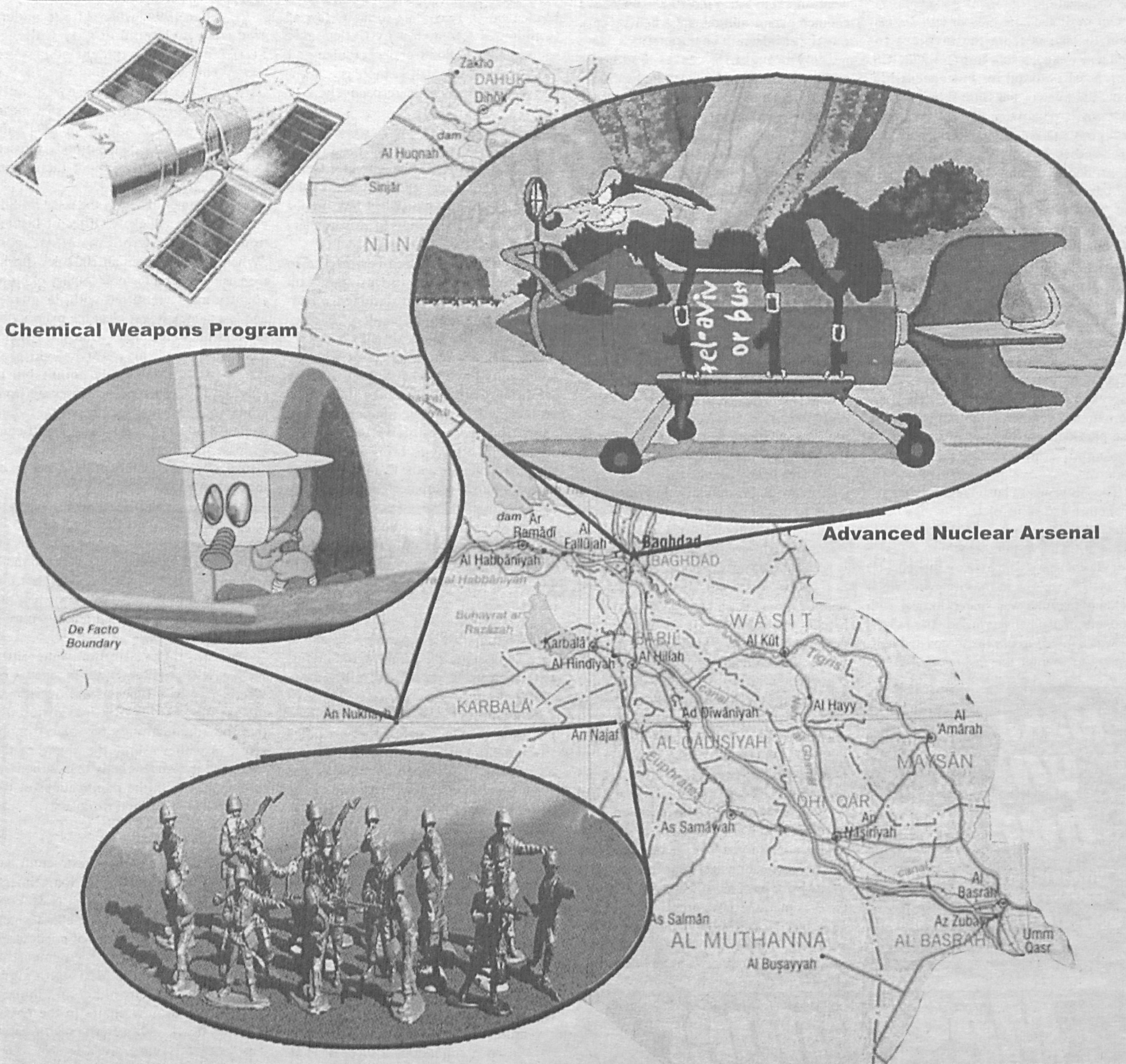
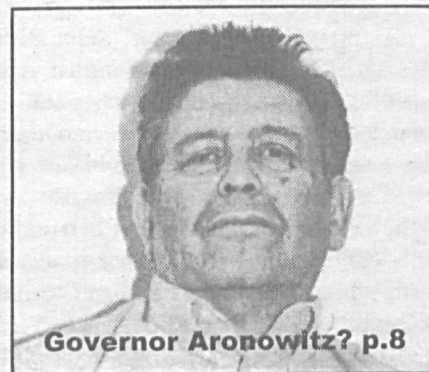


