

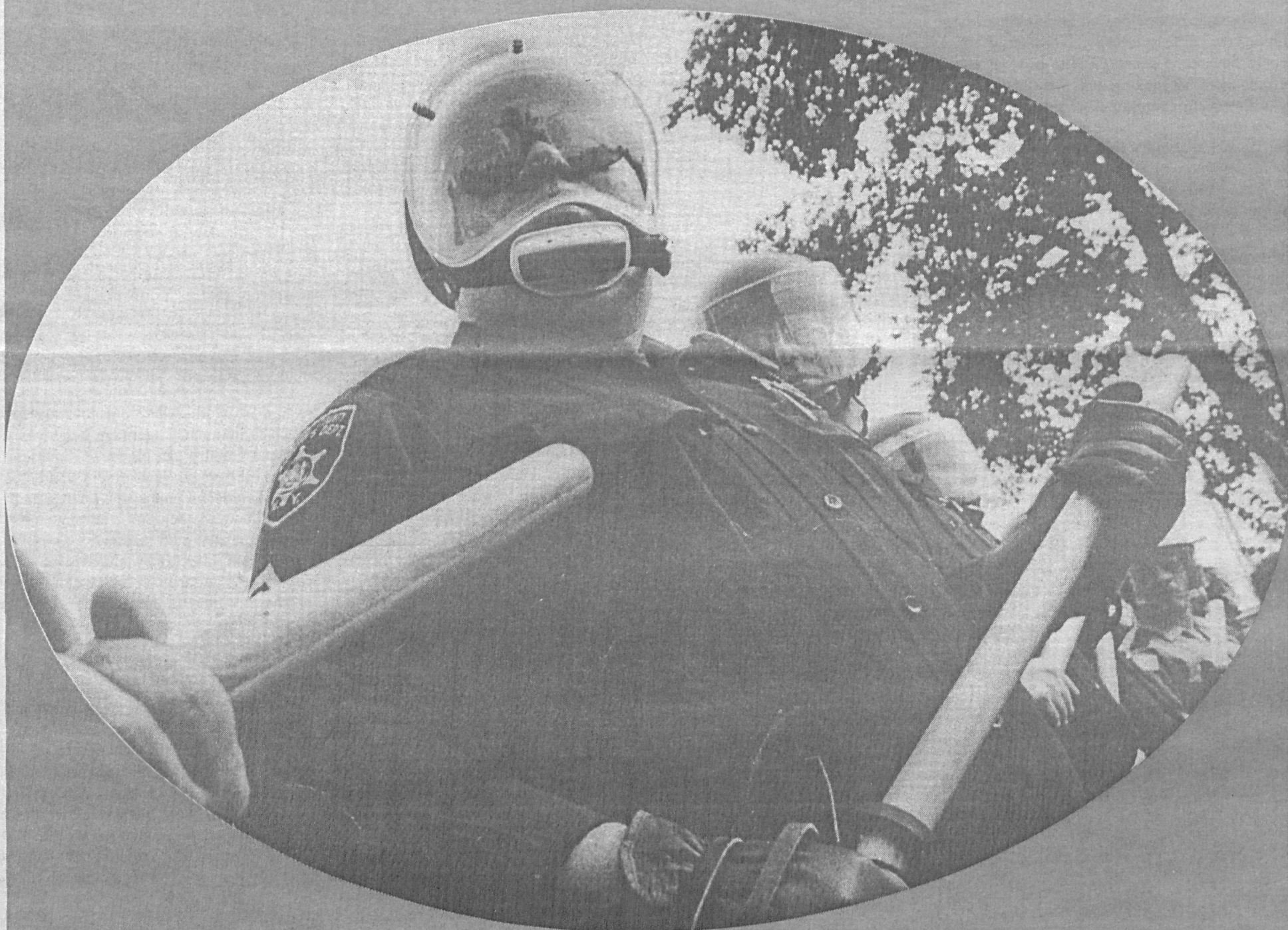


VP DICKMEYER BAILS ★ CCNY PROTESTS COPS ★
DOMINICANOS 2000 PHOTOS ★ NEWS SHORTS ★
NY STATE CHOOSES INCARCERATION OVER EDUCATION

THE MESSENGER

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER VOL. 2 NO. 4 MARCH 2000 UNIVERSITY OF HARLEM

Rudy Giuliani's idea of a civil rights worker



"It is certainly not an exaggeration to say about you, that in the best sense of the word and in the most important sense of the word, you're civil rights workers."

—Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to a graduating class of 1,224 new police officers on February 22, 2000.

***The Messenger* shines
a spotlight on cops**

New administration, same old story

We are deeply disturbed by recent edicts and actions by our administration. They come at a time when the college is extremely vulnerable, suffering from years of financial starvation and from baseless attacks by the mayor, governor, and the claue of media that follow them. Although we recognize that a college must undergo continual self-evaluation and change, our present administration has engaged in behavior that can only damage our great institution.

Many of the administration's actions violate the college's long democratic vision of faculty governance and decision-making.

The administration is now making curricular decisions, taking it upon itself to close courses in the schedule without proper consultation with the [department] chairs.

It is making decisions on admissions, turning away ESL students who ordinarily would have been accepted. The provost has reported that the decisions were made by a "working committee" composed of two administrators and one faculty member, ignoring faculty responsibility for changes in admissions policy.

The administration has announced that it will develop means "of evaluating the quality and appropriateness" of Independent Study projects, once again adopting a top-down management approach and side-stepping faculty curriculum responsibilities.

The administration also has attacked the faculty directly. It has reviewed teaching loads, faculty member by faculty member, and has taken away the released

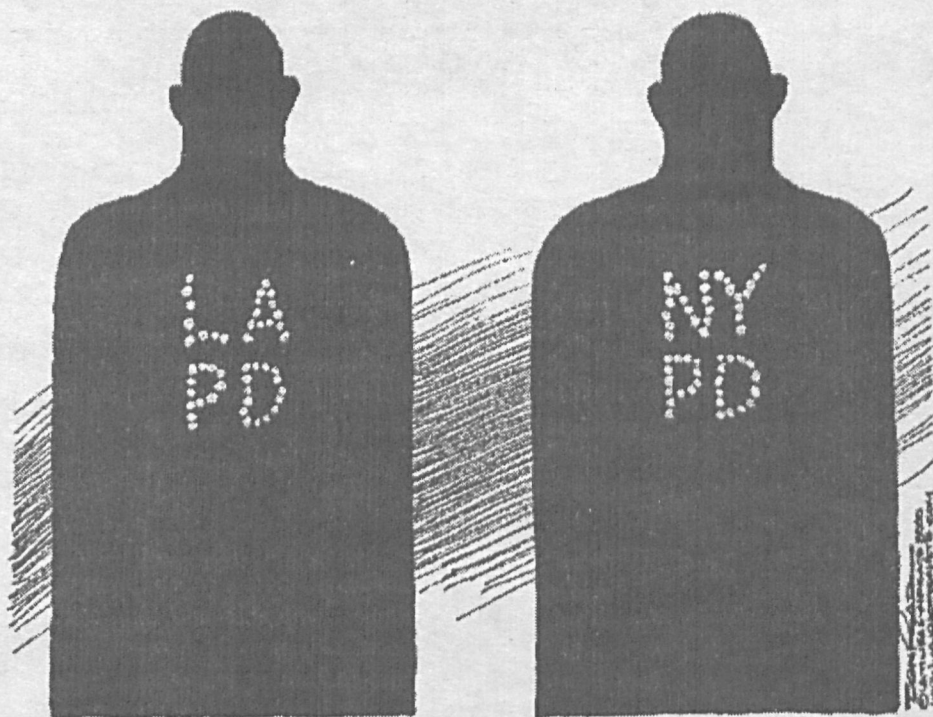
time of nearly 20 percent of the faculty—often unfairly. The entire process, apparently the result of pressure from 80th Street, is demeaning and insulting. It is lowering faculty morale, prompting outstanding young faculty to take positions elsewhere, and is resulting in the loss of valuable part-time faculty.

The new climate of demoralization and anger can only produce adverse consequences. Instead of advancing the goal of greater faculty effort, it contributes to the opposite. What seems to have been overlooked is the importance of faculty's voluntary work on committees, new course development, research supervision, and many other aspects of the college's overall needs. It is vital that the administration recognize the tremendous strength of its faculty.

It may be that there is no way to move the college forward with the resources we have at present. However, we have seen no administrative campaign to generate significant new funding. We believe that instead of trying to micromanage faculty decision-making, the administration needs to refocus its energies on the tasks it can perform best.

The vast majority of the faculty have a deep loyalty to the college and will fight hard for it. To be effective, however, we must have a cooperative and collegial relationship with the administration. Improving the college must be a collaborative effort.

In short, how can the college teach its students to value the practices of democracy, when it refuses to practice democratic values?
—BILL CRAIN



RACIAL PROFILING

Media Board Funds *The Messenger*

The Messenger is receiving funding this semester from the City College Media Board, the organization that oversees student media outlets: specifically *The Campus*, *The Paper*, SAME TV, and WCCR Radio.

We thank the Media Board for supporting us and realizing that diversity in media is essential to the college community.

So what does this mean in terms of the paper? Practically speaking, it means that we can concentrate on putting out a quality newspaper instead of scrounging for

funding. It means that we can devote more space to supporting campus life and events, as we can now publish what we can produce as opposed to what we can afford.

It also means that *The Messenger* is your paper. You can keep us going by sending letters, stories, news or anything else important to the college community. Lastly, you should support the Media Board members also for having the guts to stick up for fellow journalists and doing their part to get the information out.

letters

Continue the Diallo Protests

It matters not what color, creed, religion, or national origin to which the citizens of New York, the USA, or the world belong, the killing of Amadou Diallo by NYC police officers should pierce the hearts and consciences of all people, especially mothers.

If anyone has a son, brother, nephew, friend, acquaintance, could one not imagine the pain that such an action by police generated? Can everyone not feel the helplessness, anger, and utter despair of the parents of Amadou Diallo?

We as responsible human beings need to continue the protests so that the voices fill the air all the way to the White House, the House, the Senate, and the United Nations. We have not moved beyond the 1950s or 1960s. We as responsible human beings and political leaders must address the training of the members of the police department.

At the very least, an Associate Degree should be required for acceptance. Each incoming member of the police department should be required to undergo psychological evaluation by a team of psychologists or psychiatrists.

