

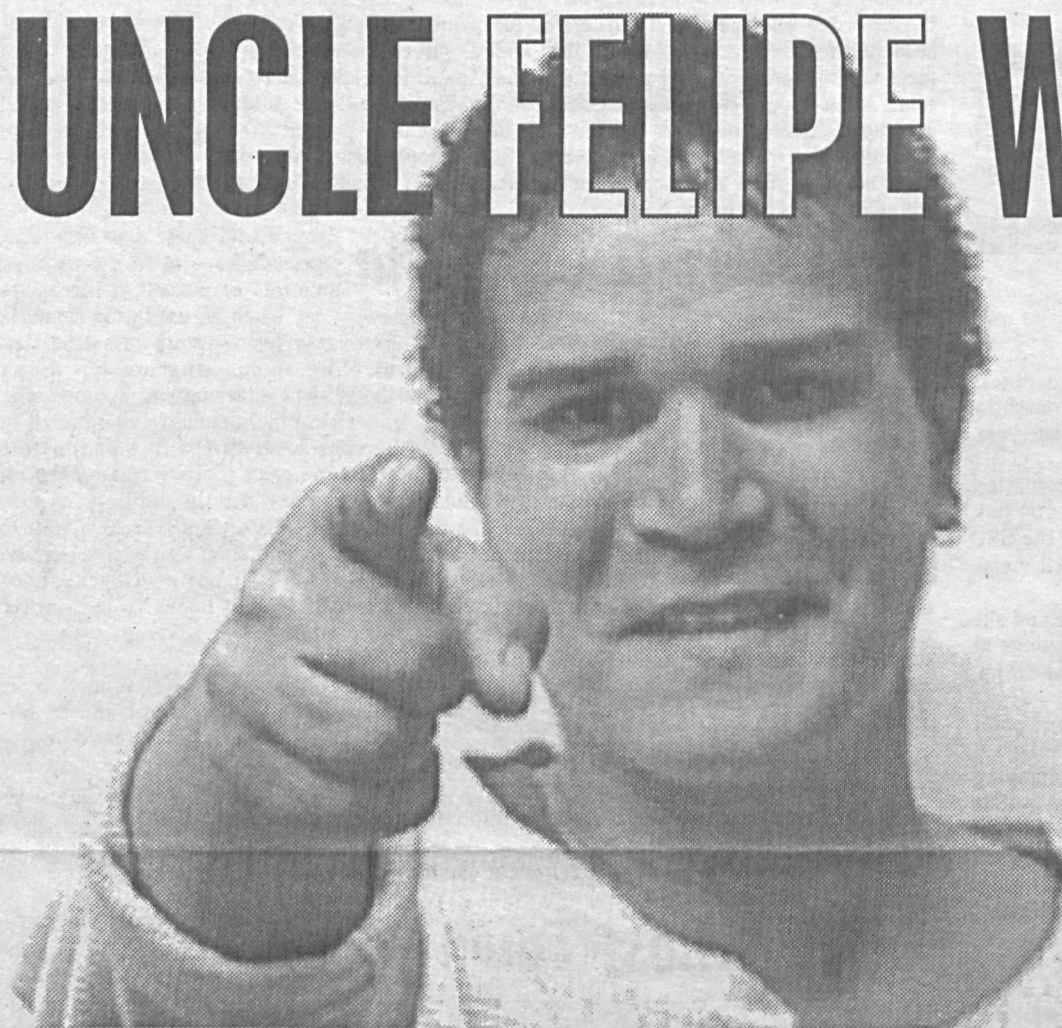
# ★ ELECTIONS 1998

# CCNY MESSENGER

MESSENGER  
SPECIAL  
EDITION

CCNY GRADUATE STUDENT NEWSPAPER Vol. 1 No. 5 APRIL 27-MAY 11, 1998 UNIV

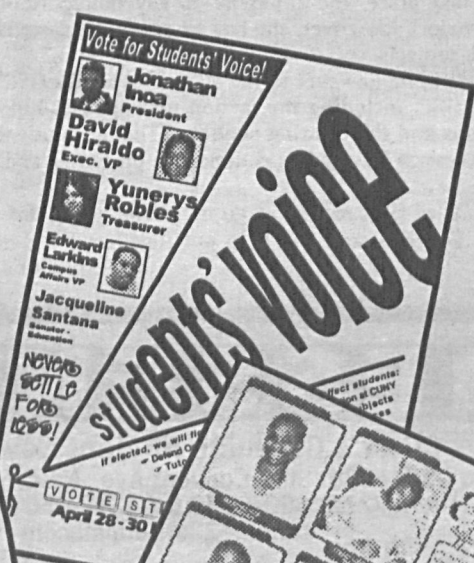
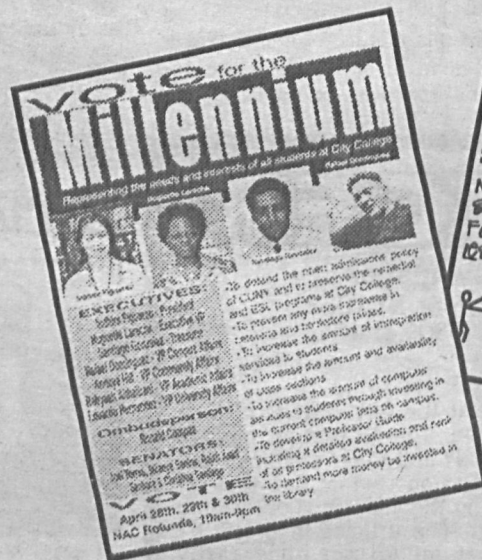
# UNCLE FELIPE WANTS YOU...



# TO ★ ★ ★ VOTE!!!

## student government elections...

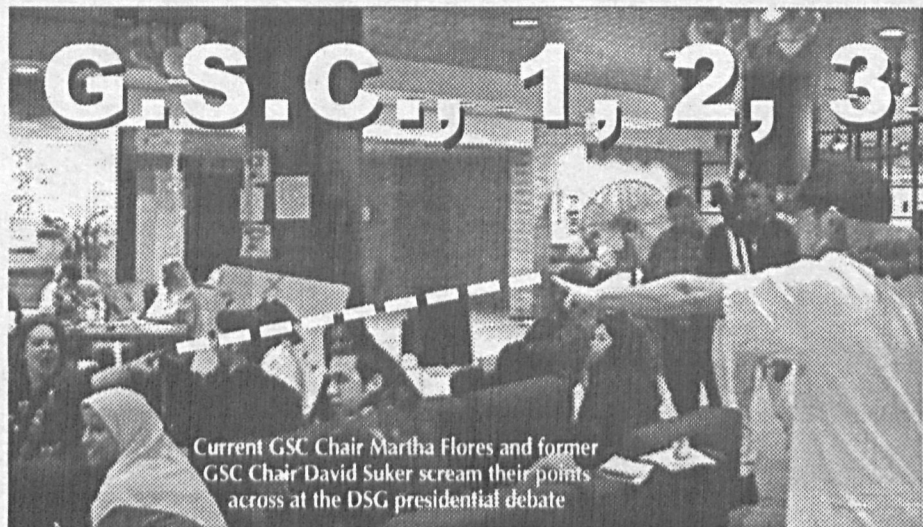
# voter's guide!!



## who will represent you in 1999?

 and what are the issues the candidates and slates *should be* addressing





Current GSC Chair Martha Flores and former GSC Chair David Suker scream their points across at the DSG presidential debate

**Welcome to the Messenger's student government election guide.**

We will present the candidates, their platforms, and, in many ways more importantly, the issues whichever candidates win should address in the coming year. This guide also includes a glossary of terms the *Messenger* hopes students will use, as ultimately an informed and involved student body is a student body that can best keep their representatives honest and working hard for the students.

The following are a few choice thoughts—duh!—from members from the *Messenger* staff about this year's GSC elections. Thoughts about the undergraduate elections are on the back page of this guide.

**GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL**

The Graduate Student Council this year has been wracked with interpersonal and political battling. Charges of sexual harassment, incompetence, fiscal improprieties, and no-show positions have been leveled by GSC members against each other and by GSC observers, including this writer.

So discomfited is this year's Council that again, repeating a stunt from last semester, the Council hasn't met for almost two months. Where blame rests depends on who you talk to. GSC Chair Martha Flores claims every time she calls a GSC meeting a faction of the GSC comprised of GSC Treasurer Ydanis Rodriguez, Vice Chair Jose Jimenez, and Council members David Suker, blocks quorum by not showing up.

