



HERMAN BADILLO: AT ROBERT MOSES' KNEE ★
 PALESTINIAN BEAT-DOWN ★ SUMMING UP THE
 ELECTIONS ★ JUDGE BACKS OFF VS. RON MCGUIRE

THE MESSENGER

THE FLORIDA ISSUE

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UNIVERSITY OF HARLEM

2000 WINNER, BEST CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATION, CAJP AWARDS

The \$100,000 question

Why are evening student activity fees being used to pay for day student services? Vice President Morales strong-arms student funds, buying gym equipment administrators love to use.

By Rob Wallace
and Marcela Putnam

Vice President for Student Affairs Thomas Morales and Associate Dean Paul Bobb are attempting to repossess \$21,000 in evening student activity fees from Undergraduate Student Government control. The \$21,000 would go on top of \$79,000 in activity fees bullied from the student government last year for projects the pair of administrators champion. Just what's going on here?

Our story begins in 1999 when the Evening Student Government (ESG) was merged with the Day Student Government to make a single Undergraduate Student Government (USG). The merger was pursued by both Morales and student government officials, all of whom sought to get their hands on the some \$79,000 in evening student activity fees that had accumulated untouched after the ESG went for many years out of operation. Another \$21,000 has accumulated to the defunct evening student newspaper, the *Nightwatch*.

In December 1999, Morales and Bobb signed a letter of understanding about the ESG monies with then-USG President Rafael Dominguez and then-USG Evening Affairs VP Richard Lawrence. The letter stipulates how the \$79,000 in accumulated evening student activity fees for the ESG are to be spent over the next three years.

Thirty thousand dollars are to be spent for computers in the USG/Finley Student Center labs (NAC rooms 1/115 and 1/114) and for expanded lab hours for evening students. Twenty five thousand dollars are to be spent on furniture for the USG, the NAC student lounge and the Finley Student Center conference rooms. Finally, \$29,000 will be used to repair and reopen the pool in Wingate Hall and for the purchase of fitness equipment. Recreational hours at the Wingate Gym must be expanded to 7:30 am to 8:30 pm.

According to Dominguez, he revised the letter of understanding Morales first presented him for USG signatures. Morales's first draft proposed using \$30,000 in evening student activity fees for computers evening students would not be able to access as the computer lab closes at 6 pm. All of the \$25,000 for

furniture would have gone toward the administration-run—and misnamed—Finley Student Center conference rooms. Lastly, Morales wanted \$29,000 in evening student activity fees to refurbish a gym that would have been closed during the evening hours.

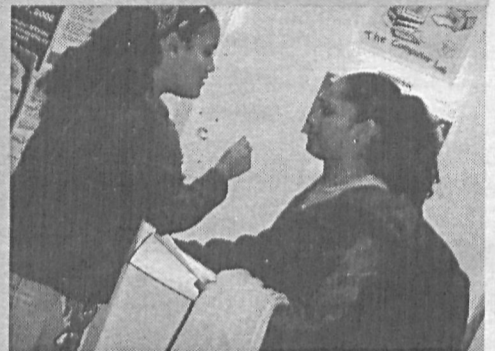
VP Thug

Amazingly, Morales's absurd first draft was a step up from his previous attempt to grab the \$79,000. In May 1999, at the next Student Service Corporation meet-

ing after students voted down an administration-led referendum to raise the student activity fee by \$12, Morales and Bobb pushed a vote through giving the entire ESG reserve to Wingate Gym. Only one student representative was present at that SSC meeting.

According to witnesses, Vice President Morales told USG President Dominguez, "I'm going to get you."

(The Student Services Corporation is a non-profit corporation CCNY established to collect and allocate students' activities fees. By setting up the SSC,



USG Executive VP Hanna Seifu-Teferra on the left and USG VP for Evening Affairs Kilsis St. Hilaire on the right, trying to get into the Finley Center computer lab which is closed during evening hours.

CCNY can indemnify itself if a vendor hired by one of the campus entities receiving activity fee monies decides to sue for any malfeasance. The SSC board is comprised of administrators—who dominate SSC operations—student government officials, and faculty.)

Morales's piggy SSC maneuver was blocked when a newly elected Dominguez told the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees that students did not have proper voice in deciding what to do with the money. According to CUNY by-laws, the Board of Trustees must approve the reallocation. On the basis of Dominguez's testimony, the committee denied Morales his Wingate money and sent the proposal back to City College.

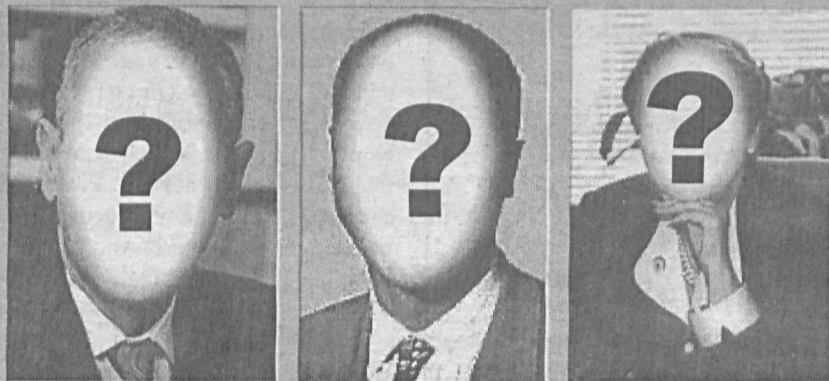
After the meeting, outside CUNY Central on 80th Street, a clearly pissed Morales motioned Dominguez over and, according to witnesses, told Dominguez, a college junior, "I'm going to get you."

"Where are the computers?"

Current USG president Jason Compton told *the Messenger* he thought Dominguez did students a favor by revising the agreement to expand services for evening students. "I think aspects of the agreement were definitely positive," Compton told *the Messenger*. "Money for computer labs, and extended hours for evening students at the computer lab and the gym. I'm all for it."

Compton, Treasurer in last year's student government, led a faction in the USG that bitterly opposed Dominguez. Compton's slate defeated Dominguez's in last year's student elections.

Despite the administration's phase-out of an official "evening student" designation, evening students still very much exist. A large portion of CCNY's student body arrives on campus for night classes after a day at work. Their needs



Meet the finalists for CCNY's presidency, and then watch Chancellor Goldstein decide for us who is best for CCNY.

In Search Of: CCNY's New Pres

By Shumon Alam

City College is currently searching for a candidate to fill the highest administrative position: the college president. Since the resignation of ex-president Yolanda Moses, Dr. Stanford Roman has filled the position of interim president. Although last summer all the students received a letter from the CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein encouraging active participation in the search process, it has been not a democratic process.

The presidential search committee is charged with finding the most qualified candidate to fill the position. CUNY Trustee Randy M. Mastro heads the

search committee, which includes four other trustees, presidents of both the undergraduate and graduate student governments, three faculty members from architecture, music and physics, a president of another college, and a CCNY alumnus.

This search committee has gone through about 80 proposals and applications and settled on about a dozen for interview. The interview was about an hour per candidate and the questions from the search committee were pre-selected. Each search committee member asked one question to all the candidates. Questions ranged from the candidate's

continued on page 7

continued on page 3

Honors College: The Path of Least Resistance

As CUNY unveils its new Honors College (see CUNY Clipboard, page 8) furnished with generous resources and lavish perks, it appears that the brain trust at CUNY Central has finally figured out the recipe for academic success.

The CUNY-wide Honors College offers free tuition, smaller classes, and free laptop computers to every student, among other bonuses. The Honors College is an excellent idea—for the approximately 100 students, “University Scholars” in CUNYSpeak—who will be selected for the program.

What CUNY has discovered is hardly surprising: more support services and eliminating the tuition that has been imposed for the last quarter-century on a student body composed of (primarily) working class students of color are the tools needed to achieve academic success. Of course!

However, CUNY is stacking the deck by limiting the class to the best and brightest: the same ones who would be likely to succeed anyway. Thus, CUNY continues its march toward a tiered educational system in which students fight over artificially scarce resources imposed by racist government policies designed to hold back all working class students, but

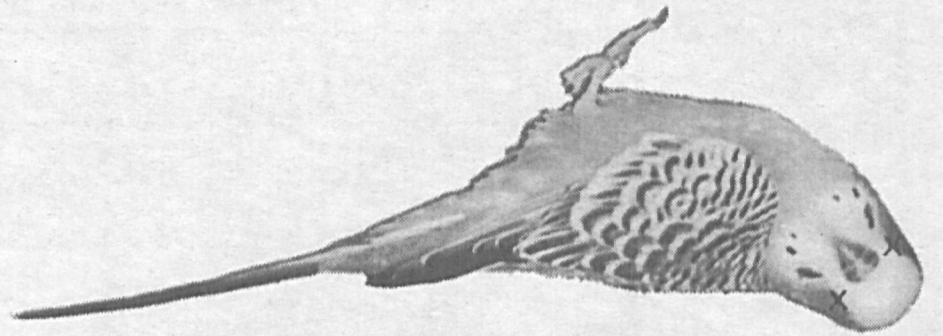
which hit immigrants and students of color the hardest.

It is the same thing we see happening everywhere in our society: A relative handful at the top of the ladder are climbing higher and higher, while the majority in the middle are barely holding on to their rungs (if they're lucky). And many on the bottom rungs are getting kicked off the ladder entirely. Maybe the Honors College is the Board of Trustees' cynical way of ensuring that CUNY really does prepare us for the real world.

By limiting reforms in this way, the politicians get to crow about their “turn-around” of CUNY when, predictably, the chosen few who make the cut for the Honors College succeed.

This is a sham and a smokescreen. The real solution is to ensure the right to free, quality education open to all, especially the students who need it most—those who are the victims of American apartheid and forced into the worst public schools.

Again, CUNY has decided to take the easy way out, selling out its own students in the process. Students throughout the CUNY system should put out the demand that all students in CUNY receive the same benefits that are now being reserved for the Honors College students.



Cheap, Cheap: A Eulogy For An Uptown Parakeet

A couple Fridays ago I left the back exit of the Science Building. I had planned to cut across St. Nicholas Park and catch the C train for the Grad Center. Two steps out and I stopped short. Right there was a little yellow parakeet, tweeting away. I squatted and put my hand out. It was a little nervous, but didn't fly away, probably because: 1) it was curious and 2) some of its tail feathers had been clipped. It was clearly an abandoned or escaped pet.

I inched my hand closer and closer, then scooped it up. It squealed a bit. As I made my way back into the building, it began to bite at my fingers. It was scared—understandably—but eventually calmed down a little on the elevator up.

I took it to Josh Wallman's lab. They work on the physiology of sight with chickens. It's also a large lab with a lot of grad students. It seemed a good place to take it. They know a lot more about birds than I do.

The grad students there found a cardboard box for the parakeet, and placed some feed and water in. The little bugger must have been really hungry as it took to the seeds with gusto. I told the lab I'd be back from the Grad Center later and we'd decide custody then.