America has earned the reputation of being the most powerful nation on the planet. America rejoices that the Soviet Union has been dismantled, criticizes human rights violations in China, and rushes to end the atrocities in Bosnia, Kosovo, and other areas of the world. America bombs Iraq because it objects to its government's actions.

America intervenes in so many more

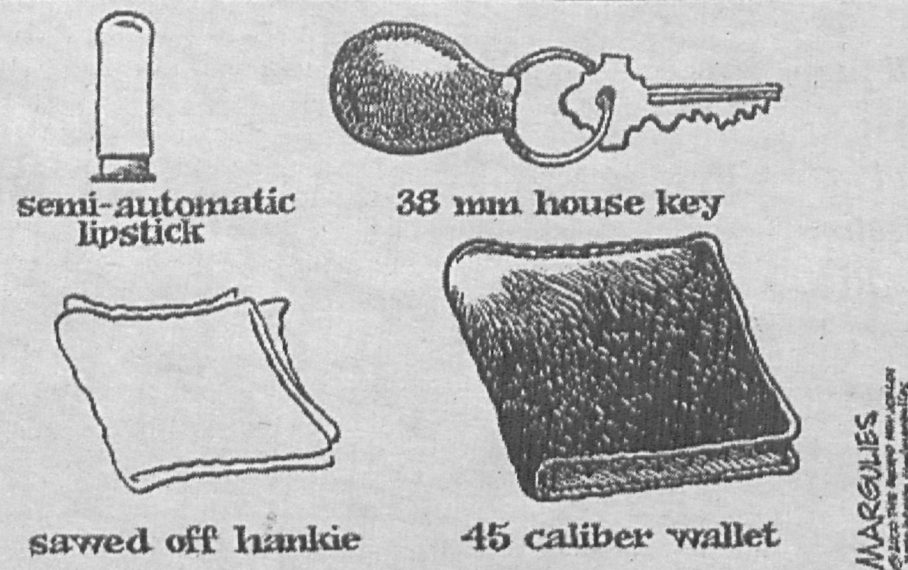
areas of the world where our government perceives inhumane treatment occurring. But what country can object to America because all over our land Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, and gays are killed and jailed without the benefit of fair and conscientious legal representation?

Let us stand up for justice, fairness, and an end to discrimination to non-Caucasians in America. Let us continue to remind white America that Africans, Native Americans, and other people of color built this country. Let us re-write history to acknowledge the contributions of all people to the making of America.

Blacks, Latinos, Asians, and others who have been denied free access to jobs, housing, education, and freedom to travel without fear in the US should be enraged. Let all the voices ring like a mighty thunder through the land and the world.

—Edith Williams
Yonkers, NY

NYPD weapons identification training



THE MESSENGER
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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.

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CCNY Protests Killer Cops

By Mark Turner



At two campus events during the week after an Albany jury exonerated the four cops who murdered Amadou Diallo with a fusillade of 41 bullets, City College students, faculty, and staff members acted to protest the outrageous not-guilty verdict. They joined a movement of thousands who took to the streets in the Bronx, Midtown and at the United Nations to demand "Justice for Amadou."

Forty-plus people attended a teach-in on the Diallo case February 29. From the podium, Bill Crain of the Psychology Department read a moving statement by one of his students. Shumon Alam gave a political analysis, outlining the role of the police as defenders of capitalism who victimize Blacks and Latinos disproportionately in order to maintain a race- and class-biased order. He also proposed a rally against the New York Police Department recruiters on campus.

Matthew Richardson of the League for the Revolutionary Party supported this analysis, criticizing political, labor union and religious leaders who aimed to turn the widespread protest movement that arose after Diallo's killing last year toward voting for Democratic politicians, most of whom defend and fund the cops as much as Giuliani and the Republicans do. He also noted the overall ineffectiveness of commonly proposed reforms, like civilian review boards over the police or federal intervention. After a year of protests when thousands were chanting, "No Justice, No Peace," now that the absence of justice has been established, the leaders preach peace. Their concern is far more to control mass anger than to express and organize it.

Issues debated at the teach-in included why the prosecution had lost in Albany and why the trial had been moved away from the Bronx in the first place. Several speakers observed that the courts had ruled that a Bronx jury likely to include a majority of people of color who are rightfully suspicious of the police would be "biased," while a pro-cop, mainly white jury would be "unbiased."

During the discussion, a Black woman in the audience identified herself as a member of the NYPD who opposed the Diallo verdict and hoped to help reform the force from within. Others pointed out that police racism is inherent and not reformable, given the cops' role.

In the debate over where to go from

here, popular suggestions from the floor were abolishing the Street Crimes Unit and planning a "Million Person March" on Wall Street whenever the next police outrage occurs. If Rev. Al Sharpton had gone on TV with such a call, one speaker noted, the response would have been infinitely more powerful.

The proposed rally against police recruiters became a reality on Thursday, March 2. During club hours, several dozen students gathered in the NAC Rotunda planning to march to the NYPD recruiting table. But word came that the administration had advised the cops to take the day off so as not to become a target of a much larger angry assemblage.

The need for continuing and vastly stronger protests was brought home by another police murder. On the night of March 1st, police in the Soundview area of the Bronx, a few blocks from where Amadou Diallo had been shot, killed another unarmed young Black man, Mal-



Professor Carol Lang addressing the crowd at the speakout in the NAC building February 29.

colm Ferguson, with a single shot to the back of the head. Ferguson had been a high-profile protester against the Diallo cops and had filed a five-million-dollar lawsuit against the NYPD for breaking his hand while arresting him. In the light of the teach-in discussion, it's worth noting that the cop who shot Ferguson was Latino.

The rally ended with a call for a CCNY contingent to the Thursday evening demonstration in Soundview to protest the execution of Malcolm Ferguson. **M**

Mark Turner is on the staff of the Math Department and a supporter of the League for the Revolutionary Party.

The Diallo Verdict: Turning Rage into a Movement

By David Thurston



The Diallo verdict was a slap in the face. For days, the words "not guilty" burned in my gut. I had expected to be angry. I would have been angry if they had been convicted only on lesser charges. But suddenly four lying, vicious murderers were going free, and an absolutely ominous signal was being sent.

They claimed the murder was a mistake, that any cop could have made it. As the judge took pains to explain to the jury, cops do indeed have a license to kill.

But while the verdict is a defeat for ordinary people and a go-ahead to depraved police thugs, the tide is turning in a fundamental way. Most people in New York were disgusted by the verdict. An overwhelming number of people, including whites, now recognize that the cops are racist. In Chicago, police brutality was seen by a majority of people as a more serious problem than crime.

This is a huge change in American politics that cannot be over-emphasized. The watershed victory against the death penalty in Illinois is significant in this context.

For years, playing up one's support for the death penalty has seemed like a quick way to score political points. In his first bid for President, Bill Clinton returned to Arkansas to witness the execution of a mentally disabled Black man, Ricky Ray Rector. Not only was Clinton "tough on crime," he was willing to go all the way.

Now we have a pro-death penalty Republican putting a halt to executions in Illinois. Not even George Ryan could ignore the 13 innocent men released from that state's death row. After years of allowing Clinton to put a smiling face on Republican policy, liberals are acting like liberals again. Jesse Jackson Jr. has put a bill in Congress for a seven-year moratorium. In states across the country, small groups of activists, and even politicians

have launched calls for local moratoriums.

What this represents is the breakdown of one of the most important political weapons of the rich and powerful. For years, crime hysteria has been the justification for putting more and more cops on the streets and incarcerating Blacks and Latinos at heart-stopping rates. In the early 1990s, many Blacks supported the paramilitary-style policing that has led to LA's unfolding police corruption scandal

and to the horrors of New York's Street Crime Unit. Something had to be done about crime—or so the argument ran.

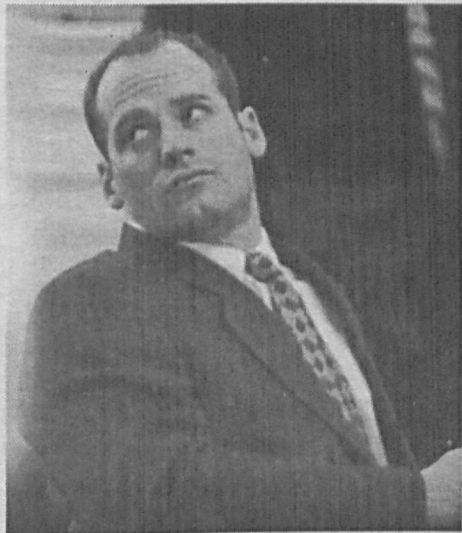
Yet increasingly brutal policing and incarceration had little to do with fighting crime. Tough-on-crime policy was a means for politicians to deflect attention from social issues like education and health care. Had they been serious about crime prevention, they might have tried creating jobs, building schools, or funding drug rehabilitation programs.

Today, the politicians' lies are breaking down. Sentiment is turning against them as the facts are getting out. When people understand how racist and class-biased the death penalty is, they no longer support it.

For years, politicians have gotten away with scapegoating "criminals" and "welfare queens" for society's problems. They have justified systematically shifting money into prison construction and out of public education. They have put more and more cops on the streets, while the gap between Wall Street and the rest of us has grown wider. For years, politicians have gotten away with this—they do not have to get away with it any longer. **M**

The author is a member of the ISO and serves on the coordinating committee of United Students Against Sweatshops.

"The terror that some of us have is that if we don't channel this into a solution, this will fizzle, and there will be a sense of frustration and increased polarization."
— Dennis Rivera, president of Local 1199



That's right—watch your back, officer Edward McMellon. (Reuters - Pool)



New York City police officer Sean Carroll praying for his soul in the Albany County Courthouse. (Reuters - Pool)

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Tricky Dick splits City

Vice President Dickmeyer resigns. Dean Kogut on the way out. Onward to VP Morales!

by Rob Wallace

Late last semester Vice President for Finance and Management Nathan Dickmeyer resigned.

He has taken a similar position at Mercy College where, according to Dickmeyer, he has "a wonderful opportunity to work with a President who has been a business officer, someone I have known for over twenty years." Mercy is a private liberal arts college based in Dobbs Ferry, Westchester. Barbara Gliwa, Associate Dean of the Sophie Davis Medical School, has replaced Dickmeyer in the interim.

Dickmeyer's last day at CCNY was December 31, 1999. A review of Dickmeyer's tenure shows why the Vice President was not quite Y2K compliant.

