

# CCNY MESSSENGER

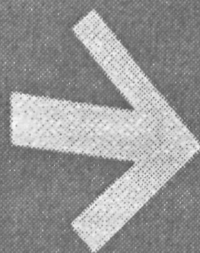
CCNY GRADUATE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

VOL. 1 No. 3

MAR. 18, 1998

UNIVERSITY OF HARLEM

# EMERGENCY



# CRISIS AT CITY COLLEGE



These kids may want to come to CCNY someday. CUNY's Board of Trustees may block them on March 23 when they vote on the future of Open Admissions & remediation. (Page 3)

**PANEL ON OPEN ADMISSIONS**

**Thurs., March 19  
12 Noon in NAC 1/211**

**PROTEST AT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Monday, March 23 3:00pm  
at E. 80th St. (Between  
York Ave and East End  
Ave.)**

## CCNY CLIPBOARD

## GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING

The Graduate Student Council is elected to represent the interests of graduate students at CCNY. The time and location of their next meeting will be posted on the GSC office door, NAC 1/113. Please feel free to attend and get involved.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS COMING UP

Elections are coming up for both the (undergraduate) Day Student Government and for the Graduate Student Council. If you are interested in running, you must get petitions signed by students in your school. Come by the Graduate Student Council office (NAC 1/113) to get the forms and information you need to run for a seat. The elections occur April 28-30. Petitions for candidacy are due by March 25. The elections are overseen by the Student Election Review Committee (SERC). Upcoming issues of the *Messenger* will have more information on candidates and on the electoral process.

## GSC RESOLUTIONS FROM MAR. 4 MEETING

The March 4 GSC meeting was attended by the following Council members: Jose Jimenez, Martha Flores, David Suker, Carmelo Trinidad, Augustine Velez, Ydanis Rodriguez and the following guests: Brad Sigal, Henry Martinez, Carlos Torres, and Ime Imeh (NYPIRG).

At the meeting, the following decisions were made (these are taken from the unofficial meeting minutes).

✓ Voted 5-0-0 to approve the minutes of the Feb. 10, 1998 meeting.

✓ Voted 5-0-0 to pay the Athletic Dept. for staff for the Pre University Program (Est: \$1,000).

✓ Voted 5-0-0 to pay receipts of \$79.03 and 103.92 for Pre-University Program for supplies and copying.

✓ Voted 5-0-0 to pass a resolution in support of the Pre-University Program (a letter should be sent to V.P. Morales). The letter should make the following points: (1) Pre-University benefits Graduate students and Undergraduate student firstly and the community second; (2) The Pre-University budget is only 4% of GSC total budget.

✓ Voted 5-0-0 to (1) have Misanoor Biswas (GSC's delegate to the University Student Senate) read a statement in defense of Open Admissions and present it at the next USS and Board of Trustees meetings. And (2) voted to denounce previous statements by Biswas that have not been in support of Open Admissions (this statement should be sent to CUNY press and media).

✓ Voted 5-0-0 to repay Martha Flores \$150 for expenses incurred at the recent conference she attended in Albany.

✓ Voted 5-0-0 to table discussions on a graduate reception.

✓ Voted 4-0-0 to purchase chairs, tables and supplies for the Graduate Resource Center (\$3,539.89).

✓ Voted 4-0-0 to hire Carlos Torres as manager for the Graduate Resource Center.

✓ Voted 4-0-0 to purchase an alarm for GSC Resource Center for \$1,200.

✓ Voted 4-0-0 to table discussion of purchasing a copy machine.

✓ Voted 4-0-0 to hire Ana Bonafacio at a rate of \$53.98 per hour to teach workshops on the LAST Exam for a total amount of \$1,889.30. (10 sessions 35 hours total, from March 6 to April 17).

✓ Voted 4-0-0 to table discussion of hiring Sean Hewitt to teach Psychology comprehensive exam workshops.

✓ Voted 4-0-0 to appoint Jose Jimenez as the GSC's alternate delegate to the University Student Senate.

✓ Voted 4-0-0 to give \$1,000 to each graduate club that has turned in a record of productivity. The following clubs are included:  
Graduate Art  
SLAM  
AREITO  
City Images Photo Club

✓ Voted 4-0-0 to hold a GSC sexual harassment workshop. If she is willing to conduct it, the GSC will hire Esparanza Martell to conduct the workshop for a maxi-

mum of \$250.00. Workshop will be conducted on Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00 pm.

✓ Voted 4-0-1 to store The *Messenger* computer and printer temporarily in the Student Ombudsperson's office.

✓ Voted 5-0-0 to revise earlier vote on Psychology Comp. Workshops, and to hire Sean Hewitt at a rate of \$53.98 per hour to teach workshops on the Psychology Comps. for a total amount of \$1,889.30. (10 sessions 35 hours total, from March 6 to April 17).

✓ Voted 5-0-0 to allow Undergraduate employees to work up to 25 hours per week (15 hours regular, 10 hours overtime).

✓ Voted 5-0-0 to clarify that the GSC intends to honor all motions made in today's GSC meeting.

✓ Voted 5-0-0 to spend \$485 for the "Somos El Futuro" conference in Albany, to sponsor Martha Flores.

✓ Voted 5-0-0 to spend \$600 co-sponsoring a bus to Washington DC for the Jericho '98 political prisoner march on March 27.

Meeting minutes by David P. Suker

## Correction

In the 2/27/98 edition of the *Messenger*, in our article on the "100 Years of Struggle Against US Imperialism" forum, we mistakenly spelled "Filipinos" as "Phillipinos." We apologize for this error.

## So You Wanna Go To Grad School?

Applying to graduate school can be an overwhelming process. Fortunately, there are a series of workshops coming up at CCNY designed to help make the process clearer and easier. Here's what's coming up.

## Demystifying the Graduate Admissions Process

Thursday, March 19

Thursday, April 2

Thursday, April 9

Friday, April 24

Thursday, April 30

All sessions are from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm in NAC Building 1/202

Meet with representatives from the School of Education, School of Engineering and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to discuss application procedures and answer your questions regarding admission to City College's Graduate Degree Programs. To RSVP and obtain more information please call 212-650-6447 or 650-6448.

## School of Engineering Graduate Open House

Saturday, March 28

10:00 am - 1:30 pm

Steinman Hall Lobby

140th Street & Convent Ave.

Event Schedule: Registration: 10:00 am  
Program Information Session: 10:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Financial Aid Workshop: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Campus Tours: 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Learn about our M.E. and M.S. programs in Engineering: Computer Science, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. Special opportunities in Biomedical Engineering, Transportation Engineering and Computer Engineering. Speak with faculty members, graduate students, admissions and financial aid representatives.

## CCNY Graduate School Open House

Saturday, April 4

10:00 am - 1:30 pm

NAC 2nd Floor Rotunda

Learn about CCNY's M.A., M.S.Ed., M.F.A. and Certificate Programs in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, School of Professional Studies, Education, Bilingual Extension, and Advanced Certificate.

## Bio-Engineering PhD's

A Few Minorities Get Money and Support to Become Bio-Engineers

## AMSTERDAM NEWS

City College's Center for Biomedical Engineering (CBE) has received a \$270,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to dramatically increase the number of minority Ph.D.'s in bio-engineering.

The award will be used over the next three years to establish a program that will prepare minority undergraduate students for Ph.D. programs in bio-engineering at CCNY and several of the most prestigious universities in the nation. The participating institutions—Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, University of San Diego and the University of Pennsylvania—repre-

sent four of the country's six most highly rated Ph.D. programs in bio-engineering, according to a 1995 report by the National Research Council.

"For the first time, nationally renowned engineering faculty at leading universities have joined together for the expressed purpose of dramatically improving minority participation at the Ph.D. level in their field of research," said Professor Sheldon Weinbaum of CCNY.

Under the new program, City College's CBE will each year recruit five high-achieving minority undergraduate juniors. The center will prepare them for a summer laboratory research experience, support them while engaged in such research at one of the five sites (the CBE itself, plus the four collaborating institutions) during the summer at the end of the junior year, and support them again in their senior year while they complete their undergraduate engineering degrees and earn a Certificate in Biomedical Engineering.