When I got back the bird had fluffed itself up and was sleeping on one of the grad student's shoulders as he did some work. Clearly it was really a sweet bird and had quickly gotten comfortable in its new digs. It was agreed that the bird would stay in the lab, even over the long Columbus Day weekend. Plenty of food and water would be provided. It would be placed in its own cage. And people would be stopping by to do their weekend work. They'd be able to check up on the bird.

I came back to City after the long weekend and was told the parakeet was dead. City College had killed it. Here's how.

For some reason CCNY can only or will only change the Science Building's air from cold to warm once a year. No

back and forth depending on the weather. Cold air is pumped in even as temperatures drop into the forties and under outside.

This has generated the absurd October City College tradition whereby occupants in the Science Building spend up to weeks at a time wearing their winter coats and gloves while they work. Valuable fruit-fly stocks have to be incubated with space heaters.

So during the weekend the parakeet froze to death.

Moreover, as the gym's floor was being revamped that weekend, Security allowed no one into the building. The grad student whose shoulder the parakeet had taken a liking to was not allowed in despite repeated attempts to check on the bird. He was not alone. Several undergrads whose lab jobs include feeding lab animals on the weekends were not allowed in either. That forced them to call their professors who, pissed off their weekends were disrupted, had to make the long trip to City. The profs snuck into the back of the Science Building and up to their labs to feed their animals like thieves in the night.

One undergrad was allowed into the building only after she signed a waiver indemnifying the College of any lawsuits should she become sick in the next five years from the gym's fumes.

To me the dead parakeet is symbolic of CCNY's chronic illness. Rather than admit or correct its mistakes, the College is more interested in making sure it isn't sued for them. Good turns are rewarded with bureaucratic bumbling. Enthusiastic professors are marginalized or demoted. Innovative programs defunded. Saved birds snuffed.

I'd prescribe a serious gut-check: Administrators unable or unwilling to do what must be done to make CCNY a rational place in which to work must be removed, their wings clipped.

—Rob Wallace

W I N N E R

2000 CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE JOURNALISM AWARDS

THE MESSENGER
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(CATEGORY B)

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EDITORS
Hank Williams
Shumon Alam
ARTS EDITOR
Yecheil Hoffman
ON-LINE EDITOR
Brad Sigal
STAFF
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Anne Naughton
Marcela Putnam
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Felipe Pichardo
FACULTY ADVISOR
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Finley Center, 138th St. & Convent Ave., NY, NY 10031
ccnymessenger@yahoo.com ★ <http://www.geocities.com/cunyslaml/>
(212) 699-3825x7582 voice mail/fax

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.

Thanks to the Undergraduate Student Government for funding the bulk of this issue.

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letters

Dear Reader,

I miss you. Remember when you'd leave me notes between classes telling me how cool I was? How I was really right on most of the time? How cute that cartoon was, the way I knew just what kind of font set off a certain type of article, etc. When I decided to go more lifestyle, less political, you supported me. And then when we disagreed, my email inbox would be full of expletive-filled tirades.

There was that one time when I said something you didn't like about the outgoing President of CCNY and you put my back issues in the litter box. That was okay, I didn't mind. Because that is all part of the process, the give and take, the

First Amendment, the very personally political act of increasing access to information and providing a venue for people to express their points of view, however different. Helping each other, making each other grow, change, evolve.

But now it's been a month since I've received a letter. This is the hour of lead. What's happening? Curse me, set me straight, but don't give me this awful cold shoulder. Maybe you lost my number. Maybe there's another student publication taking up all your time. Maybe it's me who's been distant. Anyway, you know where to reach me.

—the Messenger

Defender of CUNY Students Ron McGuire Scores Victory in Court

By John Olafson

As reported in the previous issue of *the Messenger*, Ron McGuire, a long-standing legal defender of CUNY student activists, is himself being targeted by the authorities, just like hundreds of CUNY students he has defended.

A federal magistrate judge named Chery Pollack recently decided that Mr. McGuire and his associate Nick Penkovsky may have engaged in professional misconduct two and a half years ago in a case involving an attempt by College of Staten Island students in the spring of 1998 to have McGuire and Leonard Jeffries speak on campus.

Many CUNY students observing this case see it as nothing more than attempted retaliation by Pollack and the CUNY power structure. CSI students brought a First Amendment lawsuit against CUNY for blocking Mr. McGuire and Dr. Jeffries from speaking and for refusing to pay them the speaker's fee the students had decided on.

On Friday, November 17 Pollack held a hearing that she herself presided over, even though she is the one bringing the complaints and is a witness to one of them. CUNY students from City, Hunter, CSI, the Graduate Center, and other campuses mobilized and turned out upwards of 50 people to pack the courtroom and show the judge many eyes are on her.

As a result, Judge Pollack backed off and dropped her most serious claim that Mr. McGuire had lied to her off the record (contradicting everything he had said on the record). If she had stuck with this claim, it could possibly have resulted in the loss of McGuire's right to practice law.

Her other complaint alleges that McGuire and Penkovsky had failed to properly follow a certain minor procedural directive she had given, asking them to respond to a motion by the defendants in the original case, but instead proceeded to amend their own complaint against CUNY. This complaint of hers remains in effect even though there appear to be no



CUNY students and community supporters rallying outside the Brooklyn federal courthouse on November 17 in support of attorney Ron McGuire. McGuire is on the far right, Penkovsky next to him. That's Ydanis Rodriguez holding the megaphone.

actual rules disallowing the action McGuire and Penkovsky took.

This could result in a fine assessed against them based on the "extra work" they supposedly caused the attorney for CUNY, even though he would have had to respond to this amended complaint under any circumstances, and thus there was no extra work involved.

(Ironically, the lawyer for CUNY, Brian Sokoloff, is paid out of CSI student activity fees. Students are directly paying CUNY to suppress their own freedom of speech!)

Students at City College and other CUNY schools will continue to follow this case and keep pressure on Judge Pollack and CUNY at future hearings. **M**

\$100,000 question continued from page 1

are largely unmet by a campus that for all intents and purposes closes down after 6 pm. Three years ago the administration regularly locked all bathrooms in the NAC Building in the evening because of a shortage in staff needed to clean them.

The agreement's call for "expanded hours" means not only that the computer lab and the gym have to be open to evening hours, but that the administration needs to have them staffed too. Administrators may be willing to do so for the gym as several of them have been spotted working out there. In 1998, a Graduate Student Council member told *the Messenger* they saw administrators working out in Wingate. This year, Dean Bobb has commented during meetings with students how wonderful his workouts at Wingate have been.

Still, the hours and the computers for the USG/Finley Center Computer Center are not in place, worrying observers. In one of their last acts as USG president and Evening Affairs VP respectively—indeed only two days before Compton took office—Dominguez and Lawrence signed a SSC disbursement form authorizing the purchase of \$15,106 in new computer equipment for the USG/Finley Student Center computer lab. The other two signatories for the ESG reserves, Morales and Bobb, did not sign the copy of the disbursement *the Messenger* obtained. Nor are the new computers in the lab. One student wondered why administrators were dragging their feet and asked *the Messenger*, "Where are the new computers?"

Despite Dominguez's changes for the better—evening hours for the Wingate Gym are already instituted—*the Messenger* was struck by the patchwork nature of some of the agreement's stipulations, a point Dominguez concedes. For example, for the new furniture the agreement states,

"The College must provide accessibility to accommodate evening students." That doesn't mean too much as students rarely use the Finley Student conference rooms that the administration often rents, along with the Aronow Theatre, to off-campus organizations. So, in short, evening student funds are being used, albeit indirectly, to help pay off a \$100,000 debt Finley Center has accumulated.

The agreement reads as if Dominguez and the USG were making the best of a bad situation. There's something to be said for that, but *the Messenger* is struck by a most peculiar thought: Why are Dominguez, Compton and the rest of the USG forced to make the best of a bad situation by signing and administering an agreement not in the full interest of their constituents? Why do VP Morales and Dean Bobb have any say whatsoever in how the \$79,000 is spent?

Once the merger between the Day and Evening Student Governments went through, shouldn't the new USG, along with its new VP for Evening Affairs, have full jurisdiction of the ESG fees? Certainly the USG has more claim to those fees than Morales and Bobb. Why do student officials have to rubberstamp expenditures administrators have no business demanding?

Another \$21,000

According to Compton, Morales now wants the *Nightwatch's* \$21,000 to be added to the \$79,000 agreement. At the first, and only, Student Services Corporation meeting this year, Compton had the *Nightwatch* proposal tabled for the next SSC meeting.

Compton and current USG VP for Evening Affairs Kilsis St. Hilaire told *the Messenger* that they would rather have the \$21,000 in evening student activity fees be "directed solely for services at night." No disrespect to students who attend most of their classes during the day, but

evening students have nothing, nada, zilch. Just about all the services and administrative offices day students take for granted are closed by the evening.

St. Hilaire is in the midst of preparing a survey for students who take classes in the evening hours, to see what they need.

Compton told *the Messenger* that the student government is compiling lists of schedules of various student resources on campus to see if evening students are adequately served.

St. Hilaire and Compton proposed better uses for the \$21,000. These include a trained staff member to answer evening student questions and process their bills, registration, etc. Or hours for the campus bus could be expanded. The bus, which transports students to and from the nearby



The shuttle bus many evening students don't get to ride.

subway stations, currently stops running at 8:10 pm. Evening classes run until after 10 pm. St. Hilaire and Compton have also thought about getting bus service expanded to the South Campus parking lot which can be creepy, particularly at night. According to Compton, Security's bike patrols, including of the South Campus, end at 8:30 pm.

But whether students—not administrators—can allocate their fees as they see fit remains to be seen. **M**

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Dear President-Elect _____:

By Marcela Putnam

Sandra Cariera Senior: Bio-med

What issue (or issues) do you think the future president should concentrate on?

Health care and education. Health care should be the most accessible thing and so should education.

What scandal would you like to see next in the White House?

Oh God, actually none! I am serious, I really don't think a front-page story should have Monica Lewinsky again or whoever Lewinsky again: we don't need that. That's why we have celebrity gossip.



Aiadin Mitchell Junior, Electric Design and Multimedia

What issue (or issues) do you think the future president should concentrate on?

That's hard, there are a lot of issues. More aid to the low income families. The rich are always getting all the benefits. The Republicans are always fighting for less tax, but they should be taxed more so that the money could go around and be more equally distributed.

What scandal would you like to see next in the White House?

Conspiracy with the Republicans. They conspire against the Democrats, but I am sure they have a lot of dirt in their closets.



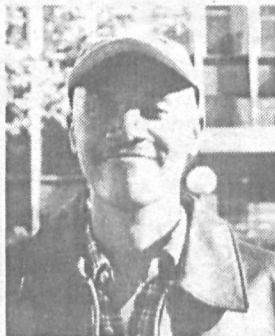
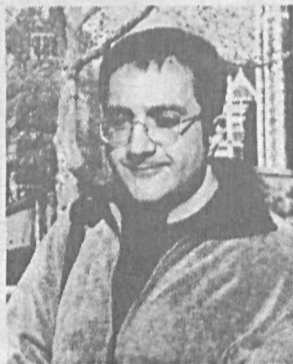
Walter Algarin Junior, History

What issue (or issues) do you think the future president should concentrate on?