Suker claims otherwise. He claims as Flores has no power (as Chair she can't vote and she commands little allegiance from her fellow Council members), Flores calls for meetings at often inconvenient times, waits ten minutes, then leaves before the other members show up. Flores, Suker declares, can thereby block GSC functioning and garner sympathy.

You get the picture. This kind of mud wrestling has been going on all year. At one point this semester Flores intimidated that Suker slashed her tires.

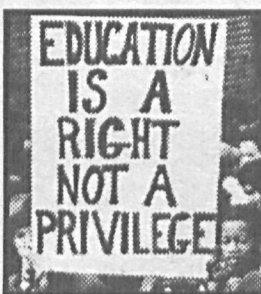
Wherever blame lies, there is little doubt that Flores has displayed this year a stupefying egomania that undermines her talents as a student organizer and angers and demoralizes many GSC participants. While Flores is hardworking, she conflates the Council and herself. In her eyes, loyalty and diligence in favor of graduate students means loyalty to herself and her agenda which often has proved to be one of self-aggrandizement. For example, Flores spent graduate student activity fees on name plates to be placed on the desks of GSC executives—including one that reads "Martha Flores, Chair"—as if they would be used year-in, year-out.

There is too the issue of the hundreds of graduate student dollars Flores has used to send herself to student and political conferences that just happen to be held in Florida and Puerto Rico, as well as in Albany. The Puerto Rico trip took place in the middle of the Fall semester. In effect, Flores abandoned her post as the GSC Chair. Moreover, Flores has used GSC funds for, among other things, 1) paying her friends several hundred dollars for catering at a function that did not take place, and 2) paying for Psychology tutoring services (surprise!—Flores is a Psychology major). Moreover, she has on several occasions forced GSC staff to work on her personal class projects.

It would be inaccurate however to lay all the blame for GSC's problems at the feet of Flores. After all, the GSC, including the faction that opposes her, voted Flores the funding she needed for the trips and the tutoring services. (Though Student Ombudsperson and *Messenger* contributor Keeanga Taylor has commented on Flores and the GSC, "The fish rots from the head.")

Suker has also used GSC money to go on a trip, going to Cuba this past summer. Suker, as GSC grantees are requested, did help put together a forum when he returned. The 100 (Editorial continued on the back page)

**7 Election Issues**



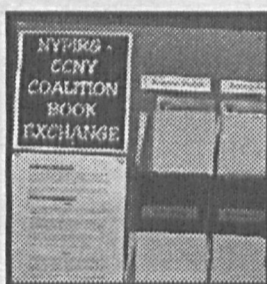
**Open Admissions** is the most important issue facing all CUNY

students right now. Whoever wins the student government election must devote serious student government resources to building the movement to defend remedial classes, ESL, and Open Admissions. The student government also has a responsibility to try to involve students in the issue. The student government alone can't do it—there need to be hundreds or even thousands of students involved for us to win.

**Class Sections**

Every CCNY student has the experience of wanting to take a class but not having it available at a convenient time, or having a needed class fill up because there are not enough class sections offered. And if you petition to get into a full class, you're just making the class more overcrowded and making it harder for the professor to give each student the attention they need. The student government should meet with departments and present demands for which classes need more sections, and what times classes should be offered. The student government should also help students organize within their department to present their ideas and input into how the department could be run better. But perhaps most importantly, the student government needs to fight against the yearly cuts to CUNY's budget, which are the main cause of dwindling class offerings.

**Bookstore & Cafeteria**



Every CCNY student is frustrated when we have to fork over huge amounts of money at the bookstore, and we feel gouged every day when we eat in the cafeteria in the NAC building. Cafeteria prices went up this semester, which caused lots of grumbling among students, but didn't muster even a peep from the student governments. Anyone who wants to be a student leader should immediately organize to pressure Metropolitan (the contracted company that runs the cafeteria) to roll back the cafeteria price increase. Likewise with the bookstore: student government should publicly expose Barnes & Noble for their gouging of students. The best way to get around them is to avoid them and shop elsewhere. Luckily, NYPIRG and the CCNY Coalition have already developed a book exchange, where students can conveniently buy and sell their used books to each other, without dealing with the capitalistic middleman. The incoming student governments should support and institutionalize the NYPIRG / Coalition Book Exchange.