Upon completing this program, students will be given special consideration for admission and full financial support in the Ph.D. programs of the host institution.

## CCNY Messenger

CCNY's Graduate Student Newspaper

c/o GSC, 138th St. & Convent Ave., New York, NY 10031  
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*CCNY Messenger* is the Graduate Student newspaper at the City College of New York. It is produced biweekly by an editorial collective. The *Messenger* aims to serve CCNY graduate students, as well as all other CCNY and 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 misdoings of those in power. The articles in the *CCNY Messenger* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Graduate Student Council, the editors of the *Messenger*, CCNY graduate students, or anybody other than the individual writers.

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Publishing Date: March 18, 1998. Press Run: 5,000

# NYPIRG Campaigns for Lower Tuition at CUNY

BY IME IMEH

**New York State College Costs Rising Fastest in the US**

the NYPIRG Board of Directors and a student at SUNY Albany. "New York has at least a billion dollar surplus. What better way to return that money to the people of New York than by making higher education more affordable to working families?"

NYPIRG found that the jump in public tuition costs dwarfs the national average tuition increase (68%) and far exceeds the Consumer Price Index cost-of-living increase (26.5%)

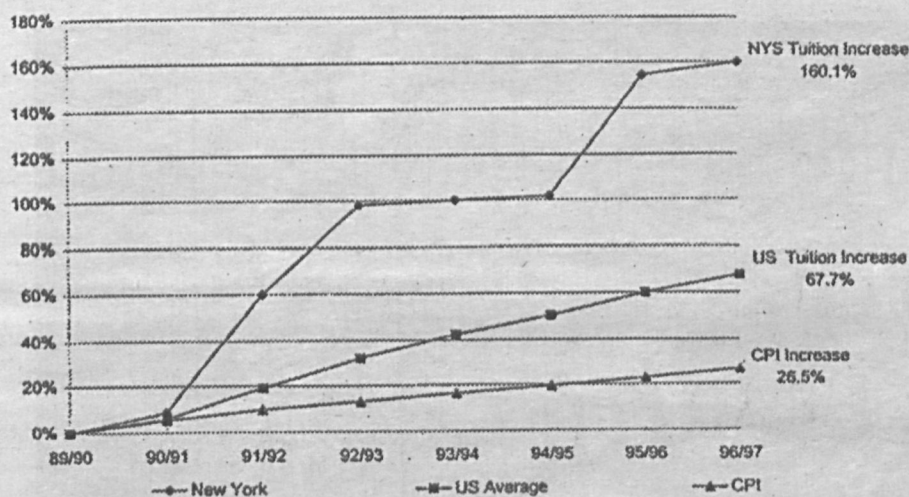
"Tuition is too high at CUNY," exclaims Felipe Pichardo, NYPIRG Board Rep and student at CCNY. "A reduction would be great! It means that many more students will be able to attend college."

NYPIRG is the state's largest student-directed research and advocacy organization, with chapters in the SUNY, CUNY and independent sectors of higher education. NYPIRG is organizing a lobby day giving students the opportunity to pressure their elected local officials to reduce tuition. The free trip to Albany, New York is set for March 16, 1998. Sign up in the NYPIRG office in Room 1/120 or in the DSG and GSC offices. Bus space is limited. ☺

New York State public college tuition and fees have increased 160% in the last seven years, the largest increase of any state in the country, according to an analysis released in January by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). The NYPIRG analysis examined tuition and fees charged by states nationwide from the academic year 1989/90 through academic year 1996/97. During that time, New York State's public college tuition charges jumped from 34th to 12th most expensive in the nation.

"The time is right to reduce the 'college tax,'" said Michael Livermore, chairperson of

Figure 1: New York's Rate of tuition\* growth far outpaced the national average and the Consumer Price Index from 1989-90 to 1996-97



Sources: U.S. Dept. of Education (tuition); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (CPI; Consumer Price Index)

\* Tuition: average full-time undergraduate in-state (state resident) tuition and required fees at four year public colleges and universities

**DEFEND REMEDIAL EDUCATION**

**DEFEND OPEN ADMISSIONS**

# Students to be "CAP"ped March 23

BY BILL CRAIN

CUNY Chancellor Christoph M. Kimmich has presented a Comprehensive Action Plan to CUNY's Board of Trustees, and a vote is scheduled for March 23. The plan will have a devastating impact on CUNY. Here's how:

**1** The plan attacks opportunity. It will impose new limits on remediation, and will rob thousands of students of the chance to develop their minds and pursue their life ambitions.

**2** The plan eliminates open admissions without saying so. High school students will no longer be guaranteed a place in the university. Instead, they will be guaranteed a place in intensive skills programs and a chance to pass new "competency tests" before enrolling in regular college courses. In effect, the plan creates an entrance exam to get into CUNY.

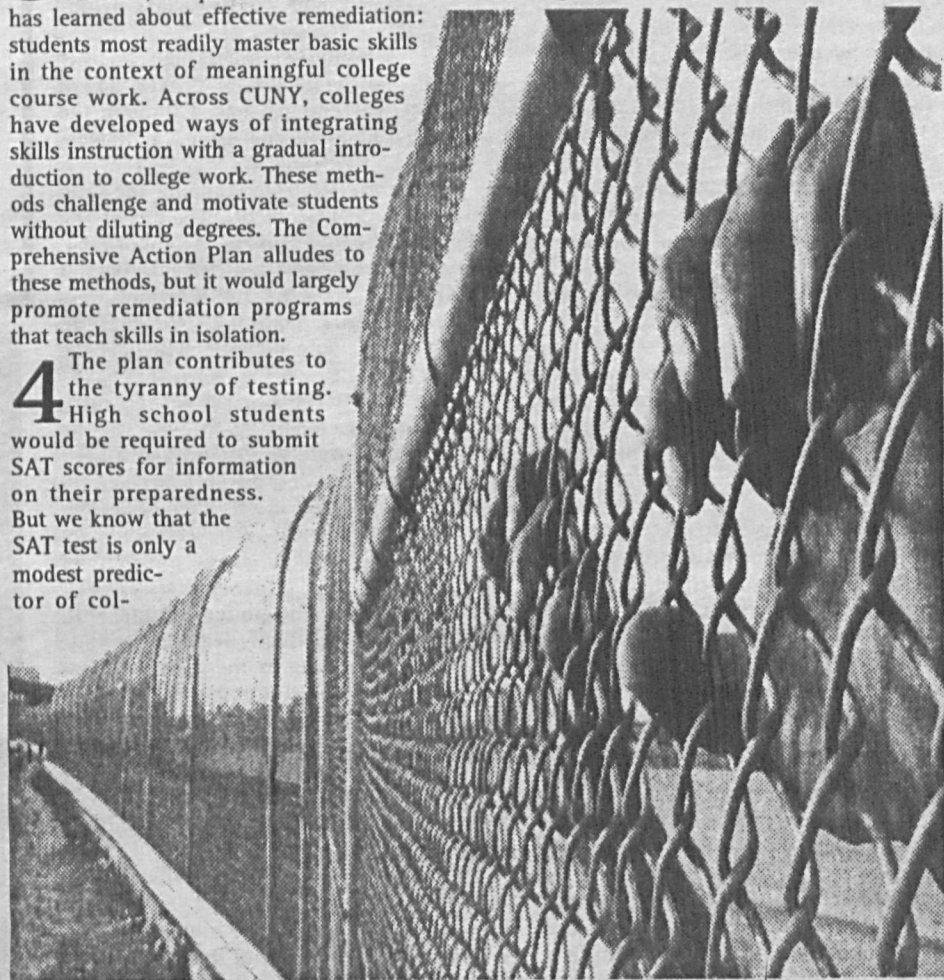
**3** The plan generally isolates remedial programs from college course curricula. As such, the plan counters what CUNY has learned about effective remediation: students most readily master basic skills in the context of meaningful college course work. Across CUNY, colleges have developed ways of integrating skills instruction with a gradual introduction to college work. These methods challenge and motivate students without diluting degrees. The Comprehensive Action Plan alludes to these methods, but it would largely promote remediation programs that teach skills in isolation.