STUDENT SPACE UNDER ATTACK COVERUP OF LIGHT-FINGERED SECURITY GUARD?
 CUNY PROF ARONOWITZ RUNS FOR GOVERNOR ON THE GREEN PARTY TICKET
 VIEWING THE DEVASTATION IN PALESTINE US WARMAKING IN THE PHILIPPINES

CITY COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER
THE Messenger

REGIME CHANGE BEGINS AT HOME!

OCT-NOV 2002



Saddam's Elite Republican Guard

By Rodolfo Leyton

We've recently been subjected to claims of huge arsenals of mass destruction hidden within Iraq. The claims apparently have merit. Surely senior officials of the United States government wouldn't try to deceive

the citizenry. To what ends would another war with an impoverished country with hardly any infrastructure left lead to? Through our connections at NASA, we've managed to obtain the definitive proof from the Hubble telescope that the government doesn't want you to see. Amazingly some of Saddam's arsenal is in the hands of

popular American cartoon characters. The rest consists of plastic battalions of green men with guns that don't fire well. The point is: current claims of the likely presence of chemical or nuclear capabilities are unfounded when compared to figures from previous weapons inspections.

continued on page 2

Saddam

continued from page 1

A former UN inspector, Scott Ritter, has stated repeatedly, "The infrastructure used to produce weapons has been dismantled, destroyed or is under monitoring by weapons inspectors... We have a good idea of what's left and it's not very much." He is also very critical of UNSCOM, the inspection agency. He states they were used as a trigger for military action and collected information to be used for military targeting, discrediting the organization.

Our most accurate tally of lethal armament in Iraq is from the invoices for chemical weapons sold to Iraq by the US. Which, of course, are not accessible. Under the Reagan and Bush senior administrations, credits were given for agricultural products on paper, but in reality it was used to buy helicopters, armored trucks, huge amounts of pesticides, germs and advanced arms technologies. Saddam was given the ability to use them on Iranian troops and the Kurds in the north of the country.

After all, this government has invested a lot of money in the development of chemical warfare. Who better to bring it to a country near you? No money back guarantee though. Top officials scream bloody murder if Iraq doesn't submit to inspections, but turn around and refuse inspection of their own arsenal. They say the national defense of an empire has to take precedence over the national defense of a small country with rich natural resources.

The US wants to push "regime change" as another part of its plot. Now they don't want an unfriendly tyrant, but an eager, obedient tyrant will do. Anything except a real democracy or sovereignty can be allowed, as we saw in the Gulf War, when Saddam's regime was spared to deal with a popular movement trying to take power. He was allowed to use his troops and helicopters to murder the insurgents. As US

General Norman Schwarzkopf puts it, "I said yes, you can fly your helicopters, subsequently helicopters were used to suppress the rebels up north." Clearly this was a political decision to keep a convenient target in the Middle East to justify having permanent military bases in the region.

In reality the Iraqis have been in continual war-like conditions since Desert Storm. After most of their infrastructure was destroyed—reservoir dams, pumping and filtration stations, electric, communications and transportation—sanctions were imposed. Since the 1990s, they have claimed over a million and a half victims, mostly children. These sanctions were naively thought to weaken Saddam's regime, but instead have strengthened his grip on Iraq and have affected mostly civilians. These sanctions violate the Geneva Convention, which prohibits making civilians into targets of warfare or sanctions.

The last conflict also left Iraq littered with radioactive waste. Munitions are manufactured using depleted uranium, the densest, hardest metal to be able to easily penetrate targets, unfortunately, it is radioactive waste which has been spread as dust and shrapnel affecting the civilian population and Allied servicemen. The substance contains traces of plutonium and is radioactive for four and a half billion years. The elusive Gulf War syndrome is still denied to have links with the Gulf War, to ensure future invasion cannot be halted with pesky concerns for the lives of the combatants and the inhabitant of the area being assaulted.

