



THE MESSENGER

THE SPRING CLEANING ISSUE VOL. 3 NO. 5 MAY 2001 UNIVERSITY OF HARLEM
 2000 WINNER, BEST CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATION, CAJP AWARDS

Gregory Williams Picked as New CCNY Prez Students Protest Undemocratic Selection Process

By John Olafson

Most students at City College are probably not even aware that the college has a new president. His name is Gregory Williams, and he was picked at a CUNY Board of Trustees meeting on March 26 amidst raucous student protest.

As reported in the last issue of the Messenger, after a lengthy search process which repeatedly failed to come up with viable candidates, two finalists were sprung on us on March 15, and the City College community was provided with a whole eleven days to investigate the two candidates before the Board of Trustees chose their favorite for us.

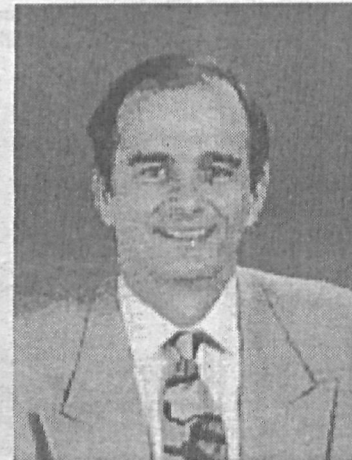
That favorite, Gregory Williams, is dean of the College of Law at Ohio State University. He is also author of the book *Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black*.

At the March 26 Board of Trustees meeting at CUNY Central on East 80th Street, several dozen students from City

College and other CUNY campuses joined a number of community supporters in voicing their objections to the abbreviated and undemocratic selection process and to the lack of real campus input into the decision. Students rallied outside before the start of the meeting, raising chants such as "Badillo! You jerk! Without Giuliani you're out of work!" (referring to Rudy's hatchet man chair of the Board of Trustees). Then as the board meeting commenced, students entered and confronted the board with chants and shouted denunciations as the board proceeded with the decision.

Dr. Williams had also been on the list of finalists for the presidency of Hunter College. He seemed to be the favorite

choice of most of the students and faculty there. However Jennifer Raab, an unqualified hack from the Giuliani administration, was instead forced down Hunter's throat in February by Herman Badillo's Board of Trustees (as reported in the February-March issue of the Messenger). This was done despite the vociferous objections of many, including the CUNY system himself, Chancellor of the



Nevertheless, it seems to be the general sentiment amongst student leaders that people should keep an open mind about President Williams and give him a chance to show that he is actually supportive of the students at City College and willing to defend our interests.

Although Williams seemed to know little about City College or CUNY, he does bring

with him some interesting credentials. In 1999 he was named Dean of the Year by the National Association of Public Interest Law. The same year he was also first recipient of the National Bar Association's A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. Award, recognizing his commitment to civil rights. Even though he apparently has not had experience at an institution which is majority people of color (and he certainly hasn't previously had to tangle with Giuliani and Badillo), his history indicates that he just may stand up for City College in a way that our last president, Yolanda Moses, did not. Time will tell.

Meanwhile, students are continuing to organize under the auspices of the Coalition for Justice at CCNY to demand a change in the presidential selection process so that the campus community has much more real involvement and input than was the case this time around.



CCNY students and community members speak their minds outside the March 26 Board of Trustees meeting.

City 2001 Sweeps Undergrad Student Government Elections

By Hank Williams and Shumon Alam

The City 2001 slate has swept Undergraduate Student government elections, winning all the offices its candidates contested.

Kenneth Williams (City 2001) won the presidency by 264 votes, defeating Jonathan Rinaldi who was running as an independent (474-210). Eleny Ramos (City 2001) defeated Orlando Quinones (CURE) to win the Vice-Presidency by a total of 117 votes (410-283).

Extremely low voter turnout and a lack of electoral participation characterized the election. The office of Treasurer

remains unfilled, as no candidates ran for the office. Both Rudy Diaz (VP of Community Affairs) and Vidal Fonesca (VP of Academic Affairs) ran unopposed. Fonesca is the only member of the CURE slate to win an Undergraduate position.

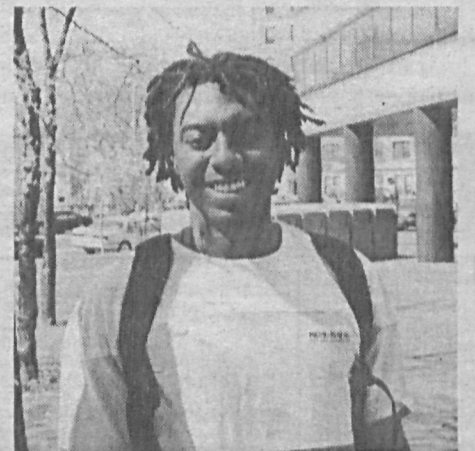
The Messenger was not able to obtain official results for Graduate Student Council elections by press time, but current GSC Chair Martha Flores was likely reelected, as there were fewer candidates running than the amount of positions that needed to be filled.

President-elect Williams, reacting in part to a voter turnout so low that the election almost did not count, told the Messenger that the most pressing issue

of the new government is "to get the students more involved" in school affairs and activities.

Williams still seems to be formulating a plan of action for the formidable task of building student involvement. The agenda includes only social events so far, but there are more substantive plans. Williams said that he wants to "reignite what City College is famous for—activism." City College was where the 1969 student strike and building takeover occurred that won the policy of open admissions and forced CUNY to make the student profile more closely reflect the racial makeup of New York City.

Williams says that a long-term goal is



Kenneth Williams, the new USG president.

to win free tuition in CUNY—a policy that died in New York City's 1976 fiscal crisis, despite having been the policy

continued on page 6

In This Issue

It's a great day, isn't it? It's early May, possibly sunny, with a cool breeze and you had time to take lunch or study outside. And, if it's raining, it should be a warm rain that lets up while you wait for the bus.

While reading, you may notice some changes in the *Messenger*, namely the appearance of NEW writers and graphic artists. And more than two of them are women, too. Asking virtual strangers to report, to design for, to edit articles and do the work that needs to be done for a paper that has long been the product of a the sweat of select individuals was not painless. But trust in the importance of plurality and democracy is why this issue features, among other changes, so many more women writers.

While reading, you may sense some disturbance. If you love this college or once loved it or have to be here for one reason or another, you should be disturbed by some of the reporting. All is not well on campus (when is all well anywhere?),

and some would say that these are critical times for our school, our city, this country, the world.

CCNY has a new President, many say thanks to an undemocratic process. Tens of thousands of protesters went to Quebec City to protest what they see as a pact among the international powerful to reduce the agency and meaningfulness of the local. Maybe every month and every historical period feel intense. But are many campuses as divided, coursing with disappointment and bitterness as ours?

While reading, a few people are sure to be hopping mad, others, slightly to totally embarrassed. Jill Nelson, a Professor of Journalism at City College, tells her students not to bother with journalism if they want to be popular. People who want to write to calm and to flatter, to be liked, would do better, and be happier, working in Public Relations. People who seek to write the truth need to be ready to make others uncomfortable and to be uncomfortable themselves.

Building a New CUNY Movement

This June we say goodbye to one of the more active Undergraduate Student Governments in memory, but welcome not only a new student government, but also a new college president.

As one person put it, student government was "activist central" again, coordinating struggle on campus and providing a place to turn gripes into organizing and action to effect change. The incoming student government has a unique opportunity to build on the success of the previous administration and advance the student movement here.

New City College President Gregory Williams arrives at a critical time. While the college suffers from a whole host of problems, the potential is enormous. With the Giuliani regime nearing an end,

there's an opening to finally force Herman Badillo and other enemies of CUNY off the Board of Trustees.

The potential is there to rebuild City in a less hostile political environment and begin repairing the damage done by years of malign neglect and politically motivated attacks.

The transformation of City can be traced directly to the 1969 student strike, when students and community fought to turn the college into an institution that truly served the people of the city.

Hopefully President Williams has studied his history. A president willing to defend the school and its students will find all the support he needs in the community and on campus. We won before and can win again.

Let Them Eat Cake

While it may be a nice place to have a snack, the new café in Cohen Library is emblematic of problems at City College in particular and CUNY in general.

Cohen's holdings are so poor that students in many disciplines have to go off campus to do research.

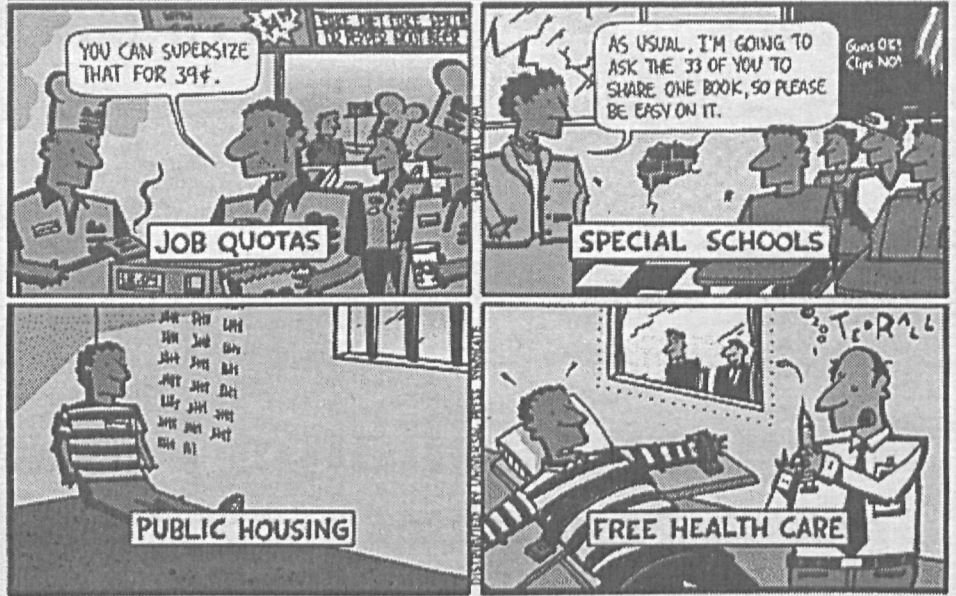
Physically, the library is a wreck. Buying light bulbs or chairs for the basement or fixing the electrical outlets so students can plug in laptop computers are far more pressing concerns, but these issues seem to be falling by the wayside.

Instead of fixing the numerous problems Cohen has, we get a bunch of vend-

ing machines masquerading as a café. The approach is typically shortsighted: the difficult structural issues go ignored, but we get meaningless frills as a distraction.

Cohen's problems are serious enough that they not only threaten the viability of the library itself, but also greatly limit the ability to do serious research on campus. A thorough renovation and major investment in books and reference material is the real need—not a place to sell students overpriced salads and sandwiches. Straightening out that mess should be a big item on president Gregory Williams' agenda.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! IT'S TIME TO PUT AN END TO SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR BLACKS



Letters

Board Supremacy Ensures Suppression

Taking into consideration the vacancy for the presidential office here at City College, the scandalous and blatant disregard of student opinion during the search for Hunter College's presidential candidate should have sounded the call-to-arms and generated an atmosphere of concern among all vulnerable CUNY students. While my most sincere thanks extends to all who either attended and/or helped to prepare for demonstration at the Board of Trustees meeting on March 26th, I am disappointed by those of you who were and continue to be unwilling to become involved in the ongoing struggle to find the correct president for our school, and thus the correct agenda.

Should complacency be your state, perhaps you should do as the Board of Trustees of CUNY and its master—the Giuliani administration—dictates: swim back to your jungles and swing from your trees! Perhaps the rumbling under your feet and the boiling skies overhead do nothing to entreat your feeble minds to movement. After all, in the minds of the Board of Trustees, you, as a minority, are incapable of significant thought, and therefore obviously unworthy of the time and effort it would take to inform you of what comes.

The conclusion could be drawn that the CUNY Board of Trustees and the Giuliani administration think of you as second-class citizens and students and are of the opinion that you haven't the mental capacity to either be informed of important decisions or the capacity to form and voice your own thoughts concerning things of importance.

This Modus Operandi of superiority over the student body manifested itself once more at the March 26th meeting of the Board of Trustees in the presence of the student body. Keep in mind that your tuition pays the salaries of these supremacists. Keep in mind that you are paying to be treated in a back-handed manner.

With smiles much resembling history's infamous murderous dictators—Stalin, Hitler, and Mussolini—and precious few objections, save those of our student protesters

(supported by both Hunter and Columbia University students), CUNY's Board of Trustees refused outright the opportunity for the students of City College to voice their concerns about the nominated CCNY presidential candidate until *after* they unanimously approved the appointment.

Not only did they break their own rules of parliamentary procedure, but they also broke laws governing public meetings by not allowing the student representatives of City College to participate in the official discussion!

In essence, we were like the students of Hunter College: screwed with no lube! Our protesters, under threat of arrest, united with allies from other schools to call attention to the slapstick presidential search, nomination, and appointment process from which we were officially (but unlawfully) excluded. We asked only for the search to be reopened and were swiftly denied.

However, this is just the beginning of our struggle to restore some dignity and credibility to our school, City College. Here are the rumbles of battle, and the injustice that boils sensibility.

Now is when we must all unite to protect ourselves against political enslavement by becoming involved. In the days to come, make your feelings on this act known to the Board of Trustees and the Giuliani administration. Speak to your professors about their concerns. Visit the office of the Undergraduate Student Government and meet our president, vice president, and staff. Refuse to be treated like lame dogs waiting for a bone or boot! Get up! Write! Speak! Wake up.

—Gregory Joseph Singletary
Student of Architecture

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

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

Volume 3, Number 5 Publishing Date: May 7, 2001 Press Run: 3,000

WINNER
2000 CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE
JOURNALISM AWARDS

THE MESSENGER
BEST PUBLICATION
(CATEGORY B)
*HONORABLE MENTION FOR
REPORTING*

CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE JOURNALISM PROJECT/CENTER FOR CAMPUS ORGANIZING
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Federal Judge Dismisses Sanctions Charges against CUNY Students' Attorneys

By John Olafson

Messenger readers might recall that we have been closely following the case of Ron McGuire, legal director of the CUNY Emergency Legal Defense Project (CELDP)* and his co-counsel Nicholas Penkovsky, two lawyers who for years have defended CUNY student activists against criminal and disciplinary charges and who have pursued various free-speech lawsuits against CUNY in support of students.

Last year McGuire and Penkovsky were the victims of misconduct proceedings initiated by federal Magistrate Judge Cheryl Pollak, who has been hearing three of the student free-speech lawsuits Ron and Nick are pursuing against CUNY. The case which the misconduct charges spring from, *Wharton v. Springer*, involves a 1998 incident where the College of Staten Island administration prevented the student government from bringing McGuire to speak on that campus by refusing to sign a contract for the event.

Although McGuire has often given speeches at CSI and other CUNY schools without charge, the student government and McGuire decided to file a federal lawsuit on the grounds that the students had a constitutional right to pay McGuire a fee comparable to the fees the students paid other speakers.

In April 1998 Magistrate Pollak held a hearing on their request for a preliminary injunction. She refused to make a decision before the scheduled speech.

Two years later, in May 2000, Magistrate Pollak issued a report in which she claimed McGuire had made an unrecorded promise to her that he would deliver the lecture at the College of Staten Island ("CSI") even if CUNY officials refused to approve the contract the student government made with McGuire for an honorarium. McGuire and Penkovsky denied that McGuire ever made such a ridiculous promise to Magistrate Pollak, and all their on-the-record testimony contradicted the charge as well.

A higher-up judge, Nina Gershon, then immediately attempted to impose a penalty on McGuire and Penkovsky before they had a chance to respond to the charges, without holding a hearing, and without even specifying any specific statute or rule the two lawyers were accused of violating. When McGuire and Penkovsky served papers indicating that such a lack of due process would violate federal law, Gershon rescinded her sanctions order and sent the case back to Judge Pollak. Pollak subsequently added new charges that

could have resulted in McGuire's disbarment and scheduled a sanctions hearing for last November.