Administrative Jockeying

Upon his hire under then-president Yolanda Moses, Dickmeyer quickly developed a power base in the administration. As many of the problems Moses faced those first few years were budgetary in nature, with \$18 million in cuts to CCNY's budget alone, the president time and again called upon her VP for Finance and Management. Dickmeyer's influence on Moses extended beyond finance, probably in part because the rest of her cabinet was comprised of jellyfishes like Provost David Lavallee or repressive ruffians like Vice President for Student Affairs Thomas Morales.

Dickmeyer was able to parlay that influence into greater jurisdiction. For example, Dickmeyer ran Lavallee off the road, folding Academic Computing, which oversees the computerized records system, now SIMS, under Finance and Management. According to Professor Gary Benenson of Mechanical Engineering, Lavallee, "increasingly felt himself to be 'out of the loop.'" Since Dickmeyer's departure, Academic Computing has been placed under the provost once more.

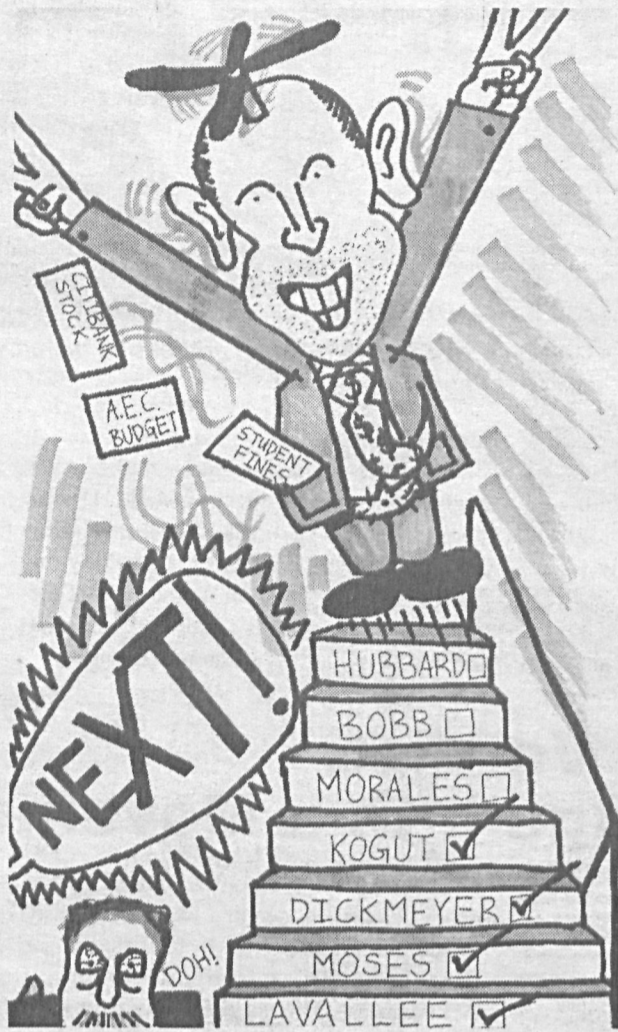
That propensity for exercising muscle apparently caught up with Dickmeyer when Stanford Roman took over the presidency. As described in the December *Messenger*, Dickmeyer attempted to railroad CUNYCard past students, staff, faculty, and even Roman, keeping him in the dark about a scheduled CUNYCard implementation. A reportedly infuriated Roman canceled the implementation.

Asked by *The Messenger* whether Roman forced his resignation over the CUNYCard debacle, Dickmeyer responded, "President Roman certainly did not want me to resign. [Leaving] was my choice."

Even so, the days of a campus-based big man may be over for now as CUNY Central has placed City College into a kind of receivership. It seems not even Roman calls the shots now.

Fiscal Death-Dealing

A good fiscal thanatologist, Dickmeyer was adept at accounting and presenting City College's yearly financial massacres. Dickmeyer printed an informative Finance and Management newsletter and maintained a sharp website. He also promptly answered any e-mail queries from students and faculty, including from the



hated *Messenger*.

Dickmeyer was also cooperative on physical plant issues, including following many of the recommendations provided for in a 1998 report from Student Ombudsman Keeanga Taylor on the NAC Building's environmental problems. This reporter worked as Taylor's assistant.

"Dickmeyer was not a barrier to the

things I needed to do," Rafael Dominguez, president of the Undergraduate Student Government, told *The Messenger*, high praise for a CCNY administrator.

But Dickmeyer, conscious or not, often displayed a tin ear for the budget's political economy. He refused to connect the perpetual bleeding of City College's budget to concerted attacks from the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees, the mayor and the governor. When queried by *Messenger* e-mail whether CCNY was targeted with \$18 million in budget cuts because of the racial makeup of its students, Dickmeyer, whitewashing the obvious, replied, "All colleges have the potential for deficits because their aspirations should be larger than their resources. City College was never an exception."

Still, at times, at least in private, Dickmeyer surprised. Professor Benenson told *The Messenger*, "Of all the people in the top administration, I felt he was the only one who genuinely disagreed with the direction of the University under Badillo and company."

"By a slip of the tongue, I once referred to the Schmidt Commission as the 'Shit Commission', and Dickmeyer laughed and said, 'That's a better name

for them,'" recalled Benenson. The Schmidt Commission, convened by Mayor Giuliani, offered a prefabricated, negative report about CUNY last year.

AEC Shenanigans

But Dickmeyer's faults were not just ideological in nature. As an administrator he often very much acted against student interests.

A good example of the latter is the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation. Dickmeyer chaired the AEC, a not-for-profit corporation set up by the college to hire vendors like Pepsi (vending machines), Barnes and Noble (bookstore), and Metropolitan Food Services (cafeteria). The AEC Board, comprised of administrators, faculty and student government officials, annually allocates the college's portion of vendor revenues to campus organizations, typically over \$200,000.

AEC is in many ways a scam. Year after year administrators are able to "win" thousands of dollars in AEC grants at the expense of student proposals by engaging in a practice political junkies know as bundling. Administrators ask for AEC grants under different names. For example, in 1998 AEC gave \$20,000 to the Goldman Center, \$5000 to Dean Fred Kogut for an honors convocation, \$2164 for a Citizenship Project, \$9000 to the Child Development Center, \$4500 to the Student Service Corporation, \$3755 for the Office of Disabled Students, \$5000 to Dean Paul Bobb for his dreadful "Civil City" project, \$4000 to CCNY Safety Service, and \$2500 to Athletics for office supplies.

continued on page 12

Are the newbies boobies?

Replacing VP for Finance and Management Dickmeyer is Barbara Gliwa, Associate Dean at the Sophie Davis Medical School. Though it seems unfair that Gliwa was plopped into such an important position on little notice, her apparent inexperience, disorganization and indecision, as well as on the part of Ira Blumenreich from Fiscal Planning, led to late budget allocations for departments early this semester.

This in turn led to late payments to some adjuncts as budget lines were topsyturvy into the first week of class. This writer, an adjunct lecturer, didn't receive his first check of the semester until the second week of March, a violation of the faculty contract. Adjuncts typically live from check to check as it is. Making them wait for six weeks for their first check is disgraceful. What is City College, Russia?

Zeev Dagan, a professor in Mechanical Engineering, is the new Provost. Formerly a Deputy Provost, Dagan replaces David Lavallee, now Provost at SUNY New Paltz. It seems Dagan's heavy-handed ways, including forcing an increase in full-time faculty workload, heavy as it already is, have really pissed faculty off (see Bill Crain's editorial this issue).

One faculty told *The Messenger*, "Professor Dagan has generated a great deal of resentment among the faculty and

lower administration. Humanities has had four deans in less than a year. Deans of several other divisions have announced their resignations, and many department chairs are considering doing so. The substantial segment of the faculty that really work hard feel that they are not appreciated, and are highly demoralized. Many more faculty are thinking of retirement than before."

By extracting productivity gains from full-time faculty, Dagan was able to spearhead a bloody mass firing of adjuncts at the beginning of the semester. While CUNY students deserve more full-time faculty, whipping harder what full-timers are left is just dumb. Instead, money should be deployed in hiring many of the adjuncts as full-timers.

Other replacements abound. The latest Humanities dean is Professor Jim Watts of the History Department. At a joint meeting of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Council Watts proclaimed his support for a resolution that called for forgoing the extra year of remediation provided for by the Board of Regents. As described in last month's *Messenger*, the resolution was defeated.

George Ranalli, formerly of Yale, took over the deanship at the School of Architecture and Environmental Studies. Professor Alfred Posamentier was named



Provost Zeev Dagan gets an "A" (for aggravation) from faculty.

interim dean of the besieged School of Education. William DiBrienza has returned as CCNY's Director of Admissions, a position he held in the 1970s. He replaces Laurie Austin, who is now Director of Recruitment at CUNY Central. Mary Lou Edmondson, formerly of the American Museum of Natural History, is now CCNY's Assistant Vice President of Communication.

The Messenger wishes all the new hires luck. Good luck when helping students. Bad luck when instituting destructive policies dictated by the mayor, governor, Board of Trustees or chancellor. And as CCNY has been placed in a kind of receivership under CUNY Central, some of the newbies may be doing plenty of the latter. —RW

Schools or Jails for New York State?

by Marcela Putnam



New York continues to spend more money on prisons than it does on education. While this year's budget includes a paltry 2% increase for CUNY's senior colleges, it also includes \$40 million reduction in TAP funding. In 1998, Governor E. Pataki cut \$8.6 million from CUNY's budget as well as \$17.32 million from the SUNY budget while he continues to construct new prisons.

According to a report released by the Justice Policy Institute, New York State is spending almost double what it did to run its prisons a decade ago and is shifting the cost of running CUNY to New York City and its students. In 1988, the state spent more than twice as much on universities as it did on prisons; now the state spends \$275 million more on prisons than on state and city colleges. The report says: "In actual dollars, there has nearly been an equal trade-off, with the Department of Correctional Services receiving a \$761 million increase [between 1988-1998] while state funding for New York's city and state university systems has declined by \$615 million."

Students at New York's colleges have been hit the hardest by budget cuts. They are now faced with an increased tuition, hikes in incidental fees, and cuts in stu-

dent aid. According to data compiled by the Student Association of State Universities, tuition has been rising above the rate of inflation since 1991: 1995-98 have seen the biggest jumps in tuition in New York history. CUNY tuition doubled during the decade and now provides nearly half of the operating budget, up from 18% in 1988.

The skyrocketing prison population is a result of New York State's Rockefeller Drug Laws and similar severe laws in effect all around the nation. The Rockefeller Laws require a minimum prison term of fifteen years to life for a person convicted of selling two ounces of a narcotic or of possessing four ounces of drugs.

