shoot unarmed kids in their cars, and unarmed African emigrants, whose only capital crime is being Black in modern-day America.

This legalized violence that they do daily proves that violence is not a problem to the system—when it is theirs against the people. This awful crime must cease.

LATER THIS MONTH--THE ELECTION ISSUE COMPLETE COVERAGE OF THE STUDENT ELECTIONS. WILL THE MESSENGER BE SHUT DOWN AGAIN?