CELDP organized a campaign to support Ron and Nick. Many CUNY students and community activists attended meetings, set up a web site and issued press releases and leaflets to publicize the case. At the November hearing, scores of CUNY students from a number of campuses and other concerned community members turned out in support of McGuire and Penkovsky. The case against McGuire and Penkovsky began to crum-

al's office, representing CUNY, declined to participate in the sanctions proceedings. Magistrate Pollak said she would withdraw the charges that McGuire and Penkovsky had collaborated to deceive the court. However, she continued to press a lesser charge that Ron and Nick had violated a court scheduling order at one point in the original case when they had amended their original complaint without the judge's permission. The other defendants in the original case, members of the CSI Association (the body which had refused to sign the contract for McGuire to speak

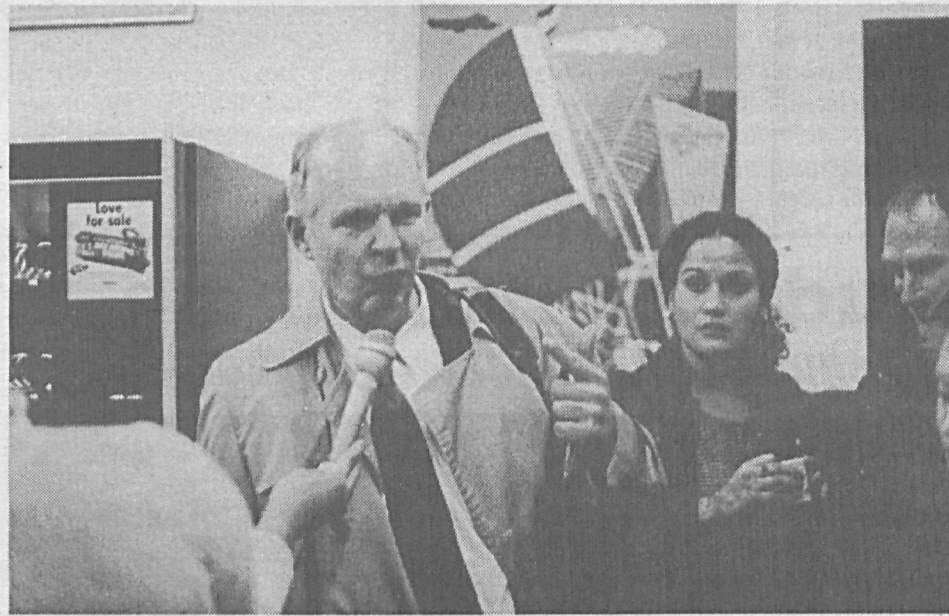
from the court whenever defendants have not answered the original complaint. The lawyers argued McGuire and Penkovsky had acted within the rules. They also argued that even if McGuire and Penkovsky had violated a scheduling order, such technical violations are commonplace and that they normally do not result in such extreme penalties.

At the end of March of this year, Sokoloff himself violated a scheduling order in a related case involving the same parties before the same judges, *McGraham v. Springer*. McGuire and Penkovsky graciously agreed to extend Mr. Sokoloff's time to answer the *McGraham* complaint in return for Sokoloff's agreement to withdraw his request for sanctions and fees in *Wharton*.

McGuire submitted papers to Judge Gershon and Magistrate Pollak arguing that it would be inappropriate to order McGuire and Penkovsky to pay attorney fees to Sokoloff when Sokoloff committed a more serious violation of the court's scheduling rules. Judge Gershon subsequently ordered all sanctions proceedings against Ron and Nick terminated. Poetic justice!

Ron McGuire stated, "Nick and I have consistently said that the charges against us couldn't stand the light of day. We are grateful for the support of the students, faculty and community activists who came to our aid during this crisis. Now that we no longer face suspension or disbarment, I look forward to continuing to fight for the rights of CUNY students for a long time." **M**

* *The CUNY Emergency Legal Defense Project is not affiliated with or endorsed by the City University of New York Board of Trustees.*



Ron McGuire at the March 26 CUNY Board of Trustees meeting, advising the students present of their free speech rights.

ble at the hearing. The lawyers argued that Magistrate Pollak shouldn't conduct a hearing as judge because she was the accuser who brought the charges and a witness to the unrecorded promise she claimed that Ron had made.

The New York State Attorney Gener-

al on campus), were represented by attorney Brian Sokoloff. Sokoloff asked the court to impose sanctions of nearly \$8,000 in attorney fees.

Federal rules contain a provision that permits parties to file an amended complaint at any time without permission

Sleazy Confessions of an Adjunct

By Tim McCormack

Tim McCormack was an adjunct for seven years, teaching writing, literature and journalism at a number of CUNY campuses. In this article he reveals the personal, institutional and legal transgressions he committed while "on the job."

As a CUNY adjunct instructor of writing, literature and journalism for seven years, I feel the need to confess:

I stole chalk from other classrooms, and I did not return what was left. I absconded with a ream of paper from the English Department office because I had forgotten to bring my own. I tucked it inside my bag which I had emptied out in my office ahead of time, and so this crime was premeditated.

I used the administrative assistant's phone while she was on lunch, so that I could call a student in a 516 area code. I used the same phone to call the hospital to see how a sick relative was doing in a Long Island hospital.

I slipped into the photo copy room at 7 a.m. with a key that I obtained surreptitiously in order to make more than my allotted number of copies (25) for my 74 students. One semester, I often ended a class five minutes early, so I could get back to the adjunct office before my office mate could claim the desk. He taught at

the same time as I did, and used to go to the student lounge when I had the desk.

I used the faculty outgoing mailbox to return a paper to a student, even though I had been told in memo and in person that adjuncts were not allowed to use up the departmental postage allotment, especially not to return papers to students. I lied to the face of a security officer who asked me if I was a full-time faculty member when he gave me the color-coded sticker for my I.D. I used the same lie to get a vendacard for the parking lot nearest my building.

On more than one occasion, I kept the key to the adjunct computer office (one computer for 50 or 60 adjuncts) overnight, so I would have access before my morning class the next day, since the English office was still closed at that hour.

I canceled classes to hold office hours so I could be paid for my time conferencing with students. It didn't work, as the conferences took five hours (30 students at 10 minutes each), while the class was for only two. On numerous occasions, I used the department's copy machine for purposes only tangentially related to my courses, such as photo copying articles from educational journals and making copies for a presentation I was giving at a conference. And, I admit, my tax forms too.

After four semesters in a row teaching Freshman Composition at 8am, I told my chair I had a schedule conflict, when in

fact I didn't. I was just tired of arriving on campus in the ghostly dark.

One semester I kept track of the hours I put into my teaching: 452. When I divided the number of hours by the salary I made I was appalled: \$12 per hour. The next semester, I dropped my office hours; I started skimming instead of reading all of my students' papers; I gave fewer assignments; and I lectured more, so I wouldn't have to spend time developing classroom activities where students do more than listen to me. I made \$8 more per hour.

I was not completely honest with three students who were attempting to over-tally into my writing class. I told them that the class was limited to 27 and that the over-tally limit was 32 (the number of students in class that day). In fact, the limit was 32 and the over-tally limit was 37. I hope they found another class to take.

I accepted a last-minute course and found myself teaching 20th century American Literature though I had not prepared a syllabus or a reading list. The students told me they had not noticed a difference.

I accepted a course in a pilot program that enrolled remedial students into Freshman Composition, even though I was clueless about teaching writing. Half the class failed.

With this public statement, I hereby apologize to my students for my complicity in a system that gives them less than they deserve. **M**

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YOUR
VOICE
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Sign your letter, tell us your
major, and give contact info.

CUNY CLIPS

Bait and Switch

High school seniors have received a letter that begins, "Congratulations. It gives me great pleasure to inform you of your acceptance to City College as a member of the class entering in the Fall 2001 semester." But many of these students are later told that their acceptance is actually conditional. They must still pass the three Freshman Skills Assessment Tests to enter the college. CUNY's central administration has instructed City College and other senior colleges not to initially tell these students of their true status.

At a meeting on Feb. 22, CCNY administrators discussed a recruitment drive and phone calls from faculty to students, but the conditional admission status will not be disclosed over the phone either.

Apparently, CUNY hopes to rope in students and sustain enrollment this com-

ing fall. This is when remedial courses are eliminated at City College, Lehman, York, and Medgar Evers—the colleges that stand to lose the most students because of the new policy.

Students who don't pass all SKAT exams will find themselves shuffled off to a community college until they finish remedial coursework. By the time students find out about the scam, it's too late to do anything about it.

Shrink to Fit

The 4/11/01 edition of *New York Teacher* quotes PSC First Vice President Steve London to the effect that CUNY teacher education programs have been making great gains in preparing students for certification (initiated before the current administration), but lacks funding to meet a New York State Regents requirement stipulating that half of teacher education courses be taught by full-time faculty.

A PSC survey indicates that CUNY needs to hire at least 108 additional full-time teacher education staff at a cost of \$8 million to meet this requirement, but the master plan only seeks \$3 million this year. CUNY may be forced to decrease student enrollment at a time when new teachers are desperately needed.

"Needless to say, this is not a desirable solution to underfunding, with looming shortages of qualified teachers," London points out.

A similarly warped strategy was used at City College in 1995, when budget cuts forced the closing of several departments and programs, including the School of Nursing, which had about 500 students enrolled. The school saved some money, but the result has been the loss of one-third of the student body—enrollment dropped from about 15,000 to the current level of 10,000 students, resulting in an additional loss of revenue.

Barnes & Noble Rips Off John Jay Students

Jeff Simmons of NY1 did a special report on Barnes & Noble's practice of charging prices far beyond their contractual arrangement with John Jay College students.

NY1 News found that new books were being sold to students at prices far above list prices and used books were sold above the 75 percent of list price agreed upon and sometimes for more than new books at list price.

Simmons reports that his investigative team was chased out of the John Jay bookstore and denied entrance to some of the 21 other New York City area Barnes & Noble college bookstores. They did not find excessive prices in the seven other stores that they were allowed to enter.

Barnes & Noble operates the bookstore at CCNY. NY1 reportedly didn't find evidence of price gouging before being asked to leave.

Mass market book retailers like Barnes & Noble and Borders are using the same tactics with college bookstores as they've long used with traditional competitors: driving out the competition using low prices and corporate muscle, then charging what they think the market will bear when the competition is gone. Corporate providers do offer a quick fix to the need for campus bookstores and can be an attractive alternative for lazy or greedy administrators to options such as student co-ops, which may offer cheaper prices or better selection.

For Rent: Large Public University

In accordance with CUNY's new Master Plan (see the *Messenger's* October 2000 issue), CUNY will soon start renting out various "under-utilized" parts of the university—for free or at minimal rates—to corporations.

Apparently the deal will be that corporations may use CUNY facilities for research and development in return for CUNY taking a piece of their action. If the products pan out, CUNY gets shares of stock and profits in return. If not, we're out of luck.

CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein presented some of the development plans to the NYU Law City Breakfast Forum in February.

The initial phase calls for seven centers (probably located at the senior colleges or Graduate Center) to engage in investment with businesses. Goldstein mentioned that as many as 200 such joint ventures were possible.

The structural biology consortium centered at CCNY is one example. Goldstein noted that CUNY is being supported for capital improvements, but starved for its operating budget—professors, support staff, and student services.

The game is one that allows Governor Pataki to award lucrative contracts to the construction industry—who supply shoddy campus buildings (e.g. NAC, the Science Building) at enormous cost while continuing the right-wing attack on working-class students.

The CUNY plan is simply another way of channeling public funds to the private sector, with a nebulous promise of financial return. CUNY should be well funded without having to rely on scams and schemes.

NYU Grad Students Win Union

Will the school, with its billion-dollar endowment, survive?

By Kim Williams-Guillén

Four years ago, a handful of graduate students at New York University started meeting to develop a radical idea—a union for graduate student employees. These include the teaching assistants (TAs) who do most of the teaching, the graduate assistants (GAs) who file papers in departmental offices, and the research assistants (RAs) who run their professors' experiments. Years of organizing later, NYU's graduate students petitioned the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) for the right to hold an election to form and be represented by a union.

This March, after a long and expensive fight with the NYU administration, the students' union, the Graduate Student Organizing Committee of United Auto Workers Local 2110, won recognition from the school. In early April the union began to negotiate a contract to bring a living wage, healthcare, and childcare to NYU's 1400 graduate student workers.

Tough fight

Graduate student unionization is nothing new. In the late '60s and early '70s, TAs at a few public universities (including CUNY) formed or joined unions in response to and in solidarity with wider social movements.

The 1990s brought a new wave of unionization activities at several public universities (such as the University of California and SUNY) as graduate employees have been forced to take on ever-increasing workloads in the face of precipitous declines in faculty hires. What used to be an "apprenticeship" is now more an indentured servitude, with universities saddling grad students and part-time adjuncts with heavy teaching loads to make up for the lack of faculty hires.

In NYU's College of Arts and Sciences grad students teach 54 percent of all class hours and 87 percent of all required course hours. The NYU administration shows its appreciation by paying some graduate employees less than \$7,000 per year for jobs that take 20 or 30 hours a week. Forget about working on your dissertations, suckers!

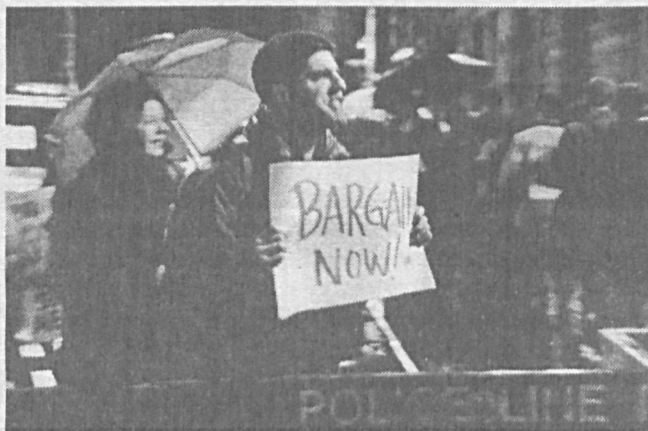
So it should come as no surprise that as universities shift to sweatshop models of higher education that the grad students should do what the exploited workers in factories and other workplaces have done for years—organize! What makes the NYU situation unique is that our downtown comrades are the first graduate students to successfully unionize at a private university.

In mid-2000, the NLRB rightly ruled that, despite NYU's protests to the contrary, the TAs and RAs are indeed workers, deserving of the right to bargain collectively over wages and benefits. As GSOC-UAW bargaining committee member Koray Calikstan has said, "Hey, if we're not workers, then let's stop working for a while and see what NYU says then."

Unanimous bipartisan support from the NLRB didn't stop NYU administrators from hiring union-busting law firm Proskauer Rose LLP and spending over three million dollars on a smear campaign against GSOC-UAW. Science students were told that their wages would go down, international students that they would lose their student visas, all of us that unionization would mean the end of academic freedom and collegiality. NYU chose to ignore that none of this has happened at other campuses where GAs unionized.

NYU appealed and ballots were impounded until November 2000, when the NLRB upheld its earlier decision. Despite NYU's smear campaign, 60 percent of students voted they wanted union representation under the United Auto Workers, a progressive union that represents 17,000 graduate employees at universities around the country.

With its NLRB appeal rejected, NYU responded by breaking the law and refusing to recognize and bargain with GSOC-UAW. The closest they came was suggesting a number of "preconditions" to bargaining, such as having a new election, waiving the right to strike, and waiving the right to negotiate over wages. In spite



Julien Eschbach-Prezel

of pressure from faculty, undergraduates, and politicians, NYU chose to ignore the community and the law. Administrators justified their decision not to bargain by pointing out that the NLRB imposes no specific sanctions or penalties for flouting their decision.