Social Security. I think that needs to be reformed, it needs to be revamped, [and] they have to find a good, economic way of being able to keep it sufficient, so that when I retire it will be there for me.

What scandal would you like to see next in the White House?

Well, I like sexual scandals so let's keep in tune, and I don't like to change things like that, so let's keep it going. Although with Gore I don't know ...you know I won't be able to get that. Bush? Neither. Who knows? Maybe Ralph Nader will surprise us with another sexual scandal.



Roody Seradhin Junior, Biology

What issue (or issues) do you think the future president should concentrate on?

I think about mainly the economy, that's basically it. The economy: everything else revolves around that.

What scandal would you like to see next in the White House?

Not like Clinton, I would like to see a Republican sex scandal this time. I would like to see them handle that.



Wandy Rosario Freshman, Elementary Education

What issue (or issues) do you think the future president should concentrate on?

I think the schools. Because I have worked in schools, and in some of the schools the kids are not getting the education they should be getting, they are not learning, and they are getting passed on to other grades that pass them on. I think that is a very big problem they have right now.

What scandal would you like to see next in the White House?

Well, we have already had the president cheat with another woman: with another man I think would be interesting!



Isabella Nan Junior, Biochemistry

What issue (or issues) do you think the future president should concentrate on?

Social health and education, definitely ...public school education.

What scandal would you like to see next in the White House?

If it does not deal with his personal life because that's really none of our business, but if it deals with the government, of course people should know about it.



Giovanni Zambrano Junior, Computer Science and Latin American Studies

What issue (or issues) do you think the future president should concentrate on?

Education, the underprivileged citizens of the United States of America, and better health care reforms.

What scandal would you like to see next in the White House?

Another sexual scandal, something where the president gets in on a freaky threesome ...or maybe the First Lady involved in some dirty S&M stuff.

CCNY Plan Will Hurt Opportunity

By Bill Crain

The CCNY President's Advisory Committee on Strategic Planning has issued its draft report, and the report is bad news for many prospective students.

The report, following the lead of the right-wing Board of Trustees, recommends "a gradual raising of admissions requirements." Thus, if the report isn't changed, many students won't get into City College. And all the evidence indicates that the rejected students will often be those who have historically been shut out—the financially disadvantaged and people of color.

This means that many students, especially those who have had to attend the poorest public schools and have received the weakest preparation for college, will lose their one chance to get a good education. Research by CUNY sociologist David Lavin shows that when New York

City's disenfranchised students are given opportunities for a first-rate college education, their success rates are generally impressive. But the CCNY report would take many opportunities away.

The report implicitly recognizes that it is cutting off opportunity, so it adds that the college will "aggressively" pursue ways of preparing prospective students "to meet these higher standards." How? What resources for improving the public schools does our college possess? We don't have enough money to keep our own bathrooms clean.

The report also claims that higher admissions standards will "provide a stimulus for academic achievement." The report's

authors apparently believe that once high school students hear about CCNY's new requirements, the students will buckle down to their schoolwork.

This might happen to a small extent, but the basic assumption about intellectual development is wrong. Students' minds don't grow because adults tell them they must work harder to meet future goals. Under such pressures, students sometimes try to memorize more facts and formulas, but they usually work without enthusiasm and then promptly forget most of the material once their tests are over.

Instead, real cognitive growth comes from students' inner, spontaneous desire to learn. When stu-

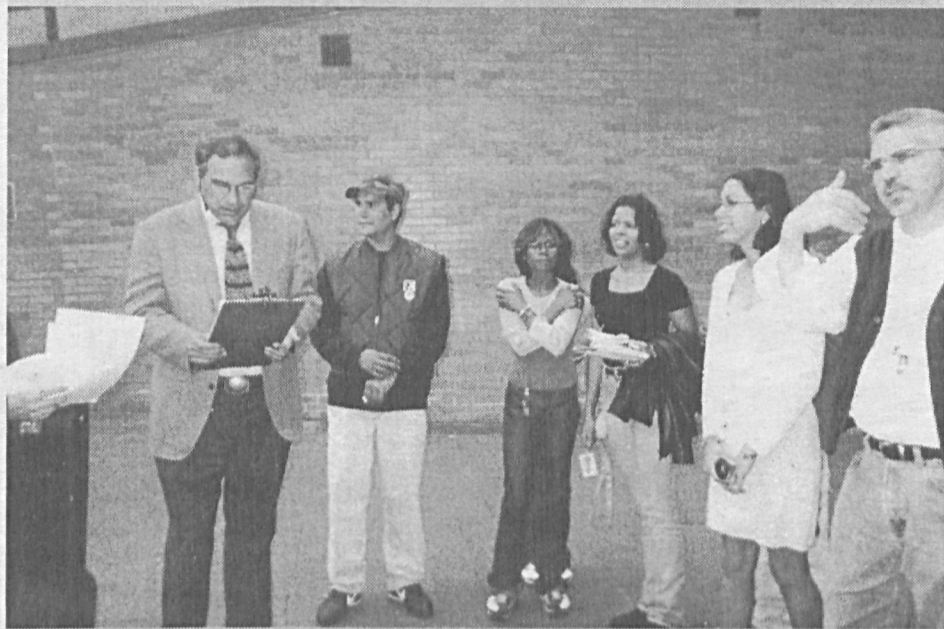
dents encounter tasks and problems that they find exciting and meaningful, they think deeply and fully, and their minds expand. If we really want to improve education, we need to think less on our own standards and expectations and think more about how to make learning an exciting adventure.

So even if we gained the financial resources to improve the public schools, we would also need to alter our conception of intellectual development. And neither change is on the immediate horizon.

Perhaps I am underestimating our college's ability to help the public schools. Perhaps CUNY's central administration will fund programs that produce significant improvements. I doubt this will happen, but in any case, the reasonable approach is to try out the new methods first, and to raise the admissions standards only after we see that the new methods really work. But to first start excluding students is unconscionable. **M**

What resources for improving the public schools does our college possess? We don't have enough money to keep our own bathrooms clean.

Remembering the Real Legacy of Columbus



City College faculty and students held an Anti-Columbus Day ceremony on October 5 on the NAC plaza. The group protested a holiday honoring a man who began a pattern of European enslavement and murder of indigenous peoples in the Americas.

CUNY Bends Rules for Fire Department

By Bill Crain

The CUNY Board of Trustees' new remediation and admissions policy requires students to pass the three Freshman Skills Assessment Tests in order to enroll in CUNY's bachelor's degree programs.

But CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein has recently given members of the New York City Fire Department permission to enroll in John Jay's bachelor's degree program without taking the tests.

The firefighters must have passed the civil service exam and have completed fire academy training, but they are clearly receiving preferential treatment. The civil service exam is not on a par with the CUNY tests. And the fire academy training is practical, not academic.

Firefighters are already receiving transfer credit for the fire academy training, but this is typically unwarranted. They get credit for skills such as learning to drive the fire truck.

Earlier in the year, the Chancellery violated the new admissions policy by allow-

ing students with 45 credits from non-CUNY colleges to transfer into CUNY's bachelor's degree programs without passing the tests. Apparently, CUNY's leaders look more highly on students outside the university, even though these students had been having difficulty with the tests.

CUNY preaches "high standards" but doesn't take its admissions policy seriously or apply it consistently. The policy is biased and political.

I have written to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, which is monitoring CUNY's admissions policy for bias, about the preferential treatment for the firefighters and the non-CUNY transfers. The Fire Department is almost entirely white. I bet the non-CUNY transfer students, in comparison to CUNY students, are disproportionately white, too. **M**

Bill Crain is a professor of psychology at the City College, CUNY, and a leader of CUNY Is Our Future, a group of faculty, students, and community activists working to maintain open access.

castles



Nathan Alvarez does his Trotsky impersonation beside the dove cage he built and the avocado tree he grew in his Prospect-Lefferts living room.

An Avocado Tree Grows in Brooklyn

By Anne Naughton

CASTLE: Two Bedroom Apartment in Turn of the 20th Century Row House.

LOCATION: Prospect-Lefferts Gardens in "Victorian Flatbush," Brooklyn.

OCCUPANTS: Nathan Alvarez (first year Civil Engineering student at CCNY) Delphine Selles (Program Director at French Institute) Thelma & Louise (cats), Tom & Chloe (doves) & several fruit flies.

COMMUTE TO CCNY: D train from Prospect Park to 125th, switch to B or C local to 135th, walk through the park.

Per my in-depth research fashion, I made sure that I arrived in your neighborhood early to stroll around. When I left the neon of Flatbush Ave. and wandered down the wide sidewalks of Maple Street, the brick attached numbers gave way to big houses with porches, yards and grounds with hedges. I asked some fellow parking his car "who lives in the big house?" He said "some Doctor." Then you gave me a historical fact-jammed walking tour and totally sank my strategy to surprise you with

interesting facts about your own neighborhood. But I remain determined, for the readers' sake, to ask probing and revealing questions. So, who lives in the big house?

(Nathan) Probably a doctor. The area is mostly Black middle class. The mansions are in the area called Lefferts Manor. When the Lefferts family's architects designed this neighborhood, they thought it would be good to have the prosperous people at the center of town to exert a good influence on the people who lived on the outskirts. Because it's a historic district the area has stayed basically the same since it was built.

I understand that the Block Associations are really strong and they had you take down your anti-death penalty poster.

(Nathan) Yep. But they also got rid of the drug dealers. This area used to be high crime. They put up chain link fences and started patrols and now it's wonderful. (Delphine) We used to hear shots at three o'clock in the morning. (Nathan) That was just from the nightclub. They shut that down. (Delphine) It's strange, it's a really

nice neighborhood: lots of families & kids. Then at three o'clock in the morning we would hear shots. (Nathan) Not anymore. (Delphine) The Carnival also runs right through here. (Nathan) Some storefronts down Flatbush Avenue are called costume museums and people are just in there sitting behind sewing machines making costumes year round. (Delphine) You can see people practicing their routines in their backyards on Saturday nights.

This is how everyone in New York should be able to live. Your apartment is huge and affordable. The garden in back has monstrously bushy basil plants and tomatoes too. You have wooden floors, high ceiling, big front windows and lots of houseplants including an avocado tree grown from seed. The fruit flies add to the calm, tropical feel.

(Nathan) Sorry about the fruit flies, I'm composting.

While we're on the subject of winged things, it's exciting that visitors can leave your place knowing that *this* is what it sounds like when doves cry.

(Delphine) Sounds like pigeons. (Nathan) Actually, pigeons are doves. Scientists don't distinguish between them. (Delphine) They're white pigeons. (Nathan) Large Columba forms are called pigeons, small Columba forms are called doves. (Delphine) Nathan has the answer for everything.