**Prof. Report Cards**

At City College (as at every school), there are professors that are great and professors that are, well, not so great. For students it's important to know a bit about a professor before you sign up for their class. The student government can do a great service to the student body by publishing a "professor report card" which tells us what students think of a professor that they have had. The point is not to attack professors, but to help students pick the professor that is right for his or her needs and interests. The student government could publish a professor report card either in a magazine format, or on the internet (or both).

**CCNY Ghost Town**

People who have been at City College for more than the last couple years constantly talk about how dead the campus is compared to how it used to be. This could be mistaken for the nostalgic rantings of people who need to move on with their lives, except for the fact that they're right. Due to extreme budget cuts and tuition hikes since the early 1990s, CCNY has literally lost thousands of students. According to *City Facts*, a publication from the Office of Institutional Research, the number of undergraduate full-time equivalents has decreased from 9,010 in 1992 to 7,293 in 1996. The total student enrollment (including undergraduate and graduate students) has decreased from 14,783 in 1992 to 12,506 in 1996. The numbers have slid down to around 11,000 since 1996, according to one faculty member. This depopulation has had a visible effect on campus culture and activities (there are fewer activities and there is less of a campus culture), as well as on the basic geography of the campus. Walk into any building besides the NAC, and you usually feel like you've accidentally wandered into an abandoned building. The student government needs to develop relationships and programs with high school students to help get them into City College, while also organizing politically to fight every cut to City College's budget.



Common sight: NAC Plaza empty

**Security Harassment**



CCNY Dir. of Security Hubbard

This year there have been multiple notorious incidents of security guards harassing students, still on the heels of the administration's unsuccessful attempt to give guns to campus security in 1996. There are, of course, the "comments" directed at female students that seem to happen quite often. There were also the incidents at the Fashion and Talent Show this fall, and the macing of an audience member at the Miss CCNY Pageant (though the audience member was clearly in the wrong). The overall point that student representatives should be concerned about is that City College keeps beefing up security while taking more and more money away from our education (departments, professors, etc). This skewed priority system needs to be changed. Student government should fight the attempts to make CCNY more like a police state. We are students who are here to get an education, not to be harassed or intimidated by security guards.

**Workfare**

The *Messenger* has printed two articles this semester about students and workfare. Mayor Giuliani's workfare program is trying to suck students out of college and into dead-end jobs cleaning parks and sweeping streets. Thousands of students on public assistance have gotten letters saying they have to start workfare, despite clashes with class schedules. Many who have not already had to leave school are perilously close to having to drop out of school to perform workfare. Student government should support their constituents who are on public assistance and trying to advance by getting a degree. They can support them by trying to get the city to count college as "workfare" since the reason people are in college is to get off welfare and find a good job. In California, college is counted as workfare, so there is no reason it can't be counted here, too. More generally, student government should speak out against the whole workfare system, and the way Giuliani is using workfare workers to replace union workers, from Harlem Hospital to right here at CCNY.★

**CCNY MESSENGER**

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*CCNY Messenger* is the Graduate Student newspaper at the City College of New York. It is produced biweekly by an editorial collective. The *Messenger* aims to serve CCNY graduate students, as well as all other CCNY and CUNY students, and the Harlem community. We seek to do this by reporting on student activities for empowerment, enjoyment, and survival and by exposing the misdoings of those in power. The articles in the *CCNY Messenger* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Graduate Student Council, the editors of the *Messenger*, CCNY graduate students, or anybody other than the individual writers.



A message from the younger generation to CCNY students: Vote in this week's elections!

This special election issue of the *Messenger* was put together by Brad Sigal and Rob Wallace. Distribution: Felipe Pichardo

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# GSC Election

There is only one slate running for Graduate Student Council—New Millennium—which is running six candidates for the six Education seats and four candidates for the six Liberal Arts seats. There are three independent candidates running in Liberal Arts, and one independent running in Education. There are no candidates for the four GSC seats from Engineering or the three Architecture seats.

At first glance this would seem pathetic. But looking at things in a historical context, this year's election is actually an advance. In past years, there were not enough candidates running to fill all the seats in *any* school, so basically everybody who ran got elected—some people even got elected with about a dozen votes. This year there is actually competition in Liberal Arts and Education. There will be one loser in Liberal Arts and one in Education. We wait with eager anticipation for the unusual spectacle of a contested GSC election!