Taking Up the Banner

Needless to say, graduate students were not amused, so little so that they prepared to go on strike. GSOC-UAW organized a strike authorization vote for the evening of March 1. That afternoon NYU agreed to recognize GSOC and negotiate a contract. Administrators claimed that the strike vote had nothing to do with their decision. They claimed they had been merely "consulting with the community." For months Yale University president Richard Levins pressured NYU to hold out lest a precedent be set that would help Yale students win their own union after twelve tough years of organizing.

But it's clear a threat of a strike brought the NYU administration to its senses. A strike would have brought the downtown campus to a screeching halt. Administrative offices, research laboratories and classes would have been blocked or severely hampered. Fortunately, it did not come to pass. So, in answer to our question, a few people were able to work together, make positive changes in the lives of thousands of people, and change the face of higher education: NYU conceded and began bargaining with GSOC-UAW April 2.

Meanwhile, GAs throughout the coun-

continued on page 10

THE CITY AND BEYOND



Students sitting in at Harvard University in support of a living wage for campus workers.

Living Wage Sit-In at Harvard

Forty members of the Harvard Living Wage Campaign have occupied a Harvard administrative building to demand a living wage of at least \$10.25 per hour, adjusted annually to inflation, plus basic health benefits for all Harvard employees.

The Campaign began in 1998, when the Cambridge City Council began working toward a living wage ordinance for all city employees. At the same time, Harvard students, faculty members, and workers joined together to demand that Harvard University—Cambridge's largest employer—live up to these standards.

Over 1,000 Harvard workers are still paid wages as low as \$6.50 per hour without benefits, although the university has an endowment of over \$19 billion (yes, that's billion)—the largest in the country. This puts a parent with one child well below the federal poverty line.

The Campaign decided on the takeover as a last resort, after having organized rallies, petitions, teach-ins, and a short occupation of an admissions office. The Harvard Corporation, the University's governing body, has refused to meet with representatives from the Campaign, however, and refused to adopt or even consider a living wage policy.

The Campaign has been endorsed by every campus union, 30 student groups, over 150 Harvard faculty members, and over 2000 students. Additionally, the Cambridge City Council has passed two resolutions calling on Harvard to implement a living wage.

Michigan Police Spy on Student Activists

The *State News* reports that the campus police at Michigan State University assigned an undercover officer to infiltrate and spy on a student activist group. As it turns out, MSU President M. Peter McPherson approved the surveillance of the MSU chapter of the United Students Against Sweatshops (now Students for Economic Justice).

MSU police Chief Bruce Benson feared that a May 2000 commencement speech by World Bank President James Wolfensohn could bring protesters to campus and decided to have a campus police officer observe the students' meetings to avoid the so-called violence that erupted during the Seattle and Washington D.C. protests last year.

Benson conferred with vice president of finance and operations Fred Poston, who oversees the MSU campus police, for

clearance on the covert operation. MSU's president was not aware of the surveillance until weeks after it started, but did nothing to stop it after he was notified. President McPherson denied that there was a political agenda to the spy op, saying that "Undercover policemen are not to investigate politics."

Students and civil rights advocates are not amused, however, and the incident could bring legal action against the University. "I know some people say it's legal, but it certainly isn't moral for a university to spy on its students under any circumstances," said Henry Silverman, president of the Lansing-area ACLU.

The situation has eerie parallels to CUNY, which formed an enemies list, culled from NYPD surveillance at demonstrations and student arrest records during protests over budget cuts. The list had students names, ages, ethnicity, arrest records, and academic records, among other information.

At CCNY in 1998, students discovered a security camera outside a room used by student activists. CCNY's Security Director, when forced to testify in court, admitted under oath that the camera was used to observe students and prevent a possible takeover of a campus building.



Michigan State University police Chief Bruce Benson speaking at a Student Assembly meeting: "I don't think it was a mistake, but I don't think it makes everyone happy," he said.

Cuban Minority Scholarship Plan

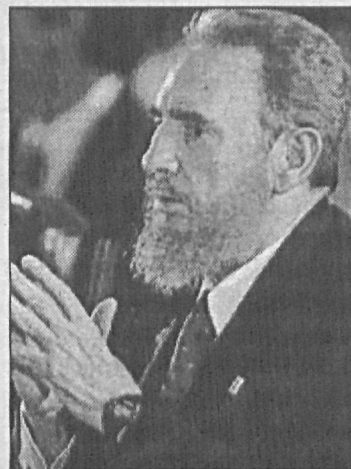
Cuban President Fidel Castro has made good on an offer made last fall at a speech at Harlem's Riverside Church to provide assistance to low-income American minority medical students. Castro reprimanded the US for failing to take care of its poor and disadvantaged, and offered to

provide six years of free medical education and training to underprivileged medical students. The Congressional Black Caucus is developing a selection process and will administer the program.

Students must be high school graduates under the age of 26 and can be of any minority background (not only African American). They will receive free medical education and training, plus free textbooks and room and board. Beneficiaries will have to return to their communities to practice medicine after being trained in Cuba. The first crop of students has already registered in the program.

The American Medical Association has voiced concern about the quality of education American students would receive in Cuba, noting that they might have a difficult time getting licensed upon returning to the US. Medical students trained in foreign countries pass licensing exams at much lower rates than graduates of American medical schools do.

Supporters of Castro's scholarship plan say that Cuba's medical instruction programs are world-class. "Cuba produces very good doctors," said Tinoa Rodgers,



Media Director for Riverside Church, where Castro first made his offer last fall. "Cuban doctors may not have the best technology, but they have very good bedside manner, good relationship with patients. They're trained as physicians whose mission is to heal, [they're] trained to do the most with the least, given their lack of resources."

Medical care in Cuba is free and Cuba has a much higher percentage of Black doctors than the United States, thanks to aggressive outreach after the revolution.

Ferrer Up, Ferrer Down

Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer has declared support for defending open admissions and lower tuition in CUNY.

Ferrer is running for mayor as a Democrat and has a good chance at winning if he can make it through a crowded primary election.

The position makes sense, as many of Ferrer's constituents are Black or Latino—the groups most desperately in need of accessible and affordable higher education.



Ferrer suffers from a lack of consistency in his positions, however. He now supports a moratorium on the death penalty. Four years ago when he was running for mayor, Ferrer shifted from opposition to support for the death penalty.

Ferrer's latest pirouette leaves the Bronx Beep sitting on the fence—the preferred position for spineless reformist Democrats. He can claim to be tough on crime and conveniently duck the fact that the death penalty not only disproportionately affects the majority of his own constituency—Blacks and Latinos—but hits the poor hardest of all. Ninety percent of death row inmates are unable to afford to pay for legal counsel.

Will Ferrer figure out that the way out of the criminal justice trap is more jobs and better education? Has he figured out that the criminal justice system keeps itself viable by targeting the same people that CUNY and the public schools need to serve? Find out in the next installment of "As the Politician Turns."

Stanford Students Protest Racist Graffiti

The San Francisco Chronicle reports that About 150 Stanford University students, mostly ethnic and racial minorities, protested the university's poor handling of a recent rash of racist graffiti on campus, urging administrators to take a tougher public stance against hate crimes.

A series of white supremacist and racist slogans and slurs against Asian, African and Arab Americans and Latinos were found scrawled in several buildings. No arrests have been made and campus police have no apparent leads in the case.

Campus administrators and investigators came under fire from minority student leaders and others for refusing to reveal specifically what was written on the walls. The university claims that it wants to spare the feelings of the ethnic groups targeted by the graffiti and avoid the possibility of encouraging copycat incidents by publicizing the incident.

However, student protesters feel that Stanford is trying to cover up the incident to save face. Exposing racism to the light of day is the best way to fight the bigots and stop intolerance. **M**

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AEC's Grafty Ways

Broken laws, secret meetings, bundling, and self-payments. Ho-hum, another year at the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation.

By Robert Wallace

What Is AEC?

AEC is one of the two not-for-profit corporations City College has set up to deal with funding. AEC provides oversight of contracts the college enters into with outside vendors. AEC collects City's share of the revenues vendors rake in from sales here at City as stipulated by their contracts.

Pepsi has an exclusive contract with City for the vending machines. Metropolitan Foods Services Corporation holds the cafeteria contract. Barnes and Noble currently holds the bookstore contract. The College's annual cut of vendor revenues is typically around \$200,000. This money is then re-allocated by AEC as grants to campus organizations that apply for the money.

AEC has a Board of Directors. The AEC Board is comprised of four administrators, four undergraduate student government officials, one graduate student official, and two faculty members. This year's board was chaired by Vice President for Finance and Management Barbara Gliwa and included Associate Dean for Student Affairs Paul Bobb; Ira Blumenreich of Fiscal Planning; Finley Student Center director Wendy Thornton; Jason Compton, Elvin Chistian, Daphney Leveille and Kilsis St. Hillaire of the Undergraduate Student Government; and Martha Flores, chair of the Graduate Student Council. Professors Victor Chung and Maragrita Samad-Matias are the faculty members on the Board.

Why Is AEC Important?

Simply put, AEC is the single largest pot of money available to campus organizations. Moreover, the money is easy to use. Unlike SSC allocations, which involve considerable red tape, AEC allocations require only one signature and spending oversight is more relaxed. That's why, despite short notice (more below), 94 proposals worth \$946,786 were submitted by

campus organizations for less than \$200,000 available.

So not all proposals can be funded (especially given the piddling percent of revenues AEC takes in from campus vendors). Many of the programs and projects that were funded are certainly worthy. And Board members dedicate considerable time toward sifting through proposals. All true. But a number of disturbing trends and circumstances characterize this year's AEC grants, as they do every year, indicating the problems are structural in nature and not just a matter of personalities.

First off, this year's AEC allocations were illegal. The State's Open Meetings Law requires that all such allocating meetings by state or quasi-state institutions, like AEC, must be publicized. This year's meetings, as with AEC meetings in past years, were not publicized. Without public notification, whether by media ads or, on campus, by postering, these meetings become effectively closed. And budget allocations cannot be made behind closed doors.

Bundling and Bungling

Administrative units, departments, and the two student governments submitted 60 proposals. Student clubs submitted 34.

There are several reasons for this imbalance. First, while student clubs are allowed only one proposal each, the Office of Student Affairs is allowed to submit numerous proposals under different names, a practice political junkies know as "bundling." Intramural Athletics, Wellness and Counseling, Student Services Corporation, Finley Student Center, the Child Development Center, and the Career Center are all part of the Division of Student Affairs.

Another reason for the imbalance is that student clubs were informed of the AEC grants *only a week* before the deadline in November!

Student clubs all together accounted for only 6.5 percent of the total AEC outlays this year.

Of the 94 student clubs registered with Finley Student Center, only 34 applied for AEC grants. It's clear such short notice acts to the advantage of those who already know about the AEC grants process, namely AEC Board members, who, unsurprisingly got almost all their own proposals early in the AEC's docket for consideration.

On the other hand, four of the seven proposals that came in late were given fund-

ing and substantial at that: Cityvisions, the Urban Legal Studies Association, Across Culture/Understanding Diversity, and the City Women award ceremony.

If these groups are funded, what's the point of having a deadline? Funding late proposals is particularly galling given that the AEC Board gave student groups only a week's notice, forcing these groups to unnecessarily rush in proposals that they could have used more time to prepare.

Follow the Money

Now to the meat of the matter. Of the \$192,534 given out by the AEC this year, \$93,841 or 49% went to proposals that were directly connected to Board members. These proposals were either directly sponsored by Board members or for CCNY units Board members work for.

Forty-two of the 60 administration/department/student government proposals (70%) were funded for a proposal average of \$2846. Twenty-three of the 31 (67%) student club proposals were funded for a club proposal average of four and a half times less: \$641.

An estimated \$44,004 was given to Student Affairs units (two Board members). That's 22.8% of the total, comparable to past years. In 1997-98, Student Affairs units took in \$55,919 in AEC funding, or 24% of the total. In years past, when a Student Affairs event like the Honors Convocation wasn't funded, Student Affairs was able to find the needed money elsewhere, including within the hundreds of thousands of dollars in student activity fees it receives, a luxury most student clubs do not have.

USG (four AEC board members) submitted seven proposals worth \$126,568 and received \$30,500, 15.8% of the total

USG

continued from page 1

since CCNY's founding in 1847, and surviving the Great Depression intact.

Winning free tuition will probably take longer than the new student government's term in office, but Williams seems to have a good grasp of CUNY history and what can be done. "City has had a dual historical mission," he points out. "To serve the underserved and serve the community."

The new student government has a tough road ahead. Outgoing USG president Jason Compton told the *Messenger* that one of the areas that needs improvement is student participation, although it has increased. Efforts to involve the student body are frustrated by both the commuter nature of the school and by societal issues. Students struggling with burdens of work, school, and family responsibilities often do not have either the time or energy to engage in campus life.

Still, there is an upsurge of activism throughout the country and the world, as mass protests starting in Seattle and recently in Montreal against Free trade legislation attest to. Students have been on the front lines of these protests. Even at City College, struggle has increased over the

The Messenger recommends:

1. The contracts with the vendors be renegotiated to assure City College takes greater proportions of the revenues.
2. More student representatives sit on the AEC and SSC Boards. Perhaps these additional representatives could be elected by the student body, as is done at Hunter College.
3. AEC honor no "hard" requests that should be funded by the CCNY or CUNY administrations. The administration must win real funding for academic and service units.
4. Student Affairs' practice of bundling be banned and/or the number of Student Affairs proposals be capped.
5. Student clubs be given sufficient time to write their proposals.
6. Proper public notice be given for AEC meetings at which allocations are discussed, as required by the State's Open Meetings Laws.
7. AEC meetings take place in a first floor conference room in the NAC Building where students could better observe the meetings, if students so choose.
8. Opportunities be given for participating groups' contact persons to verbally address the full Board about their proposals, if they choose. Even prisoners address their parole boards.

AEC allocation. Martha Flores, the GSC's single board member, submitted five proposals worth \$76,380 and received \$13,800, about 7% of the total. Professor Samad-Matais's three proposals received \$2,500 each.

The 23 clubs that received funding all together accounted for \$21,800 or only 6.5% of the total AEC outlays this year. The AEC list shows the Board decided on an allocation practice that restricted clubs to grants of either \$500 or \$1000, though

past year around the Palestinian uprising and the selection process that saw CUNY install a new college president—Gregory Williams—in a heavy-handed manner.

President-elect Williams plans on greater communication with the admissions office to involve incoming students in school issues early and outreach to the faculty senate, local politicians, and even churches.

The new USG will benefit from smooth articulation with the outgoing government and from some members' experience. Four of the eight executives held office in the current student government. Compton says that his government is planning on making the transition as efficient as possible. "We are focusing on a good transitional plan so that newly elected officials can operate smoothly. Each executive member would help their newly elected counterpart to settle in the office and take over his or her daily activities," said Compton.

Compton is hopeful about his successors' prospects. "There seems to be rejuvenated energy in student activities. The way all the student organizations worked together in opposing the undemocratic process of the [college] presidential search only gives hope. Now it's up to the new student government to take it further." **M**

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that wasn't a hard rule. For example, the Urban Legal Studies Association received \$2500 for its late proposal.

Still a Budget Crisis

Too many of the proposals were for "hard" services and equipment that should be paid for by the college's state budget allocation. AEC should be used for campus activities. It shouldn't be used to make up for budget shortfalls. For example, several departments, including Political Science, Engineering and Black Studies, asked for and got thousands of dollars. \$25,000 was given to the Cohen Library to buy furniture. \$10,000 was allocated for intramural athletics.