I think you both must know everything. Your dining room wall is lined with books: tons of Marxist lit and smatterings of Nabokov, astrophysics, anthro-

pology, and, my favorite, Back To Basics, The Readers Digest's bible of do-it-yourself American crafts.

(Nathan) In the ten years since I left high school 'til now this has been my self-education. If I wasn't reading a book I would be going insane.

So what brought you to CCNY after 10 years in the labor force?

(Nathan) I had it good working for the NYU Medical Center. After five years I had four weeks vacation and full medical. I was doing a McJob: bussing tables & cleaning up garbage. And \$13.71 an hour is nothing to sniff at. I had benefits the average American only dreams of. But the intellectual challenge was not there. If your day-in, day-out life is just serving people their mashed potatoes & their gravy & their watered down soup and meanwhile your head is full of ideas for new train systems, new modes of transportation, housing... (Delphine) and figuring out the 10th dimension. (Nathan) I'm only at five. (Delphine) I stopped at three.

When I told someone I was interviewing you, she said, 'Oh, the table guy?' What drives you to sit in the NAC Rotunda and distribute political information?

Well, when I first got here I didn't have a clue what to do with myself between classes. I used to walk down to Riverbank Park on top of the sewage mill. (Delphine) And then you figured out 'I can table!' (Nathan) Then I met up with some International Socialist people who were doing stuff on campus. It's important to get people involved. (Delphine) And you're a socialist. (Nathan) And I'm a socialist. **M**

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By Rob Wallace

In September 1999, CUNY Board of Trustees chair Herman Badillo addressed a Center for Education Innovation luncheon. Remarking on problems in education, particularly at CUNY, the Great Educator declared,

The problem is that in Mexico and Central America, there has never been a tradition of education... They're pure Indians: Incas and Mayans, who are about, you know, five feet tall, with straight hair. And when they speak about 'La Raza' they're not talking about the Spanish language, they're talking about the original Indian language. And therefore it's far more complicated problem than the problem that we're used to dealing with but nobody seems to want to face up to it.

The six-foot Badillo went on to complain about the growth of Mexican businesses in East Harlem, a neighborhood he claimed is "supposed to be Puerto Rican." Badillo's racist non-sequiturs set-off a firestorm of criticism from the straight-and curly-haired alike. The Professional Staff Congress (PSC), CUNY's faculty union, denounced Badillo's statements as "derogatory and racist."

But Badillo's remarks only capped his decade-long, and currently successful, campaign against open admissions and remediation at CUNY. According to CUNY Central's own studies, ending remediation classes without recourse would ultimately reduce both the Black and Latino student bodies by half.

Still, many were shocked that a Latino who had to struggle through language and race barriers for a City College degree in accounting would so viciously belittle other Latinos undergoing the same struggle.

Wasn't this Herman Badillo, the first Latino to run for New York's mayoralty? Protestant Puerto Rican, of Italian heritage, and married to a Jew, didn't Badillo in his 1969 mayoralty bid declare himself

"a one-man integration ticket"? Isn't this the proud Badillo who told the New York Post that Puerto Ricans do not discriminate? And that, after all, "Blood is all the same color, and non-sectarian"?

What Shakespearean transformation turned Harlem's talented and dashing Prince Henry into the Upper East Side's bitter potty-mouth?

The problem with this dramatic sketch is that it isn't true. Badillo, like most politicians, was rotten pretty much from the start.

Badillo's Start

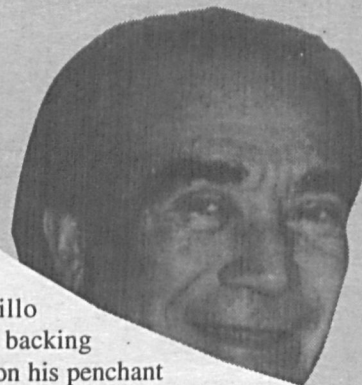
We can't understand the nature of Badillo without understanding the nature of New York. Badillo is truly a native son. We need then to establish context first.

In New York City, elected officials do not run the city. They are at best managers on the proverbial supermarket floor. They exert limited autonomy as they scamper about managing the store at the owners' bidding.

In New York City, the finance, insurance and real estate (FIRE) industries own the store. FIRE elites, with their multi-billion dollar portfolios and armies of lobbyists, command elected officials' political attentions like no other constituency. Pro-choice, pro-life, housing advocates, the PBA, Cardinal Egan, DC 37, NIMBY community organizations—no interest group commands politicians like FIRE. FIRE contributes more money to political campaigns than all other interest groups combined. So FIRE shapes budgetary practices. FIRE, in the form of brokerage firms, controls the City's bond ratings. FIRE determines what's built and how and when serious money flows. Any major project in NYC needs FIRE fiscal backing.

Right from the start of his political career, the shrewd and ambitious Badillo understood this and sought to demonstrate his willingness to serve those elites. With the Civil Rights movement and the failures of Bull Connor-style repression, a market developed for minority vassals.

At Robert Moses



Like many Black and Latino elected officials, Badillo earned the elites' backing by showing early on his penchant for betraying people of color, a talent Badillo has exercised ever since. His early betrayals won him the political access and financial capital he needed for later campaigns for the mayoralty.

We'll join Badillo in 1961. East Harlem, though majority Puerto Rican, is run by the Italian political machine. Badillo, a year after supporting JFK's successful bid for president, establishes the Democratic JFK Club for black and Latino voters there. The next year he supports Robert Wagner's successful reelection, but loses in the race for district leader by 75 votes.

As a reward for his support, Mayor Wagner appoints Badillo as deputy real estate commissioner. By the end of 1962, Badillo becomes the city's first Commissioner of Relocation, serving through 1965, only four years before his run for the mayoralty as, in his words, "the only liberal."

As Relocation Commissioner, "liberal" Badillo's job is to help remove thousands of working class people out of their neighborhoods and often against their will. The residents' homes are subsequently demolished by the city and highways and opera houses are built in their stead. Whole neighborhoods, with their own histories and emotional ties, are annihilated. Though Badillo supervises programs whose declared aim is to help residents move to comparable housing, thousands are left to their own devices.

Moses and the Expulsion of the Blacks

Badillo didn't start such "slum clearance." As Joel Schwartz has pointed out in *The New York Approach: Robert Moses, Urban Liberals and the Development of the Inner City*, Jacob Riis famously exposed slum conditions in *How the Other Half Lives*, not because he wanted ghettos helped out, but because he wished them razed as health hazards.

The most famous neighborhood annihilator was Robert Moses. With potent liberal backing, Moses spent a quarter of a century as a member of the permanent government, reshaping New York City's physical and social landscapes with unprecedented independence. Moses served as Park Commissioner, City Planning Commission member, and Construction Coordinator through three mayoral administrations—LaGuardia, O'Dwyer,

and Wagner.

Accompanied by the city plutocracy, liberal civic organizations and developers, Moses used Title 1 of the federal Housing Act of 1949 and his Committee on Slum Clearance to clear-cut swaths of housing lived in by the poor. In their place pricey condos, university campuses, medical centers, arts complexes, and infrastructure projects were built. The evicted poor and working class, typically Black and Latino, were relocated to poorly constructed projects or left on their own.

With Title 1 and other tools, Moses and his allies built, among other projects, New York Coliseum, Cooper Square, Lincoln Center, the UN, Stuyvesant Town, Fordham University, parts of New York University, Mount Sinai Hospital, Pratt Institute, printing plants for the New York Times, and Morningside Gardens where I lived for 27 years. Robert Caro, in *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*, put the relocations that accompanied Moses projects at 250,000 New Yorkers for highways, and tens of thousands for other projects.

Appalled by Moses's racism and classism, Caro declared that Moses's actions "created new slums as fast as they were cleaning the old."

Badillo Learns

One such project was the Lower Manhattan Expressway. The 2.4-mile, eight-lane expressway was first proposed in 1927, endorsed by the City Planning Commission in 1941 and finally approved by the city's Board of Estimate in 1960. The expressway was to link the Holland Tunnel on the West Side and the Williamsburgh and Manhattan Bridges on the East Side. According to the plan, the expressway arteries were to weave through neighborhoods, turning New York, according to one critic, into an East Coast version of Los Angeles.

With the Civil Rights movement and the failure of the non-style repression developed for minorities. Like many Black elected officials, the elites' backing early on his betraying people

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The Messenger is committed to defending CUNY and all of its programs, and to supporting open access to CUNY for all of the people of New York City.



ere Herman Badillo learned to remove Blacks and Latinos from CUNY es' knee

render
vital social
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the families who
will be so intimately
affected by this procedure." In

this language, fuzzy-wuzzy social services are provided to a population that, if left alone, would not need them to begin with. And a governmentally enforced relocation is presented as if it's an unavoidable natural disaster like a hurricane or flood.

Badillo admitted in his report the relocations wouldn't be without its problems. "This does not, of course, mean that the relocation for this project can be accomplished without pain or strain or some individual cases of hardship. Practically speaking, every major relocation involves some hardship for some. But in this case, I

Mayor Wagner, a rabid proponent, emphasized how the federal government would cover 90% of the costs of the expressway, New York State the other 10%, with the City contributing a miniscule \$220,000. He also cheered the construction jobs that would result. The president of the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association, a booster group, declared the Expressway would "stimulate business activity, improve property values and bring increased tax revenues to the city," important FIRE priorities

But at what human cost? Two thousand families and 800 businesses employing 10,000 people would be forced out of the area.

In 1962, Mayor Wagner, burned by community protests during the development of Manhattan town on the Upper West Side, established the position of Relocation Commissioner and appointed Badillo with 200 employees and, by 1965, a budget of over \$2 million. In June 1962, Wagner

had Badillo begin a plan for relocating residents for the expressway project.

In December Badillo released the report, assuring adequate and affordable housing would be found for the 1,972 families the City would remove for the Expressway. Based on overly optimistic estimates of available housing in nearby areas, Badillo declared in the report that "On the basis of current relocation practices and procedures of the Department of Relocation, and in the light of studies just completed, I can report that the relocation load for this project could be taken in stages and suitably accomplished."

With a liberal veneer long a characteristic of forced removals in New York City, Badillo declared his intentions to found a "citizens relocation advisory board" and "to institute a full program of social services which will facilitate the process of relocation and at the same time

can report that with the cooperation already described, the job can be done," Badillo wrote.

The Human Cost

But for the people to be actually moved, the Expressway represented more than "some hardship." To a *Times* reporter, neighborhood residents cursed Wagner, others cried. The high relocation stipends and new low-cost housing were viewed by residents as little compensation for the loss of their neighborhood.

"A world is being destroyed, a way of life," declared Reverend Gerard LaMountain. "There are people here 80 years old who have never lived anywhere else. The neighborhood is everything for them," he continued.

"The expressway is a death blow to Little Italy," Anthony Dapolito, co-chair of the Citywide Organizations Against the Lower Manhattan Expressway, told the *Times*. The area to be demolished was, ironically, considering Badillo's background, characterized by a large Italian population and a growing Puerto Rican one. In a way, Badillo proved himself an advocate of his later declared creed—"Blood is all the same color, and non-sectarian"—and willing to sacrifice all neighborhoods, even his own people, for his private ambitions.