In a future issue we will detail some of the history of the GSC. But suffice it to say that there were years where there was barely more than one elected official on the GSC. Year after year, very few graduate students vote. The largest vote tally any single candidate has received in recent memory is 116 votes, out of a population of a few thousand graduate students.

Despite the severely fractured nature of the current GSC, at least it can be said that there are a few students who have made use of the resources of the GSC to help graduate students and to build community projects. The GSC is now established as a body that can actually fund clubs, operate a lounge and a computer center, help sustain a newspaper, and undertake workshops and other projects. The next task is to increase the participation of graduate students in the workings and the projects of the council.

One thing the *Messenger* would like to comment on is the lack of direct election of GSC candidates to specific seats. Candidates are elected as general councillors, then once elected, the councillors meet and elect their chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, etc. This is less democratic than the way the undergraduate Day Student Government is elected. In the DSG, candidates run for specific seats—President, Executive VP, etc. Having the councillors elect their executive committee lends itself to insider politicking and back room dealmaking. It's more democratic to let the students decide who will represent them in which capacity. Graduate students should be able to elect people to specific seats, and we hope the councillors elected this year will look into changing this undemocratic feature of the GSC.★

## Candidate Statements

### NEW MILLENNIUM SLATE PLATFORM

#### What We've Done

1. Played a leading role in organizing to defend open admissions all year
2. Organized workshops for Education graduate students to help pass the LAST and ATS/W test
3. Starting the Graduate Computer Resource Center in NAC 1/207 with ten computers for graduate students
4. Started the Messenger graduate student newspaper, which has published more frequently than any other CCNY newspaper this semester
5. Maintained the Graduate Student Lounge in NAC 6/201
6. Developed and funded fine new graduate student clubs
7. Established and supported the Pre-University Program for high school students in the neighborhood
8. Organized and supported an array of academic, cultural and political programming for graduate students

#### Our Platform

1. To defend the open admissions policy of CUNY and to preserve the remedial and ESL programs at City College
2. To increase the amount and availability of graduate courses
3. To increase the amount of computer services for graduate students by expanding the Graduate Computer Resource Center
4. To defend the Education Department from attacks by politicians, media and the Board of Trustees while helping Education students to prepare for the LAST test
5. To prevent any more increases in cafeteria and bookstore prices
6. To increase the amount of immigration services to students
7. To demand more money be invested in the library
8. To continue to develop the Messenger graduate student newspaper

### INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

#### SIBREEN AKBAR Education



To the graduate students:  
When you elect a person to serve or represent you, keep in mind a person with good:  
1. Leadership and respect for leadership. (ex: respect the chair and attend meetings)  
2. Respect for her/his fellow man

## New Millennium Slate EDUCATION



JOSE JIMINEZ



HEGAL MARTINEZ



YDANIS RODRIGUEZ



DAVID SUKER



AGUSTIN VELEZ

Not Pictured:

SOCRATES DE JESUS

## LIBERAL ARTS



SHENISE ROSS



BRAD SIGAL

Not Pictured:

VINETTE JAMES

AND

FRANK H. NUNEZ

3. One that can get you what you need as graduate students
4. Give information
5. Have a good head for budgeting your monies (student activity fees).
6. Will help to make improvements for you all year.
7. Fight hard for your admission to the college and other opportunities.
8. Fight for open admissions and remediation.

#### MARTHA FLORES Liberal Arts



As the present chair of the Graduate Student Council, I Martha Flores thank my constituents for trusting me and giving me the responsibility to represent you as your leader. I intend to continue good public relations internally and externally to represent the interests of graduate students. As your leader I will aim to

improve the appropriation of student activity fees by asking you to attend a conference here at City College to discuss how you would like to see your money spent as a graduate student. I understand how hard we work to pay tuition and student activity fees. I will continue the struggle on open admissions for the future of our children. Education is the key to success. A suggestion box will be in my office to get your ideas on any issue which needs to be addressed.  
—Martha Flores, current GSC chair

#### MIZANOR BISWAS Liberal Arts

No statement or photo available as of press time. Biswas is the current GSC Vice-Chair for University Affairs, and serves as the Chair of CUNY's University Student Senate.

#### MOHAMMAD IQRAM Liberal Arts

No statement or photo available as of press time.★

# GLOSSARY

There are many words used in this issue that our readers may not be familiar with. Most have to do with the formidable CCNY bureaucracy. To help wade through the lingo, we offer this glossary of CCNY-speak.