It's not that the *Messenger* is against these projects; the problem is that all these units have their own budget allocations. During the mid-1990s budget crisis Black Studies was downgraded to a program, the Cohen budget was slashed to the bone, and Gym was eliminated as a class. Although CUNY may suffer no cuts this year, we're still in the midst of that budget crisis because departmental seminars, library furniture, and athletics are now being funded with AEC money, not with state budget lines, as they should be. In turn, student clubs are bumped out of AEC money.

Closer to home, the *Messenger* asked for \$10,000 to pay for computers and printing costs. It was given \$500, 0.25% of the total AEC allocation, and 1/20 of the original request. Groups that received nothing might view that as ungrateful, true. But consider: Even as it is the student newspaper that has printed most often at City College the past three years, the *Messenger* has been forced to print with funds largely out of editors' own pockets. Editors estimate they've used \$3000 of their own money to pay for the *Messenger*. Layout is conducted on off-campus computers because the *Messenger* has no viable computer for such work on campus. An award-winning newspaper is an exile on its own campus.

On the other hand, the *Campus* and the *Paper* received \$8000 for, among other things, hiring an outside consultant to "advise" students how to put out a publication despite those newspapers' access to tens of thousands of dollars in student activity fees through the Media Board. The *Messenger* is not at all against the \$8000—all campus media need support—though it believes that money would have been far more effective if it had been allocated to pay *students*. Hiring a consultant to knock student heads together won't help those publications get back on track. Giving stipends to student editors would permit them the time needed to put out their newspapers.

One explanation for the *Messenger's* miniscule allocation is that budgets are political documents. And the *Messenger* has not shied away from campus politics. Several of the members of the AEC Board, including members of the Office of Finance and Management, Student Affairs Associate Dean Paul Bobb, Finley Student Affairs employees, and GSC Chair Martha Flores, have been criticized in the pages of the *Messenger*. So some board members may have punished the *Messenger* by voting against its proposal. That must have brought them great satisfaction, but perhaps to the detriment of the school.

Fix AEC!

Listed next to this article are the 2000-2001 grants doled out by City College's Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation (AEC). Darryl Butler of the Office of Finance and Management kindly provided the list to the *Messenger*.

Spring 2001 AEC Grant Awards

Administration, Departments, Student Governments

Organization	Contact Person	Proposed Project	\$ Request	\$ Award
Across Culture/Understanding Diversity	Hazel Reid	Student Resource Group	5,000	2,000*
Adult and Continuing Education Program	Jane MacKillop	Tai Chi Lessons	1,775	0
American Medical Student Association	Gina Lopez	Workshops and Seminars	12,475	500
Association of Hispanic Faculty and Staff	Alberto Guzman	Scholarships & Award Ceremonies	3,890	3,000
Athletic-Academic Support Program	Jenny Cossio	Tutoring Project	4,500	2,000
Athletics & Recreational Sports	Panayiotis Petrochilos	Warm-up Suits	3,150	3,150
Black Studies Program	Prof. Samad Matias	Workshops and Seminars	7,740	2,500
The Career Center	Monica W. Scott	Workshops	1,080	500
The Career Center	Dophia Demetriou	Computers and Supplies	14,206	0
The Career Center	Dophia Demetriou	Career Center Website	5,000	0
CCNY Drama Club	Steve Dean	Theatrical Project	5,000	0
CCNY Safety Services Volunteer Squad	Bobby Wong	Training courses	4,600	4,600
Center for Educational Options	Suzanne Marten	After-School Project	18,000	0
Chief Librarian	Pamela Gillespie	Tables & Chairs for Scn & Eng Libraries	15,020	25,000
Chief Librarian	Pamela Gillespie	Provide Scanning Workstations in Each Library	9,308	0
Chief Librarian	Pamela Gillespie	Reupholster Seating in Cohen Library Atrium	7,800	0
Chief Librarian	Pamela Gillespie	Enhance Study Lounge in Cohen Library	9,806	0
Child Development Center	LaTrella Thornton	Workshop	161	161
City College Media Board	Ible C.N.	Increasing Campus Wide Coverage	15,000	0*
City College Online Media Initiative	Harry Mars	City College Online Magazine	11,500	0
City College Workshop Center	Prof. Hubert Dyasi	Catherine Molony Memorial Lecture	4,875	0
Cityvisions	Prof. Dave Davidson	Showcase of students works	18,150	2,000*
Citywomen	Ernestine Haynes	Award Ceremony	850	850*
Department of Foreign Languages & Lit.	Prof. Juan Mercado	Workshops, Tutorial Program	8,760	0
Department of Political Science	Prof. Edislav Manetovic	City College Delegation to the United Nations	5,698	1,000
The Division of Student Affairs	Daphney Leveille	The Civil City Project	6,000	1,750
The Engineering Student Associations	Rokhaya Diop	Workshops, Seminars & Field Trip	9,970	1,000
The Finley Student Center	Jerry Rosa	Computer & Audio Visual Upgrade	1,963	1,963
The Finley Student Center	Wendy Thornton	Closing Yearbook Debt	15,000	7,500
Martha Flores	Martha Flores	GSC Support Services	46,600	8,000
Martha Flores	Martha Flores	Annual Puerto Rican Celebration "La Parada"	12,400	1,500
The G.P.A. Initiative Program	Lakiesha Christopher	Support Services	20,000	5,000
The Graduate Student Council	Martha Flores	Conference	12,580	3,000
The Graduate Student Council	Martha Flores	Graduate Reception for the '01 Graduation	3,800	800
The Graduate Student Council	Martha Flores	Student Leadership Award Ceremony	1,000	500
Holcombe Rucker center	Yuri Job	Tutoring	16,000	0
Immigrant & Refugee Study & Support Grp.	Prof. Samad Matias	Workshops and Seminars	10,333	2,500
International Studies Program	Prof. Marina Fernando	Scholarships & Study Abroad Project	9,000	0
International Studies Program	Prof. Chudi Uwazurike	Symposium	13,650	0*
Intramural Athletics & Recreational Sports	Kevin Rahman	Operating Funding	30,005	10,000
Islamic Cultures & Issues Study Group	Prof. Samad Matias	Workshops	7,353	2,500
Mechanical Engineering	Prof. Ali Sadegh	Competitions & Design Projects	4,100	2,000
NSBE	Casey Barry	25th Annual National Convention	15,000	2,000
Office of Student Disability	Kevin Tucker	Workshops and Seminars	21,200	7,000
Office of Student Ombudsperson	Sayfullah Hafizah	Seminars and Workshops	6,590	5,000
The Paper and The Campus	Prof. Jill Nelson	Funding for an Advisor & Renaissance Project	38,000	8,000
Photography Program	Prof. Bruce Habegger	Photography Program	7,900	2,000
Physical Plant Svcs. & Finley Student Center	George Varian	Purchase of Flags of all Nations	7,180	7,180
Program of Premedical Studies	Robert Goode	Tutorial programs & office supplies	27,600	9,000
School of Engineering - Student Programs	Ashelly Thornhill	Tutoring	12,000	2,000
Student Affairs	June Hendricks	Honors Convocation	14,700	3,000
Student Support Services	Elizabeth Thangaraj	Scholarships & Field trips & Award Ceremony	6,000	0
Student Services Corporation	Kathleen Springer	Office Furniture	7,000	1,800
Undergraduate Student Government	Kilsis Saint-Hilaire	National Conference	60,000	20,000
Undergraduate Student Government	Jason E. Compton	Winter Leadership Retreat	27,550	4,000
Undergraduate Student Government	Daphney Leveille	Campus Events	8,400	2,500
Undergraduate Student Government	Rudy Diaz	Health Conference/Fair	5,300	2,500
Undergraduate Student Government	Eleny Romanos	Seminars and Workshops	6,800	1,500
Undergraduate Student Government	Elvin Christian	Office Supplies	12,518	0
Undergraduate Student Government	Daphney Leveille	Community and Campus Betterment	6,000	0
Wellness and Counseling Center	Dr. Pereta Rodriguez	Support Services	15,950	0

Student Clubs

Organization	Contact Person	Proposed Project	\$ Request	\$ Award
African Dance Association	Terehas Walters	Seminars and Workshops	900	0
Amer. Inst. of Aeronautics and Astronautics	Christian Rojas	Improving our College Community	17,175	2,500
The American Institute of Chemical Eng.	Madeline Augustin	Support Services	11,800	1,000
Amistad	Lyuda Ryaboy	Fundraising	2,600	500
ASME	Jose Lai	Events, Supplies & Field Trips	8,153	1,000
ASHRAE	Amir Salem	Events	9,290	500
Asian Cultural Union	Kar Leung Siu	Supplies	2,670	500
Biomedical Engineering Society	Delana Chadee	Conference, Field Trips	2,500	0
Caduceus Society	Erwins Benitez	Workshops & Seminars	875	500
CCNY Rainbow Alliance	Cerrone Lundy	Seminar	925	500
The Frederick Douglass Debate Society	Louisa Paul	Increasing Awareness in National Debate	11,296	0
French Club	Jean Dorfeuille	Events, Office Supplies	11,000	1,000
Golden Key Honor Society	Pereen Bubala	Reception	2,100	300
Graduate Economic Society	Yochanan Shachmurove	Seminars and Workshops	1,945	0
The Inst. of Electrical and Electronics Eng.	Thomas Horan	Conference, Office Supplies	9,589	1,000
KSEA	Kyung Wan	Events and Activities	2,326	0*
LAESA SPHE	Luis Ulloa	High School Recruitment	24,555	0
Martial Arts Club	Michael Tubon	Equipment	500	500
The Messenger	Henry Williams	Printing and Equipment	10,000	500
The Muslim Students Organization	Salah Ali	Academic Services	4,350	1,000
Salsa Mambo Club	Lynette Rodriguez	Club Services	11,650	1,000
NYWEA	Nathan Wheeler	Computer and Printer	1,900	0
Oasis Club of CCNY	Lunetha Lancaster	Workshops and Seminars	3,978	1,000
Sankofa Roots	Kenneth Williams	Events	17,575	1,000
Science Fiction, Games & Anime Club	Dion J. Powell	Events	1,000	500
SME	Vincent Taylor	Seminars, Workshops, Field Trip & Supplies	12,378	1,000
The Society of Women Engineers	Dakiesha Christopher	Workshops & Seminars	12,150	1,000
Student Coalit. for Action in Literacy Educ.	Yuri Job	Tutors	10,000	0
Student National Medical Association	Bernice Rumala	Workshops & Ceremonies	1,500	500
Tau Beta Pi	Rokhaya Diop	Office, Field Trips, Conference	7,494	0
United Nigerian Students Association	Ehimanre Ebhomielen	Furniture	3,000	0
The Urban Legal Studies Association	Wesner J. Pierre	Events and Activities	8,700	2,500*
Women in Islam	Sana Ali	Workshops	2,125	0

*late proposal

By Rob Wallace and Shumon Alam

In a Winter 2000 interview in *Alumnus*, a magazine for CCNY alumni, Interim President Stanford Roman sympathized with an interviewer's concern about a current lack of an intellectual atmosphere at City College:

Our society has made time an expensive commodity. Even with the assistance of technology, true intellectual pursuit takes time. One must acquire knowledge, conceptualize and test the knowledge, and develop new paradigms through new related and unrelated knowledge. Many students and faculty are challenged by so many other personal and professional demands that intellectualism can suffer. Also, many students are more goal- and employment-oriented than they were even twenty or thirty years ago.

Roman is correct. Campus life and intellectual atmosphere requires enough students with enough time to sit around campus and shoot the shit for hours on end. Students need time to work on the extracurricular activities that define a campus' ambience.

But the connection Roman fails to make in the interview is that students' "personal and professional demands" may have something to do with the very forces that undermined public education and pushed the student body into the workforce in the first place. Ironically, these forces include some of the very sources from which Roman declares City College must seek new funding, namely, "[wealthy] alumni, foundations, corporations."

The strains brought upon the state budget in the 1970s and 1980s by millions in corporate tax breaks and wasteful spending by development corporations were relieved in part by perennial tuition hikes and cuts in financial aid at CUNY and SUNY. These cuts and tuition increases drove many more of the student body out of school altogether or into the work force to work one, two, even three jobs to pay for their classes. "Employment-oriented" isn't a choice—it's a necessity. And so, after class, the campus is characterized by a mass exodus of students headed for the subways to get to their part-time and full-time jobs.

The political economy's pressures upon student time, however, aren't the full story. For those students who are able to remain on campus for extra-curricular activities, campus life is a veritable wasteland, even compared with campus life only two years ago.

The structure needed to support student activities has collapsed. In fact, it's been transformed into a means of snuffing student life. A main source of that carnage is Thomas Morales, Vice President of Student Affairs, who sits across from President Roman at cabinet meetings.

Controlling Space and Money

Student activities are organized mainly by student clubs. Morales and his compatriots in the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) are supposed to help these clubs. But Morales and his sidekick, Associate Dean Paul Bobb, view student clubs—whom Morales and Bobb were hired to serve—as competition.

Some of that competition orbits around control of campus space. In 1989 and 1991, CCNY students took over buildings on campus to protest Governor Cuomo's proposed budget cuts to CUNY. In 1995

students occupied the NAC Rotunda for a hunger strike against Governor Pataki's budget. Since then the Rotunda has been used by students as a stage for protest against budget cuts, the CUNYCard, security abuses, and, this year, the process for selecting CCNY's next president.

When Morales took his position under former president Yolanda Moses in 1994, he played an instrumental role in cracking down on political organizing during the 1995 and 1996 student protests. Morales was fanatical in targeting student "enemies" and repressing legal organizing on campus. He often threatened and pursued discipline procedures and suspension for student activists (for more, see part one of this series in the May 2000 issue). He made using campus spaces for student organizing very difficult. But all clubs felt the sting of repression (more below).

and want to receive funding during the academic year, say, for example, after they've actually met some people on campus, well, too bad! The students will have to wait until next year. Not next semester, but next year. So the club registration process is an annual event? And clubs only have to register once a year, right? Wrong. Clubs that are able to register in September must reregister in the spring!

The registration process is a grueling one. At the beginning of the year representatives of all clubs, including already established clubs, must attend an orientation session at Finley. If a club misses the sessions, too bad, no club this year, no matter what its record.

At the orientation, Finley dumps stacks of paperwork onto the representatives to be filled out within a week. Clubs must provide the names, phone numbers, addresses and Social Security numbers of four student officers: president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. The names and ID numbers of at

submitted one month before the event. The committee meets once a week, but has been known to skip weeks. So if somehow your application is considered incomplete, and it's returned to you for revision, you may have to wait even longer for approval. And then you are between a rock and hard place: If you continue to organize for your event and the Events Committee later rejects your application, you are in deep trouble as you've already spent considerable time and energy in securing speakers, performers, etc. for naught. But if you don't organize until you get approval, you might be caught with your pants down when the Committee approves your application two days before your event. And even when the Events Committee approves your application, it's not over. The application is next forwarded to the Vice President for Finance and Management for her approval.

Fire the GOOD SNUFFING OUT STUDENTS

VP Morales has taken to bragging about the number of student clubs but his office's practices have assured these clubs can't fund

Student Affairs also competes with student groups for money. The OSA routinely takes funding that should be used by student clubs. For example, Student Affairs, under the aegis of a multitude of titles, solicits grants from the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation (AEC), a not-for-profit corporation the college has set up to manage and redistribute revenues CCNY earns from vendors like Pepsi and Barnes & Noble that operate on campus. Student groups, meanwhile, are allowed only one AEC proposal each. This year OAS was awarded over \$44,000, almost 23% of the entire AEC allocations (for more info see "AEC's Legalized Graft on page 6).