Fierce community opposition met the highway and relocation plans. Opponents cited the destruction of the neighborhood, the likely pollution that would result from the increased traffic, and the existence of non-disruptive alternatives for alleviating downtown traffic problems. An array of politicians, smelling electoral blood, piled

on, including Representatives Ed Koch and John Lindsay, and Borough President Percy Sutton, all of whom would oppose Badillo in later mayoral elections.

Such sustained opposition spelled the death knell for the expressway. Lindsay, elected mayor in 1965, killed the project in 1969 in favor of a highway that looped about the perimeter of Manhattan Island.

Our point here is that Badillo's relocation plans for the Lower Manhattan Expressway exemplified what became his standard stock in trade. He has provided the FIRE elites the racial cover they've needed to remove minorities from where they live, where they work, where they go to school.

Others appreciated the work. Before the 1965 elections, Badillo resigned as Relocation Commissioner to join City Council President Paul Sorevaro's slate. Sorevaro, running for mayor, wanted Badillo to win him minority support. It didn't work: Sorevaro lost, but Badillo won the Bronx borough presidency he would use as a launch pad for his own run at the mayoralty in 1969.

Badillo's vehemence about and verve at removing Blacks and Latinos from CUNY are not just the result of an old man's political conversion. They are very much the outgrowth of skills developed over a career of four decades, right from his first appointment. Badillo appears very much, like all politicians, a man of his era, shaped by the political and economic terrain of the city and the private cancers of his heart.

Kim Williams-Guillen provided research assistance for this article. **M**

Pres. Search continued from page 1

accomplishment to CUNY issues. Four of the interviewees were selected as semi-finalists by a committee vote.

Each candidate was given a package with information about the college and the issues around it. One of the concerns the committee members had was avoiding selection of anyone who does not understand the school's issues.

USG president Jason Compton thought the candidates had an understanding, although not a total grasp, of the political nature of the institution. He also thinks that many candidates were from similar institutions, so had knowledge of issues surrounding a predominantly minority and immigrant school.

Compton thought that from the beginning of the process it wasn't evident that the trustees are catering to the idea of turning city as a technical and science college. In return, the rest of the committee members made sure that the interest of CCNY's schools of liberal arts and education would be preserved. Although it is hard to guess candidates' understanding of the issue, Compton feels that all four candidates are well qualified. He also thinks that one of the four candidates with a science background could do a great job.

According to the press release published on the CCNY web page, all the candidates will visit the campus between November 20-30th. Each candidate will stay on campus for a day and meet with representatives of the faculty, student body, administration and surrounding communities. Candidates will also address a one-hour open forum to meet with all

the members of the community.

Who Are the Candidates?

As of press time, finalists' names and the schedule of forums had not been announced. Compton told the *Messenger* that some of the candidates hold positions in other institutions, and their names are being withheld until they have an opportunity to notify their current schools.

This would make it difficult for CCNY members to critically evaluate candidates. Former CCNY president Yolanda Moses withdrew her application to the University of New Mexico after questioning by UNM about her record at CCNY, which included repression of student activism, spying on students, and an autocratic decision making process. UNM students and officials were tipped off when they contacted people at CCNY.

Hanna Seifu-Teferra, USG executive vice president, has her doubts about the process. She told the *Messenger* that she attended one of the search committee meetings when the campus visits were discussed. According to her, the open forum will be presided over by a moderator, a move she thought unnecessary. One search committee member proposed the idea of a moderator in fear of an "inappropriate question." Seifu-Teferra fears this might be a way to not only eliminate any controversial but important issues, but also to "sugar-coat" the problems of the college for the candidates.

Seifu-Teferra was also informed that the open forum would probably be held in the evening, which will eliminate the chance for many students to meet and talk to the prospective president of their institution. However, she added that student

government will try their best to schedule all the open forums during mid-day, preferably during club hours.

CUNY Central Decides in the End

No matter what happens, Chancellor Goldstein will be the one to select the new president. Compton thinks that this process is neither fair nor democratic. According to him, Goldstein doesn't have to choose any one from the four finalists selected by the committee. Goldstein also has the right to overturn any decision of the committee. Compton thinks that the Board of Trustees is only going through the process to please the public opinion.

Although Chancellor Goldstein did not participate in the selection process, the fact that he can overrule the committee ruling is undemocratic. Compton also thought that trustees serving on the board could override the desire and expectation of the community. He thinks there should have been more representatives from the student body and faculty members.

When asked what he expects from the new president, Compton answered that the most important thing for the president has to be representing the interests of the college. There were too many situations where decisions beneficial to the college had been struck down by the Board of Trustees. City College needs a president who has vision and performs according to the needs of students, faculty, staff, and community. He thinks the president needs to stand up against any decision by the board that is bad for the school. Unfortunately, he thinks the chance of someone like that becoming the college president is slim to none. **M**

Pataki approves Workfare legislation

New York State Governor George Pataki has finally signed a bill that will exempt college students in internships and work-study programs from workfare assignments. CUNY's teachers union the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) formed a lobbying campaign to pressure the Governor to sign the legislation. PSC President Barbara Bowen said: "The PSC fought hard for the bill because our members were appalled that 20,000 students—many struggling against enormous odds to stay in college—were forced to drop out of CUNY."

According to The New York Times: "Five years ago, before the workfare program was introduced in New York City, more than 10 percent of CUNY's student body—some 28,000 students—received public assistance. The number of welfare recipients at CUNY has shrunk to about 7,500 since workfare was instituted." Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is probably hunched in his bunker stewing... Giuliani claimed the law would hamper his efforts to ensure that all welfare recipients met the city's work experience requirements. Apparently slave labor is one of those requirements.

CUNY's Iron Fist

The Professional Staff Congress (PSC) reports that CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein recently issued a memorandum requiring college presidents to formally evaluate department chairs. A standardized evaluation form accompanied the instruction.

This move violates the collective bargaining agreement between CUNY and staff. According to PSC VP Steve London, CUNY attempted to impose the new procedure without discussing it with the union.

CUNY had tried and failed in the past to exclude department chairs, who are currently elected by their respective departments from union protection. London feels that the move is an attempt by CUNY to intimidate staff, who are currently in contract negotiations. It also appears to be another move by CUNY central to further consolidate power and decision making authority.

CUNY's increasing micromanagement of even minor details in policy threatens to further erode the ability of colleges, staff, and students to determine the best policy for themselves and control the quality of both working conditions and education.

Act now, supplies are limited!

The *New York Daily News'* Fall Education Supplement featured an advertisement for the new CUNY Honors College, which, you may recall, is one of the key elements in CUNY's plans for creating a "flagship environment" (first person who can tell us what that is wins a prize).

The ad copy proclaims: "one hundred outstanding students, designated University Scholars, will be selected for the first Honors College class. The City will be their campus [so where will the student lounge be, Times Square?]"

Also promised are full tuition scholarships and stipends, laptop computers, and academic expense accounts to be used for "culturally enriching experiences," such as study abroad.

You're Invited! (Bring your wallet)

Messenger intelligence agents recently spotted a flyer in NAC announcing a retirement party for "Dancing Dean Frederick J. Kogut" (their words, not ours). The soiree took place in The Great Hall on Nov. 9th. We were thinking of attending, as getting a glimpse of the Great Hall is almost as difficult as spotting the college president until we noticed the catch: the organizers wanted \$20 "for party and gift." Missed the event? No problem: you can contribute (any amount) to the cause in the Student Affairs Office. No word on whether or not they accept Pell money for payment...



Is that Fred Astaire or the Dancing Dean, Twinkletoes Kogut?

Sending a shout-out to the CUNY faculty

CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein is the star of CUNY's newest radio advertisement: a 30 second spot on HOT-97 FM. Fortunately he has a well paying day job, as his delivery of the script is... well... less than stellar. As bad as it is to have our university hawked like a ChiaPet or a cheap set of Ginsu Knives, Chancellor Goldstein does gush about CUNY's faculty, whom he calls "world class" and "second to none." We agree completely, but hopefully he remembers this long enough to give those world-class Profs a decent contract

Survey big-ups BCC

The September 26th *Daily News* took time out from their incessant CUNY-bashing to report that Bronx Community College ranks among the nation's top 100 two-year associate's degree institutions, according to a survey in Community College Week. The highest rated BCC programs were: science technologies at 25th, business management at 29th, communications technologies at 41st, and computer information services at 42nd. **M**

Diversity, Badillo-style

The University of Wisconsin admissions office was caught red-handed when they admitted to digitally manipulating a photo on the cover of their application in an attempt to portray the school as racially diverse.

Undergraduate admissions director Rob Seltzer, apparently unaware of what diversity means, authorized splicing the face of a black student, Diallo Shabazz, into the picture of a crowd of white students cheering at a UW football game after an unsuccessful search for a photo that would show the school's diversity. Sharp-eyed staffers at the student newspaper caught the photo.

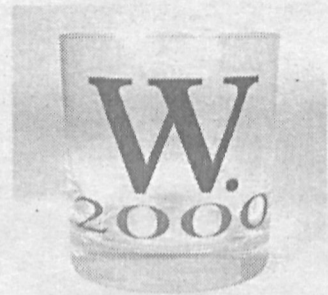
Shabazz told the *Chicago Sun-Times* that "it's a symptom of a much larger problem...Diversity on [the UW] campus is not really being dealt with. People really don't care about the photo itself. People care about having more students of color on campus."

Rudy Giuliani: a kinder, gentler bigot

Despite the mainstream media's oft-reported "mellowing" of the Mayor since his prostate cancer diagnosis, not much has really changed. This October 6th Associated Press report says it all:

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani refused to apologize Friday for telling reporters that as many as 2 in 5 black men questioned by police searching for a hypothetical black rape suspect could be arrested for some crime... On Thursday, during a 30-minute talk in which he denied reports that the Police Department's Street Crime Unit has engaged in racial profiling of suspects, Giuliani used the hypothetical example of a rape suspect on the Upper West Side who he described as "6-foot-2, African-American, roughly 35 years old."

Giuliani said: "What is going to happen in order to find that person is a lot of people are going to be approached. You are going to have to search for people, you are going to have to interview people, you are going to have to ask them questions. When you approach some of them to ask questions, you may be frightened about the fact that maybe they have a gun, maybe they don't have a gun. So you frisk them. Sometimes you do find a gun. In the course of looking for that one rapist, you may arrest 30, 40 people."



The official George W. drinking glass. Perfect for when you're getting ready to go out for an evening of drunk driving.

You may approach 100 people. But who are you going to be focusing on? You are not going to be focusing on a 70-year-old white male, if in fact the report is that the rapist is a 35-year-old African-American male. And that happens in large percentages, and that is what drives what's going on."

Giuliani's comments contradict Police Department statistics. In 1998, the Street Crime Unit made 45,000 stop-and-frisk searches although 35,000 of those stops, or about 78 percent, did not result in arrests. About 90 percent of those stopped were Blacks and Latinos.