**4** The plan contributes to the tyranny of testing. High school students would be required to submit SAT scores for information on their preparedness. But we know that the SAT test is only a modest predictor of col-

lege success and it results in lower scores among women and among students of color. And what will the new competency tests be? Will they be any better than City College's SKAT test, which is a generally poor indicator of what students can achieve? It's likely that CUNY will be using even more tests of limited validity to exclude students from a college education. We need authentic assessment, including grades and samples of students' actual work.

**5** CUNY has earned a national reputation for innovation in remedial education, but the Comprehensive Action Plan doesn't draw on this expertise. It is merely a response to political attacks. Its main effect will be to create remedial ghettos and limit students' opportunities.

We should not try to compromise with this attack. CUNY should be proud of what it has accomplished, what it is doing, and what it could do if given anything like the funding it needs and deserves. ☺



# Immigration Center Opens at CCNY

**NYPIRG Establishes Student Immigrant Rights Project**

BY IME IMEH

In an effort to reach out to the increasing number of foreign-born students attending the city colleges, the New York Public Interest Research Group, Inc. (NYPIRG) has launched a Student Immigrant Rights Project.

In 1996, Congress passed sweeping immigration and welfare reform laws that were both anti-poor and anti-immigrant in nature. Many legal immigrants lost public benefits and it has become more difficult for people to apply for permanent residency and citizenship. Immigrants are living in a climate of fear, and many of them are college students. According to CUNY, 26,000 or 47% of CUNY first-year students in 1997

were foreign-born and that number is expected to reach 50% by the year 2000. By current estimations, close to 50% of students at CCNY are immigrant students.

In conjunction with CUNY's "Citizenship Now" project, NYPIRG's Student Immigrant Rights project will provide procedural counseling for students who are legal residents who wish to apply for U.S. citizenship. In addition, NYPIRG will provide information, register new Americans at their swearing-in ceremonies and hold immigration forums on campus with legal and community groups participating.

"With so many foreign-born students here at City College, the Immigration Center will prove a real asset to students who would otherwise find it difficult to receive assistance," said Ime Imeh, NYPIRG Project Coordinator at City College.

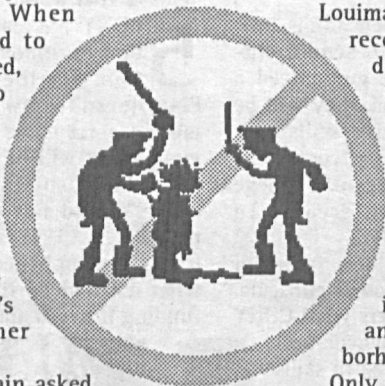
NYPIRG will establish 8 counseling centers on campuses in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan and Staten Island. NYPIRG has chapters on 19 college campuses statewide, and hopes to expand the project to colleges outside of the city by the fall. If you are in need of services or would like to become a student counselor, come by the Immigration Center in 1/206 NAC or NYPIRG in 1/120 NAC. ☺

# Police Brutality Near City College

BY JOAN PARKIN

Students here at City College don't have to look far to find evidence of police brutality. Right next door to campus, on St. Nicholas and 131st Street, a family of four were roughed up and falsely arrested by police from the 32nd Precinct.

Arthur Dillard and several family members were getting ready to take their kids to school when a speeding cab plowed into two cars near the house. When police arrived, Arthur tried to explain what he had witnessed, but police told him to shut up and then arrested him. When family members came out of the house and asked the police why he was being arrested they were told to "shut the fuck up and get back on the curb." One police officer pushed Arthur's 60-year-old arthritic mother Annie to the ground.



When family members again asked for an explanation one-by-one, Arthur's sister Patricia, her husband Gene Brady and their 18-year-old daughter Shaton were arrested as they tried to calm things down.

Patricia's two-year old and five-year-old children were left alone on the stoop as the family was hauled off to the 32nd Precinct.

They were charged with assault, resisting arrest, and disorderly conduct and held for 24 hours.

Gene described the scene as "a bad nightmare that I couldn't wake up from. When I saw my mother-in-law pushed for being concerned for her children, it ripped my heart out. They called my daughter a bitch and kicked her after she was handcuffed."

He continued, "I used to like the cops, but now I see that animals are treated better than I was." The family has filed a criminal lawsuit against the City.

This incident comes at a time when complaints against police brutality are up 100 percent in New York. And to add insult to injury, Mayor Giuliani (AKA Miss Manners) talks about how New Yorkers need to be more polite, while his "thugs in blue" commit the most villainous acts of rudeness in the form of harassment, physical abuse, and murder against the poor and working class of New York City.

For us here at City College, who for the most part live in these neighborhoods, this most recent incident of police brutality is a direct threat to our personal safety. As City College Graduate student Joy Richards

asked The Messenger, "How can any of us consider ourselves safe if those who are supposed to protect us have become the attackers?"

Our most effective weapon against police brutality is mass demonstrations. Arrests by police fell by 50% at Brooklyn's 70th Precinct after 30,000 people marched across the Brooklyn Bridge in response to the beating and sexual assault of Abner Louima. Moreover, we need to recognize that these incidents are not simply examples of "bad cops" but part of a corrupt system. The bad apple never falls far from the tree. These "bad cops" are trained by the racist NYPD to patrol, not protect, people who live in Harlem and other poor and working class neighborhoods.

Only two weeks ago, another innocent man had his door broken down: Ellis Elliot was dragged naked through the halls of his building, and called a "nigger" by the cops.

Furthermore, far from stopping the drug dealers, the NYPD are often some of the biggest drug dealers in the neighborhood. Two years ago at least a dozen members of the "dirty 30" (Harlem's 30th Precinct) were arrested for drug dealing. These cops do nothing to alleviate poverty, which is the real root of crime.

In the 1960's the Black Panther Party understood quite well the real role of the police in our society. Not only did they organize breakfast programs for school children, but they decided to take back their neighborhoods from the cops by organizing people and showing them how to defend themselves against police brutality. They actually followed the police around with guns (which was perfectly legal at the time in California, as long as the guns were out in the open and unconcealed) and law books to be read aloud as proof of their legal right to observe the cops while making arrests. The result was that incidents of police brutality and crime plummeted in their neighborhoods like Oakland, California.

The lessons learned from the Black Panthers as well as the Louima case is that together we can stop police brutality, that it is in fact our basic right to fight back when attacked, and that rather than stand by and be treated like dogs we need to organize.

# Jericho March for Political Prisoners

On March 27, the words of the old spiritual, "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho and the Walls Came Tumbling Down," will resonate throughout Washington DC, when thousands of people from throughout the United States gather for Jericho '98, a national mobilization to demand that the United States acknowledge that political prisoners exist in the

United States and grant them amnesty. "Jericho '98," said Herman Ferguson, a former prisoner, "was organized in response to the United States' steadfast refusal to recognize that political prisoners exist in the United States, while hypocritically denouncing countries such as Cuba and China for their treatment of such prisoners. Presently, there are over 100 political prisoners and prisoners of war incarcerated in the United States for their opposition to the foreign and domestic policies of the government. We are going to Washington on March 27 to expose the United States' lies and human rights violations to the nation and the world."

Jericho '98 has been endorsed by a broad range of groups and individuals throughout the United States.

The organizations endorsing Jericho '98 include the International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu Jamal, the



Mumia Abu-Jamal, political prisoner on death row in Pennsylvania.