Kafka Student Center

Our laws are not generally known; they are kept secret by the small group of nobles who rule us. We are convinced that these ancient laws are scrupulously administered; nevertheless it is an extremely painful thing to be ruled by laws that one does not know. —Franz Kafka

Finley Student Center, otherwise known as the Department of Co-Curricular Life, operates under OSA. Ostensibly, Finley is supposed to help student groups on campus. Finley's mission is, according to its promotional pamphlets, "to teach life skills by empowering students through opportunities for leadership and service to others." And boy, do they ever! Students must develop life skills in the face of tidal waves of red tape and punitive policy that has earned Finley the nickname Kafka Student Center. Without such life skills, student organizations will founder or drown. At City College, it's sink or swim, baby.

For example, students can register new clubs only at the beginning of the year. So if any students decide to start a new club

least fifteen student members must be provided too. Each club must have a faculty advisor. All club executives must have GPAs of at least 2.5. None of the club executives can be part of the Undergraduate Student Government. None of the executives can be students who have just entered City College.

For new organizations, many of whose members may be freshmen and who may not know faculty, the bureaucracy is demoralizing right from the start. Those clubs that have already undergone the ordeal suffer the registration like a semesterly flu.

Deep Doo-Doo

If a student club wants to hold an event, all club executives and the faculty member must sign an events application form. The form is mullied over by an "Events Application Screening Committee" comprised of representatives from OSA, Finance and Management, Urban and Governmental Affairs, Finley, the Registrar, Security, Physical Plant, and Athletics. The application must include a poster for the event (even if you do not yet know the exact date or place of your event!). If you hold an event at night, particularly in the NAC Ballroom or in Aranow Theater, you will be forced to pay extra fees for security guards and insurance.

The application must be

Although the Events Committee is responsible for notifying the "applicant of record" of the Committee's decision, Finley has often left approvals in club mailboxes, expecting club members to telepathically divine that their applications are finally in their mailbox after weeks of waiting.

The one-month requirement is clearly an infringement on students' right of speech and to organize. Say, for example, the US bombs Iraq (again). Would students have to wait a month before protesting or having a forum? Such a situation arose in October 1998 when the CCNY Coalition to Defend Open Admissions, of which the authors were members, got Al Sharpton to come to CCNY to speak out against the Board of Trustees' back-door efforts to swiftly end the open admissions policy at CUNY.

The Events Committee refused to entertain the application because, the Committee said, it violated the one-month rule. Dean Bobb told graduate student and then-*Messenger* editor Brad Sigal, who led efforts to bring Sharpton to campus,



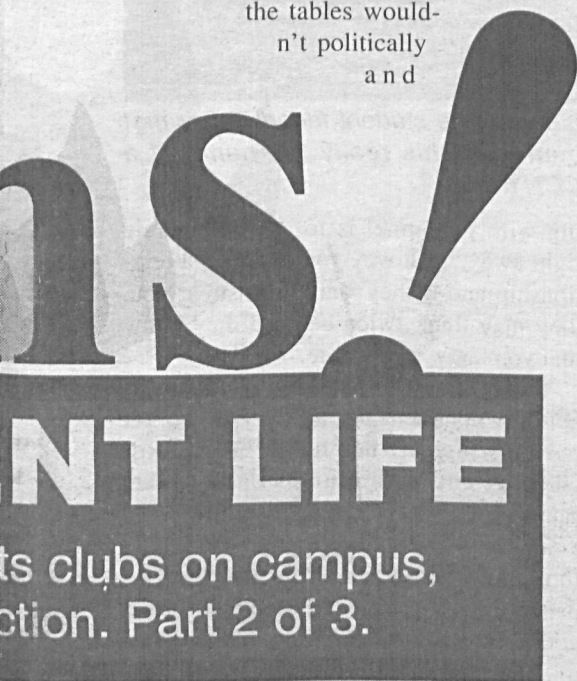
While Student Affairs punishes student clubs for violating a poster policy it selectively enforces, corporate posters go unmolested.

that it was "impossible" to have Sharpton speak. Somehow the impossible became possible when enough political pressure was focused on Morales and Bobb, who seemed clinically diagnosable in their efforts to block the Sharpton event. The Sharpton event was successful—over 130 students and faculty took part.

Red Tape Worm

Since mid-March 1999, Morales and his crew have attempted to get rid of information tables student groups like SLAM!, the International Socialist Organization and the *Messenger* have set up with literature of political and social import for the campus community. Such tables had until then been set up by student groups since at least 1995 without a problem.

An outright ban on the tables wouldn't politically and



legally fly, so OSA attempted to get rid of the tables with bureaucratic maneuverings, demanding the absurd condition that the tables must be staffed at all times the literature is present. Otherwise they would not be allowed.

Meanwhile, some administrative unit, either the Career Center or Finley, set up a table in the cafeteria on which was placed stacks of a newspaper called "Managing Your Career," published by the *Wall Street Journal*. No one staffed the table, even as the newspapers were left in the cafeteria for weeks.

While groups used to be able to apply for space for their literature tables for the entire semester with one application, now Finley requires an application be filed every month. Think about what that means: More paperwork, more tracking down all the officers and the faculty advisor for signatures, more waiting for approvals from the Events Committee, already swamped with applications they apparently cannot process efficiently.

Repression Poster Boy

In Fall 1998 Morales and Student Affairs instituted a new postering policy that limited flyers for campus events to just a few bulletin boards placed in inconvenient locations around campus.

Morales and his representatives declared the new postering and tabling policies an attempt to "beautify" the campus, a rather myopic choice of words for a campus with collapsing ceilings, dangerously moldy walls, and filthy bathrooms.

Beauty, of course, is in the eye of the beholder. Which is the more beautiful campus: a sterilized campus with no or few posters, or one festooned with flyers advertising all sorts of events to be held during the week? In any case, what does the poster policy say about an administrator who commands Finley Student Center employees, ostensibly there to help student groups promote their events, to rip down student posters promoting campus events?

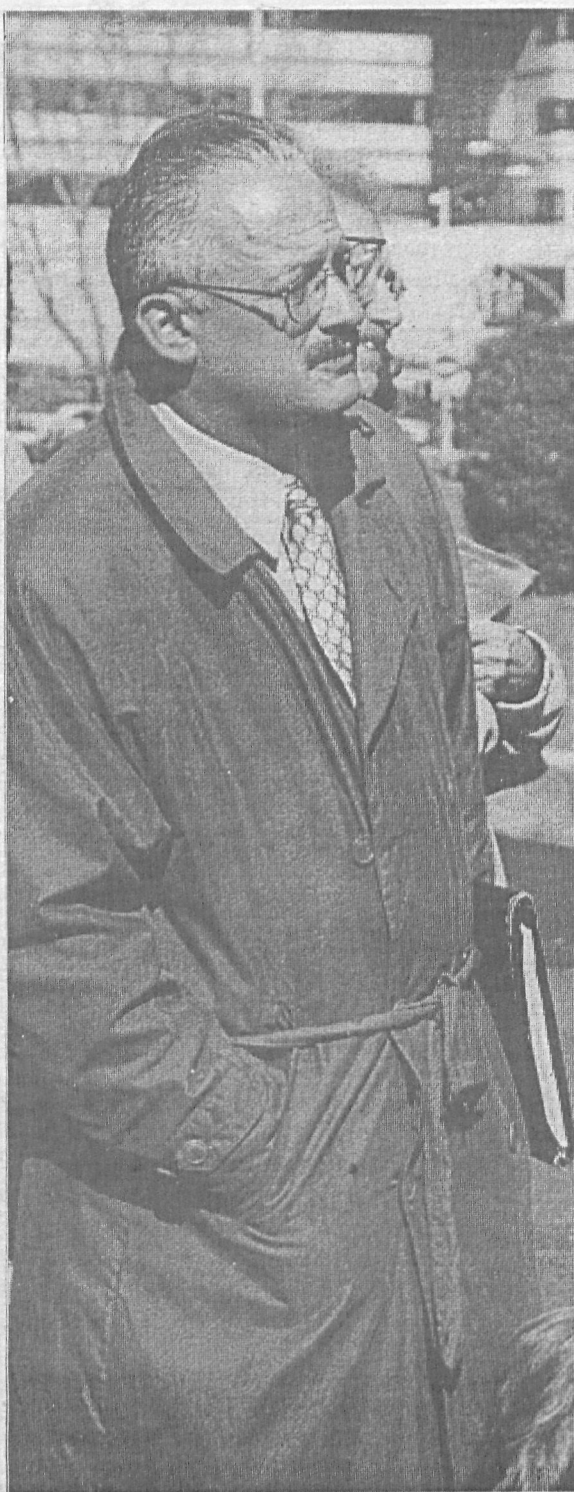
Even setting these arguments aside, the postering policy is illegal under City College's Governance Charter. Article II, Section 3 clearly states,

The Undergraduate Senate [USG] shall, subject to such rules and guides as may be established by the Board of Trustees and the Faculty Senate, have jurisdiction over extracurricular activities, including the setting of general policy governing student activities (e.g., chartering regulations, publicity regulations, etc.)...

In short, the Undergraduate Student Government, not OSA or Finley, has the power to regulate postering policy. CCNY's Faculty Senate and the CUNY Board of Trustees are not interested in micromanaging postering policy at City College.

In 1998, when Morales introduced the new postering rules by fiat, a weak USG administration caved in to Morales's bullying and agreed to the policy. To address student concerns about the Finley stamps required on posters, the USG decided students could get a USG stamp. That made things worse as student clubs now had to get two stamps: one from Finley and one from USG. It took two years before USG, under the current administration of Jason Compton, fixed the policy. Now clubs have the option to get their posters stamped by either USG or Finley.

Finley continues to send notices to student clubs who violate Morales's illegal "publicity regulations." The *Messenger* has received two such notices that were likely entered into its club file at Finley Center. *Messenger* posters were cited for not having a stamp, even though a USG stamp is clearly visible. The *Messenger* was also cited for postering on "walls/columns."



But the fact of the matter is that Finley has, in practice, abandoned its own regulations. Just look at the columns in the NAC Rotunda plastered with posters (many of them without stamps). The administration even put up huge posters advertising the CUNY basketball tournament on those very columns!

For the past year student groups have posted their flyers all over the campus, including the verboten "walls/columns," with minimal interference from Finley. And all power to those student groups! These clubs are attempting to assure their events are successful on a campus that has earned a CUNY-wide reputation as "dead." Why should such efforts to enliven campus be punished?

But also why should groups like the *Messenger* be punished for the type of postering so many groups have rightfully undertaken? Why should the club's files be filled with reprimands for actions other clubs partake in against illegal rules Finley have long abandoned? Why the selective enforcement?

The NAC Building, and City College in general, has become a Potemkin Village of rules—student groups are punished for rules that don't even exist!

In the meantime, Finley shirks its responsibilities. The *Messenger* recently collected hundreds of illegal corporate ads off CCNY bulletin boards. The next day the ads reappeared. The individuals hired by advertising companies to hang these ads can be seen on campus with huge bags filled with corporate placards, sta-

pling away without any interference from Finley employees or security guards.

No wonder student groups place their posters on allegedly "prohibited" columns/walls. What, with all the corporate junk on the bulletin boards, there's nowhere to put their own posters. And Finley tells student clubs they're out of line! In all fairness, maybe Finley Center people can't tear down corporate ads because they've been just too busy tearing down student posters.

It Doesn't Have to Be This Way

Without being able to properly notify the campus of events, all the efforts gone toward wading through the Finley bureaucratic morass to found and operate student groups go for naught as few people will attend the events no matter how well organized they are.

Contrast CCNY's policies with that of Queens College. The student government there in February 1999 eliminated all poster approval stamps. The Queens student government saw the stamps as infringing on students' First Amendment rights. "[Stamping] is a way to regulate what gets up on the bulletin [boards] and everyone should be able to hang up what they want," then-Queens College Student Association president Shoshana Lazar told the *Queens College Quad*.

"We need no more limitations. We should be able to express ourselves. City and State laws [impose] enough regulations," Krista Brenner, then-SA Executive President, told the *Quad*.

Though the Queens College administration disagreed with the student government's decision, their administration, as of 2000, respected the decision, as well as the campus governance charter, in ways that CCNY's administration under and after Yolanda Moses hasn't.

Student-rights attorney Ron McGuire, who has pursued numerous lawsuits for student free speech at CUNY, told the *Messenger* that CUNY administrations are attempting to control student postering and tabling in order to eliminate free-speech areas on CUNY campuses that

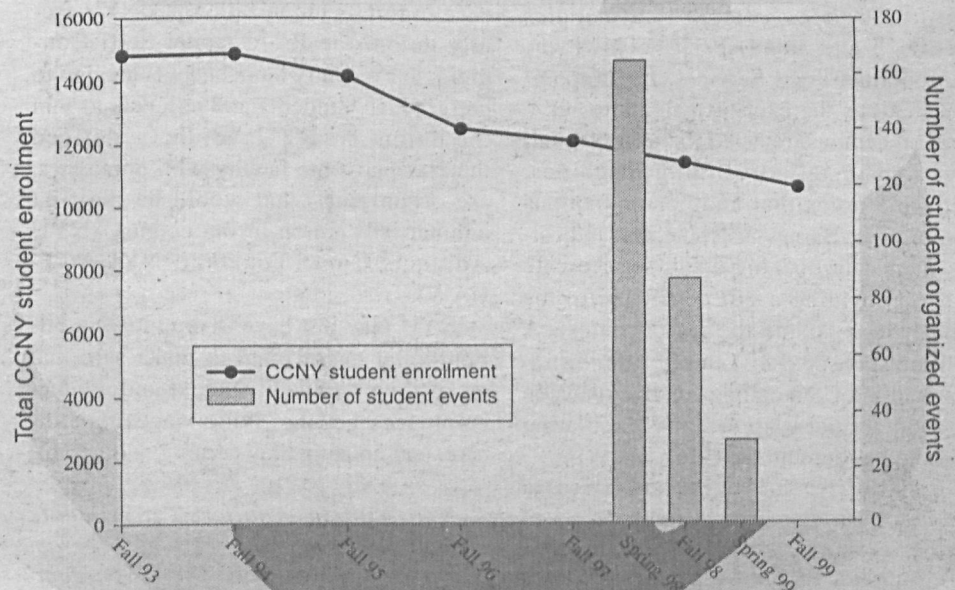
Win a Prize!

The *Messenger* will award a prize to the reader who finds the most number of words and phrases of combat and frustration written in this article in reference to The Office of Student Affairs. (For example: "interference," "war," "eliminate free speech," etc.) Just circle the words on this copy of the *Messenger* and slip it under our door in Baskerville Hall, room 103B, with your name and email or phone number. Good luck!

often become launch pads for student protest. The Doctoral Student Council, the student government at the Graduate Center downtown, is currently fighting administrators' attempts to restrict student postering and tabling there.

McGuire explained that so long as it can be established in court that an area on

continued on page 11



CCNY Staff: Why the Attitude?

By Izumi Tezuka

A young, timid looking Japanese girl walks into the City College of New York (CCNY) admissions office and asks the elderly receptionist behind the desk for a graduate bulletin in heavily accented English. "I don't understand a word you're saying," says the gray haired woman shaking her head unsympathetically.

The Japanese girl repeats her request, articulating each word emphatically. The receptionist looks skeptical and questions her about her academic background, "Where did you go to college? You know you have to pass an English language test before you can come to school here." She takes out a graduate bulletin but holds it out of reach.

The girl is clearly annoyed but remains polite, "I know, can I have it please?" She asks, her frustration thickening her accent. The receptionist puts the bulletin down, still out of the girls reach, covering it with her forearm.

"We can't just hand these out to anyone you know. Are you sure you need one? They're expensive to make and I only have a limited supply." When the girl answers that she does, the bulletin is finally handed over with a great show of reluctance and the receptionist turns to another student waiting to be helped. "Can I help you hon?" she says sweetly.