It works for coffee, too

A late revelation of the presidential race was the reports that both George W. Bush and Dick Cheney were both arrested for drunk driving (though many years ago). So much for family values and personal responsibility.

An interesting tidbit is that on the same day (Nov. 3rd) that

Bush held a press conference fessing up to the DUI charge the Bush campaign website (www.georgewbush.com) had a sale on "W" drinking glasses: \$8 for a set of 4. Not a bad deal, but, given his record, Bush might be better off with the spillproof commuter mug, also on sale for the same price.

In desperate need of a few good men

PFC David Rivera, a Puerto Rican Marine, has withdrawn his service from the USMC to protest the U.S. military's rampant racism and continued bombing of the Puerto Rican island of Vieques. To support his discharge without court martial, contact: Lt. General Bruce Knutson, C.O., Quantico Combat Development Command, Quantico, VA 22134-5001, www.quantico.usmc.mil.

News Flash: NYPD uses racial profiling!

In a revelation that surprises no one, the *New York Times* reported that a federal investigation of the New York Police Department's Street Crime Unit has determined that its officers used racial profiling to target victims for street searches across the city.

The feds based their findings on a statistical analysis of the Street Crime Unit's searches of people stopped for suspicion of committing crimes or carrying guns. The analysis concluded that blacks and Hispanics in the city were disproportionately singled out in the searches, and that the imbalance could not be explained by higher crime rates in the city's minority neighborhoods.

Crime and punishment

The first national study on the impact of incarceration on crime in the 1990s finds that higher increases in incarceration were less effective in reducing crime. The new 50-state report by The Sentencing Project (www.sentencingproject.org) shows that states with the greatest incarceration increases over the last decade had less impact on crime, including violent crime,



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than states with lower increases.

The report, *Diminishing Returns: Crime and Incarceration in the 1990s*, examined the relationship of incarceration and crime rates for all fifty states between 1991-98, when crime rates dropped by 22%, with a 47% rise in incarceration. It also examined the previous seven-year period 1984-91 when crime rose by 17% despite a 65% rise in incarceration.

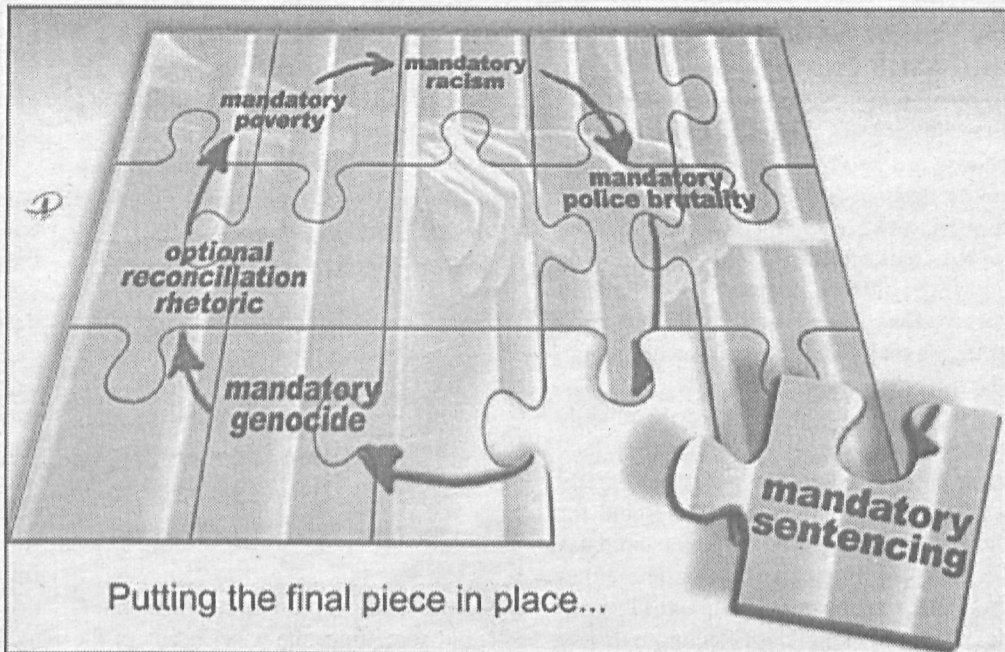
The study concluded that while incarceration rose continuously at record levels from 1984 to 1998, crime rates fluctuated over the 14-year period, indicating no strong relationship between imprisonment and crime.

Record incarceration, while showing little benefit, costs \$40 billion annually, diverting resources from more effective public safety measures like social, eco-

nomics and public health programs. Between '84-91, states with the highest incarceration hikes experienced only 2% less of an increase in crime (15% versus 17%) than states with less than half that rise in incarceration.

"These findings refute the popular notion about the benefits of increasing incarceration levels and shed serious doubt on the wisdom of continuing to build prisons as a means of controlling crime," says Jenni Gainsborough, Senior Policy Analyst for The Sentencing Project and co-author of the report.

Its recommendations include: a moratorium on the construction of new prisons; repeal of mandatory sentencing laws; strengthening probation and parole systems, and investing in programs that aid families and communities. **M**



Sticks and Stones Versus Tanks and Helicopters

By Aysar Batayneh

The latest wave of violence in the Middle East has left over 230 people dead, over 95% of whom are Palestinian civilians and 35% of whom are children. It has also left over 5000 Palestinians injured, mostly for life. And the world does nothing.

Peace negotiations have failed miserably and only added to the flame of frustration, and the world does nothing.

The UN has condemned the Israeli violence, twice. The Arab and European countries have voiced their opinions and joined in the condemnation, and yet, the world still does nothing.

The latest wave of violence has been foreseen for years. Many factors went into

ment is being manipulated by the Zionist forces.

The US sends over \$4.1 billion per year in aid to Israel, making it by far the country receiving the most aid. One must also take into consideration that this aid, unlike any other, is unmonitored (i.e. Israel has complete freedom to can use it in any way it sees fit). One should also mention is that Israel is arguably the most powerful country on that side of the world, making the amount of aid given to it very questionable. Yet US taxes continue to flow at an average of \$13 million per day.

Look at it this way, every time a Palestinian boy is shot, the bullet that pierced his heart was paid for by you, the taxpayer. Every time a tank rolls over a Palestinian house, the taxpayer fueled it. Every time an attack chopper fires a missile into a Palestinian building, you, the taxpayer, funded it. All the weapons used by the Israeli military were made and/or donated by the United States. So I ask you, how can the US government claim to be impartial?

The Peace Process

The word "peace process" gives the average person a false sense of hope. Only when one looks deeper into the Oslo accord does he/she begin to see the injustice.

Oslo was condemned to fail from the day it was signed. Violations of human rights as well as international law can found throughout the agreement and its implementation.

Probably the most recent and obvious example of the hollowness of the peace process was Ariel Sharon's visit to Haram al-Sharif on Sep. 28th. We were lead to believe that a month ago the peace process was moving on the right path and that the final status negotiations and the Wye river accord would finalize the peace process.

Yet, when Sharon and his troops marched into the holy site know to Arabs as Haram al-Sharif, all hell broke loose. How is it that an act like that,



no matter how provocative, can single-handedly cause the demise of the peace process? The answer is obvious: the "success" of the peace process was nothing but a mere fabrication by the politicians. Seven years of negotiations haven't moved us one step in the right direction, but moved us miles in the wrong one.

Solution

Every reporter and every onlooker asks us the same question: "What is the solution to the Middle East problem?" This is

probably the most ignorant question I have ever had to answer.

How does one expect to have a solution to a problem that has lasted over five decades? A problem that has political, religious, and economic roots. A problem that involves the most militarily and economically powerful countries of the world on one side, and the most spiritually powerful countries on the other.

The only way to find a solution to this problem before a real war breaks out and throws us into decades of violence is to abide by the current forms of law on Earth. Either abide by the UN resolutions that have been passed time and time again or abide by international law.

Unfortunately the Israeli state has avoided these solutions since its creation.

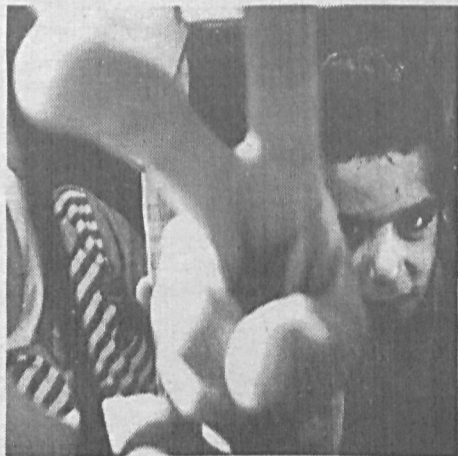
Finally

I call on you, the educated masses, to read, and educate yourself on this current crisis. Then take a long look at what the US government is doing. Take a good look at how the mainstream media is covering this issue, and make an educated decision.

This problem affects every person on earth, either spiritually, religiously, financially, or politically.

Open your eyes and take a stance.
No Justice, no peace. **M**

Aysar Batayneh is a graduate student in engineering.



it, some obvious, like an unjust peace agreement, delayed implementation, and continued hostilities. And others not so obvious, like Ariel Sharon's real reason for his provocative visit, Barak's dwindling support in his cabinet, and the silent support by the United States government.

US Support

The electoral race in the US has also uncovered to the world the biased stance of the US government.

Both Presidential candidates have vowed to move the US embassy from its current location (Tel Aviv) to Jerusalem. Hence, voicing their clear stance with Israel on one of the most sensitive issues—the fate of Jerusalem.

On the New York home front, support by both Senate candidates of the Israeli government proves how grave the situation is, and how the current US govern-



The Lesser Evil or the Greater Evil?

By Walter Daum and Mark Turner

Every four years American citizens get to choose a new President and the capitalist ruling class guarantees that the choice is limited to two very wealthy men financed by hundreds of billions of dollars from the even wealthier industrial and financial corporations whose interests the US government really serves, both at home and abroad.

No wonder roughly half of the eligible voters don't vote. It's not that they lack civic virtue. Rather they understand pretty well that the politicians do not stand for them, that all the pro-business candidates lie brazenly to get votes—indeed, that their main purpose in campaigning is to delude the working-class electorate to stay passive another few years and put their hopes for a better life in an electoral system that serves only the rich and powerful.

Clinton, the Greater Evil

Yet half of the working class does vote, figuring that one candidate—usually the Democrat—is the “lesser evil.” That was the case with Bill Clinton in 1992 and 1996. This line of thinking is a great mistake. Despite the US's vaunted economic prosperity these days, working-class living standards have been under assault for over two decades. Inflation-adjusted wage levels, for example, remain lower than they were in 1970.

Clinton carried the assault further than any Republican could. He approved the “welfare reform” that has canceled benefits for hundreds of thousands and set up slave-labor “workfare” programs like New York's “WEP.” He (and Hillary) undermined the fight for universal health coverage and triggered the so-called reform of health care that has promoted managed care in the interest of the HMO's and insurance companies, resulting in a 25 percent increase in the number of people without health insurance. His “anti-terrorism,” anti-immigrant, and “effective death penalty” bills have weakened civil rights for millions.