**Rally For Justice Against Racist/Homophobic Violence and Police Brutality**

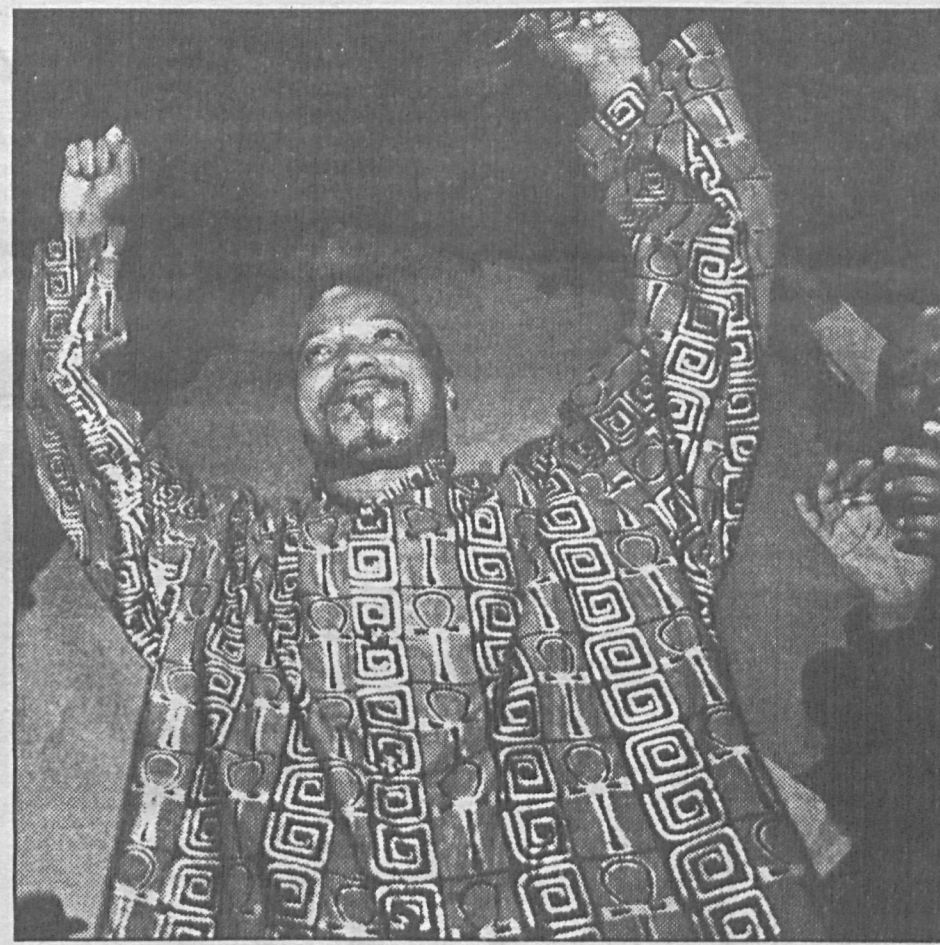
**Racial Justice Day 1998**

**Equality of Life for All**

**New York City Hall**  
**4:30 pm Tuesday March 31, 1998**  
 March to Tompkins Square Park at 5:30 PM for a Candlelight Vigil

**Coalition Against Police Brutality**  
 The Audre Lorde Project (ALP), Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (CAAUV)  
 Forever in Struggle Together (FIST), The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement (MXGM);  
 National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights (NCPRR)

For more information or to join the organizers' network, call the Racial Justice Day Infoline at (212) 473-6485, ext. 105



Geronimo Pratt, former Black Panther Party member, was a political prisoner for 27 years framed on a murder charge, before being released last year.

Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, MOVE, Sisters With a Purpose, Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika, Student Liberation Action Movement (SLAM!), Albany State University Black Alliance, National Council on Islamic Affairs, the Bruderhofs, New Afrikan Liberation Front, National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, Asians for Mumia, and the Not on the Guest List Coalition.

the CCNY Coalition. A CCNY chapter of Students for Jericho has been formed to get as many City College students as possible to attend the demonstration.

At CCNY, a number of student groups are mobilizing to participate in the Jericho '98 protest, including SLAM, ROOTS, the International Socialist Organization and

**A FREE BUS WILL BE LEAVING FROM CITY COLLEGE TO GO TO WASHINGTON FOR THE JERICHO 98 MARCH. THE BUS WILL LEAVE THE MORNING OF MARCH 27 AND RETURN BACK TO CCNY THAT EVENING. SIGN UP TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT ON THE BUS IN THE GSC OFFICE, NAC 1/113.**

# Moses Defensive at Town Hall Mtg

**Students  
Crash Meet-  
ing Intended  
for Faculty  
Only**

BY KEEANGA TAYLOR

On Thursday March 5 Yolanda Moses arranged a meeting at the Aronow Theater to discuss the chronic retention problems that plague the City College. While the meeting was initially supposed to be with faculty only, to discuss how to improve student retention, student activists with the City College Coalition to Defend Open Admissions put out a flier to draw students to the meeting.

Yolanda Moses has not had a public "town hall" meeting with the student body in over two years. In that time the student body at CCNY has come under increased attack—in those two years almost four thousand students have been forced to leave school.

Thousands have left because of the city's workfare program. In the spring of 1996 CCNY had over 1300 welfare recipients attending classes. Today there are only 561 remaining. A faculty member who wishes to remain anonymous stated that City College has lost 19 percent of its student body since last semester.

However, hundreds of others have left CCNY because of the devastating budget cuts and retrenchment at the school.

Students who "crashed" Moses' meeting expressed anger that in spite of these attacks she has refused to meet with the student body. One student commented that she was glad she came to the meeting, "so that I could finally see what you [Moses] look like."

But the anger directed against Moses was not only coming from the students, many faculty were unimpressed with her underwhelming and inadequate prescriptions for the problems of the college. In the face of repeated attacks on City College, the campus administration has taken up the new vogue of "raising standards."

Provost David Lavelle presented an intricate plan for improving CCNY's embattled Education Program, which includes tighter

restrictions on who is allowed into the program. Yet strangely he said nothing about the problems this administration has caused because of budget cuts and departmental retrenchment.

The School of Education was downgraded to a department, which led to the firing of six tenured faculty. This created huge problems, which plague the department today. More than 75 percent of those teaching in the department today are overworked and underpaid adjuncts. Moreover, it is not unusual to have both undergraduate and graduate students crammed into the same classroom.

These conditions make it difficult for the students in these classes to fulfill their academic potential. But this is not the fault of the students; this is a problem created by those who control City College's strings.

It has also been troubling for both students and faculty members on this campus that in the face of a war against remedial education being waged by the Giuliani Administration and the CUNY Board of Trustees, Yolanda Moses has yet to make a definitive public statement in favor of protecting remedial education.

While Moses contends that she supports keeping two semesters of remedial education at City, which is more than at schools like Baruch College, she did not say whether or not she supported unlimited remediation.

When students asked her to support Open Admissions at the Board of Trustees Meeting on March 23, where they will be deciding on the Open Admissions policy for the Community Colleges, she responded, "write down your ideas." Evasiveness set the tone for the entire meeting.

Furthermore, Moses' commitment to fighting for public education is also questionable considering when she was asked about funding for the college she responded, "we [CCNY] have to reinvent ourselves. We can no longer expect the state to fully fund our school." This is just another way of saying, "I am not going to fight for funding for our school."

What was probably most disturbing to the students at the meeting was the president's aloof distance from the everyday problems students face. Several times she seemed as if she were a politician at a press conference.

Question after question, she claimed not to know anything. She referred tough questions to her cabinet.

The worst example came when a student from the English Department said that, "When I enter a building, security guards

don't ask me for my ID—they ask me if I have a boyfriend."

Moses' cold, indifferent response was, "Did you file a report?"

When the student said no, Moses responded, "Well how am I supposed to investigate this if there is no report?"

The President showed no concern, no outrage and most importantly no willingness to do anything about the situation. Students generally perceive Moses to have this attitude toward them. When a student at the very end of the meeting asked if Moses would be willing to sign a petition against the attacks on remedial education and for Open Admissions she gave a cool, "No," and the meeting ended.

After this meeting it should be clear why there is a retention problem at CCNY. We have an administration that is committed to running the school like a business. Adjuncts and faculty have been fired to meet Moses self-imposed budget requirements. Departments have been downsized and sometimes just eliminated. The administration refuses to hire more maintenance workers, which leaves only one or two campus workers to clean and maintain the NAC building.