California, which has the largest prison system of any state, enforces the "three strikes" law, which requires a life sentence for individuals convicted of three felonies. This law has led to life sentences for offenses as petty as stealing a \$20 bottle of vitamins. These laws have been wide-

ly condemned as costly and ineffective.

The U.S. Department of Justice revealed that the number of people behind bars in the United States reached 1.8 million at the end of 1998. Fifty-three percent of the inmates sentenced by state courts were convicted of nonviolent drug, property, or public offenses. Barry McCaffrey, the retired general who directed the White House's drug control policy, said that these harsh sentencing laws "have caused thousands of low-level and first-time offenders to be incarcerated at high cost

for long sentences that are disproportionate to their crimes."

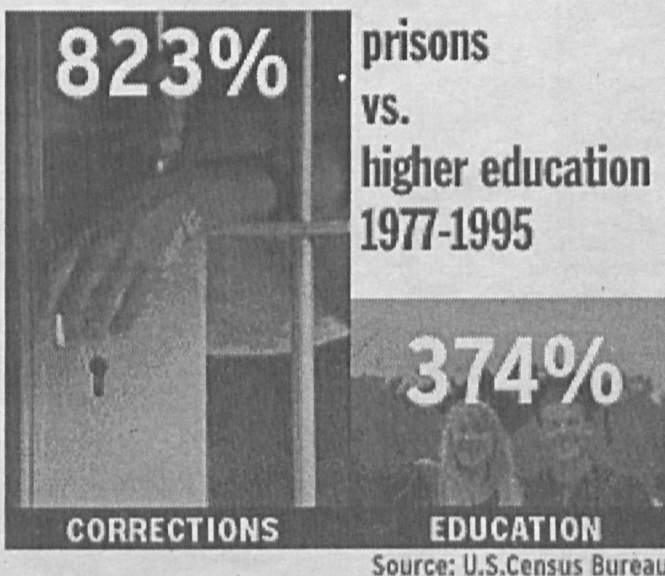
Despite a continuing drop in crime rates, The United States still has the world's largest prison population. People of color are the most affected by the nation's "tough on crime" policies. These enforcement strategies usually target street-level drug dealers and users from low-income, predominately minority, urban areas resulting in higher arrest rates for people of color.

While African-Americans and Latinos make up about 25% of the New York State population, they represent 83% of the people in its prisons and a startling 92% of the people in New York City's jails. There are now more Blacks and Latinos in New York's prisons than there are in the state's universities.

The report recommends repealing the Rockefeller Drug Laws, increasing funding to treatment programs (which are less costly than jail), and increasing funding for public colleges. The report concludes: "The high cost of incarcerating petty drug offenders puts a heavy strain on the state's resources which would be better spent on keeping CUNY a viable, well-funded and accessible institution." **M**

See the entire report online at the Justice Policy Institute's website: <http://www.cjci.org/jpi>, under the "Clearinghouse" section.

Spending growth



news shorts

News from CUNY...

Medgar Evers student gov't suspended, then reinstated

CUNY Emergency Legal Defense Project Attorney Ron McGuire reports that on March 2 Medgar Evers College President Edison O. Jackson suspended the student government for the remainder of its term of office. According to McGuire, the suspension was without any notification or hearing, as CUNY Bylaws require whenever a student or student organization is suspended by a college administrator.

President Jackson's letter announcing his decision accused the student government of "a litany of actions during this academic year that proved detrimental to the institution," but the only specific charge made was the supposed use of vulgar language by unspecified members during a trip to Albany. However, the letter does not identify the individuals allegedly involved or describe the circumstances.

The students told McGuire they believed that the suspension was a reaction to their attempts to reform the government and make it less dependent on the college administration.

Medgar Evers College President Edison Jackson subsequently rescinded his order on March 11 suspending the Student Government after the members of the government informed him that they would pursue their legal remedies if the suspension were not rescinded.

Hey, Matt, can we borrow \$5 'til payday?

The Baruch Ticker reported on 2/23 that the CUNY Board of Trustees approved a plan to provide an across the board pay raise for presidents of all its colleges effective May 1st. The plan will introduce

a tiered pay scale for the first time: presidents currently make about \$136,000 regardless of what college they preside over.

Under the new plan, presidents of Research campuses (such as City) can earn up to \$201,000. Colleges offering Graduate programs will pay up to \$177,500; NYC Technical and Medgar Evers Presidents will earn a maximum of \$168,000; and heads of the community colleges will max out at \$162,000.

CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein feels that the salary change is necessary to recruit top-notch administrators. Other CUNY execs will receive salary boosts also, including Goldstein. He received a raise in September from \$178,523 to \$250,000. His check may now grow to a wallet-busting \$350,000 per year... Now that's what we call the miracle economy.

Hmm, that would put me in a new tax bracket

The siren song of more cash was not enough to entice Hunter College President David Caputo, who has resigned.

You go, girl!

CCNY freshman basketball standout Lauren Gargill battled back from a torn anterior cruciate ligament to become the CUNY women's conference leading scorer, NCAA Division III all-star, and land herself a nice feature article in *Newsday*.

... but not too far!

The aforementioned *Newsday* article reports that Gargill hoped to go to college outside New York. Some of the Division I and II schools that were interested in her before the injury may be willing to give

her a second look. We hope she stays right here ... *The Messenger* wants to see Lauren go to Brackettville, but why not take us with you?

It costs more now...

In an interview on CUNY-TV's (yes, there is such a channel...) MetroView, CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein (CCNY '63) reminisced about his time at CCNY and Martin Luther King, Jr., who delivered the commencement address to

National News...

"... The interests of justice would best be served by the granting of a new trial to Mumia Abu-Jamal."

The latest shot to be fired across the bow concerning the case of death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal comes from the human rights organization Amnesty International. AI conducted a thorough investigation of the available evidence, including the trial transcript and came to the following conclusion:

"The conviction and death sentence against Mumia Abu-Jamal illustrate many of Amnesty International's long-term concerns regarding the administration of capital punishment in the United States of America (USA). Many of those condemned to death in the USA have been sentenced after proceedings which violated international standards [emphasis added]. Concerns in this case include Mumia Abu-Jamal's inadequate legal representation at his 1982 trial; a trial judge apparently far more concerned to expedite the trial than to ensure the impartial and fair administration of justice; and the politicization of the judicial process and possible bias of the appeal courts."

the class of '63. King was actually the replacement speaker for Medgar Evers, who was killed shortly beforehand. Goldstein pointed out that "when we were at City the tuition was free and even that was too expensive! We were poor kids, and here was this chance to change our lives..." Classmate Bert Mitchell, now the CEO of the country's largest minority-owned accounting firm, pointed out that "in my case there were no more than six blacks in my [graduating] class."

Amnesty's report does not take a position on Abu-Jamal's guilt due to "contradictory and incomplete evidence" and has not identified him as a political prisoner, but the report does confirm much of what his supporters and death penalty opponents have been saying for a while now.

Amnesty International also indicts the infamous FBI-run COINTELPRO domestic counter-intelligence program, which also tracked Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. before their murders. Amnesty expressed "concern over the activities of a government counterintelligence program, which appeared to number Abu-Jamal among its targets... the organization is concerned that political statements attributed to [Abu-Jamal] as a teenager were improperly used by the prosecution in its efforts to obtain a death sentence against him."

The report concludes that "Amnesty International therefore believes that the interests of justice would best be served by the granting of a new trial to Mumia Abu-Jamal."

The entire report is available on the Internet at: <www.amnesty.org>. **M**

WANTED

for the murders of
Amadou Diallo, Malcolm Ferguson,
Patrick Dorismond, . . .



Kenneth Boss



Richard Murphy

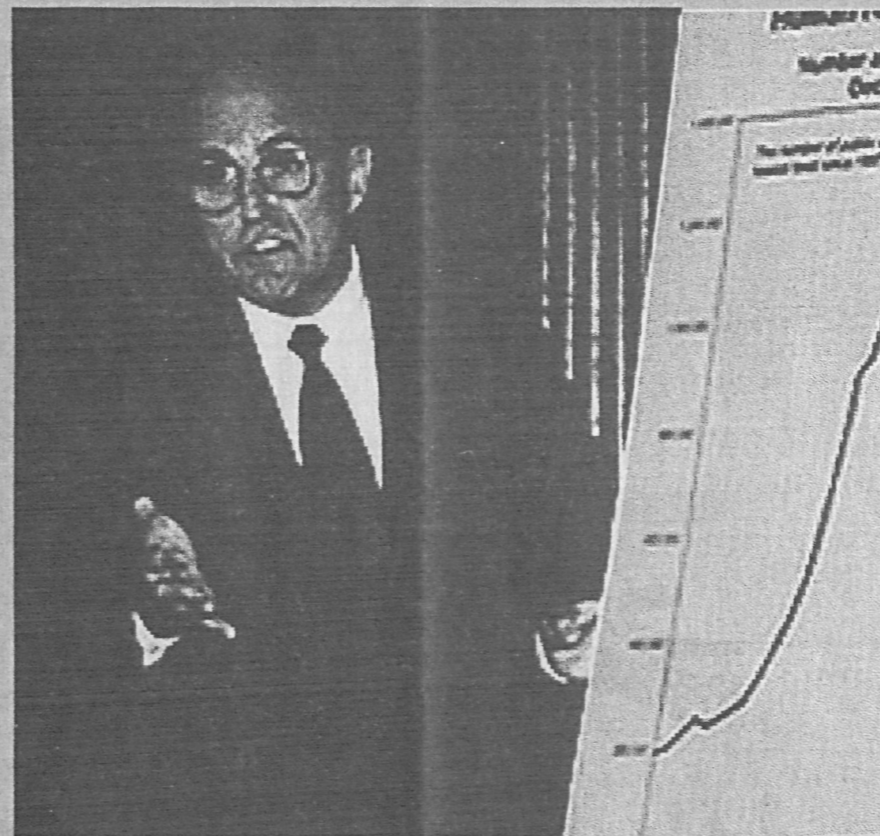


Sean Carroll



Edward McMellon

and especially:



Rudolph Giuliani

These men are to be considered very dangerous. They often will be seen associating with gang members, distinguishable by their dark blue gang colors. If you see any of these men, DO NOT call the police! Call your local community or campus activist group and get involved in organizing to stop this racist wave of murder and brutality.