If a Republican president had signed any of these bills, the labor unions and Black and Latino organizations would have taken to the streets in massive protests. But the Democrats get away with it because Black leaders like Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton and all the top union officials are irrevocably committed to the Democratic Party. Activists have long known that the Democratic Party is the graveyard of mass struggles. The Clinton years proved it because he accomplished for the ruling class what no Republican could. For the working class Clinton was the greater evil.

Clinton has kept military spending at Reagan-like levels instead of delivering the promised post-Cold War “peace dividend.” He continued Bush's genocidal war of sanctions against Iraq, allegedly to oust Saddam Hussein. And added a three-month bombing campaign against the Serbian population to get rid of Slobodan Milosevic. Hussein and Milosevic were both regional strongmen defending US interests before they got too ambitious and tried defying Washington.

Neither Hussein's invasion of Kuwait

nor Milosevic's oppression of Kosovo bothered Clinton—he has applauded and armed Turkey's vicious war against the Kurds and barely commented on Russia's brutal destruction of Chechnya. The real reason for victimizing the Iraqi and Serbian civilians was to show the people of the world that they risk life and livelihood if their governments cross the United States.

Now Clinton is arming the Colombian drug lords, using the “war on drugs” to bring the US military into a Vietnam-style civil war. In wielding imperialism's big stick across the world, the Democrats are no less evil than the Republicans.

Whom the Ruling Class Prefers

Both candidates represent capitalist interests, but sometimes the wiser heads of the ruling class make their preferences known and the major media follow through. For example, the 1992 election took place in the aftermath of the Los Angeles “riot,” where thousands of Latinos, Blacks and working-class whites took vengeance for the exoneration of the L.A. cops who had savagely beaten Rodney King. Then-President Bush was incapable of expressing any sympathy for the massive outrage, so media opinion turned quickly against him. Clinton, who had been running third in the polls behind Bush and Ross Perot



“Yes! I've got so much power! Grovel before me and do my bidding, my cowering minions!”

(remember him?), quickly vaulted into the lead.

This year, the big media has been more or less neutral, most preferring Bush because the rich generally feel more kinship for Republicans. But, after the conventions, Gore launched into a populist campaign mode—no doubt pressured by the third-party campaign of Ralph Nader—and pretended to attack the drug and oil companies.

Gore's fake populism endeared him to the pundits, who all of a sudden declared him non-boring for the first time in his political career. They saw that his appeal to popular issues had struck a chord, and found him more useful to the ruling class than the ever-bumbling Bush.

Debate over Nader

The Nader campaign ignited a fierce debate among liberals. One side says that a vote for Nader was in effect a vote for Bush, since it might have cost Gore victories in key states. Nader and his supporters argued that a large vote for Nader would force the Democrats to the left and establish a progressive Green Party as a future electoral force generally against capitalist “globalization”—the increasingly blatant and direct control of other countries' economies by a handful of financiers.

For working people, Nader is no alternative to the pro-capitalist Democrats. A

genuine working-class campaign would be based either on the mass organizations and workers struggle or on a socialist program that stands for workers' interests against the capitalists.

There has been an upturn in labor activism this year—this summer's Verizon strike and Los Angeles' recent transit and municipal strikes, for example. But Nader does not champion these struggles, despite his appeals for union support.

Nader, however, reaches beyond his usual middle-class audience only to a narrow layer of mostly white workers. At the start of his campaign, he made no appeal and offered no support to the struggles of key importance for racial minorities: struggles against police brutality and the death penalty. His candidacy announcement said nothing about current issues of racial oppression. Lately he has learned that he has to address such issues.

Although Nader hates capitalism's big corporations and wants to curtail their power, he doesn't see that the capitalist state's machinery of repression—cops, courts, prisons—are an instrument for suppressing not only crime but working-class struggles. They victimize Blacks and Latinos above all, not only to suppress battles against oppression but also to persuade white workers that the system works for them.

Nader champions “democracy” under the illusion that with a few reforms, the US electoral system can be freed from the billionaires' domination without a revolution. He praises the “non-governmental organizations” he sponsors and the trade unions for being among the “countervailing forces that have saved American corporate capitalism from itself.”

The international issue that Nader takes the firmest stand on is “globalization,”

from the point of view of US nationalism. He denounced the World Trade Organization for violating US sovereignty, as if American interests are not dominant in the WTO. He joined the protectionist-minded labor officials in demanding China's exclusion from the WTO because of its violations of workers' rights. Indeed, the Chinese ruling class encourages the super-exploitation of Chinese workers, both for their own benefit as well as that of foreign investors.

Those who supported Gore to keep the Republicans out of the White House voted for an imperialist and capitalist champion who endorsed and would add to all the Clinton presidency's crimes against the working class.

The debate among working-class people should not be Nader vs. Gore but whether electing more and better liberals is a solution at all. The only way to win lasting gains is massive action, and in the past couple of years there have been inspiring

examples. This year there was the ouster of the IMF-controlled Ecuadorian president by an unprecedented mobilization of indigenous peasants, a general strike in Bolivia against an IMF-ordered takeover of a state-owned water company by US and British corporations, and a general strike by South African unionists against the austerity program accepted by their government from the imperialist bankers. When the US working class mobilizes itself against the ruling class scheme of prosperity above and austerity below, then we will begin to achieve the demands we have been fighting for. **M**

Walter Daum is a lecturer in the Math dept. Mark Turner is a staff member of the Math dept. Both are supporters of the League for the Revolutionary Party.



Dubya practicing looking Presidential.

A Party by and for Business

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Ona Move!

Long Live John Africa!

The L.A. Convention is but an echo of the recent convention in Philadelphia. It is a convention bought and paid for by corporate capital.

It is a convention of the well to do and wealthy, not of the workers or the poor and Philadelphia shows us that politicians are nothing but public relations spokesmen for their bosses. Whether one votes for the Democrats or Republicans, ultimately one votes for their own repression. The prisons that dot our landscape, two million men, women and children held in American jails and prisons, the 3,600 men, women and juveniles facing death at the hands of the state are each and all the political result of the politics of repression, estrangement, of separation and of isolation.

We are not used to seeing politicians, or for that matter police, as tools and instruments of political ill will, but

they are that. We need to think outside the box of the two-headed dog of American politics. Why not a party of those who labor? Why not a party which includes the interests of youth, mothers, students or the growing poor? You will see none of those interests represented on the stages of the two party system. Isn't it time to create an alternative? Both parties are parties of death, of war, of alienation and of unending conflict.

Why not a party of peace and justice, of life and our common humanity? Why not a party that speaks to our highest hopes, instead of our darkest fears? The need for change was never more obvious than now. To quote John Africa, “Revolution means change. Revolution is doing it or it ain't getting done.”

Let's do it.

Ona Move!

All my love.

Free The Move 9!

Long Live John Africa!

Written August 7th, 2000.

Inspiration at the Nader Rally

By Josh Sutter

My story is about the Nader Rally at Madison Square Garden on Friday October 13, but it begins with the first Presidential debate. There, the most relevant difference between the candidates was discussed by Gore, who attempted to inform the public that Bush, if elected, would replace the Democratic pro choice Supreme Court Judges on the verge of retiring with pro-lifers, allowing the court to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, allowing the States to resurrect laws making abortion illegal. The majority of the American public, however, was more concerned with Gore's rudeness. How dare he stretch while Bush was speaking?

So in the second debate, keeping these views in mind, the two decided to argue as little as possible. "I agree with the Senator that family values are important." "I agree with the Vice President that education is important" says Bush. "I know it's controversial to say this, but the death penalty is a valid deterrent to crime," they both say together.

In a *Saturday Night Live* debate sketch, the Republicans offered to supply free pay-per-view to anyone who wanted it while the debate was being broadcast. Well, as I wrote most of this, the third presidential debate at St. Louis, and game six of the American League Championship Series at Yankee Stadium were both taking place at the exact same time. *SNL* didn't have to work all that hard for the jokes, simply because that is what the actual election has become: a joke.

Familiar with the TV show *West Wing*? It's popular because it's a romance: a story of true love at first sight between voters and their candidate. Roy Bartlett (Martin Sheen's character), not initially the favored Democratic candidate, comes on to the scene like a charismatic fireball: willing to take a stand on the tough issues. The voters are infatuated with him, and he doesn't let them down. There's very little compromising done by the Bartlett administration, and the differences between Democrats and Republican are as clear as night and day. Not realistic of course, but there's still a certain charm to the moment where we see one of the staff watching him speak for the first time. You can almost see the chills going down his spine, and you can't help but think: "Ah, there it is: true inspiration." Believe it or not, that is what I experienced at the Nader rally: inspiration.

It wasn't just Nader's speech that moved me, it was everything. We arrived a half hour late, and were herded up to seats on the third balcony, overlooking the entirety of the Garden, filled to the brim with eager participants, swaying back and forth as Ani DiFranco strummed her guitar and sang. Ben Harper, Eddie Vedder, and Tim Robbins (as Republican Senator parody Bob Roberts) all performed as well, and each time a song ended, bright lights fell upon the cheering crowd giving each member a certain glow as they stood

above their seats, leapt up and down with their fists held high, and waved signs above their heads. There was something in the air... a vibe, that everyone was breathing in and getting high off of at once.

Phil Donahue, Susan Sarandon, Bill Murray, and Michael Moore all spoke with great enthusiasm, but one of the best moments came when a rally organizer stepped to the microphone, and asked the question: "Is anyone here from the *New York Times*?" The audience began to boo. I couldn't help but chuckle a little. "I'd like to introduce you to some people," said the speaker, "This... is... the resistance!" he shouted with arms outspread to the audience all around him, and the whole Garden began to whistle, shout, cheer and scream. A truly great moment, despite the fact that a girl in front of me nearly blew my eardrums out.

Toward the end of the evening Michael Moore introduced Nader, citing some of the many battles he'd fought in the past: for auto safety, workers and consumer protection, the Freedom of Information Act, clean air, clean water, and the list goes on.

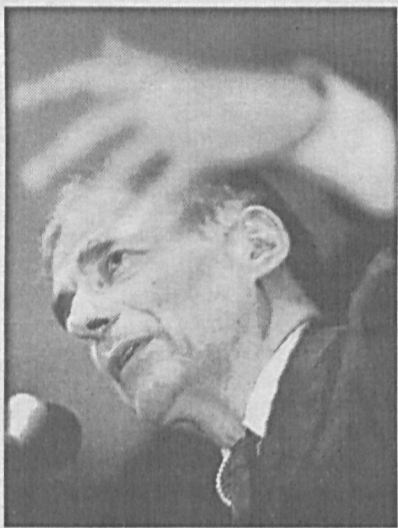
As Nader approached the podium, glittering golden confetti was released from the ceiling, and as bright lights lit up the crowd, it roared. I loved the moment, but hadn't expected much from Nader in terms of a speech. I'd seen him on the *Daily Show* and *Saturday Night Live*, and hadn't been too impressed.