Students at CUNY today will have to take up the fight to keep the doors of the college open for those of us who are already here, and to make sure that they do not close for those who want to come after us. ☺



# Students Ticketed Entering NAC Building

BY JOAN PARKIN

On March 16, an unknown number of City College students were penalized for entering the NAC building from the side entrance next to Aronow. Peace officers hid behind the corner and jumped out and ticketed unsuspecting students as other students exiting the building let them in. CCNY security has not given any prior notifica-



Students enter NAC Building at door by Aronow Theater on March 16. Although there is no sign saying "no entry" students were still being ticketed anyway. Student complaints stopped the ticketing temporarily.

tion of this new policy, and there is no sign on the outside door indicating that students should not enter the building through this entrance. As one student put it, "Hundreds of students have passed hassle free through that door daily for the past several years but now they are supposed to be able to read minds and know that they'll be ticketed." Students were written up and their name and social security number taken down.

Director of Security Timothy Hubbard told Student Ombudsperson Keeanga Taylor that the added security was in response to the recent robberies on the campus and that the tickets served to put students "on notice and to track repeat offenders." Taylor told The Messenger that "while the administration uses these incidents as an excuse to tighten security or add more patrols, students are going to be the ones most affected. Peace Officers do nothing to stop crime. If you are a crook you won't steal in front of the Peace Officers. Students are going to be harassed for their ID's and written up for no reason."

CCNY Graduate student Carlos Torres aptly described the situation when he said that "students are being penalized for security's own incompetence."

One student who wished to remain anonymous was threatened with being ticketed as he walked through the door, so he immediately walked to the Office of the Ombudsperson. The security guard followed him there but would not enter the office, instead asking the student to come outside so he could "talk" to him. Instead, the student stayed in the office, while Ombudsperson

Taylor phoned Dean Bobb and Director of Security Hubbard. The security guard then left and the student was not ticketed. Day Student Government Treasurer Prudence Reid then met with Hubbard, who promised her that the ticketing would stop immediately. Instead, security guards will hand out fliers to students for two weeks entering through the incorrect doors, telling students that after the two week grace period, they will be ticketed. ☺



CCNY Security Director Hubbard

**WRITE FOR THE MESSENGER  
ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN  
YOUR DEPARTMENT!  
BRING ARTICLES BY NAC 1/2/16.**

# Plebiscite in Puerto Rico?

**Self-determination, Yes!  
Plebiscite, No!**

BY CARLOS ROVIRA  
AND MONICA SOMOCURCIO  
WW NEWS SERVICE

On March 4, the US House of Representatives narrowly passed the so-called "US-Puerto Rico Political Status Act." The vote was 209 to 208. The bill calls for a "plebiscite" in Puerto Rico to decide the island's status.

Whether the bill will pass in the Senate is far from certain. Some racist forces like Republican Majority Leader Trent Lott oppose the measure, and may delay Senate voting. But the bill's passage in the House reflects a clear shift in US ruling circles to supporting statehood for Puerto Rico.

The Young Bill is named for its sponsor, Rep. Don Young of Alaska. It supposedly provides Puerto Ricans with the choice of the current colonial "commonwealth" status, outright annexation in the form of statehood, or independence.

That is a lie. It provides no "choice." As with the other plebiscites held since the first one in 1952, the US Congress retains the final say on Puerto Rico's status—regardless of the outcome of the vote. Under this formula for "self-determination," the US government, not the Puerto Rican people, decides whether there should be a plebiscite at all, what choices should appear on the ballot and whether the final vote in Puerto Rico should be accepted and implemented or not.

A poll published on the day of the House vote showed that only 33 percent of Puerto Ricans are in favor of holding the plebiscite.

## OLDEST COLONY IN THE AMERICAS

Puerto Rico is the oldest colony in the Western Hemisphere. The current plebiscite coin-

cides with the 100th anniversary of the US invasion of the island in 1898. Puerto Ricans hold US citizenship. They are subject to the draft. But they have no right to vote in US elections.

The Young Bill is an extension of the 1898 invasion that put Puerto Ricans under US rule. It clearly favors the annexation option for Puerto Rico. For that reason, the project has come under fire from the pro-commonwealth Popular Democratic Party (PPD), one of the island's biggest political parties.

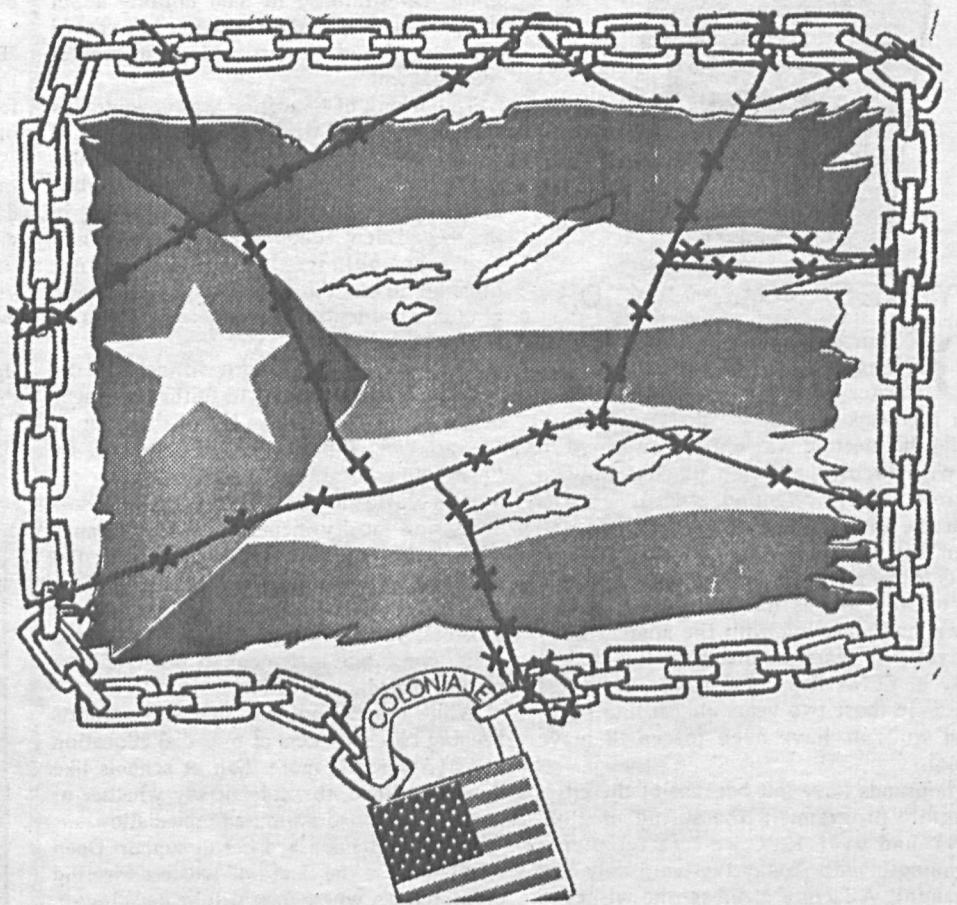
The Young Bill's original version excluded the "commonwealth" option entirely. That caused an outcry from the PPD in Puerto Rico. When the option was finally added, pro-statehood forces drafted its language.

To make "commonwealth" less attractive, they left open the question of whether US citizenship would be respected if that option won the vote. The independence option is linked with eliminating federal programs that have kept many Puerto Rican families from sinking into complete poverty. And it specifies that the huge US business and military presence in the island would be untouched by this vote.

## THE 1978 UN RESOLUTION

In 1978, when the socialist bloc made the United Nations more independent of US imperialism, the UN General Assembly called for the immediate decolonization of Puerto Rico. That resolution specified that a genuine plebiscite requires the United States to immediately withdraw all military bases, hand over governing power to Puerto Rican hands, provide economic reparations, and free Puerto Rican political prisoners. The bill the House just passed ignores these basic democratic principles. In fact, it would further entrench US control over the island.