A public service message brought to you by *The Messenger*

Showtime at the Apollo: Death Penalty Protest Hits Gore and Bradley Debate in Harlem

by Hank Williams

"I don't disagree with anything that Senator Bradley just said. But let me sharpen it a little bit for my part...": Al Gore during the Apollo Theater Debate with Bill Bradley

On February 20, while there was still a question as to who the Democratic Party Presidential candidate would be, Al Gore and Bill Bradley attended a raucous debate in New York at the Apollo Theater. Gore's quote sums up the mood of the event, where the candidates spent more time splitting hairs over minor differences on issues than putting forth concrete proposals or innovative solutions.

The proceeding had more of the feeling of a dog-and-pony show than of a serious debate of the issues facing the nation as a whole and the African-American community in particular (much less Latinos who now constitute a large part of Harlem). Just like at the usual Wednesday night Apollo shows, part of the entertainment was provided by the audience—both inside and outside the theater. While Bradley dropped out of the campaign weeks ago, Gore's answers are still relevant.

The Protest

The candidates were greeted by a group of over 100 people protesting against the death penalty and pointing out that Bradley and Gore both support capital punishment (see "The Democrats and the Death Penalty" and "Legal Lynching").

Lee Weingraf of the Campaign to End

the Death Penalty said, "We came out here to tell Gore and Bradley that we're here to end the racist death penalty and I think we got the message across."

Ariealla Ghanouni told *The Messenger*, "What we're doing here is to say, look, they're here debating race relations and urban issues and one of the most racist aspects of our society is the death penalty. Why not take a stand for justice, take a stand against racism?"

Also at the rally was former Black Panther Lawrence Hayes, who, like Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, was released from prison after a long sentence for a murder he didn't commit. Hayes is sure that a moratorium on the death penalty followed by a proper investigation would "clearly

show that the criminal justice system is racist. It is too racist to allow for the death penalty to be instituted in America."

Hayes added: "we must face the fact that police officers are human and human beings make mistakes, but they are people who make mistakes with guns and the authority of the state and we must end that now."

Crime

Gore pledged to "continue reducing the crime rate," and stated that "community policing is a good strategy," while calling the Diallo and Louima cases "heartbreaking."

However when *Time Magazine's* Karen Tumulty cornered Gore on the

issue of the bloated inmate population (two-thirds of whom are Black or Latino) at a time of low crime rates, thanks to the Clinton Administration's tougher crime laws, Gore admitted that "the long-term answer is much more prevention."

Race Relations

At times, Gore seemed simply to be confused or possibly caught up in his own obfuscation, interrupting his answer to a question regarding race relations to "acknowledge the presence [in the audience] of Martin Luther King III." Gore followed this by observing that it was "the 35th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X," thus proving that he can read an encyclopedia.

Gore and Bradley both proposed national laws prohibiting racial profiling, though neither offered any concrete plan as to how it could be implemented or how effective it might be. Murder and sodomy are illegal already; that didn't stop Diallo's murder or Abner Louima's brutalization.

Employment Opportunity and the Economy

Gore seemed to want to have it both ways on this issue. He noted that the wealth of the average African-American or Latino family is less than one-tenth that of the average white family, while boasting that "We have created in the last seven years, 20 million new jobs in America and the lowest African-American unemployment rate and poverty rate in history."

Gore's answer went unchallenged, so there was no explanation of the inherent contradictions: is the system working or not? If the unemployment and poverty rate is the lowest in history, why is there such a great disparity in wealth?

The question of financial reparations for slavery was also raised—not surprising considering the recent agreement to pay (paltry) cash settlements to Holocaust survivors.

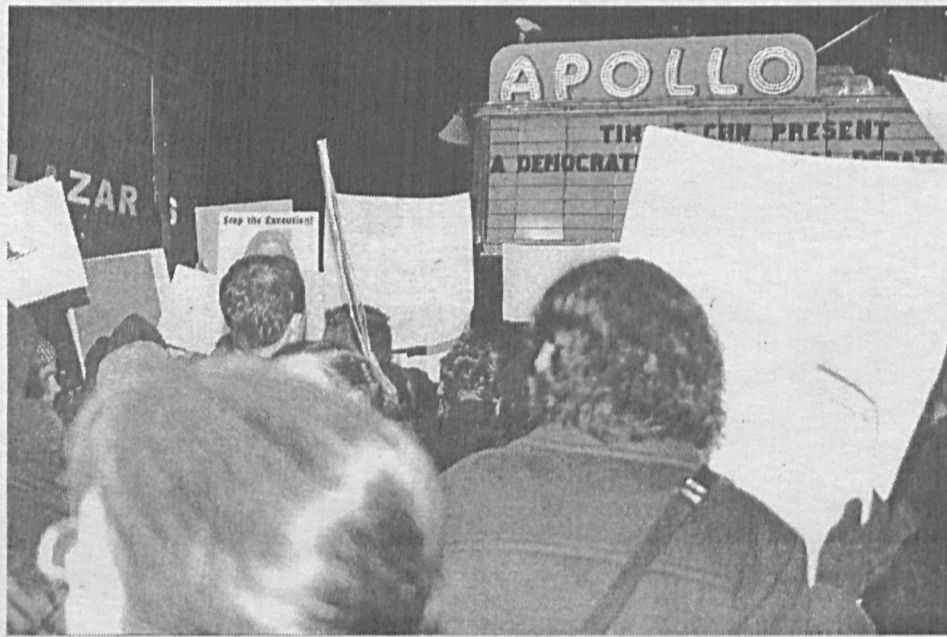
Gore does not support reparations, calling instead for "massive investments in education and economic empowerment," adding that "acknowledging the contributions of African-Americans to this country's history" was equally important.

Acknowledgement is fine but it doesn't pay the rent. The average person may not care whether Philip Morris acknowledges that their wealth was earned largely off the backs of exploited labor, but they are looking for real solutions to their problems, and none were offered. Gore supports the continuation of affirmative action.

Education

Gore opposes the use of vouchers (which Mayor Giuliani and likely Republican Presidential candidate George W. Bush support) to allow public school children to offset the cost of attending a private school. He pointed out that vouchers further weaken already cash starved public schools by draining funds from them. Another question is how much help vouchers really are for students in need. A voucher for \$3,200 per year would only provide a CUNY student with about 15% the cost of Columbia or NYU.

Gore advocated "giving families help in paying college tuition," but offered few details. Of course, New York City had a solution, which was free tuition in CUNY



Demonstrators outside the Gore/Bradley debate on February 20.

Legal Lynching—Blacks Preferred

By Shumon Alam



The "whites only" signs have been removed from the glass windows of the stores, the separate water fountains have been merged into one and the schools have been desegregated in the hope that children of all races will mingle together in the happy American melting pot. The American dream ended with a rude awakening into a realization that the ghosts of slavery and Jim Crow are still haunting the country.

The blunt social racism has now turned into a systematic one. Today Blacks are not being lynched in broad daylight by a white mob, but everyday they are being discriminated against by the criminal justice system. Cops are emptying their guns on Black citizens and justifying their actions by saying that the person was in the dark and looked like he was holding a gun. Courts are sending many Blacks to prison without a fair trial. The U.S. prison system is disproportionately filled with young Black men. Like many other practices of the criminal justice system, from jury selection, to conviction, and execution, capital punishment is also tainted by the evil of racial prejudice.

In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court declared the death penalty unconstitutional as cruel and unusual punishment. The Court also stated that racial biases were also prevalent in handing out capital punishment. In 1976 when the death penalty was re-instituted, it became a nationwide tool to discriminate against African American capital case defendants. Even the

U.S. government has acknowledged the racial discrimination of Capital punishment. In a report published in 1990, the General Accounting office found a "pattern of evidence indicating racial disparities in the charging, sentencing and imposition of the death penalty."

According to Amnesty international, as of January 1, 1999, more than 3,500 prisoners are on death row and almost 42% of them are Black, although Blacks are only 25% of the population in the U.S. In the state of Maryland there are 17 people in death row and 11 of them are Black. In Maryland there have been only 2 executions since 1976 and both prisoners were Black. In the state of Alabama 60% of the 115 death row inmates are Black.

In the courtroom the color or ethnicity of the defendant and the victim play a major role in determining if he or she will live or die. After reviewing 2500 capital cases from the 1970s, Professor David Baldus concluded that a person accused of killing a white victim was 4.3 times more likely to be sentenced to death than a person accused of killing a Black victim. Of the 500 prisoners executed between 1977 and 1998, 81% were convicted for the murder of a white victim; even though Blacks and Whites are the victims of homicide in almost equal numbers nationwide. Since 1976, eight Whites were executed for killing a Black person, whereas, 112 Blacks were executed for the killing of a white person.

Even at the beginning of a capital case, inconsistency and blunt racial prejudices are evident. Knowing that the white jurors are more likely to give the death penalty to a Black defendant, prose-

cutors around the country try to eliminate all Black jurors through so-called peremptory challenges.

In the case of Albert Jefferson, a Black person who was convicted of the murder of a white victim in Chambers County, Alabama, the prosecutor had removed 26 potential Black jurors in order to obtain three all-white juries. Later Jefferson's lawyers discovered lists made by the prosecutor prior to jury selection, in which the prosecutor divided prospective jurors into four categories: "strong," "medium," "weak," and "Black."

The District Attorney of Philadelphia made a video tape to teach the prosecutors how to eliminate Black jurors in the capital case of a Black defendant. In the tape he stated "Let's face it, the Blacks from the low-income areas are less likely to convict. There's resentment to law enforcement. . . You don't want those guys on your jury. . . If you get a white teacher in a Black school who's sick of these guys, that may be the one to accept."

After having seen the movie *Hurricane*, most Americans probably patted themselves on the back and went home happy thinking that justice has been served. Unfortunately, hundreds of African-Americans are still waiting in the death houses and their stories are waiting to come out in public. The racial discrimination at every step of the criminal justice system has executed unimaginable numbers of African-Americans. Cynical minds may think that the cross burning bunch wearing white robes and hoods have almost ceased to exist because the criminal justice system has done better job killing the African American. **M**

The Democrats and the Death Penalty: Why Gore and Bradley Had Nothing to Debate

by Hank Williams

Vice President Al Gore:

"I do support the death penalty, but I . . . I . . . and I do not support a moratorium at this time. Senator Bradley's attacked me for not supporting the death penalty enough. . ."

Democratic Party Presidential candidate Bill Bradley:

"The most important thing that we can do now to deal with the disparity in the application of the death penalty with African Americans is to pass the racial justice act, which would, indeed, reduce that disparity."

In other words, both of them support the death penalty, which was halted in 1972 because it was found to be unfairly applied and calls for a moratorium are growing again nationally because it has again been found to be disproportionately applied to minorities and the poor.