**DSG**—The Day Student Government, the undergraduate student government at City College. Actually, a senate comprised of representatives from the College of Liberal Arts and Science including Liberal Arts, Engineering, and Architecture, as well as the SEEK Department. The DSG is responsible for "extracurricular activities" which means anything affecting students out-of-class.

**Executive Board**—The members of the DSG and GSC that have actual titles. These are the people who get paid stipends and who have specific responsibilities other than representing their constituents.

**Executive Vice President**—The second-in-command in the DSG. Basically an unimportant seat, unless the president resigns, in which case the EVP becomes president. The similar seat in the GSC is the Vice-Chair.

**Finley Center**—The administrative body that oversees student club registration, club budgets, room reservations, approving fliers to be posted on campus, and the like. As a bureaucratic administrative body, the Finley Center adds layers of red tape to getting anything done. This year, they were part of an attempt to restrict posterage and to restrict clubs' ability to spend money at the end of the semester.

**GSC**—The Graduate Student Council of City College; responsible for representing CCNY graduate student interests in decision-making bodies of the college and at-large. Elected councillors determine among themselves who will be chair and who will staff the vice-chair positions.

**Open Admissions**—The policy that guarantees that all NY high school graduates can come to CUNY. This is made real through remedial classes that make up for the inadequacies of the NYC high school system. Open Admissions was implemented in 1970 after Black and Puerto Rican students at CCNY went on strike in 1969.

**Remediation**—The classes students take if they don't pass one of the CUNY placement exams. Remedial classes may be eliminated by CUNY's Board of Trustees this year, which means that the placement exams would become *entrance* exams that would exclude students who don't pass all three. Remediation is the cornerstone of open admissions.

**SERC**—The Student Election Review Committee. The body that coordinates and oversees the annual student government elections. SERC is composed of both student and administrative members.

**Student Ombudsperson**—Chief student advocate; elected by the student body, the Ombudsperson is responsible for assuring individual students are treated fairly by faculty, staff, administrators, and the student governments. The Ombudsperson also investigates and critically reviews the operation of the administration and the student governments.

**Treasurer**—In both the DSG and GSC, the treasurer is responsible for the allocation of student activities fees and the continual review of budgetary concerns. The Treasurer and the Chair are the two people required to sign any money allocation for the GSC, while it is the Treasurer and President in the DSG. These are therefore probably the two most important positions in student government.

**Vice President for Academic Affairs**—In the DSG and GSC, deals with the Provost and issues affecting students' academic life and issues.

**Vice President for Campus Affairs**—In the DSG and GSC, deals with student life, clubs and social activities on campus outside of class.

**Vice President for Community Affairs**—Deals with the student government's relations with the Harlem community surrounding CCNY. Should develop students' links and the college's links with the community.

**Vice President for University Affairs**—Serves as the student government's delegate on the University Student Senate (USS)—the CUNY-wide student government. The USS has a huge budget, and the USS Chair is a voting member of CUNY's decision-making body, the Board of Trustees.

**Workfare**—Governmental policy under which welfare recipients must work at certain tasks in order to receive their welfare checks. Tasks so far have included working in cleaning city parks and streets, and, until recently, in hospitals.★

**WRITE FOR THE MESSENGER**  
TELL CCNY WHAT YOU THINK. COME BY NAC 1/216.



# Fireworks at DSG Debate

**Presidential Debate Descends into Chaos**

BY BRAD SIGAL

**A**t the DSG presidential candidate debate on April 23, CCNY students showed their knack for controversy and fireworks.

The debate was between Prudence Reid (Excalibur), Indhira Figuero (Millennium), and Jonathan Inoa (Student's Voice). The candidates were questioned by three members of the campus media, then by a procession of

mostly hostile students from the audience.

All candidates talked about their commitment to defending Open Admissions and remediation at CUNY, as well as to lower cafeteria and bookstore prices.

The format of the event, organized by NYPIRG, had candidates answer questions but did not allow follow-up questions. The candidates therefore were able to mostly repeat generalities rather than get into any specific plans or give the audience a better sense of who they are as people and what their beliefs and value systems are.

The fireworks came around four issues. The first questioner from the audience, *Messenger* staff member Rob Wallace, was sharply critical of Excalibur candidate Prudence Reid, due to her association with the current Day Student Government. He was unhappy with her response, and began to shout from the back of the room. She responded by scolding Wallace for asking his question in a loud, angry tone of voice.