Historically, the US ruling class has been united against independence or any form of self-determination. But the imperialists have been divided about what form of domination they prefer. The Pentagon wants firm control of the many bases it has in Puerto Rico, which are widely believed to house nuclear weapons. The US Southern Army, part of the US Southern Command, will soon move its headquarters from Panama to Puerto Rico. The rest of the Southern Command will be in Florida.



## ONLY STRUGGLE CAN WIN SELF-DETERMINATION

On the other hand, US corporate interests have enjoyed Puerto Rico's colonial status because they do not have to pay federal taxes. At the same time, they exploit the Puerto Rican work force, which has a lower minimum wage than in the United States. In either case, self-determination is not posed as a real option.

The entire history of the US presence on the island shows that Washington has never allowed a voice for the Puerto Rican people on vital questions. US citizenship and military conscription, which forced young Puerto Rican men to die in imperialist wars, were never up for a vote. Nor were Puerto Rican women consulted when they were secretly sterilized in a genocidal US program from the 1930s through the 1960s. Nor were they consulted when the Pentagon established military bases in Vieques and other parts of the island and drove the people off their land.

Thousands of Puerto Ricans are mobilizing to challenge US rule of the island in an action in the town of Guanica on July 25—the anniversary of the US invasion. Demonstrations will also take place in the United States on that day.

In 1997, some 120,000 people took to the streets to challenge annexationist Gov. Pedro Rosello's claim that "Puerto Rico is not a nation." Last Oct. 1, Puerto Rican unions staged a successful national strike to protest attempts by US companies to buy out the Puerto Rico Telephone Company, currently owned by the government of Puerto Rico. Many on the island understand that imperialism can't be voted out—it can only be thrown out by struggle. ☉

# Gov't Closing Colleges in Dominican Republic

**Attacks on  
Public Education  
from Santo  
Domingo to CUNY**

## ATTORNEY GENERAL WOULD LIKE TO SEE LAW SCHOOLS CLOSED

The Attorney General Abel Rodríguez del Orbe has recommended that the Consejo Nacional de Educación Superior close most of the law schools in the country because "they are producing lawyers incapable of practicing law." He said that schools are graduating more lawyers than needed. He recommended that newly graduated lawyers be required to complete two-year internships and later be tested by a grand jury made up by members of the Supreme Court of Justice, the Attorney General's office, the Lawyers' College and the universities. He said that the poor formation of newly graduated lawyers was apparent when the Supreme Court of Justice traveled to Montecristi to interview candidates for judges.

The president of the CONES, licenciado Alejandrina Germán, informed El Caribe newspaper that the evaluation of the law

schools is on her agenda for this year.

## STUDENTS OF CLOSED MEDICAL SCHOOLS WILL HAVE TO REPEAT COURSES

Students of the Universidad Federico Henríquez y Carvajal (UFHEC) and the Universidad Eugenio María de Hostos (UNIREMHOS) may have to repeat up to 50% of the courses already taken. The medical schools were closed by presidential decree last week. The measure affects 2% of the total number of students at medical schools here, some 10,596. Dominican universities require students to complete at least 50% of their studies at the center in order to issue a diploma. The closing of the two universities that provided medical courses in English affects 137 students at the UFHEC and 143 at the UNIREMHOS. Other institutions that offer studies in English are the Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago (UTESA), the Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE) and the Universidad Central del Este (UCE).

The CONES (National Council for Superior Education) stated that the measure affects only 2% of the students, of a total 10,596 that study medicine in the country.

CONES rulings state that the organization will assist affected students so that they can transfer to other legally recognized Dominican universities.

An evaluation carried out by CONES of

the UFHEC and UNIREMHOS medical schools showed the following violations:

1. Violation of the center's own admission and registration rules.
2. High percentage of the students' records and graduates' records were incomplete. High school diplomas and grades from the previous university were missing.
3. Irregularities in the grading of students.
4. Excessive credits per term. Some students were allowed more than 50 credits per four-month period.
5. Irregularities in the validation of subjects from other universities. Some subjects were validated without proof that these had been taken in another institution.
6. Issuing of diplomas to students who did not fulfill academic requirements of the university as per the pensum.
7. Unfulfillment of the CONES standards in regards to duration of the academic studies and internship period.
8. Failure of school laboratories to meet minimum requirements established by CONES.
9. Failure of school libraries to meet minimum requirements for the number of students at the university.
10. Absence of adequate policies for the hiring, training, and evaluation of university professors.
11. Deficiencies in the study programs, follow up and control of the academic activities of the schools.
12. Excessive flexibility in the grading of students.

13. Opening of unauthorized extensions, schools or careers. ☉

Source: Dominican One News Service

**SUBMIT TO THE MESSENGER**

**WE NEED WRITERS, ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS.**

**BRING STUFF BY NAC 1/216, OR DROP BY OUR CRAZY FUN STAFF MEETINGS FRIDAYS AROUND NOON. YOUR LIFE WILL BE MORE MEANINGFUL.**

# Adjuncts Seize the Day

BY ERIC MARSHALL  
FROM GSUC ADVOCATE

**Demand Paid  
Office Hours  
and Equal Pay  
for Equal Work**

A nascent activist organization called CUNY Adjuncts Unite! (CAU) has launched a pay-for-office-hours campaign throughout CUNY. Since the beginning of this academic year much has happened that has vaulted CAU into the national spotlight for its adjunct organizing and mobilization activities.

On Friday, February 13, CAU staged a highly successful demonstration at CUNY's central offices (East 80th Street) to culminate this fall's office hours campaign. "The demonstration today has to be seen as part of a national transformation in higher education. One that, if it succeeds, will save full-time faculty in ways many of us do not yet understand," said Professor Barbara Bowen, Professional Staff Congress (PSC) Chapter Chair for Queens College, one of more than a half dozen speakers at the demonstration. "By refusing to give up the work in your offices, insisting that it is as much a part of the job as the work in front of the classroom, you are winning back for us a concept of the work and worth of college teaching that is on the verge of being lost," continued Bowen.

Indeed, the repeated message: "Pay us for the work we do," kept the burgeoning crowd cheering and chanting for two hours before the time sheets (several hundred of them!) along with a request for payment - the Fall 1997 bill came to an even \$1,000,000 - were submitted to a representative of the Acting Chancellor, Christoph Kimmich. WBAI Radio, the *New York Times*, *Newsday*, *El Diario*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, along with numerous CUNY campus newspapers attended and reported on this event.

Now that the demonstration is over, CUNY Adjuncts Unite! continues to wage its battles

against the two-tier labor system, which increasingly penalizes adjuncts for their part-time status, even as the university increases its dependence on them. Currently more than 60% of CUNY faculty are part-timers—a figure that has risen dramatically just in the 1990s although Acting Chancellor Kimmich was quoted in the *New York Times* (2/14/98; B5) as saying that it was the full-time faculty, not the part-time majority, on whom the university depends. It is just this type of misperception of CUNY adjuncts that persists among many within the CUNY system, and that is what CAU is trying to correct.

CAU has been demanding pro-rata pay for adjuncts. Currently an adjunct teaching six three-credit courses per year earns approximately \$13,500 for her/his efforts. A starting Assistant Professor teaching the same load earns more than twice as much, and also receives a considerably better benefit package. Pro-rata pay means equal pay for equal work. If an adjunct teaches the

equivalent of a full-time load, he/she should be paid the same as a full-time professor for equal work.

Moreover, CAU has insisted that adjuncts, especially those who have given dedicated service to a college department, receive some job security in the form of annual appointments. This is currently in the contract but rarely if ever given. Also, CAU continues to lobby for adequate office space for adjuncts. All faculty need relatively undisturbed space to prepare for classes, meet privately and confidentially with students, or leave books and papers rather than schlepping all their class materials back and forth with them every day.