If one looks at Bradley's quote, his ideas are truly frightening. He is more concerned with reducing the disparity in application of the death penalty, rather than making sure innocent people are not punished or stopping a practice that has drawn condemnation of the United States from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the United Nations.

The death penalty and criminal justice as it is currently applied is actually in violation of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The now-famous "Death Row 10" in Illinois were released

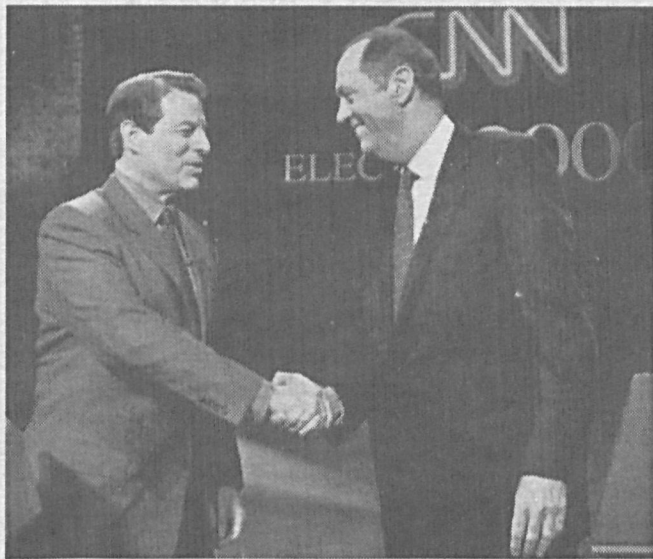
from prison and exonerated upon the finding of gross police misconduct, including torture to force confessions and inadequate legal representation, all of which violate the UN treaty.

The frightening part about all this is that it took an investigation by journalism students at Northwestern University and the *Chicago Tribune* to find the facts that have condemned the entire judicial system in the state of Illinois.

Gore's defense for not supporting a national moratorium on the death penalty was the following: "I think that the record that the—the governor of Illinois confronted was kind of different from what it is nationally, so far."

Or is it? Following on the heels of the Illinois moratorium, legislators in several other states, including Pennsylvania, have recently called for a moratorium. There is also the recent scandal involving gross misconduct in the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart Division in which officers engaged in theft, forced coercion of testimony, and gang-style execution of people in custody, often covered up by planting weapons or drugs on the victim.

At the heart of the issue is the country's rightward political shift, led by the conservatives, but followed closely by those who position themselves as being at the forefront for social justice. Consider this quote from Democrat Andrew Young, former mayor of Atlanta and a key figure in the civil rights struggle alongside Martin Luther King: "I obey the laws of the land and [the death penalty] is the



Omnibus Crime Bill extended the death penalty to drug kingpins, and killers of either police or Federal law enforcement officers.

1996's Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act went even further, limiting *habeas corpus* appeals of death row inmates to one year after conviction, setting arbitrary time limits for the filing of appeals, and forcing Federal courts to accept state court decisions in many

law of the state of Georgia, and it certainly isn't likely to change in my term as governor." (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 9/11/89)

And this is from a man who once defied the laws of the segregated south. Young made that statement in his gubernatorial bid for Georgia, and his rhetoric grew even stronger: "The state has got to have the right to put mad dogs to death." (*US News and World Report*, 3/26/90)

The Clinton-Gore administrations and the Democratic Party have adopted tough on crime positions as a party line. More executions were carried out in Clinton's first term in office than in all 12 years of Reagan-Bush combined. Clinton's 1994

cases. As Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, of recent movie fame, has pointed out, that law would have made it impossible or him to win his freedom and might even have put him to death.

Gore and Bradley did a good job of bobbing and weaving around the issues but the record speaks for itself. They might bill themselves as being more compassionate than Bush and McCain, but that's not good enough. Just ask Anthony Porter, recently freed from death row in Illinois. You still can because activists won freedom for him and used his case to push for a general moratorium. If you're concerned about justice and fairness and are counting on the Democrats, then you'd better look elsewhere. **M**

And Now a Word from our Sponsor. . .

How Time Bought Itself a Debate

By Hank Williams

The CNN logo was prominent in the background of the Gore-Bradley debate at the historic (as network hype called it) Apollo Theater, which is now owned by CNN's parent company—Time-Warner. CNN's Bernard Shaw was the moderator; questions were fielded from Time-Warner's new Internet partner America Online, and from Time's *Time Magazine* staff.

The whole episode was a lesson in the power of the new media moguls. If you have the cash, you can even buy yourself exclusive rights to two candidates for an evening.

While Bradley and Gore parried back and forth on the issue of minority access to the media (or the lack of same), neither bothered to take on the issue of the effect of continued consolidation as media corporations get bigger and bigger as the result of mergers.

One of the effects is to narrow the scope of debate and criticism in the media in general. Think a reporter from *Time* is going to ask Gore about the effects of the Telecommunications bill passed by Clinton that has loosened the rules for media ownership? One of them might, but they didn't at the debate.

Questions for both candidates were taken from the Internet from AOL and CNN.com. The "panel of journalists"

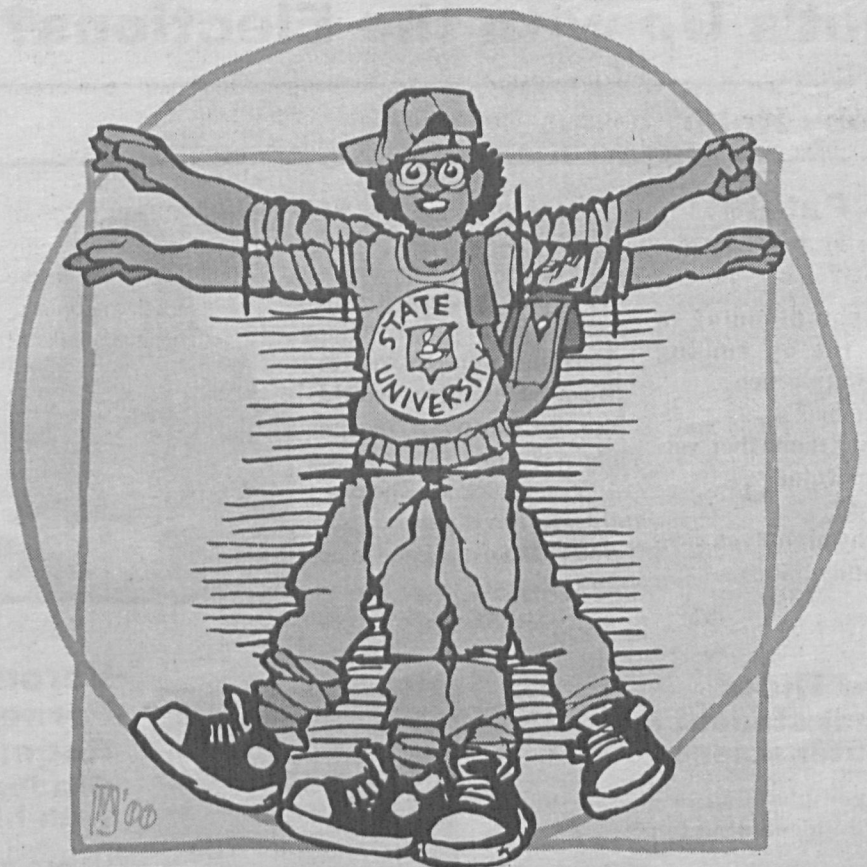
Shaw repeatedly referred to and drew questions from were really only *Time Magazine's* Karen Tumulty and Tamala Edwards and CNN Senior Analyst Jeff Greenfield. The few tough questions that were posed to the candidates were not followed up with much vigor.

Amy Goodman, of Pacifica Radio's *Democracy Now* and co-host of WBAI Radio's *Wake-Up Call*, related the problems she had in trying to tape the show for WBAI—she was informed that arrangements had to be made in advance; entry to the event was not enough to allow a journalist that right. WBAI apparently made the right arrangements, as they were able to broadcast the event live. Goodman's a pretty sharp journalist, but she wasn't allowed to ask any questions that night.

The debate even featured scripted commercial breaks, promos at the end for CNN's election coverage show, and—if you still hadn't had enough—exclusive post-debate live interviews of Gore and Bradley with none other than *Time Magazine* managing editor Walter Isaacson and CNN senior analyst Jeff Greenfield.

The net result was more like a made-for-TV event than an opportunity to really see what the candidates were made of. That may not be all bad, as it turns out that there's little substance to either one and even less difference. If you could stay awake, it was easy to figure that out. **M**

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Singer Felix D'Oleo performing

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What's Up with the Elections?

by Coby Kabir

Julie Patel 1st year biology student

Q: Are you planning to vote in the up coming presidential election?

A: I don't think so.

Q: Do you think that voting is important?

A: Yes I do.

Q: So, why aren't you sure about voting this time?

A: I just turned 18 and not yet registered as a voter. I am not exactly sure about the voting process. It's all new to me.

Q: If you were to vote in the next election would you be happy with the choices?

A: Yes, I think so. The candidates have good background and experience to be our president.



Tanvir Hider 3rd year student in computer science

Q: Are you planning to vote in the up coming presidential election?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you have any one in mind that you would vote for?

A: I haven't decided yet.

Q: Are you happy with the two choices you have to vote for?

A: No, I am not very enthusiastic about any of the candidates. None of them represents anything that I like to see in a politician.

Q: Do you see any possibility of changing the two-party system?

A: There is always possibility to change things but it has been going on for so long that it will be difficult to change it. It will require a lot of work from us.



Veronica Fernandez-Rogers Graduating senior with history major

Q: Are you planning to vote in the up coming presidential election?

A: Absolutely.

Q: Do you have any one in mind that you would vote for?

A: George Bush.

Q: What attracts you to him?

A: His foreign policy, especially regarding China. I like his economic vision for the future.

Samuel Maldonado 1st year student of electrical engineering

Q: Are you planning to vote in the up coming presidential election?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you have any one in mind that you would vote for?

A: Definitely not Bush, he is an empty suit.

Q: Are you happy with the two choices you have to vote for?

A: Yeah, I guess. I liked

Allan Keyes because he was the one actually thoroughly answered any question asked. But I am not too sad that he is out of the race.

Q: Are you happy with the two-party system?

A: Yeah, why not? There is still room for difference in opinion and policy.

And sometimes totally opposite sides are taken by each party that give voice to both sides of an issue. Take the issue of



abortion for example, Democrats are pro-choice and Republicans are pro-life: everyone is represented.

I also like his open immigration policy.