Other people in the audience yelled out and booed Ms. Reid's answers, especially toward the end of the forum. Reid's supporters countered with applause when she spoke.

The second issue that produced fireworks was the usually-hot topic of Professor Leonard Jeffries. David Suker addressed a question to Excalibur slate member Joshua Commer, who has circulated a petition supporting the College of Staten Island's decision to bar Professor Jeffries from speaking at CSI on the issue of open admissions. Commer claimed to have nothing against Jeffries, but opposes Jeffries' speech there based on an alleged bureaucratic technicality in the CSI student government minutes.

Suker angrily taunted Commer to try to bring his "racist, Zionist Jewish friends" from Staten Island up to City College if they want to protest Jeffries. Suker criticized Ms. Reid for having Commer on her Excalibur slate, claiming Commer is aligning himself with the Jewish Defense Organization (JDO) against Jeffries. The JDO is a paramilitary right-wing Jewish group that issues death threats against people it considers anti-semitic. Suker then threw copies of Commer's petition against Jeffries into the air, and the room erupted into chaos.

Questioned after the event about his remarks to Commer, Suker said he was not criticizing Jewish people in general, but was specifically criticizing Jews who are racist and Zionist.

[Jeffries has spoken at two forums on open admissions at CCNY this school year, without any protest or incidents. His scheduled appearance at CSI last month was cancelled after CSI refused to pay his co-speaker. Jeffries was then barred from campus after the JDO threatened his life if he were to enter the campus. Six black students were arrested protesting to allow Jeffries on campus.]

The third contentious situation occurred when former-DSG member Wanda Castillo asked how the candidates would fill the vacant senate seats that will exist after the election. None of the slates are running more than five senators, while there are a total of 30 seats. Castillo was unhappy with Ms. Reid's response and stood up and began to shout at



David Suker criticizes Excalibur slate member Joshua Commer for circulating petition against Prof. Leonard Jeffries' right to speak at College of Staten Island.



Joshua Commer of Excalibur ducks after David Suker throws copies of Commer's petition against Prof. Jeffries into the crowd, as many in the crowd start yelling and the forum briefly goes out of control.

her. Ms. Castillo was impeached by the current DSG, including Ms. Reid. Reid was clearly irked by Ms. Castillo, telling her to sit down.

The fourth contentious moment came when GSC Chair Martha Flores started shouting at GSC member David Suker to "show respect." He was booing Ms. Reid at the time. Consequently Flores and Suker screamed at and taunted each other across the room, as members of the crowd chanted, "Jerry, Jerry..." since the event seemed to mirror the fighting on the popular TV talk show *Jerry Springer*.

Indeed, the debate did have elements of the ridiculousness and pettiness seen on *Jerry Springer*. But despite it all, the candidates presented their basic message, and students will go to the polls this week to pick one of the slates to run the Day Student Government into the year 1999.★



DSG Presidential candidates Prudence Reid (Excalibur) and Indhira Figuero (Millennium) exchange words at the debate last Thursday in the Student Lounge, as Jonathan Inoa (Student's Voice) looks on.

## Messenger DSG Election Editorial

*We have just a few words about the Day Student Government elections.*

There are three slates running: Millennium, Excalibur, and Students' Voice. Millennium and Students' Voice are generally marked by their inexperience. But that isn't necessarily a bad thing considering the utter lack of tangible results from this year's DSG. Outside of funding clubs (and there are even complaints about the way they did that), we can't think of one thing this current DSG has done. *Nothing* on Open Admissions. *Nothing* on the increase in the cafeteria prices that occurred this semester. *Nothing* on CUNY-Card. *Nothing* on security harassment.

It is refreshing to see two slates, Millennium and Student's Voice, made up mostly of inexperienced sophomores and juniors. Having no experience with the insider politicking at CCNY is in many ways a welcome breath

of fresh air. The Millennium slate is not totally inexperienced though; the current DSG president, Eduardo Hernandez, is on the Millennium slate, but he's abandoning the presidency to run for VP of University Affairs.

The Student's Voice slate has no connection to the current DSG, which is good. But they only have candidates running for four of the seven executive seats, so even if all their candidates win they will be sharing power with either Millennium or Excalibur.