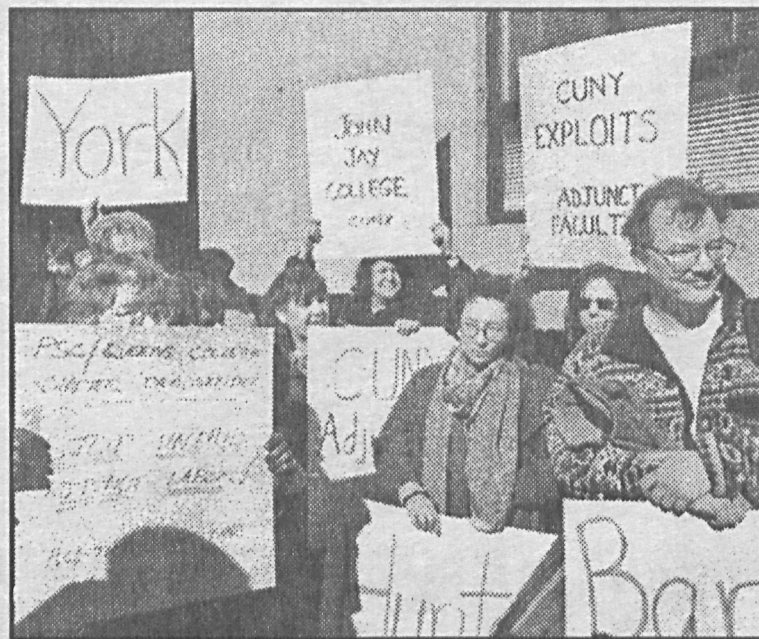
These are among the many issues currently taken up by CUA, especially in these final weeks preceding the contract vote. All adjuncts are invited and strongly encouraged to take part in these activities. CAU meets every month and welcomes newcomers. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 20 at 3:00 pm in the Baruch College English Conference Room, 7th Floor, 111 E. 18th Street, New York City.

Besides CAU activities, there is much going on throughout CUNY. In April, the Graduate Center will host the Second Annual National Congress of Part-Time, Adjunct, Non-Tenure Track and Graduate Teaching Assistants Faculty Conference. The two-day event (April 3-4) will feature a keynote address by Cary Nelson, followed by a keynote panel session featuring adjunct activists and organizers from around the US and Canada. The primary issue of the electronic journal *Workplace*, published by the Graduate Student Caucus and featuring edifying and rousing articles by many of the usual suspects, will hit the net any day now.

*Workplace* promises to be a major organ for adjunct activists for years to come.

Ultimately, however, most CUNY students are more likely to be interested in more local issues. This is where CUNY Adjuncts Unite!, the PSC and other adjunct organizing efforts come in. All adjuncts and many full-timers should be receiving a copy of CAU's newsletter, *Adjunct Alert*, in their campus mailboxes at the beginning of each month. This newsletter, which has received much favorable response from both full and part-time faculty, has allowed CAU to educate and inform CUNY's faculty about many of the issues concerning the professional welfare of CUNY's 7,500 strong adjunct faculty and urges all adjuncts to join CUNY's faculty union, the PSC. If all or even most of the adjuncts would join the union, CAU frequently points out, adjuncts would compromise a majority of union members, just as they make up a 60/40 majority of CUNY's teaching faculty.

"To join a labor union at the current moment in the history of American labor," declared Bowen, "is to enter a battle ground where the do-nothing tradition of business unionism is beginning to meet with resistance." It is our job, we many-we not overly proud-we graduate students, to provide that resistance. ☉

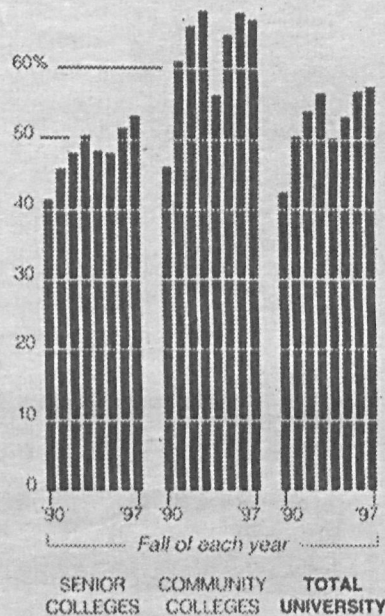


Adjunct Professors on the picket line at CUNY Central on East 80th Street.

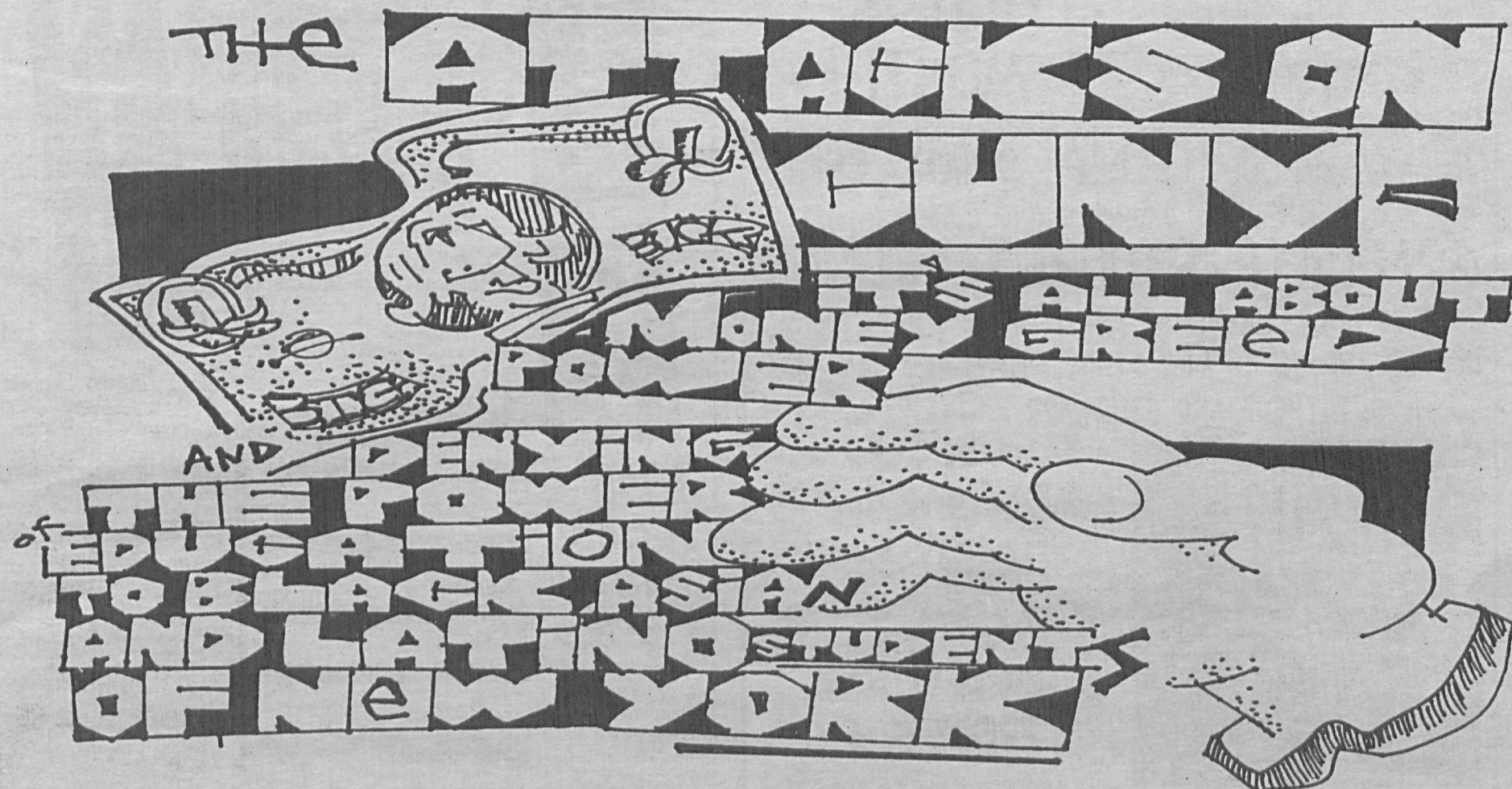
## KEEPING TRACK

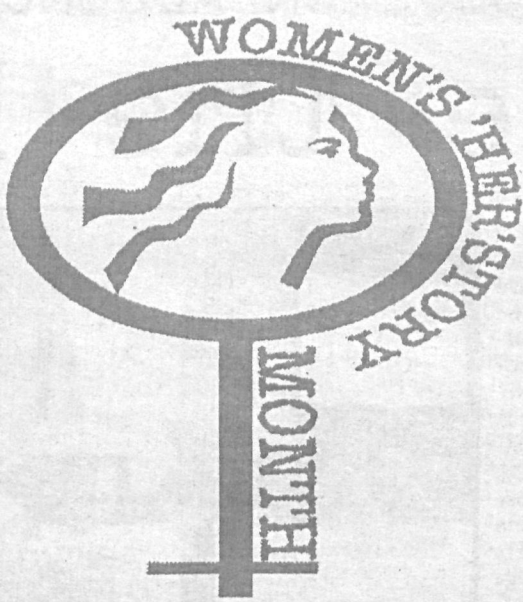
### Part-Time Teachers

Adjuncts make up nearly 60 percent of the CUNY faculty, compared with 40 percent nationally.