The attack on militarily inferior opponents to acquire natural resources sounds vaguely like colonialism. Could that be the reason why conflict in the Middle East is so important to the imperial economy? Is the free world not all that concerned with freedom? Bush has recently given us his doctrine. He wants to broaden his powers to wage war (nuclear or conventional) and without approval or reproach. Can the US afford to further destabilize the region, creating an ideal breeding ground for terrorism? An act of war will only precipitate retaliation and the recruitment of many soldiers eager to fight an overbearing adversary. We have been warned that this war might take years, and we should stand behind the decision. Free enterprise looking to cash in and the strategic military advantage of controlling where other nations get their fuel motivate this war for resources. Peace and prosperity, except for a few, aren't even in the equation. If this war will only increase suffering and the disparity between rich and poor, why should we accept it? **M**

Signs of Something or Other

Signs appear that the new administration, a year in office, has made strides in some areas, gone nowhere in others. Additional signs—crop circles in front of the Administration Building—indicate the administration has slipped backwards in still other areas.

Enrollment

THE GOOD City College's enrollment has increased. According to the Office of Institutional Research, City College this semester hosts 8638 undergraduate and 3428 graduate students, increases from last year of 7% and 41% respectively.

THE BAD According to Lawrence Hanley, CCNY chapter chair of the Professional Staff Congress (the union for faculty and staff), faculty and staff are for the most part "happy that word has finally gotten around about the superior teachers and staff at City College."

But the administration has refused to hire additional faculty to teach the extra load of students, instead slashing the budget for hiring adjunct faculty. "Faculty enrollment is declining," Hanley puts it.

The administration has dealt with the problem by forcing what full-time faculty are left to accept students above and beyond class caps, deteriorating the very education the administration boasted about in its efforts to bring in the extra students to begin with. Cramming thirty students into a computer class with only twenty working computers ruins the educational experience for both faculty and students. Never mind, of course, that students sitting on classroom floors, a fire hazard, is an embarrassment to the college.

THE UGLY While supporting the end of open admissions, the administration refuses to own up to its role in rolling back civil rights in New York City.

Some background, first. Open admissions was a CUNY policy that permitted all students with a high school degree access to CUNY. Open admissions was instituted after what few Black and Puerto Rican students here at City College in 1969 successfully organized and occupied the South Campus. Their courage and resolve ended what was in essence a system of educational apartheid and radically transformed CUNY. With Open admissions' subsequent implementation, CUNY greatly expanded, admitting thousands of students, most of them of color, even as many of the students were not fully prepared for college-level work by their high schools.

Studies by sociologist David Lavin showed open admissions a success: Hundreds of thousands of CUNY graduates admitted under the policy went on to jobs they would never have obtained otherwise, becoming, along the way, the flesh and bone of New York City's civic life. CUNY succeeded by providing these less-prepared students remedial classes and financial and logistical support in the form of programs such as SEEK.

Over the past three years CUNY's Board of Trustees terminated open admissions. Proponents of the policy warned the revocation of open admissions would lead to a whitening of the student body. That prediction appears to be prophetic.

In an interview with the *Messenger* last year, and in subsequent articles in the *New York Times* and the CCNY alumni magazine, CCNY President Gregory Williams denied that ending open admissions and remedial classes had caused a dilution in City College's diversity. But the *Messenger* questions the basis of Williams's claim. The enrollment numbers say little to support his contention.

Consider 1994, when 11,526 undergraduates registered at City College: 11.1% of the total student body were white. This year, according to CCNY's Office of Institutional Research, only 9.38% are white. But that doesn't mean there are now fewer whites. In 1994 only 4.7% of the CCNY student body refused to respond to queries about their race. This year, 26.38% refused.