Nader delivered his speech with great intensity, and the content of it blew me away. Gore's a self-proclaimed friend to the poor, and would probably tax the rich a bit more than Bush would, but Nader pointed out that the same corporations donating money to Bush's campaign were paying for Gore's as well, and thus they both have allegiances to the rich. It is for these reasons that Gore, like Bush, does not support the concept of a living wage that would allow all working people to stay above poverty. This is why he only plans to raise the minimum wage one dollar over the next two years. This is why Gore, like Bush, is a strong proponent of NAFTA and the WTO.

There was much more to the speech, and I challenge all reading this to find out more. Transcripts of the speeches are still available at www.votenader.com and www.nader2000.org. You may ask yourself, "Why do that at this point? The election's over." What you must remember is, the point of Nader's running was never to win this year. It is to create a permanent third party, that is a mass movement to serve the people and effect change. In four years this whole spectacle will replay itself, and next time as a result of the difference the votes for Nader have made, the Democratic Party will take Nader and his supporters a little more seriously.

During Nader's recent (C-SPAN) televised D.C. rally, a quote from Gandhi was repeated several times: "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they attack you, and then you win." **M**

Josh Sutter is an English major at CCNY.



Ralph throws the Green Party gang sign at a press conference.

book review

CCNY Prof Focuses on the Men in Blue

By Hank Williams

Police Brutality, a collection of essays edited by Jill Nelson, is more than a book; it's a tool to be used as a force for social change. Nelson writes in the introduction that it "should be read as a challenge to each of us to change the way we think about the issue and an inspiration for each of us to take action."

The strong point of *Police Brutality* is that it offers a full overview of the basis of the subject. To understand the nature of police violence, one must first look at what the roots are of crime and the role of police in a capitalist society.

Nelson, a Journalism Professor here at CCNY, notes that "there's no real commitment (in the US) to looking at the historical, political, economic, class-based social justice issues that have been issues since the founding of the republic."

The role of police has been from the beginning to protect property and—as a corollary—to protect the ruling class. That generally means keeping the status quo in place. As a result, maintaining social order means keeping systems of exploitation as they are. It was easy to tell the allegiance of police at the large Amadou Diallo rally down Fifth Avenue: they conspicuously stood in front of fashionable retail stores just to make sure nothing got out of hand.

The problem is that the structural problems of society that create crime are not dealt with. Instead of investing in schools, good housing, and health care, hundreds of billions of dollars are spent on prisons and paramilitary police agencies, such as New York's Street Crimes Unit. "It's one reason we are on this treadmill of dealing with the same problems, the same issues, generation after generation," Nelson explains. "It's the nature of our capitalist, consumer culture."

The essay format of the book is both its strong and weak point. It provides a variety of voices on different perspectives surrounding the issue. The history, politics, and resistance to the police are all investigated.

It is at times repetitive, as, one reads over and over about police harassment of black citizens for no reason—or due, in many cases, to outright racism. The essays, however, also serve to reinforce the point that the problem is systemic and not simply a case of a few bad apples or isolated incidents.

As with many anthologies, some essays are better

than others and readers will agree with some viewpoints more than others.

The book has an impressive array of writers, including such well-known names as Ron Daniels, Patricia J. Williams, and Robin D. G. Kelley. Some of the better essays were provided by the less-familiar names, such as Flores Forbes. Forbes provides a chilling look at police repression of the Black Panthers, who were essentially wiped out by the FBI and CIA in a process Noam Chomsky has referred to as "outright political assassination."

The book's reception has been lukewarm, Nelson says. "White readers, I think, generally don't see this as an issue that affects them," she adds. It also suffered from the failure of the mainstream



CCNY Professor Jill Nelson.

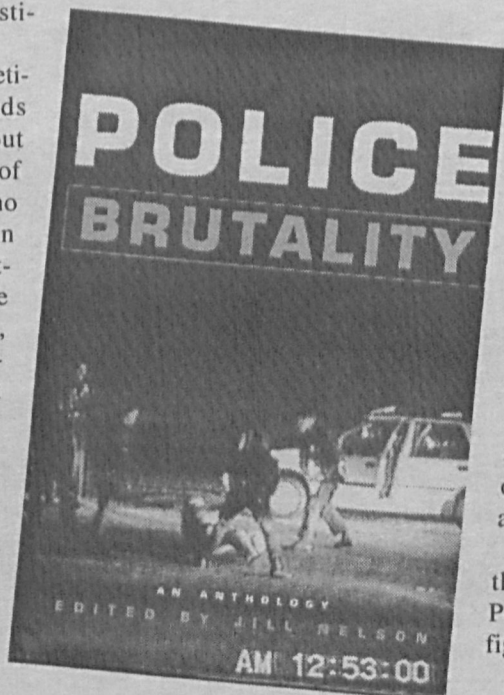
media in the US to cover issues in a substantive way. Nelson reports that her publicist at Norton had marginal success with press people who figured that they were done with police brutality after the Diallo protests died down.

Ironically, Nelson, a columnist for both *USA Today* and *MSNBC.com*, does not see media coverage as the entire solution to the problem. The media "doesn't build movements: people build movements," she says. "We've become manipulated and addicted to media validation. The struggle on the local level for social justice and for change is the way you build movements. And those movements—people's movements—should overwhelm the status quo and the larger culture and take them by surprise, not look to them for validation."

What *Police Brutality* does well is to provide grist for an open discussion of the real issues involved, and arms people with the information to go out and start working for change.

"We need to become daily activists," Nelson says. The book leads toward the conclusion that the power of the people is what will curb police violence, and the way for that to happen is rebuilding society in a way where justice and human need come before profits and corporate greed.

The way toward that goal? "Just like Public Enemy says: fight the power." **M**



November-December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 African Expansions: Concert of West African Musicians. Aaron Davis Hall, 3pm, \$20. 212-650-7148. Poetry Slam: CBGB's downstairs lounge, 313 Bowery, 7pm; \$5: Feature poet: Adam Stone open mic/ open slam.	20	21 Small Jazz Ensemble. Ron Carter directs. 3pm, Rm. 95 Shepard.	22 City Project's Big Apple Budget School: NYC's Waste Export Policy. New School University's Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy at 72 Fifth Avenue (13th St.) 3rd Fl. 9-11am	23 Thanksgiving: College is closed	24 College is closed	25
26 Poetry Slam: CBGB's downstairs lounge, 313 Bowery, 7pm; \$5 at the door: feature poet: Taylor Mali CD, open mic/ open slam.	27	28 Recital: Philipp Bernhardt, percussion. 3pm, Rm. 95 Shepard. CUNY Is Our Future meeting. 6:30 PM, 25 West 43d Street, 19th Fl.	29 Jazz Master Class. 2pm, Rm. 95 Shepard.	30 Graduate Jazz Ensemble. Ron Carter directs. 12:15-2pm, Rm. 95 Shepard. Architecture Lecture Series: "Fresh Morphosis (Unified Blend)." Great Hall (Shepard, 2nd fl.) 6:30pm Thom Mayne, Morphosis. Career options in entertainment, technology, medicine and more. 12-2pm, Shepard Rm 290.	1 Piano Recital: Miki Nakanishi. 3pm, Rm. 95 Shepard. World AIDS Day. Distribution of research literature and remembering those who have passed away. Presented by the Wellness and Counseling Center. NAC Ballroom, 11am-2pm.	2
3 Poetry Slam: CBGB's downstairs lounge, 313 Bowery, 7pm; \$5 at the door: feature poet: Lisa King, open mic/ open slam.	4	5 Chamber Music Concert: 2-4pm, Rm. 95 Shepard. Rattapallax Poetry Reading: Mark Nickels, Brendan Lorber & Evan Eisman, 8pm, Dixon Place, 309 East 26th St.	6 City Project's Big Apple Budget School: Consequences of HHC Downsizing. New School University's Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy at 72 Fifth Avenue (13th St.) 3rd Fl. 9-11am.	7 Latin Band. 12:30pm, Rm. 190 Shepard. Architecture Lecture Series: "Parallax." Great Hall (Shepard, 2nd fl.) 6:30pm. Steven Holl, Steven Holl Architects	8 Rattapallax Poetry Reading: Edwin Torres & Richard Pearse. Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church, 131 E. 10th St. 10:30pm	9 Rattapallax Poetry Reading: Louis Simpson & Elaine Schwaiger . 2 pm. Mid-Manhattan Library, 455 5th Ave.
10 Poetry Slam: CBGB's downstairs lounge, 313 Bowery, 7pm; \$5 at the door: feature poet: Patricia Smith, open mic/ open slam	11	12 Jazz Vocal Workshop. 3pm, Rm. 95 Shepard.	13 Last Day of classes CCNY Orchestra/Chorus Winter Concert. 7pm, Aaron Davis Hall.	14 Reading Day Christmas Carol/ Gospel Concert. 12:30pm, Location TBA. Rattapallax Poetry Reading: Kate Light & Bill Kushner . 7 pm, 14th St. Y, 344 East 14th St. & 1st. Ave.	15 Final Examinations	16 Get Up, Stand Up, Don't Give Up the Fight: Black Music as Subversion, Resistance & Revolution. Members of the newly established International Institute for Black Music Studies give a multimedia examination of the history of music in the African diaspora. Reservations advised. 6pm, Brecht Forum, 122 W 27th St. 10th floor. 212-242-4201. \$10.

Send announcements of your events to *the Messenger* at cnymessenger@yahoo.com.

THE MESSENGER PRESENTS:

THE FIRST SEASON

THE X-FILES

Thursdays, 6 pm
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Room J521

FREE PIZZA!

The Messenger sponsoring a pop TV show about two FBI agents? Sheesh! But in this climate one has to read between the lines. Warts and all, *The X-Files* is a lyrical film noir, a mythology tracing an individual's struggle against the permanent government.

NOVEMBER

9	16	30
● PILOT THE X-FILES ● DEEP THROAT	● SQUEEZE ● CONDUIT	● THE JERSEY DEVIL ● SHADOWS

DECEMBER

7	14	21
● GHOST IN THE MACHINE ● ICE	● SPACE ● FALLEN ANGEL	● EVE ● FIRE

Tuesday Night Film Series

Tuesdays, 6 pm
Shepard Hall Rm 491

FREE PIZZA!

NOVEMBER

14 SHOWDOWN IN SEATTLE A five part documentary on the protests against the WTO and the revolt against corporate-dominated trade.	21 BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB A moving documentary on the rediscovery of son musicians in Castro's Cuba. Superb music. Directed by Wim Wenders.	28 LA CUIDAD Director David Riker tells a series of stories in black and white about immigrant life in, among other places, nearby Washington Heights.
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DECEMBER

5 THE HURRICANE Hollywood film on Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, the boxer who was falsely accused and jailed for murder.	12 THE BATTLE OF CHILE Groundbreaking documentary on the election of socialist Salvador Allende to Chile's presidency and the subsequent fascist coup.	19 THE MATRIX A crowd-pleaser for finals. This comic book film details one person's awakening from the virtual realities his society immerses him in.
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