It is discouraging enough to get through the endless paperwork, running around from office to office, from NAC to the Y building, waiting in long lines to gather the information necessary simply to register for classes and financial aid. It

adds insult to injury when the campus staff are notoriously unhelpful and sometimes outright rude towards the students. Their rudeness has almost become institutionalized. Just another necessary evil to deal while navigating the infinite bureaucratic red tape required in order to become and remain a matriculated student at CCNY.

It is unarguably a drudgery to be constantly faced with the demands of the CCNY student body. It is an amazing feat in itself that so many different personalities, cultures and races can share the same space at all. Yet the undeniable fact is that CCNY is an educational institution and therefore should promote an atmosphere conducive to learning. When students are met with the indifference, hostility and resistance frequently provided by staff, it just makes things all the more difficult.

There is a fundamental sense of etiquette that is lacking in many student-staff interactions, a basic human respect that everyone deserves. Sometimes the attitude is subtle: a condescending air, a general attitude of unhelpfulness or an unspoken yet undeniable refusal to be of assistance. Other times it is blatant.

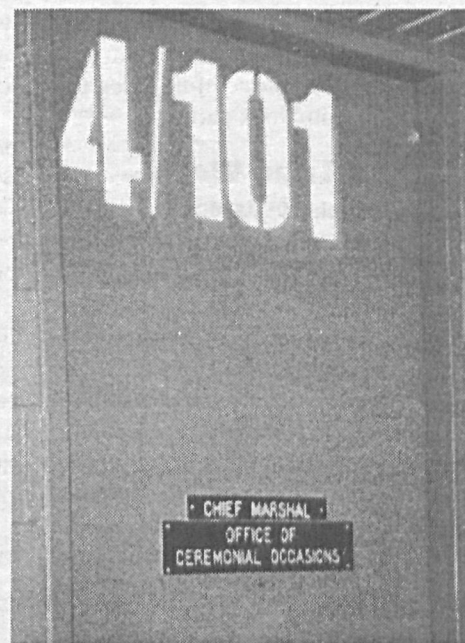
The mere mention of the CCNY staff evokes a chorus of moans and four-letter words from a group of freshman and sophomores playing a rambunctious game of cards at one of the new round tables in the cafeteria. Maria Gonzales, 20, says, "They treat you like you're stupid. And it's not just in the Registrar's Office. The cafeteria is the worst. They got some problems."

Students who speak English as a sec-

ond language may be particularly vulnerable to this sort of abuse. Vijay Singh, 23, a computer science major from India says that he was mistreated in the Financial Aid Office. "I wasn't sure what I was supposed to do exactly." Says Singh in his distinctly Indian accent. "A black woman rolled her eyes at me because I brought the wrong color paper and called a short white woman with curly hair who was yelling because I didn't understand what she was saying." Ironic behavior for a school known as a minority college accessible to all, a school once touted as "The Poor Man's Harvard." However, if you are expecting any handholding to go on here, you will be sadly disappointed.

Lorrie Ulfers of the Financial Aid Office diplomatically denies witnessing any hostility. She claims that she has not seen any confrontations but that to avoid frustration students should apply for financial aid early. She explains that "Sometimes students are unclear" and that they may "ask questions over and over again and we have to say the same thing over and over again." She explains that the large amount of international students contributes to communication difficulties.

Singh is surprisingly understanding given his past experience. He says he used to work at the Registrar's Office at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) before he transferred. "The students are rude sometimes too." He says. "I've been called names, they blamed me for their problems. I think the administration here has worse manners than BMCC but I'm sure the students are bad too." Singh goes on to say that he's learned that a good precaution when deal-



Is this office student friendly? For that matter, is this really the name of a CCNY office?

ing with personnel is to ask their name right away. That way you establish a relationship and if they want to mistreat you, they may think twice because they know that you know their name.

In the Bursar's Office, no one is available for comment but a heavyset worker perhaps just off her lunch break, still chewing and with crumbs on her face, saunters shamelessly to the window where a line has formed. She continues to ignore the waiting students while she shuffles papers and putters about importantly for a good two minutes. When she finally looks up, she motions to the first student nonchalantly. She still has crumbs on her face. **M**

The New Library Café: Gourmet Vending Machine Food

By Anne Naughton

On a recent Tuesday, Joanna Harris was among the more envied study-cubicle occupants on the third floor of the Cohen Library. It was the noon hour and a student bent over books with soda and chips could be found at every turn of the stacks on floors one through four. But, Harris, 22, a third year psychology major, took the cake. It was a three-layer yellow cake, pineapple-filled with white and blue frosting.

Harris knew that the chances that she would be interrupted by either library staff or university security were slim and, as to being punished, she couldn't imagine how or why. For her, eating in the library was inevitable on this campus starved for quiet, public space. But, that was the week before the library café opened.

On March 29, Chief Librarian Pamela Gillespie and Undergraduate Student Government (USG) President Jason Compton cut the ribbon on "The Library Café" in an unannounced ceremony to little fanfare. The café is open during library hours, but closes half an hour earlier. Students will be allowed to use library material such as books and newspapers while eating and will be allowed to use cell phones. General library prohibitions against loud talking and music stand.

The café simultaneously inaugurated two policy firsts for the CCNY library: while patrons have a place within the library where eating is encouraged, patrons caught eating and/or drinking in other parts of the library are being fined \$25. Juan Alduey was among the first

students to be ticketed since the fines went into effect on April 23rd. A security officer pointed out that the new policy "warning" signs didn't prohibit drinking water and encouraged Alduey to appeal. When a fellow student pointed out that drinking fountains throughout the library sanctioned water use, Alduey went to security to fight the ticket. After two meetings with Security Director Timothy Hubbard, the fine was dropped, but patrons drinking water outside of the fountains will be ticketed as soon as the signage specifies that it, too, is an infraction. Alduey is happy to be holding on to his \$25, but wonders if the café is more about making money than providing a student service. Unpaid fines can result in blocks on registration and graduation.

Gillespie has wanted to open a café in the library since she came in 1996. But it was at the beginning of the fall 2000 semester, in a meeting called by Barbara Gliwa, Vice President of Finance and Management, that the plan was made to transform the old microform room. According to Compton, the cafe is partially in response to student complaints about the lack of quiet places to eat and study on campus in general and the related noise and waste problem in the library specifically.

There are no plans for the library to divert funds to the Physical Plant Department to provide more maintenance staff. Students are asked to clean up after themselves and, if possible, to clean up after others. An employee of the college for more than two decades, who wants only to be identified as "Janet," laughs at the idea of students picking up after themselves. She does not believe that food waste will

be more centralized, only that there will be more food waste in the library.

Calling the space, currently featuring a snack machine, a cold-drink dispenser, an automatic coffee machine and an ice-cream dispenser a café reflects more a spirit of optimism than a current reality. Located just beyond and to the left of the ID checkpoint of the library's single entrance, the future café space, approximately twice the size of the average North Academic Center classroom, features standard institutional red carpeting, fluorescent-light glare, six cubicles, four rows of Formica tables, a few round tables with chairs and one corner with couches, all culled from various closets around campus. The Internet wiring has been done, but the thirteen computers are not expected until this summer.

Eventually, Gillespie would like to move beyond the current "Salvation Army motif." She sees a future that includes sandwich and salad service. However, Metropolitan Food Services, the corporation that has the exclusive rights to serve food on campus, rejected the idea of a full café and installed vending machines. Gillespie notes that another on-campus corporation, Barnes & Noble, has indicated interest in opening a full-service café and is providing a gift certificate to the winner of a "name the café" contest. A petition sponsored by Library Administration and the USG calling for an expansion of food services is currently circulating and can be found in the café.

Rick Uttich, Chief of Public Services at the library, is dismayed at the prospect of further corporate entrenchment on campus, but feels that so long as it's happening, "At least something good should

come out of it." Uttich sees the NAC's white bare walls as a potential place to host revolving art displays and expressed cautious hope that such a café could, by providing a public social space on a campus famous for lack of it, foster community. He proposed an alternate, ideal site for an outdoor café on the Marshak Building terrace. Vistas of St. Nicholas Park would be the payoff for those who risked the occasional concrete shower from the all but condemned building. **M**

NYU

continued from page 4

try have taken up the banner. Columbia University grad students recently filed with the NLRB to hold elections for union representation (also by the UAW). The NYU victory may force Yale to finally cave in to GA unionization. CUNY's faculty union, the Professional Staff Congress, has recently launched a campaign to get graduate students and adjuncts to join the union. At NYU, adjuncts, defined there as part-time faculty with doctorates, are organizing what would be the first adjunct-only union in the country (NYU Adjuncts Come Together, NYUACT-UAW).

NYU may just have to dip into that billion-dollar endowment to make sure that all of their "valued" student and adjunct employees get the living wages, health-care, and housing they earn. **M**

Kim Williams-Guillén is a graduate student in NYU's Anthropology program and a member of GSOC-UAW's bargaining committee.

Lack of School Spirit: Are Students to Blame?

By Shaheerah Brann

This time of year, many college students are returning to school from their spring break adventures on the beaches of tropical islands all over the Caribbean. Many of them scrimped and saved all year for a few precious days of reckless abandonment and convened on these islands representing their schools proudly while most City College of New York (CCNY) students followed familiar routines of work, study and responsibility. Generally, CCNY students don't have the same college experience as many students across the country.

When Queen Walker, 22, a junior, was asked if she knew the school song, she gave a blank look of dismay. When asked when was the last time she took part in a school activity, her response mirrored that of most students at City College. "Between a 15 credit course load, a 5-year-old daughter and a full time job, I don't have time to participate in anything," she declared as she gathered her books and ran towards the CCNY bus.

Thursdays between 12 and 2pm are fixed club hours, time to be used by students as they see fit. On special Thursdays merchants are lined up around the rotunda selling their merchandise. On any given Thursday students can be seen playing cards and dominoes and eating lunch in the rotunda while student organizations sell baked and cooked goods to the CCNY population. There might be someone trying to inform students about a terrible injustice or an unknown danger. These speakers exhaustingly try to urge the stu-

dent body to get involved. A small gathering may form, but, for the most part, students continue to slam their dominoes and play cards, all along complaining about the "annoying, loud activist" who is disturbing their ignorant bliss.

"When school events come up you have to practically force people to come; it's not voluntary unless they're your friends," says Arline Faustin, 20, a Sophie Davis student. "I feel envious that other schools have more events. We'll have two events a year and they won't be that good. I feel like no one gives a damn here." Most students agreed that school spirit is next to nothing on our campus. "You just don't feel like doing anything here," admitted Tanneka Macintosh, 21. When students were asked what they thought faculty could do to improve student participation, their faces were filled with a blank look of dismay and most answered with an apathetic "Nothing."

Harry Mars, an administrator in the Finley Student Center, believes that the lack of school spirit is a recent phenomenon. "The students here are very apathetic, and it has to do with change of population in the school. With the termination of remedial education and the end of open admissions, students aren't staying. They aren't able to attach themselves to other students or social groups. Students don't go to social events, team sports; they don't even buy the yearbook. There's not much you can do about it, clubs try to do things but there's not much change."

The Administration's Role

Jason Compton, Undergraduate Student Government President, disagrees. He

believes that City College students do have school spirit and it's the job of faculty and administration to foster that type of environment. He does acknowledge that there is a problem. "Students' lack of participation can be attributed to lack of communication," he said. Compton claims that with better communication methods students will become more involved and that though they have outside responsibilities, such as families and work, there is still a yearning to be a part of the collective college community. Presently, his administration is working on getting the school's radio station WHCR on a campus-wide network. He also wants to get television monitors placed around school so that student's can be kept abreast of all events going on. A faculty and administration are plan to create an email system for all students to receive important information is also in the works. "We have to give students the option to do things. We can't be judgmental of them when they don't know what's going on," he declared.

Yasmine Raphael, 21, President of the Caribbean Students Association, believes the problem lies with both the administration and the students. "Finley really doesn't help to promote us. They charge us thousands of dollars to have events, and we have to set up and do everything ourselves. This is a not-for-profit organization and every time we do something they want money and more money. If we throw a party security charges us almost thousand dollars, while they (security) dance in the ballroom. We can't rely on students either, when we have events we have to promote at other CUNY schools. I'm glad I'm leaving soon," she declared.

The President of the Debate Team, Chris Elliott, 21, agrees. "There is no school spirit when it comes to City College students, but it's not their fault there is a lack of community since this a commuter school and this administration has a know nothing attitude. They don't ever know nothing."

Joel Hamilton, 24, member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, places blame on the faculty. "They don't really try to promote any extra curricular activities. It's hard to do shit here because no one gives a fuck. The administration is more of a hindrance than a helping tool, just adding stress to an already stressful situation."

At most events students are few and far between, a situation students attribute to lack of advertisement. "I never find out about anything until the day it happens or the day after. People always come over and tell me about an event happening right now. What happened to advertising an event?" exclaims Tamara Pile, 20-year-old sophomore. "The bulletin board still has events from last month still posted" Ironically, just as Pile finished her comment a member of the USG came over to the table to announce that there would be a speaker downstairs talking about the three candidates for the university president. "That is exactly what I'm talking about. Then they get mad because I stay up here and play cards," she announced. "That's the problem with City College, they want to know why students don't participate, they should look at themselves first," chimed in Milini Grant, a 21-year-old senior. **M**

Goons

continued from page 9

a campus has a history of being used for free speech activities, then administrators cannot begin to regulate it. "But as soon as administrators can declare in court that an area has been regulated for a certain amount of time, students lose their rights to free speech in that area," McGuire said.

The Damage Done

The control freak-outs and repression from Morales and OSA have resulted in a radical decrease in the number of student events. According to a *Messenger* count of summaries of events obtained from Finley in 1999, the numbers of student events plummeted from 164 in Spring 1998 to 87 in the Fall 1998 to 30 in Spring 1999 (see graph on page 8). That's a drop of nearly 82 percent. Between 1997 and 1998 the total enrollment dropped by only 6 percent, so raw body loss brought about by tuition hikes and budget cuts doesn't fully explain the recent collapse of student life.

Is this of any concern to VP Morales?

At a farewell party for ex-President Yolanda Moses near the end of the Fall 1999 semester, according to one attendee a clearly touched Morales praised Moses for "helping me so much with my career." This appears his key concern.

In the wake of the professional demise of his patron, Moses, Morales has been scrambling for an escape. He failed in his bid for the deanship at City's School of Education. He failed in his bids for several college presidencies including those at Queensboro Community College, LaGuardia Community College, and a college out in California. He angled unsuccessfully for the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs position at CUNY Central.

But just because Morales can't get a job elsewhere doesn't mean City College has to keep him. **M**

BadilloWatch

The Pot (Smoker) Calls the Kettle Black CUNY's Resident Toad Leaps for Gracie Mansion

By Hank Williams

The NYC Mayoral election season is upon us again, and political posturing among candidates jostling for position is de rigeur. Among those running is CUNY Board Chair Herman Badillo. Whether or not Badillo has what it takes to land in City Hall remains to be seen, but he is already showing at least two different faces—an important asset for anyone who wants to succeed in the toxic swamp of New York City electoral politics.

Actually, Badillo probably has little chance of beating whatever Democratic candidate emerges as the front runner. What Badillo is doing, however, is keeping his name in the press to make sure he has a job—any job under the new administration.

On March 1, the CUNY press office issued a statement from Badillo denouncing a flyer containing derogatory and racist remarks about Dominicans that has been distributed anonymously in Washington Heights and parts of the Bronx.