Q: Are you happy with the two-party system?

A: No, there isn't enough room for different ideas.

Q: Do you see any possibility of changing the two-party system?

A: Probably it will change. The Democratic and the Republicans are becoming more alike and it is possible that a new party might arise to challenge them. But for that to happen, we have to make the political process more accessible to the public. We also have



to make it easy for people to run for public office.

Got Oscar? or, 'And the Loser Is...'

by Yechiel Hoffman

It's that time of year, March Madness. Forget your college hoops: the true madness in March is the public and media's obsession with that midget named Oscar. Each year beside every office cooler, inside numerous Internet chat rooms, and uncountable news shows, the Oscar race is predicted, handicapped and argued over.

The most frequent insult to the Academy's choices is the choices themselves, usually left to mainstream Hollywood fare, with slight bows to lesser-seen productions. The Academy claims to pursue an advancement of the cinematic arts and sciences. Beneath this pretentious claim lies the truth of the Hollywood spectacle, the Academy's true purpose: the ever advancement of banal celebrity worship. Witness the ever-present fashion show, otherwise known as Welcome to the Red Carpet. The Academy reigns as the premier institution acknowledging the best films of the year. When looking deeper into the history of the Academy's recognitions, one must recognize that the only result of the Academy's yearly production is an industry pat on the back and not a worthy judgement of cinema as art.

Each year Academy members vote from within their categories for the nominations and as a whole for the winners. Members consist of various professionals invited by their peers in their respective fields to join the Academy for life. Many trends exist within the Academy's voting history, mostly symbolic of the demographic trends within the Academy itself. The Academy rewards quality dramas, but not inventive comedies. They nominate up-and-coming actors and artists but award those who have a history within the industry. Very rarely do foreign-language films (thus excluding Great Britain and Canada) receive their due in many categories, especially the technical ones. Typically the Academy votes for movies they have seen, allowing the more mainstream, more widely released films a more likely chance of winning kudos for their work.

Nowadays the movie machines, otherwise known as corporate studios, spend millions of dollars on campaigns, including advertising, free videos and other gifts (such as books and toys) to encourage members to vote for their films. As much as prestige factors into these activities, the money is the true attraction. Nominations and eventual Oscars greatly increase the profit margin for many films. Witness the various newspaper ads for movies bragging about their Academy acknowledgements. These two institutions, the corporate studios and celebrity Academy fulfill each other's needs in keeping the public in awe of their glamour and under their artistic predilections.

The Academy each year expounds on which films choose their best. The public receives their influence and in return awards these films and their artistic likes with their hard-earned dollars. Lesser-known films, styles, and movements, ignored by the studios and its Academy, are left without an audience. The Academy chooses to award those films that may be marginal, but that still maintain the conventions of the Hollywood fare. This is truly why in America the audiences and the future filmmakers within the crowds in movie houses stay away from more modernist, experimental and brave ways

to deal with cinematic storytelling. The Academy, as an extensions of the corporate entities it worships, tries to maintain this status quo as a means to self-congratulate its achievements and delineate those outside of it.

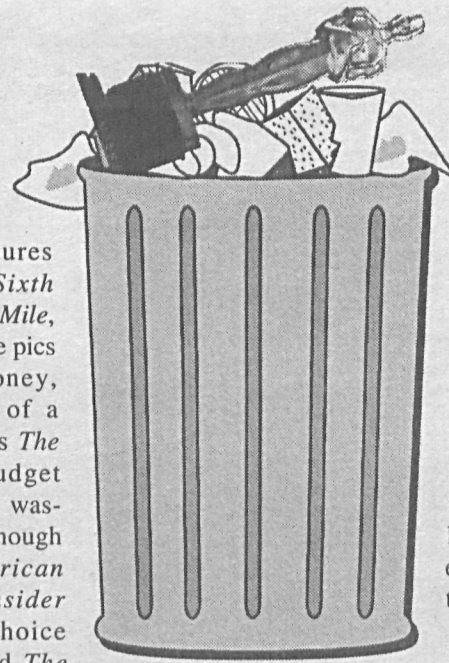
This year's Oscar race resembles all other races of the last decade. Smatters of independent films square off against the big guns of the studios. Smaller movies carry their representation in the writing and acting categories, but the five Best Picture nominees all come from Big Studios.

Miramax, once considered the haven for independent American films, and perennial Oscar contender, now resembles the bigger studio pictures in their budget, production values, and more conventionally mainstream films. Last year's race raised controversy concerning a studio's marketing influence on the winner when Miramax's *Shakespeare In Love* squeaked by DreamWorks owner Steven Spielberg's picture *Saving Private Ryan* for the best picture. This year Miramax again has its dark horse, *The Cider House Rules*, a traditional quality pic veering against the more modernist DreamWorks picture *American Beauty*.

The other pictures nominated, *The Sixth Sense* and *The Green Mile*, both big conglomerate pics that made big money, don't stand much of a chance, and Disney's *The Insider*, a large budget whistle-blowing tale, wasn't seen by nearly enough people. Only *American Beauty* and *The Insider* received critics choice votes this year, and *The*

Green Mile ranked 71st out of 100 films this year in a critics poll. *American Beauty* should and will take home the gold and sweep many other awards.

Whoever does win matters less in reality other than the additional money the studio will reap from the box office in the following weeks. This year's awards should be entertaining like other years, for their suspense, production values, and ever-present window into our celebrity tribulations. Our society has always worshiped our celebrities, however worthy they are. The Academy Awards give the audiences worldwide an opportunity to gawk at the best and worst fashion chosen



by each star's fashion consultants, and to rejoice and cry over the trivial accomplishments of such a small group of the film makers at large.

Let the celebs rejoice in their grandness. Even let yourself enjoy the entertainment value of the show itself. Just let this article be the depth of your thoughts on the

worth of the awards themselves. A movie's value lies not in its bed of awards but in its timeliness. *Citizen Kane*, considered by many the greatest American film of all time, only won one, losing the sentimental brilliance of John Ford. This sentimentalist nature still exists in today's Academy.

So, let yourself decide what films stand the test of time and quality and don't let the Academy be your judge. This is Yechiel Hoffman signing off from New York, on the Hollywood Beat. Reach me at spottingu@aol.com to discuss your issues on anything and everything cinema has to offer. **M**

music review

Trio 99-00: Pat Metheny, Larry Grenadier, and Bill Stewart

by Hank Williams

So, what would you do? Imagine yourself as one of the biggest names in jazz guitar, ending a nearly two-year-long world tour promoting your latest CD, which, by the way, won two Grammy Awards. Would you take a break and relax, maybe sleep in a few days, or go right back to work?

Presumably Pat Metheny asked himself that question sometime last year, and, fortunately for jazz fans, he went back to work. The result has been a movie soundtrack (*A Map of the World*), an excellent collaboration with fellow guitarist Jim Hall (*Jim Hall & Pat Metheny*), and his latest effort, *Trio 99-00*.

Trio 99-00 finds Metheny revisiting a familiar format, but one that we don't see from him very often. Bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Bill Stewart complete the trio. Metheny's main gig is, of course, the Pat Metheny Group. On the *Imaginary Day* tour, the group had expanded: Metheny, keyboardist Lyle Mays, bassist Steve Rodby, and Drummer Paul Wertico were joined by percussionist/vocalists Mark Ledford and David Blamires. The result was not too far removed from the traditional PMG sound and successful: *Imaginary Day* earned the group two Grammy Awards, including one for the best rock instrumental.

While taking a break from touring with the group, Metheny decided to get together with Grenadier and Stewart. The trio is on a world tour this year, and recently completed a week's worth of dates at the Knitting Factory here in New York.

It's good to see Metheny return to the trio setting, and the result is similar to earlier efforts, like *Question and Answer* with

Dave Holland and Roy Haynes. While Metheny has his own distinctive sound, the trio provides a more intimate feel and a different overall sound than recordings of the PMG.

While similar in sound to *Question and Answer*, *Trio 99-00* is distinct. For starters, Grenadier and Stewart are more understated players than Holland and Haynes so there's no doubt that Metheny is leading this trio. On the other hand, Holland has a few dynamite bass solos on *Q&A* and I found myself wanting some of the same here. Having said that, the two form a solid backup to Metheny, and Stewart's drumming is well suited to a trio setting.

The effect is a set of recordings that are more introspective. Metheny's an extremely versatile and creative artist, usually expressed in the form of the PMG's trademark abstract "vocals," heavy use of percussion, and various sound effects that often find them pushing the limits of jazz fusion.

The trio setting is a return to a simpler, though extremely satisfying, form of jazz that allows the players room to improvise and explore without getting lost in the crowd, so to speak. It's always a special treat to hear Metheny on acoustic guitar, and he uses it for a few songs, including an interesting interpretation of his own "Travels."

There are a few more surprises on the CD also: covers of John Coltrane's "Giant Steps" and Wayne Shorter's "Capricorn." Metheny rarely does covers of songs: standards or otherwise, but the results are usually impressive. "Capricorn" is inter-



esting, and an innovative interpretation; "Giant Steps" is excellent.

As odd as it sounds, it's sometimes easy to overlook just how good a guitar player Metheny actually is when he's in the setting of the Group. That's partly because he surrounds himself with other good players: the rest of the members are accomplished performers in their own right.

There's also a lot more going on, so to speak in the group: percussion, bass, guitar, keyboards, etc. With a trio, it's easier to key in on the different elements. You can concentrate on the bassist or drummer for a while and not worry about missing a good keyboard line or short guitar solo.