In an attempt to clarify the issue Ed Silverman of the college's Office of Institutional Research wrote the *Messenger*, "When I checked the Fall 2002 new freshmen using several factors (country of birth, country most identified with, language, and last name), it was clear the majority of the students were neither white nor Asian." The "majority" may not be white or Asian—still a debatable point—but if only, say, 7% of the no responses are from white students, that would put the white student body at over 16%, a significant increase. In other words, we do not have a statistically clear picture of the make-up of the student body.

It is obvious, however, to anyone here longer than five years that the make-up of the student body has changed. There is no doubt that City College plays host to more white students. No, City College has not yet reverted to its pre-1969 era when the Harlem campus was filled almost entirely with white students.

And no, there's nothing inherently wrong with white students, many of whom may be refugees from overpriced private universities. But it is disturbing that the administration has placed more effort in whitewashing the nature of the change in the student body than in honestly grappling with the ramifications of the admissions policies it now favors.

Infrastructure

THE GOOD Campus infrastructure has improved. Even for CCNY long-timers, the NAC Building, the largest New York City building north of Rockefeller Center, can be a befuddling warren of nondescript offices and galley ways. The administration finally plastered NAC with signs directing pedestrians hither and thither. There are also new chairs in the NAC, polished floors, and a fresh coat of paint. The College's gateway web site looks much better, even as it's still hard to find links, many of which are out of date. The library's web site is top-notch, providing students access to myriad library databases.

THE BAD We should, however, keep the improvements so far implemented in perspective. After so many years of administrative neglect a shined floor seems an oasis. But keeping house is something many other administrations elsewhere, including at other CUNY campuses, do as a matter of course. We ask CCNY students that they never settle for any service

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CITY COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

THE Messenger

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

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

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here that's less than what they deserve. Demand respect.

We might start with the library. Changes in the real world library must now reflect its cyberspace mirror. Undergraduates can currently barely research their reports, and graduate students must go to libraries elsewhere in New York to do theirs. Declarations that CCNY is a university unto itself—as the draft mission statement claims—ring hollow without an up-to-date library stocked continuously with new books and journals.

THE UGLY The administration has, we believe, consciously conflated improving campus infrastructure with destroying student life.

While President Williams made pointed and welcome comments supporting civil liberties during the commemorative service held last month for the victims of September 11, Chief Operating Officer Lois Cronholm continues her campaign to clean out free speech and free assembly under the pretext of a cleaner campus.

Among her acts of mayhem, Cronholm broke her promise to restore the bulletin boards to the NAC Rotunda. Last semester Cronholm had the boards, nearly the only places on campus students can post flyers, removed from the high-traffic Rotunda. Remaining bulletin boards are either 1) too small, 2) sequestered in elevator wells or 3) plastered with corporate ads. The Science Building contains not a single corporate-free bulletin board on

which students can post. And yet students are berated for putting up posters there.

Without postering, student clubs are in essence shut down and student life hobbled. Clubs cannot inform the campus of their events. No events, no student life. Kiosks upon which students can poster for their organizations dot every college worth its name. This administration blocks student postering to the point of betraying a psychopathic fear of congregating students. Sad.

MORE UGLY Administrative land grabbing takes other forms. This semester Cronholm and her cronie, Campus Planning's Jonathan Ryan, made an attempt to turn the historic third floor Wingate gym into swing space for administrative offices. [See article, p.4.] Only a grass-roots effort by students has so far delayed Campus Planning's actions. Whether the administration will again make a grab for the gym, perhaps during the summer when students are away, remains an open question.

Campus Planning, acting in cahoots with Provost Zeev Dagan and School of Education Dean Alfred Posmentier, appears also to be aiming for the Community and Student Center. The Center, providing space for a multitude of student- and community-run services and events, has occupied its third floor NAC room for 13 years. Posmentier appears interested in making the Center, occupying what Dagan revealingly called "prime real estate," the crown jewel of the Dean's

expanding space empire.

The Center is one of the only organic connections City College has with the surrounding community. Its demise would subject the administration, and the college, to serious backlash from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Without a student union, students and their clubs need more space, not less. Any effort to take over what little student space remains must be resisted.