Millennium has a rounded out slate, in terms of representing many constituencies on campus and in terms of their likeliness and ability to do more than the current DSG. Millennium and Student's Voice have almost identical platforms, giving primary emphasis to defending Open Admissions. But, as stated above, Student's Voice is only running four people for seven executive seats, while

Millennium is running a full slate.

Prudence Reid, current DSG Treasurer, is running for President with the Excalibur slate. Of the three slates running, Excalibur seems to most clearly represent "more of the same." Reid has proven to be hardworking and charismatic, and she has organized some successful events this year. But she has shown a lack of politics at a time that City College can least afford it.

Reid makes a major goof in assuming the solution to "student apathy" is putting more money into cultural events and emphasizing the good things about CCNY. An analogy comes to mind. City College, like the Titanic, is currently sinking. And all its passengers are trying to get off as fast as possible. City College has lost some 3,000 students in the last three years. But, contrary to Reid's analysis, it's not because there haven't been enough parties on

the aft deck or because students are just "apathetic." It's because there is an iceberg comprised of budget cuts, faculty firings, tuition hikes, and attacks on Open Admissions that has busted through City College's hull, filling the ship with the cold facts of lost class sections and meager offerings. That's why City College students are being forced to abandon ship. If we want them to return or stay on we'll have to right the ship. That means first addressing the iceberg: First and foremost we need to fight against the attacks on Open Admissions.

We won't endorse a slate for DSG, as members of the *Messenger* editorial staff are running on a slate for GSC that is associated with one of the undergraduate slates. We will leave it to the reader to determine what slate to vote for. The *Messenger* just hopes that we don't end up with more of the same inaction that we saw this year from the DSG.★

## Messenger GSC Election Editorial

(Editorial continued from page 2)

*Years of Struggle* forum held early this semester included a representative from the Cuban mission.

GSC Treasurer Ydanis Rodriguez, like Flores, has used this year's GSC budget as his checking account, including \$2,000 for a Pre-University Program dinner in December. But unlike Flores, he has at least used the funding for a worthy project. Rodriguez coordinates the Pre-University Program, which holds workshops for local youth every weekend, year-in and year-out. Aside from ROOTS's tutoring program at A. Philip Randolph High School, the Pre-University Program is the only organic outreach City College has with the youth of local communities. In contrast, the administration's programs, as administered by the Office of Urban and Governmen-

tal Affairs, are more concerned with helping the local black riché rake in more money at the expense of local residents. So, in the end, the administration's low-level war it has been conducting against the Pre-University Program (by questioning whether the program benefits graduate students) is utterly hypocritical and our critique here in no way calls for ending GSC funding for Pre-University.

Instead, an equitable distribution of funding needs to be arrived at. The *Messenger* recommends Rodriguez apply for some money from liberal foundations which would likely love to fund the project—money that will allow Rodriguez to say in essence, "Fuck you all, I don't need your bullshit politicking around my funding." The program deserves such money. That way more funding and mental energy could be applied to helping graduate students out.

The GSC has managed to do some good things this year, which renders their shenanigans all the more painful. They have taken a firm, principled stand on defending Open Admissions and have actively participated in organizing around Open Admissions. The Graduate Student Lounge (NAC 6/201) continues to operate smoothly. The founding of the *Messenger* is—if we say so ourselves—an important attempt to ameliorate communication among graduate students and to the greater campus. The Graduate Student Resource Center (NAC 1/207) is on the verge of opening, albeit ten months too late.

Suker and Rodriguez are running for the GSC again as members of the New Millennium slate. The slate also includes, for the record, current *Messenger* editor Brad Sigal. Flores is running as an independent. (For

more coverage of the GSC elections, see page 3.) It is likely that the bunch will find themselves together again on the GSC next year. Let's hope—but don't bet the rent on it—that somehow the self-serving bullshit is cleaned up.

The new GSC needs to 1) meet regularly, 2) somehow create better working relationships, 3) make serious attempts to communicate with its constituency by mailing out the *Messenger* and tabling outside of graduate classes and thereby 4) inform the graduate student body of the GSC resources available and discover what graduate students need, 5) make departments' executive committees accept graduate student representatives, 6) open the damn resource center in 1/207 already, and 7) fight against the pervasive practice of combining undergraduate and graduate class sections together which dilutes graduate education.★

—ROB WALLACE