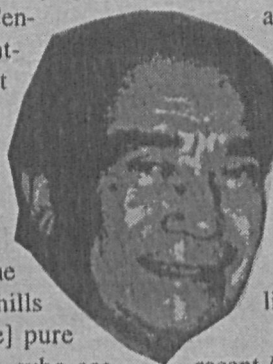
Badillo rightly criticized the flyer, issuing a statement that started by saying that CUNY "celebrates the high aspirations of our hard-working Dominican students, faculty, and staff, and takes particular offense to see the Dominican

community so egregiously maligned." Unless Badillo is the one doing the maligning, that is.

At a September, 1999 Center for Educational Innovation forum, Badillo bemoaned the lack of academic preparation of new Mexican and Central American students, pointing out that "The biggest problem [with educating the new immigrants] is that in Mexico and Central America, there has never been a tradition of education. They have education in some of the cities but they don't in the hills ... [the new immigrants are] pure Indians, Incas and Mayans, who are about, you know, five feet tall, with straight hair."

Badillo also groused about the emergence of Mexican businesses in East Harlem, which—according to him—"is supposed to be a Puerto Rican neighborhood."

Badillo has also taken cheap shots at CUNY students in the media on several occasions. In an August 1999 interview in the *Spirit* community newspaper, Badillo claimed that "If you're alive at all you get you're [sic] high school diploma, and then with open enrollment at CUNY, anyone can get their college diploma."



While denouncing bigotry and celebrating immigrants on the one hand, Badillo assails the same immigrants himself and takes an active role in dismantling access to CUNY and helping to subvert the only shot most of them have at a college education and a better life.

To Badillo, the truth is simply whatever he can get away with—or at least get past a newspaper's fact checker. Badillo's braying is best summed up by his own words: "Such ignorance merits little attention in itself."

Even more interesting was a recent *Newsday* article that asked several mayoral candidates whether or not they had smoked marijuana. Badillo reported that he tried it in the early '60s, but did not like it.

Fair enough, but at that time he was Commissioner for the New York City Office of Relocation. So, unless his timing was off—possible, as pot smoking can make one's memory fuzzy—this would mean that he was lighting up while heading up a government agency.

As foolish as Badillo may seem, his tenure on the CUNY Board and planned Mayoral run as a Republican candidate must be taken seriously. If we ignore him, he will not simply go away. **M**

Stabbing in NAC parking lot

Grad student's life saved by guard. Questions raised about administration's handling of incident. Security Director and hero guard in long-running dispute.

By Rob Wallace

On March 20 at 7 pm, a CCNY graduate student was slashed in the throat by what Security characterized as a carjacker. A guard on his lunch break chanced on the pair and subdued the perpetrator, saving the student's life.

The attack happened in the NAC parking lot. The student had just parked her Land Rover when the male suspect attacked her. The two engaged in a furious struggle in the front seat of the car. She bit and kicked the suspect. He stabbed the student and slashed her throat with a knife. In the official complaint against the suspect he admitted, "During the struggle I cut her."

At this time Security peace officer Raymond Turner stepped out of the NAC Building on his break. He spotted the suspect and student struggling. According to sources, Turner pulled the suspect off the student and handcuffed him from behind.

The student was rushed to St. Luke's Hospital where emergency surgery saved her life. The suspect was charged with attempted murder, first-degree assault, and criminal possession of a weapon.

Who knew?

Vice President for Finance and Management Barbara Gliwa released a cryptic memo to the campus community the next day. "There was an incident last evening in the NAC parking lot between a CCNY student and a non-student interrupted by College Security," wrote Gliwa.

Gliwa went on to write that the student underwent surgery, the perpetrator was taken into custody, and that the safety of members of the campus community remains "the college's highest priority." But without a description of the nature of the incident, the letter raised more questions than it answered.

Interim President Stanford Roman issued a letter to the campus community on March 23 that provided more details of what he called a "car-jacking." He wrote of his personal concern for the student's health and commended Officer Turner for his intervention.

Roman went on to explain at length why the incident was kept hushed, apparently in response either to concerns raised by others on campus or concerns he thought others had:

We did not and would not release the student's name or the specifics of her injuries to protect her privacy. We were constrained in the amount of information that we were able to release in our initial announcement because of the on-going police investigation, and because the victim was apparently unable to speak because of the nature of her injuries. It is and has been our policy to notify the college community promptly of incidents that affect its security and well being. We will continue to keep you informed of events as they unfold.

But Roman's letter was released only after the *Daily News* ran a story on the incident and disclosed the names of the suspect, victimized student, and specifics of the incident.

Despite Roman's letter, City College students interviewed by the *Messenger* appeared upset by the lack of information. Letters from the administration are typically distributed only to administrative units and departments.

Michelle Rosario, a junior in Economics, told the *Messenger* she learned of the incident only when an Economics professor e-mailed her and other students a newspaper clipping of the article.

Joseph Villa, a senior in Civil Engineering, said he learned of the incident only when Rosario forwarded him the professor's e-mail. "It sucks that nobody said anything [about the incident]. We're

PSC Rallies for a Fair Contract



CUNY faculty, staff, and students rally outside the Board of Higher Education to turn up the heat on CUNY administration. Organized by the PSC, the April 23 demo was part of the union's campaign for a new contract that demands higher quality education and work conditions.

supposed to know about things like that," Villa told the *Messenger*.

"Public Safety should have put up flyers about what's been happening. There's been a lot of muggings in the South Campus parking lot," said Sayfullah El, the Student Ombudsman.

Students are not the only ones concerned. According to insiders, several guards were upset that the incident was, in their eyes, kept hushed up and mischaracterized by security brass.

As of press time there was no way of independently verifying what happened. Attempts to contact the student for her version of what happened were unsuccessful, although a member of the campus community close to her told the *Messenger* she is recovering and looking forward to returning to school.

Sergeant Doug White of Security refused to provide a copy of the incident report to the *Messenger* when asked. Lists of campus incidents Security investigates are available for student perusal in the Security Office on the NAC's fourth floor. The one-line entries, however, are not fully descriptive. The slashing was listed as a "robbery" and noted only that the perpetrator was apprehended.

Security Director Timothy Hubbard told the *Messenger* that the crime was "a random carjacking" and not part of a trend. "According to the suspect's own confession, he was looking to get an SUV and saw the [student's] car come into the lot," said Hubbard.

According to Hubbard, Security is undertaking a "total assessment" of campus safety with the help of the NYPD's Crime Prevention Unit, including of the physical layout of the NAC parking lot and the wattage of the parking lot's lamps.

Punishment Posts

Palace intrigue surrounds the parking lot incident. According to sources who spoke with the *Messenger* on the condition of anonymity, Director Hubbard and other brass have been at odds with several security guards, including Raymond Turner, the peace officer who saved the student in the parking lot.

Turner had recently filed a union grievance against CCNY Security management for changing his shift from the 7AM-3PM shift to the 3PM-11PM shift, thereby violating his seniority. According to sources, other peace officers of lesser seniority were not moved to the later shift. Hubbard told the *Messenger* that seniority only applied to vacation picks, a characterization some officers interviewed com-

plained effectively eviscerates seniority and damages morale.

Turner had previously filed other grievances, including one against Hubbard and Sergeant White, the 7AM-3PM tour commander, for harassment. White has been involved with several altercations with students over the years, including precipitating a riot at a Mumia Abu-Jamal conference held at City College in 1999. Jamal is the famed Philadelphia journalist on death row for allegedly shooting to death a police officer brutalizing Abu-Jamal's brother.

Hubbard characterized Turner as "a good employee," but dismissed the grievance on the shift change as typical. "Almost everybody grieves a shift change because the change disrupts their lives," said Hubbard, calling the decision "management prerogative." According to guards, such "prerogative" includes putting guards in disfavor on "punishment posts," where they are left in the hot sun or cold for hours.

Internal dissension has roiled Security for years, so much so as to affect the way Security interacts with the campus. According to the testimony of students at a December 1997 Council of Organizations (COO) meeting on Security abuse, two sergeants loudly argued over who held command outside a November 1997 student talent and fashion show in Aronow Theater.

Witnesses described guards at the talent show invading the backstage area. There, guards interrupted show preparations, verbally abusing participating students and their relatives waiting in the wings. One show participant testified that a guard pushed her fourteen-year-old cousin. Security also prevented audience members that night from returning to their seats after going to the bathroom, a particularly inflammatory "hold-it" policy for an audience of 500.

The COO meeting was held in response to a variety of incidents of Security abuse directed at both male and female students that year, including the Aronow debacle. Female students complained about guards' sexual harassment. Several male students reported being jumped and pepper-sprayed by guards for minor offenses. (For the record, this writer worked in the Office of the Ombudsman that year.)

At the COO meeting, Hubbard asked students why they didn't come to him with complaints about guards and then proceeded to dismiss every complaint raised by students during the meeting. **M**

CCNY Open Admissions Ceremony



On April 26 under a brilliant sky, there was a small but nice observance of the 32nd anniversary of open admissions. The attendees, gathering at CCNY's memorial rock, included James Small and Ron McGuire, two participants in the 1969 City College student strike which led to the establishment of open admissions. Reflections focused on the history of oppressed peoples and what open admissions has meant to them. Undergraduate Student Government President Jason Compton noted, "Every time I go to an event like this, I learn more than I ever would have imagined." —Bill Crain

ARTS

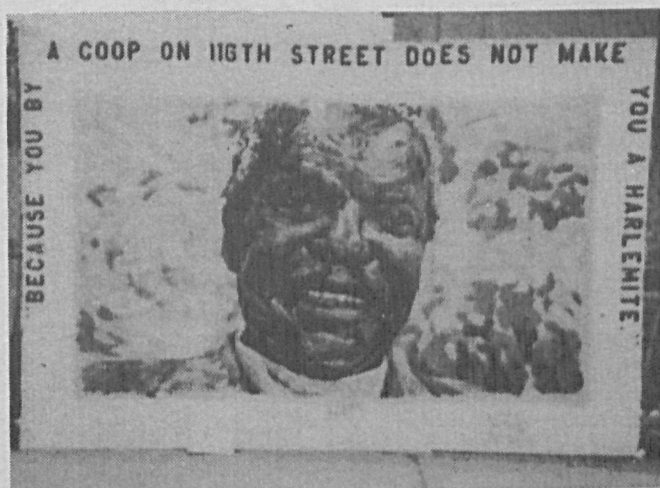


Portrait of a Neighborhood

Installation Asks Locals How They Feel About Gentrification



Some examples of the "Harlem Gentrification" oral history-installation project by Brett Cook-Dizney. See it now at ten sites in Harlem. The portraits of individuals from the community stand at the edge of the empty lot at St. Nicholas and 127th Street. The portraits are 'titled' by responses the subjects had to the artists' questions about their views on gentrifying Harlem. Transcripts of interviews accompany some of the sites.



CCNY Women Making Stuff: Knit to Neon

By Joshua Wolinsky

"The only thing I can do to keep my memory from crushing me is to turn it into art. The only way I can keep it from consuming me is to write about it."

These are the poignant introspective words of one of five poems by Zenzile Greene placed directly below her five photographs exuding light and expressionist shapes.

Ms. Greene is one of eighteen women artists at CCNY exhibiting accomplished works for Women's Liberation Month at the Cohen Library Archives Gallery during March and April 2001. The exhibit is a project of the Women's Liberation Month Planning Committee: Anne Naughton of the Humanities and Arts Division, Gloria Thomas of IRADAC, Wendy Thornton of Finley Student Center, and sponsorship by the Rifkind Center.

Each artist deeply submerges herself into the history, spirit and character of her specialty and displays a rare and precious glimpse of a creative soul.

Marion B. Mills exhibits four pieces of spirited Raku pottery, beautifully shaped and mystic in its simplicity.

The six charcoal and chalk portraits of Mirta Elisa bring out the very souls of her subjects. I can imagine Billie Holiday singing "Strange Fruit" before my very eyes. Sinatra, Jordan Hill, Ali and Stone Cold make personal appearances thanks to the superb portraiture of Ms. Elisa.

Elizabeth Rorsharch's needlework miniatures and framed stitched embroidery is stunningly creative. Her highly accomplished cross stitching, footstool and petit point are painstakingly conceived and gorgeous.

Sydney Van Nort thrills us by creating historically significant medieval embroidery out of cotton fabric. She has designed a unicorn tabard and a favor that noble women bestowed on favorite knights during tournaments.

Adriana Hill's large "Untitled Wall" is a colorful concoction of ribbons, wreaths, and hearts standing eight feet tall.

A row of ceramic torsos in subdued colors by Jennifer Simon, mounted on the gallery wall, leave us in awe and breathless.

Two more portraits, "Eyes of Wine" and "Just Reflecting," in conte crayon and pastel by Sheila Robinson, are much more abstract and subjective in style.

A beautiful sterling necklace with red garnet

stones by Narisa Suksomsong is featured in a showcase.

Jody Spedding's and Helen Mary Devany's divinely shaped sculptured forms masterly evoke thought-provoking images of great excitement.

Beth Schneiderman's shapely "Neon" and Mary Lou Edmondson's painted wooden screen are magical concoctions of art.

Anne Naughton, Sirin Samman, Myunghee Kim and Virginia Riker bare their loving souls and make powerful statements in the true spirit of women's liberation.

Anne Naughton, a dynamo of the Women's Studies Department, promises that this magnificent artistic happening will become an annual event at City College. **M**



Event organizer Wendy Thornton takes a good look at the needlepoint, while participating artists Sheila Robinson and Adriane Hill talk.

fiction(?)

The Wild Ride

By Josh Sutter

"This where they robbed ya?" Asks the fat officer with the thin mustache as he turned from the steering wheel he held back toward me. We'll call him Richard Martin for now. He's Hispanic, but you wouldn't know it to see or listen to him. I only know he is because of his name, which is actually more like Martinez than Martin. Though it's not Martinez either. He seems as white as his partner, and I guess as white as I am.

His partner is thin, and has a kind of funny Jewish sounding name, though he seems somehow closer to Italian than Jewish. We'll call him Leonard Kravitz.

"Yeah..." I say to them, (we'll call me John, not that it matters for now,) "Yeah this is it... It started with them wanting money for cigarettes... a tall Black guy... a short dark skinned kid and... a light skinned Hispanic kid. I shouldn't have went over when they called me... I didn't have money on me, so when they asked to search me I let 'em. I forgot I'd had my watch in my pocket cause it irritates my wrist sometimes. It was a nice watch. As soon as they pulled it out the little one said "stupid," and the fucker was right.

For awhile they played keep away with the watch. Tossing it over my head. They were enjoying themselves. Eventually the Hispanic kid ran off with the watch. I chased him, but he was way faster than me... When I got back to where I was the others were gone too.

I let those assholes take my watch... and my dignity... But sometimes... Sometimes I think of what I could've done... If I'd had a gun. If I can I'm gonna get a license to carry a handgun as soon as I can. I'm not sure what that takes but... that's what I wanna do. If I'd had a gun I'd have shot them all dead right there and then... because I hate them... I hate them all... I hate 'em fucking all... Goddamnit."

"It's ok John," Kravitz says while reaching back to pat my shoulder. Looking into his eyes I see he believes it is okay. Not only okay, but no big deal. I'd had a feeling they'd understand, which was I suppose, why I'd told them.

I'd been a little surprised by these two from the moment I'd sat down in the car, before any of the trouble... any of the pressure to identify three people whose faces I couldn't remember. There was something odd... or unexpected at least: Kravitz, jabbing Martin in the stomach at a stoplight, and pointing out the ass of a girl I knew.

"Oh! Oh!" he shouts nearly in ecstasy as he gestures, "Do you see that chick?! Do you see her!?"

"Oh yeah." Martin responds, grinning. "Those Black chicks got some nice asses."

"How old do you think she is? 17? 18?! The legal age of consent in New York is 17 y'know. I always thought it was 18, but a friend of mine found out it was 17 on that innernet." Kravitz says.

They seem almost completely unaware of me. Without the slightest self consciousness. As though within this car they could say whatever they liked and nothing could touch them.