YET MORE UGLY Along with space, administrators love to control student money. There are few sources of funding for student clubs on campus. Those sources since this administration's inauguration have suffered as-yet-unexplained contractions.

One source is the Activities Coordinating Committee (ACC), which offers clubs funding from a pot of Pepsi money. Pepsi holds an exclusive contract with CCNY to stock the vending machines around cam-

pus and gives funding to the school through the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation (AEC), which oversees the College's contracts with outside companies. The ACC, a committee within the AEC, did not allocate funds last semester. Although the ACC is offering grants this semester, the *Messenger* wonders where last semester's ACC money went.

The same can be said of the AEC's annual grants. Typically topping \$200,000, the AEC under the new administration now offers only \$150,000 for campus organizations and their projects. Where did the other \$50,000 go?

THE GOOD The *Messenger* sees students and student clubs reacting angrily to administrative foul-ups and malicious policy. Whether students can turn reflexive reaction into conscious and sustained organizing remains to be seen. It should prove to be an interesting year, crop circles and all. **M**

The Scramble for Space at City

Real estate is to New York City what oil is to Texas. No exception here at City College where fifty-something administrators elbow each other for 'gray gold,' cobbling together personal fiefdoms of rooms and space evocative of Leopold's Congo.

Students, of course, are these real estate barons' favorite victims.

But many of students' best collegiate experiences arise from extra-curricular

activities in spaces they alone control. These liberated zones are areas where no authority figures supervise or intervene, except, of course, when asked to.

A series of CCNY administrations have in essence scotched both campus life and students' personal development. The targeting of the Wingate Gym and the

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ADMINISTRATORS TARGET STUDENTS' SPACE

BY ROB WALLACE



Cronholm and Ryan planned turning student gym into swing office space. Dagan and Posamentier aim for student-community center's "prime real estate."

Administrators are attempting to expropriate what little space is available for student use at City College.

The *Messenger* has learned Chief Operating Officer Lois Cronholm and Director of Campus Facilities Jonathan Ryan planned to transform the CCNY Fitness Center, otherwise known as the Wingate Gym, into swing space for the offices of Financial Aid and the Bursar. Financial Aid and the Bursar's offices are to be moved out of the Y-Building to allow the Architecture School to move in.

The gym, currently in the spacious third floor of Wingate Hall, would, under the plans, be relocated to Wingate's basement. The basement area, much smaller than the gym's current space, contains an unused pool. According to sources the *Messenger* spoke with, the pool would be filled in and gym equipment moved into the pool area.

According to a leaflet put out by the Undergraduate Student Government in early October, students would lose use of larger pieces of equipment, including treadmills, weight lifting equipment and the indoor track.

The plans, temporarily shelved after student protest, are "under study" by the administration.

Students Respond

According to USG President Jonathan Rinaldi, after issuing the flyer on the possible move for the gym the USG set up a Wingate Committee to investigate the situation. The Committee tried to meet with Jonathan Ryan, the author of the plans, but their calls were never returned.

On October 2, USG met with Cronholm. Cronholm was apparently unaware of the plans for the gym. Only later in the day did Cronholm get back to USG, citing a lack of communication. "She said they weren't clear on the situation," Rinaldi said.

Cronholm rebuffed repeated attempts by the *Messenger* to interview her. At a meeting with campus media, however, Cronholm said, "I didn't even know anybody was talking about [the changes to Wingate]. As soon as I found out about that I put a stop to those plans." Cronholm is Ryan's direct boss.

She also said she has so many people reporting her that she can not keep tabs on every single thing that is going on.

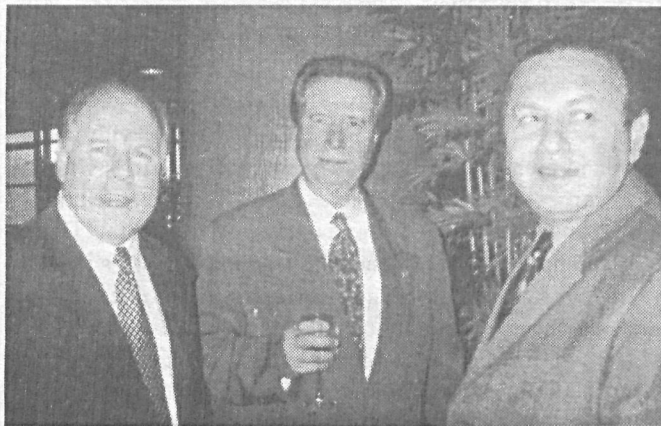
USG met with President Williams the next day on the matter.