Source: CUNY





MARCH 1998

WOMENS HISTORY MONTH

Wednesday, March 18  
*Downsizing the University: Limiting Access to the CUNY System*  
Sandi Cooper, Chair of Univ. Faculty Senate  
Shepard Hall 250, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

*CityWomen in Print Reception*  
Cohen Library Lounge 3:30 - 5 pm

*Puerto Rico's Law Against Domestic Violence*  
Speaker: Dr. Alice Colon  
NAC 6/121 4:15-5:55 pm

*Women in Criminal Injustice System*  
Video & Panel Discussion  
NAC 4/133 10:00 - 10:50 am

Thursday, March 19  
*Women's Wellness & Counseling Ctr.*  
Mobile Health Unit  
NAC Plaza All Day

*Los Usos Del Discurso: Abogados, "Debilidad Femenina" y Separacion Conyugal, Mexico Siglo VXIII*  
Dora Davila  
NAC 6/121 12:30 - 1:30 pm

*The Impact of Radiation on Women's Health in New York City*  
by Carol Gallagher & Alice Slater  
NAC 1/208 4:15 - 5:55 pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
Rolanda Watts  
Aronow Theater 12:00 - 2 pm  
Tickets avail. at NAC 1/210

Friday, March 20  
*Caribbean Women Today*  
Panel Discussion  
NAC 4/133 10 - 10:50, 11 - 11:50 am  
& 4:45 - 6 pm

Monday, March 23  
*New Immigration, Refugee Law & Women*  
Video & Panel Discussion  
NAC 4/133 10 - 10:50, 11 - 11:50 am  
& 4:45 - 6 pm

Wednesday, March 25  
*Viudas, Divorciadas, Testamentarias y Comerciantes: Mujer y Representacion Social en Santo Domingo Colonial*  
Dora Davila  
NAC 6/121 1:00 - 2:00 pm

*Female Circumcision*  
Video & Panel Discussion  
NAC 4/133 10 - 10:50, 11:50 am, 4:45 - 6:00 pm

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

RELAX! STUDY! SLEEP! DRINK! CHILL!

VISIT THE LUXURIOUS AND CUSHY

GRADUATE STUDENT LOUNGE

IT IS LOCATED IN NAC 6/201. IT HAS FREE TEA, COFFEE AND SOMETIMES OTHER STUFF. YOU CAN HANG OUT THERE AND STUDY, OR JUST RELAX.

LOUNGE HOURS:

MONDAY 9-2 & 3-9

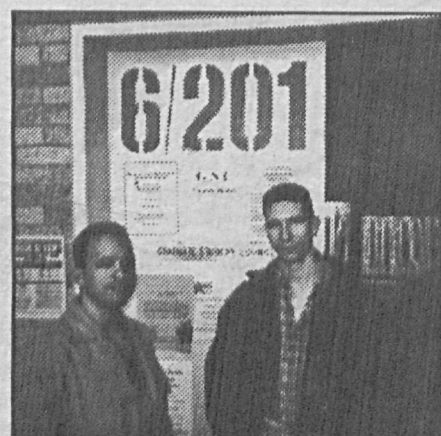
TUESDAY 3-9

WEDNESDAY 9 - 9

THURSDAY 9-9

FRIDAY 9-6

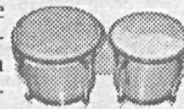
INFO: 650-5319 OR 5025



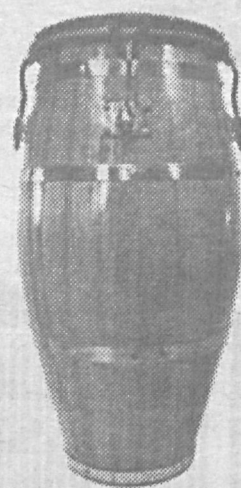
AREITO Ethnomusical

BY CARLOS TORRES

The Areito EthnoMusical Club of CCNY has become a valuable cultural institution within the CCNY community. Our organization has developed and produced significant vehicles for the expression of cultural and ethnic identity by City College students, faculty and staff. Through our programs and events we have also created a cultural bridge between the college and the various communities represented within it.



Last semester, we were able to organize several successful cultural events. On the night of November 13, 1997 we produced the first annual presentation of "Una Noche de Bomba y Plena" at the Aronow Theater. This event was the only significant event held on campus celebrating Puerto Rican Heritage Month (November 1997). The success of this event brought our organization great recognition, not only within the CCNY community, but throughout the CUNY system and the Puerto Rican and Latino Community in general.



Our "trademark" has become the extremely successful "Percussion Classes" taught weekly and free of charge at the college. Last semester a weekly series of instructional sessions held at the Aronow Theater on Thursdays

during club hours was such an immense success that this semester we feel pressured by the demands of students, faculty and staff to hold classes twice a week. Last semester we directed a series of "Afro-Dominican Music Workshops" in which members of our organization worked closely with members of the Dominican community. Together we produced weekly classes, open not only to the CCNY community, but primarily to children enrolled in the "Pre-University Program" organized by another campus-based organization, Students for Educational Rights (SER). It is well known throughout the CCNY community that the Areito EthnoMusical Club has continuously worked together with other organizations on campus. We have always been more than eager and willing to provide support, consultation, bodies and of-course musical performances whenever needed.



For more information or to get involved, call 212-650-8813.



The Irish History Month Committee Presents

CCNY

IRISH

HISTORY

MONTH



March 17, Tuesday, 12 Noon  
St. Patrick's Day Celebration  
NAC Rotunda

March 26, Thursday, 12 Noon  
The Irish Struggle:  
A Forum  
NAC 1/211

March 31, Tuesday, 12 Noon  
Irish Cultural Event  
NAC 1/211

Irish History Film Series

- March 16, Monday  
A History of Ireland  
A documentary 4:00 PM  
Riverdance 6:00 PM
- March 17, Tuesday  
Hang Up Your Brightest Colors  
A documentary on Micheal Collins 4:00 PM  
My Left Foot 6:00 PM
- March 18, Wednesday  
December Bride 4:00 PM  
The Secret of Roan Inish 6:00 PM
- March 19, Thursday  
Curious Journey 4:00 PM  
A documentary on the fight for Irish freedom  
The Brothers McMullen 6:00 PM
- March 23, Monday  
Lord of the Dance 4:00 PM  
Circle of Friends 6:00 PM

- March 24, Tuesday  
Hidden Agenda 4:00 PM  
The Commitments 6:00 PM
- March 25, Wednesday  
My Left Foot 4:00 PM  
Michael Collins 6:00 PM
- March 26, Thursday  
The Crying Game 4:00 PM  
In the Name of the Father 6:00 PM
- March 30, Monday  
Off Our Knees  
A documentary of Irish civil rights 4:00 PM  
The Field 6:00 PM
- March 31, Tuesday  
Behind the Mask: The IRA & Sinn Fein  
A documentary on the IRA 4:00 PM  
Cal 6:00 PM

All films will be shown in the Graduate Student Lounge, NAC rm. 6/201

For more information or to see any of these movies when you wish, call 650-5319