"With an ass like *that*, she is at least 19." Martin commented.

"She's um, 16," I say a little uncomfortably, "in the same class as me."

They both say "Oh," at the same time, shifting in their seats in slight discomfort, but Martin recovers quickly, and grins back at me, nudging me. "So you must be starin' at that ass quite a lot. Am I right?" He says.

"Well uh... Yeah actually." I admit smiling a little.

Kravitz, who's still staring out at the girls, comments, "They sure are growing up quick nowadays."

"Yeah. It's no wonder all those teachers are fucking their students," says Martin in a sage voice.

I notice the two of them nodding in unison, and feel compelled to do the same. It's strange, but I don't really mind at all. It's only when I make the mistake of looking at one kid too long that the trouble starts.

"Hey John," Kravitz says. "I notice you're looking at that kid over there."

Yeah... That's when the trouble started.

Josh Sutter is a Junior majoring in English. This piece was used in the April 2001 production of Struggle 001.

Do You Know What I Mean When I Say *Struggle*?

Struggle 001 was performed outdoors on the quadrangle near Compton Hall on the CCNY campus from April 18th–21st. The play was a non-linear, site-specific piece written entirely by CCNY students and faculty with a cast of seven performers. It focused on the theme of struggle, highlighting racial identity, corporate globalization, police brutality, misogyny, and co-dependency amongst other issues.

The hope of the play's director, CCNY student Steven Dean, is that "The journey undertaken by the students of CCNY in their contribution to this project will create a forum in which all of us can reflect upon certain common struggles and their place within the world in which we inhabit. The show, however, asks more questions than it gives answers."

At the end of each performance, audience members with questions for the director, writers, or staff were invited up to a forum to discuss the work and the issues addressed.

—Josh Sutter

Fine By Me

So he says to me
"Please do not use any slang
when writing papers in my class.
Please write like
a stereotype of a white man
would write."

So I says to him
"Do you mean we should write like a
redneck, hillbilly with no teeth
who is married to his sister?"

So then, he says to me
"A woman is truly smart
if she plays dumb in order
to catch a rich man."
At which time
infants in plastic doll baby hair
and mini-skirts made of Band-Aids
nodded their agreement, in unison.

So I says to him
"No degree of intelligence is required
to sell one's body
or one's soul."

(Ya know, I do not think
this man is feeling me.)

So then, he says to me
"You are smart
but you are not as smart as
you think you are."
Which meant, of course
That I am
Too smart for my own good.
Whatever that means.

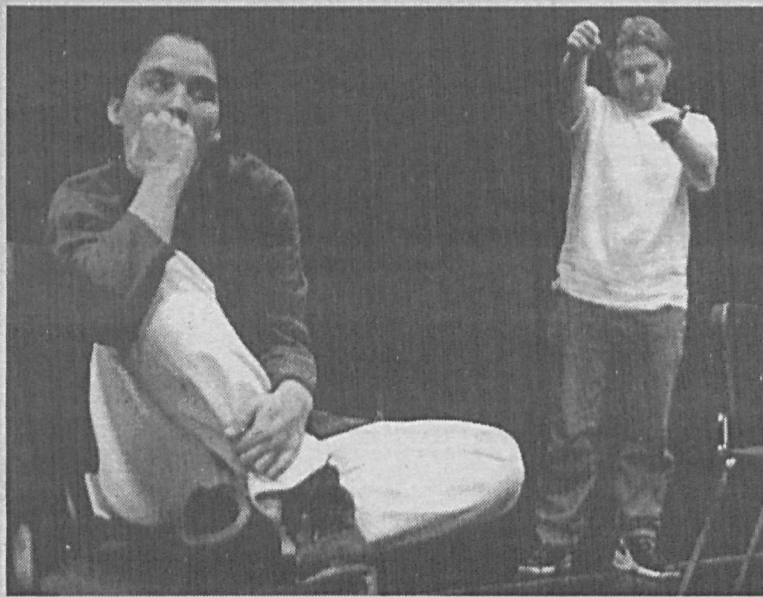
So I says to him
"Does that mean
that the gun I'm holding
will only shoot bullets
if I remember to ask
your permission?
'cuz that's not what it says
here in the manual.

So then, he says to me
"You know what your biggest problem is?"
(Apparently I did not)
"Your biggest problem is
you do not know
how to be grateful."

So now I finally get it.
Instead of me being
the smart assertive, Independent woman
I always considered myself to be,
it turns out I am a
know-it-all
aggressive
ungrateful
bitch.

Fine by me.

—cynthia onetta tolover



Meher Jan and Josh Sutter in scene from *Struggle 001*.

Beasts of Prey

(accompanied by horns
and sirens)

Clackclackclack
footfalls
si-i-i-i-i-ren.

get in the wind (flashlight
blazing on your back)
make it, man.
run nigger,
run nigger. run. FLY,
fly free, fly, fly free.

CLACK!CLACK!CLACK!CLACK!CLACK!
CLACK!

clack clack

blood gurgled in his throat
choked curses,
prayers for life.
the brown sweets sun of youth
turned to dead air
a match tossed hissing in a gutter.

"The bullets bit out my stomach.
I saw them, the police, for a while.
They made a circle around my body
like beasts of prey.
I don't know which died first
My mind
Or my body."

The circle of policemen stood,
hypnotized,
like cave men
awed and huddled round a fire,
a magic circle against darkness.

Then
they took the body

& scattered.

—George E. Brandon

one

i am unborn separate from the embrace of my nonentity (my nonentity)
i am someone else used to coming, going, going, coming with no
means (coming with no means)
doing—doing the things i do, i don't know how far i'll go; what i'll do
barely making—i will make, making, i make my way through
trying to fill the void within myself (within me)
things happening around me, things happening to me, things happening
within me
life is but a dream shining (shining)
i digress, transgress unawares not knowing (not knowing)
in losing myself—i'm seeking myself—who i've been, who i am, all i
hope to be—free!

i close my eyes, open my mind (open my mind)
surrender i to the void, transcend space and time
the sun and moon align
eliminating the distance between me and my nonentity (my nonentity)
I take myself within Iself (take myself within Iself), give myself to Iself
(give myself to Iself)
I become all i was looking for— so near and yet so far
i went 360 and am once again whole (i am whole again)
centripetal—i and I align (I align)—i become one in the first derivative
in losing myself, i find Iself—who i been and am; all i hope to be—free
i abide its dictate from first to last; i embrace it from begin to end

Awakening (Awakening). I gather myself together
this someone i came to be; this is who i's meant to be; this is how i's
supposed to be
the true manifestation of what it is I do—the things i do sometimes
astound me
doing—doing things i need to be righteous (to be righteous)
approaching, aspiring to divinity—I's all i need (I's all i need)
to withstand the onslaught of all things diametrically opposed to me,
(i'm able to rise)
although under trial, i triumph in the face of all iniquity
doing—doing the things I do (i endure), unerring with nary a misstep (i
persevere)
it's me, it's through me (i'm able to rise), rising up out of me (i'm able
to rise)
allowing me to move—from can't do to can't don't (i won't cage it)
i won't cage it—i leave it free (let it be)—let it be (leave it free)
I's so right, i can't be left
i endure, persevere—having all i desire if it's for me
for mine is the one that resonates

—scan

**The student
works printed
here were
the text for
Struggle 001.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 POETRY SLAM: CBGB's downstairs lounge, 313 Bowery, 7pm; \$5: Feature poet: Jason Carney + open mic/ open slam	30 ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL: NAC student lounge, 12-4pm. RECITAL: Bill Pace, tenor, 3 pm. Rm 95 Shepard DANCE: West African Dance Class. 6:30-8:30pm NAC Ballroom. Info: 212-699-3825 x3479	1 CONCERT: Small Jazz Ensemble, 3 pm. Rm 95 Shepard CONCERT: Retumba. Afro-Caribbean dance and percussion, 10:30am, 12:30pm. Aaron Davis Hall. \$4	2 LECTURE: "Cooking the Books: Shakespeare and a Paradox of Literacy, CCNY English Professor Steven Ukkowitz." 4 - 6pm, NAC 6/316 DANCE: West African Dance Class. 6:30-8:30pm NAC Ballroom. Info: 212-699-3825 x3479 MEETING: Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, NYC Branch. 7-9:30pm 39 W 14th St. #206 Info:	3 Women's Liberation Film Series: "Black Women, Sexual Politics & the Revolution". Free Pizza, 6:00, NAC 3/201. Black Panther Film Festival, see www.pantherfilmfest.com. PLAY: "The Basset Table." A comedy by Susannah Centlivre about gambling addiction. Aaron Davis Hall, Call for time of each performance, 212/650-	4 Black Panther Film Festival, see www.pantherfilmfest.com Monica J. Casper, University of California, Santa Cruz "Tiny Bombs: Quinacrine, National Security, and the Global Politics of Population Control" 1 p.m., Room 9204, Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue (Womens Studies)	5 Black panther Film Festival FILM FESTIVAL: Street Youth Film Festival.; Films about youth gangs in El Salvador, the Bronx, etc. (AM-5 PM, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, (212) 237-8201.
6 Black Panther Film Fest., see www.pantherfilmfest.com Sunday Works: Dance, poetry, literary previews. 3pm Aaron Davis Hall. Poetry Slam: CBGB's downstairs lounge, 313 Bowery, 7pm; \$5: open mic/ slam semi-finals	7 CONCERT: CCNY Jazz Orchestra, 3 pm. Rm 95 Shepard FILM: Sidney Poitier: One Bright Light. CUNY Grad. Ctr. 365 5th Av (34th St.) 6-9pm, 212/817-8215; \$5. DANCE: West African Dance Class. 6:30-8:30pm NAC Ballroom. Info: 212-699-3825 x3479	8 PARTY: Women's Studies end of the year gathering & open house. All welcome, 12:20-1:30, Political Science Conference Room, NAC 4/145. CONCERT: Friends of Music Gospel Choir. 12:30pm. Rm 95 Shepard Music: Jazz Vocal Workshop. 3 pm. Rm 95 Shepard	9 DANCE: West African Dance Class. 6:30-8:30pm NAC Ballroom. Info: 212-699-3825 x3479 CONCERT: CCNY Chorus. 7 pm. Aaron Davis Hall LECTURE: Polish Jews who escaped the Nazis by fleeing to Soviet territories only to end up in Siberia. CUNY Grad. Ctr. 365 5th Av (34th St.) 6:15-8pm, 212/817-	10 Women's Liberation Film Series: "Released: 5 short films about women & prison". Free Pizza; 6:00, NAC 3/201. LECTURE: Sharon Holland, University of IL, Chicago "Making Generation(s): Gertrude Stein and Gayle Jones on Women" 7 p.m., Room C201, Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies)	11 RECITAL: David Croce, bass, 3 pm. Rm 95 Shepard DANCE: Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane. 8pm. Aaron Davis Hall, \$20-\$25/ \$10 st. "Terra Nova: Nature and Culture" 7 p.m., Elebash Recital Hall, Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue; \$12, \$5 for students "Terra Nova: Nature and Culture" 7 p.m., Elebash Recital Hall,	12 DANCE: Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane. 8pm. Aaron Davis Hall, \$20-\$25/ \$10 st.
13 Poetry: CBGB's downstairs lounge, 313 Bowery, 7pm; \$5: Feature poet: Aaron Yamaguchi + open mic	14 Langston Hughes Poetry Festival. 9am-12:30pm. Aaron Davis Hall.	15 MEETING: Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, NYC Branch. 7-9:30pm 39 W 14th St. #206 Info: 212-330-8029 Last Day of Classes	16 CCNY Spring Poetry Festival. Readings by students and guest poets. 9am-5pm. Aaron Davis Hall.	17	18	19
20 Poetry Slam: CBGB's downstairs lounge, 313 Bowery, 7pm; \$5: Slam Finals + open mic	21	22	23	24 DEF Dance Jam. Dance, poetry, and music. 10:30am, 12:30pm. Aaron Davis Hall. Honors Convocation. Great Hall, (Shepard, 2nd fl) 6pm FORUM: "Have New Yorkers Always Found Decent Housing to be in Short Supply? If so, Why?" CUNY Grad. Ctr. 365 5th Av (34th St.) 6:30-8:30pm, 212/817-8215.	25 CONCERT: Bluiett, jazz saxophone. Music by composer/pianist Elm Hope. 10:30am, 12:30pm. Aaron Davis Hall. \$18	26

Penn State Students Sit In against Racist Death Threats and Possible Lynching

By John Olafson

Dozens of students at Penn State University, a school in central Pennsylvania, have been receiving racist email messages since November 1999. Starting in October 2000 a number of students started receiving threatening letters in the mail. In December Penn State University Undergraduate Student Government President Matt Roan received several pieces of anti-black and anti-Jewish hate mail.

In recent weeks the tide of incidents has increased. The Black Caucus, a Black student organization on campus, and its supporters have been organizing in response to this threatening climate.

On April 20, a Black PSU leader received a typed death threat that not only

threatened the Black community at PSU, but also claimed that a young Black man had been killed and his body left in a wooded area, and also threatened that the graduation ceremony would be bombed. The next day, Penn State Administration organized a march against racism without asking or including the Black Caucus. Twenty-six Penn State students rushed the field of the campus stadium during a game and were arrested.

On April 24, Black Caucus and the Administration had a set meeting at 2:00pm at Old Main. Black Caucus went to Old Main to find that the administration had cancelled the meeting and locked the doors of Old Main without informing them. That afternoon over 4,000 students of all races and backgrounds came together for a march, which did not take place.

The administration showed up at Old Main and PSU President Graham Spanier, flanked by four bodyguards with bullet-proof vests and guns, read a pre-written speech. The students asked for a dialogue, but none was given. The administration then promised to meet with ten to fifteen student leaders.

The President of Black Caucus then went up to the mic and pleaded with President Spanier to help her because her life was being threatened. As tears rolled down her face, President Spanier continued to turn and walk away from her. President Spanier then proceeded to

leave the premises and could not be found. The students rallied at Old Main in peace and solidarity. President Spanier walked over to the Hetzel Union Building (HUB) and locked himself in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center and sent word that he refused to meet with the student leaders.

Students stayed in the cold weather waiting for any type of news. President Spanier finally agreed to meet with fifteen students leaders if they came over to the HUB, so fifteen students proceeded to go, followed by the rest of the crowd.

Students waited in the HUB as the student leaders went into the Robeson for the meeting. The meeting continued as some student leaders came out to give updates of no progress. From that point on students began a sit-in protesting the university's position on the racial occurrences. Students agreed not to leave the HUB until their demands were met.

Then on April 27, a male homicide victim was found in the woods of Centre County in northern Pennsylvania. This body is suspected by many to be the one the "writer" of the hate letters made reference to. The police, however, are claiming that there is no connection.

In the Friday, April 27th edition of the *Centre Daily Times*, the names and addresses of the 26 students who were arrested in the stadium were printed, thus creating what students are calling a "hit list for hate."

As this issue goes to press, students are still sitting in as student leaders work around the clock to come to terms with the administration and their efforts (or lack thereof) to resolve this issue.



Students standing on the patio of Old Main cheer in response to a speaker's remarks.

Students' demands include:

- The creation of an autonomous African-American Studies (AAAS) Department. The present department has been downsized from a single department and merged with other departments.
- Expand AAAS faculty through dual appointments and establish an AAAS research institute.
- Institute a mandatory diversity course and a first-year diversity orientation seminar.
- Begin college-specific diversity strategic plans. Such plans were required by a 1994 Federal Desegregation Mandate that requires diversity initiatives throughout the university, but were never carried out.



Black Caucus President Lakeisha Wolf weeps as she addresses thousands of supporters gathered on Old Main lawn. She and other Black students leaders arrived early at a university-planned unity march April 21st to demand a meeting with PSU President Graham Spanier to address grievances.