At the October 8 meeting of the President's Advisory Committee, Rinaldi was informed the administration would now be conducting a feasibility study for the swing space moves. It was not announced when the study would be completed.

"If something needs to be done [about swing space], it needs to be done, but we want to be involved," Rinaldi told the *Messenger*.

"If the students weren't vocal, we would have likely lost the space by next spring," said Joey Browne, a senior Anthropology major organizing students against the possible gym move.

"Demolishing the pool and making it into offices is ridiculous," said an Architecture student who spoke with the *Mes-*



Thugs 4 Life: Administration gang members Posamentier, Snyder and Dagan aim to close down the Community Center.

senger on the condition of anonymity. The student pointed out that the outside of Wingate Hall is protected by landmark status.

"The administration should, as architects and planners, have respect for the inherent use of the intended design of the inside of the building as well," said the student. The third floor of Wingate has long been used as a gym, including by the 1950-51 basketball team that won the NIT and NCAA championships.

"And how are they going to get handicapped students to the third floor of Wingate to the Bursar's office anyway?" asked the student. Wingate Hall has no elevator.

A Debate

Rinaldi, who characterized his relationship with Cronholm and Williams as a "good working relationship," called the original plans to move the gym a "rumor."

"This was no rumor," said Joey Browne. Browne told the *Messenger* he learned about the plans to move the gym from an administrator. Cronholm's response at the meeting with campus media appears to contradict Rinaldi as well.

Rinaldi's characterization of the plan appears to signal a change in the student government's approach. The poster USG put out to the student body in early October reads in part,

This [Fitness] Center was made possible through YOUR bloated student activities fees. If you are paying for the Center, shouldn't YOU play an integral part in all of the decisions that affect the gym?? Can we TRUST them to use OUR ACTIVITY FEES PROPERLY??? They have taken away so much, HOW MUCH LONGER WILL YOU LET THIS HAPPEN????

Browne agreed with the sentiments of the poster.

"[The move] is just wrong. Administrators utilize the student activity fee to renovate the gym, and now they want to take it from us. When there's a pressing need to renovate, why are students always the ones to

suffer?" said Browne.

"This is not a political situation. It's about space. If Bursar and Financial Aid are going to move, they have to be somewhere. There is no reason we can't come up with the solution," said Rinaldi.

The Architecture student the *Messenger* spoke with called Rinaldi's characterization of the use of space as "ridiculous." "How

that space gets allocated is where the politics is," said the student.

The *Messenger* asked Rinaldi and Browne separately about whether students need more space at City College.

"It's hard for me to answer that. I don't have all the information. I would need to get the plans from Campus Planning and see what we're working with," replied Rinaldi, an Architecture major.

"Students could use more space. There seems no problem in getting space for offices, but why is there a problem getting space for students?" answered Browne.

"From what I have observed I don't feel student government is the most proactive in this area," said Browne. Browne sat in on a student government meeting about the Wingate gym.

"I was appalled about the way the meeting was run. It made me feel that this would be better as a student grass-roots movement," said Browne.

While the debate among students over the nature of space at City College continues, students do agree that the gym's future remains uncertain. "We think we've saved the gym because of the petition we had students sign, but we don't know for sure," said the Architecture student.

Save-the-gym organizers have collected over 1000 student and staff signatures. The petitions are to be presented to Cronholm.

Education Dean Targets Community Center

The Morales/Shakur Community and Student Center (NAC 3/201) is a room where City College students and community members can work for progressive social change on- and off-campus.

According to Center staff, Dean of Education Alfred Posamentier has for the past six months been maneuvering to take over the NAC room currently occupied by the Center.