This adds up to an impressive effort and a pleasing CD that displays Metheny's artistic range and imagination. It's one that probably deserves a spot in contemporary jazz fans' collections, and may widen Metheny's fan base to include listeners who aren't normally attracted to his form of jazz fusion. That's a good thing because Metheny likes to explore, and while you're never sure exactly where the journey will take you, it's usually worth the trip. **M**

March-April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30 Council Of Organizations Meeting for Club Leaders. NAC 1/201, 12:00pm. Film: <i>Presenting Mr. Frederick Douglass: The Lesson of the Hour</i> . NAC 5/101, 12-1pm 212-650-7271. College-Wide Career Fair. Business attire and copies of resume required. 12-4pm, The Great Hall (Shepard, 2nd floor). Info: Career Center, NAC 1/116.	31 Film: <i>Genocide</i> . Holocaust Film Series. Film screening examining different genres of Holocaust films. CUNY Grad. Ctr. 365 5th Ave. (35 St.). Call for room # and time. 212-817-8215; Free. Socialist Scholars Conference: Opening Session. Boro of Manhattan Community College, 199 Chambers St. 7-9pm. \$8-\$20. Info: 212-817-7868.	01 Socialist Scholars Conference: Workshops on Prisons, Death Penalty, Welfare, Women's Movement. BMCC, 199 Chambers St. 10am-5pm. \$8-\$20. Info: 212-817-7868. Unnamable Poetry Reading. Baggot Inn, 82 West 3rd St. (Thompson), 3:30, \$5. 718-499-4517.
02 Socialist Scholars Conference. See Saturday. Poet To Poet + Open Mic. The Back Fence, 155 Bleecker St. 3:15 p.m. Free. Info: (212) 254-2401. Poetry + Open Mic. Centerfold Coffeehouse, Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul, 263 W 86th St. 5:45 p.m. \$2. Info: (212) 866-4454.	03	04 League for the Revolutionary Party Socialist Discussion Group, NAC 6/214, 12 noon. Women's Self Defense Workshop. Wingate, Rm. 104, 12-1pm Ross' Grammar Hour: "Commonly Confused Words." Writing Center, Harris 015, 12-1pm	05 "Almost Touching the Skies: Women Writers and Women Scholars." Speakers include Distinguished Professor Meena Alexander and Alice Walker. CUNY Grad. Ctr. 365 5th Ave. (35 St.). Call for room #, 9:30am, 212-817-8895; Free.	06 "Society and Global Change." CUNY Grad. Ctr. Proshansky Auditorium, 9:30am. 212-817-8215; Free. Readings: "Novelists and the City/of the City." Speakers Dinitia Smith and Wesley Brown. CUNY Grad. Ctr. 365 5th Ave. (35 St.), Segal Theatre, 12pm, 212-817-8215; Free. "The Intern." See Friday.	07 "The Intern." A play by Jarod Gibson, directed by Mikael Huuska. Aaron Davis Hall, Call for times, 212-650-6666; Free. Black Panther Film Festival. See Saturday. Marx in Soho: A play by Howard Zinn. Producer's Club Theater, 358 W 44th. 8pm. 212-532-8887, \$22/\$16st.	08 Black Panther Film Festival. Schomburg Center, 515 Lenox Ave (135th St.). 212-926-2550. Unnamable Poetry Reading. Baggot Inn, 82 West 3rd St. (Thompson), 3:30, \$5. 718-499-4517. "The Intern." A play by Jarod Gibson, directed by Mikael Huuska. See Friday. Marx in Soho. See Friday.
09 Marx in Soho: A play by Howard Zinn. See previous Friday. Poet To Poet + Open Mic. The Back Fence, 155 Bleecker St. 3:15 p.m. Free. Info: 212-254-2401. Poetry + Open Mic. Centerfold Coffeehouse, Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul, 263 W 86th St. 5:45 p.m. \$2. Info: 212-866-4454.	10 Iraq Under Siege, "The Deadly Impact of Sanction and War" with Howard Zinn. Voices against the sanctions document the toll of the United States-led war against Iraq. CUNY Grad. Ctr. 365 5th Ave. (35 St.). Call for room #, 7pm, 212-817-8215; \$10.	11 League for the Revolutionary Party Socialist Discussion Group, NAC 6/214, 12 noon. Women's Self Defense Workshop. Wingate, Rm. 104, 12-1pm Guitar Recital: Pablo Gil. Shepard Hall, Room 95, 12:30pm.	12 Guitar Recital: Students of Gene Bertocini. Shepard Hall, Room 95, 12:30pm.	13 Council Of Organizations Meeting for Club Leaders. NAC 1/201, 12:00pm. Salsa-Mambo Dance Lessons led by Maria Figueroa. Every Thurs. 4-7pm, Free, NAC Ballroom Architecture Lecture Series: Todd Williams, "Work/Life." The Great Hall, 6pm, 212/650-6225; Free.	14 Film: <i>Witness: Voices From the Holocaust</i> . Film screening and speakers examining the Holocaust. CUNY Grad. Ctr. 365 5th Ave. (35 St.). Call for room # and time. 212-817-8215; Free. Marx in Soho: A play by Howard Zinn. Producer's Club Theater, 358 W 44th. 8pm. 212-532-8887, \$22/\$16st.	15 Marx in Soho: A play by Howard Zinn. Producer's Club Theater, 358 W 44th. 8pm. 212-532-8887, \$22/\$16st. Unnamable Poetry Reading. Baggot Inn, 82 West 3rd St. (Thompson), 3:30, \$5. 718-499-4517
16 Marx in Soho: A play by Howard Zinn. See Saturday. Protest the IMF and World Bank: Washington DC. Call 202-319-2426 for info.	17 "Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply" with Vandana Shiva, Third World Network. CUNY Grad. Ctr. 365 5th Ave. (35 St.). Call for room #, 9:30am, 212-817-8215; \$10. Protest the IMF and World Bank: Washington DC. Call 202-319-2426 for info.	18 Independent Politics and Third Parties in America, featured speaker Frances Fox Piven. CUNY Grad. Ctr. 365 5th Ave. (35 St.). Call for room #, 9:30am, 212-817-8215; \$10. Lecture/Recital: <i>The Tango From its Beginnings to "Buenos Aires Y2K."</i> Martin Kutnowski and the Glass String Quartet. Shepard Hall, Room 95, 3:50pm.	19 SPRING BREAK	20 SPRING BREAK	21 SPRING BREAK	22 SPRING BREAK

Send announcements of your events to *The Messenger* at ccnymessenger@yahoo.com.

Dickmeyer
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All these projects—good and bad—are projects of the Office of Student Affairs under Vice President Thomas Morales. They totaled \$55,919 or 24% of the entire AEC budget that year. Many administrative items, like the Child Development Center and the library, should be funded by hard college lines, not by a discretionary fund for campus activities. Moreover, administrators can survive without the money. In 1996, Kogut's honors convocation received no AEC funding, but somehow the Dean of Discipline was able to hold the function anyway, meaning he found other pots of money to pay for it—a luxury student groups often do not have.

So, administrators are able to avoid annual budget crunches by voting themselves money out of AEC, passing off the losses to students who can't get funding for their group activities. Even as administrators are already overrepresented as voting members on the AEC Board—including staff members that report directly to top administrators—this past year Dickmeyer re-interpreted AEC by-laws to further reduce student representation.

Such practices render laughable AEC chair Dickmeyer's 1998 memo to AEC Board members that they needed to make sure "[we] put our activities above charges of favoritism."

Here's another example. In 1997, Metropolitan Food Services, the vendor that operates the cafeteria, provided CCNY a measly \$54,000 through AEC from the multi-million dollar revenues it took in that year. Metropolitan, in a standard practice I've seen at other colleges, then asked AEC \$53,765, almost its entire contribution, for "tables and chairs for the

cafeteria". In other words, not satisfied with stripping students with overpriced food, Metropolitan asked for its entire contribution to the college back. And it did so with administrator help: AEC chair Dickmeyer sponsored the request.

Ostensibly, the college is responsible for the cafeteria's upkeep. But in 1994, AEC budgeted Metropolitan \$40,000 for "new tables and chairs" also. How many chairs do they need? Was this a means Dickmeyer used to funnel a vendor all its money back?

'Closed to the Public'

The AEC also revealed Dickmeyer's ignorance, even antipathy, towards civil liberties.

At one AEC meeting in early 1998, a member of the Graduate Student Council called Dean Bobb a "motherfucker," threatened to fight the then-USG president, and disrupted the meeting to the point the AEC postponed its business. Apparently the GSC member's proposed trip to Africa was rejected, while the USG president's proposal for a similar trip was on its way toward approval. "We put our activities above charges of favoritism," indeed.

Dickmeyer's solution? Ban the public from attending the next AEC Board meeting. In a memo to AEC members, Dickmeyer wrote, "The meeting will be closed to the public; no project decisions will be made. As a corporation separate from the college, we are not a state agency and not under any open records obligations."

But meeting minutes show the AEC, after discussing improving the decision process, voted to finish allocating the grants behind closed doors. Though the minutes showed what votes finalist proposals received, who voted how was not

recorded—one reason why the public needs to be there in the first place.

Clearly Dickmeyer's actions were a violation of the state's Open Meetings law. At the request of this writer, Robert Freeman, executive director of the state's Committee on Open Government, wrote a letter to Dickmeyer admonishing him for violating sunshine laws. Dickmeyer relented, and these important meetings are open to all, a position now legally established by *Smith v. CUNY*, a lawsuit successfully brought against LaGuardia College for blocking students out of a similar college association's meetings.

There are many other examples of Dickmeyer's poor understanding of what civil rights mean at a college. For *The Messenger*, Professor Benenson cited the privacy violations of CUNYCard, the proposal to arm security, the surveillance of student activists, and abusive behavior by

security guards, including a security-instigated melee at a conference about death row inmate Mumia Abu Jamal.

Dickmeyer's jurisdiction included supervising Security. And he did a poor job of it. On the 1997 deployment of SAFE Team guards from CUNY Central around the campus, which violated President Moses's promise not to permit armed guards, Dickmeyer, according to faculty, repeated over and over like a wind-up doll that "There is a crime wave in the surrounding community."

There are other interesting stories and factoids—like Dickmeyer's owning stock in Citibank, CUNYCard's sponsor. Or the time he had Security write students tickets—for exiting the library through fire exit doors—as a way of raising money for the administration. But we'll stop here and allow Tricky Dicky egress to the helicopter and a trip up to Westchester. **M**

Gore
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up until 1975. Gore did call for preschool for all children and new school construction: necessary initiatives, but a far cry from making a commitment to free, quality, universal education.

Health Care

The candidates' health care plans suffered from similar problems. They became bogged down with the issue of care for AIDS patients: Gore advocates care under the Federal Medicaid system.

Left out, however, were concrete proposals to provide health care to *everyone*. No plan was offered to cover the estimated 20% of Americans with no insurance. While 20% is a generally accepted figure,

the real total is likely much higher, as the homeless and poor are generally excluded from such estimates, and vastly undercounted anyway.

Part of the problem may be that politicians aren't getting the message. Gore stated that "People on the street know very well that the presidency is a day by day fight for real people who face real problems."

They may not. Clinton/Gore swept into the White House by winning a little more than 1/3 of the approximately 1/3 of the eligible voters who bothered to vote.

That's the point. Until politicians start paying attention to the voice of the people there will still be disillusionment with the electoral process. Gore still doesn't seem to understand that, but the entire Apollo audience and the protesters outside did. **M**