Posamentier began his campaign by harassing students in the Center about the state of the Center's door. "He kept walking into our room and pestering us to paint the door, like it was his room or something," said Felipe Pichardo, the Center's Director and a graduate student in history.

Late last semester, Provost Zeev Dagan, Posamentier's good friend, told Pichardo that the room the Center occupies is "prime real estate." Dagan asked Pichardo if the Center would be willing to take another space so the School of Education could move in.

When Pichardo asked why Posamentier couldn't be moved to the new space, Dagan replied, "See you in court." Dagan's reply implies the administration is willing to take legal action to try to extract the Community Center from the room.

Dagan is also good friends with John Snyder, Dean of Faculty and Staff Relations, who is responsible for the College's legal work.

Campus Planning's Jonathan Ryan took his own shot at harassing the Community Center. Just before the semester started, Ryan walked into the Center and, without identifying himself, demanded that the literature table outside the Center be removed because of fire code violations. The Center was able to rebuff the attempt to remove the table.

The Community Center is one of the only rooms at City College students retain permanent control.

City College students won NAC 3/201 during the anti-budget cut struggle of 1989. In response to cuts in CUNY's budget and a tuition increase proposed by then-Governor Mario Cuomo, Students for Educational Rights (SER), a group of City College students, took over the NAC and Administration Buildings. Their occupation sparked similar takeovers at other CUNY campuses.

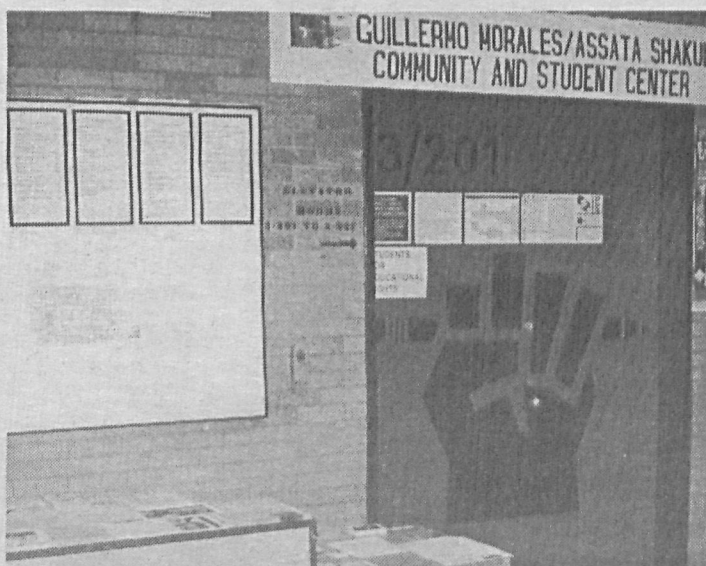
In return for the students ending their occupation, the CCNY administration agreed to student demands for expanded educational opportunities at City. To help implement the agreement, SER was provided 3/201.

SER subsequently transformed 3/201 into a community center that has been for more than a decade home to a variety of progressive organizations and events.

The Community Center currently hosts a pre-university program for neighborhood youth, a student newspaper, a film series addressing topical political themes, math tutoring for freshmen, and organizing against budget cuts, the war, and the privatization of education. This semester the Center initiated a series of photography and art exhibits.

"It's ludicrous for them to try to take something so important away from students, especially with the amount of work done here for City College and the community," said Pichardo.

"I would be very angry if we lost the



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Is Security Guarding a Thief?

City College peace officer allegedly steals wallet from private security guard. Security Director Hubbard leads apparent cover-up.

her VISA card was maxed out on clothing purchases.

According to sources, stills from the bank's ATM camera later showed a male unsuccessfully using Hernandez's card. Sources close to the situation identify the male as the boyfriend of one of the female peace officers present in the

locker room where Hernandez first changed into uniform for her shift. The sources the *Messenger* spoke with recognized the boyfriend because he has occasionally visited City College.

The *Messenger* could not learn the identity of the accused peace officer by deadline, nor view the ATM stills.

Hubbard Denies

Sources say in the days following the theft Security Director Hubbard called Hernandez into his office. He asked her many questions regarding the theft. He informed Hernandez that he was particularly concerned about the other Tort guard who had been present in the locker room during the incident as she already had a record of misconduct during her tenure at City College.

Hubbard later suspended the Tort guard for a month while he had the theft investigated. According to sources, Hernandez denies ever telling Hubbard the other Tort guard was culpable.

In May, Security management sent out a chilling memo to CCNY security guards. The memo reads:

RUMORS TEND TO BE DOWN RIGHT LIES OR TWISTED FACTS AND ARE CRUEL

THERE IS A RUMOR GOING AROUND THAT ONE OF OUR STAFF MEMBERS IS A THIEF AND HAS BEEN STRIPPED OF TITLE AND RANK BUT IS STILL ALLOWED TO WORK HERE. LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS NOT HOW THINGS ARE DONE HERE!

IF ONE OF OUR PEOPLE IS PROVEN TO BE A THIEF HE/SHE WOULD BE FIRED OUTRIGHT. WE WOULD NOT STRIP THEM OF THEIR TITLE AND THEIR POWERS BUT STILL ALLOW THEM TO WORK WE DON'T DO IT THAT WAY.

ANYONE SPREADING

THESE FALSEHOODS

YOU ARE ON NOTICE THAT THESE RUMORS ARE LIES. KEEP IN MIND THAT THE SPREADING OF LIES LIKE THIS CAN BE CONSIDERED SLANDEROUS AND IF YOU ARE CAUGHT SPREADING THESE LIES YOU CAN BE HELD LEGALLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR WORDS.

DON'T LET IT BE YOU!

The memo is from "The Management," has no security emblem, and is signed

with unreadable initials. According to one guard the *Messenger* spoke with, Lieutenant Lawrence of Security made similar verbal threats to guards during shift-change line-ups.

When asked about the memo by the *Messenger*, Hubbard claimed he didn't remember it. But when showed the memo by *Messenger* staff, Hubbard admitted Security management had put the memo out.

About the theft itself Hubbard told the *Messenger*, "We investigated [the accusation] and it wasn't substantiated."

"The person they claimed took it didn't do it," Hubbard said, calling the accusation a "rumor."

At the same time, Hubbard did not deny that four security guards were in the locker room at the time of the theft. "Several people were in the [locker] room," he said.

Then, in explaining why the results of the investigation were fruitless, Hubbard said, "there was no witness."

Hubbard also called the ATM tape a "rumor."

The *Messenger* could not establish why Security management investigated the theft and not NYPD, to whom Hernandez made the initial complaint.

Hubbard, an ex-New York police officer, has extensive contacts with local precincts. In 1999, Hubbard invited a plainclothes officer from a local precinct to monitor a conference held at City College on Mumia Abu-Jamal, the black journalist political prisoner. For months last year Hubbard permitted undercover NYPD officers to conduct surveillance on the local neighborhood from rooms in Compton Goethals, the art building.

City College Chief Operating Officer Lois Cronholm refused to speak to the *Messenger* about the theft. Through her secretary Cronholm issued a statement that she would not comment on personnel issues.

Hernandez Harassed

Two months after the Tort guard was suspended, sources say, Hernandez was reassigned to work in the South Campus at the New York Structural Biology Center construction site. Her Tort supervisors told her she would have to remain at the post for two months while they found a new placement for her.

Gina Shelton, a supervisor at Tort Protective, told the *Messenger* she was unaware of Hernandez's situation. "If any guard has a problem, I have an open-door policy," said Shelton.

According to sources, Hernandez worked at the South Campus two days before quitting.

During the two days Hernandez was told she could not leave the site unattended, but the only bathroom was a port-potty beyond the building. As she was never relieved by a replacement, she could not use the bathroom.

Hernandez was provided no radio. There was no school phone to use. She was given no key to the site. She had to eat her lunch at the site. Sources say Hernandez felt threatened.

The first day she worked from 7am until 11pm. The second day she was scheduled to work from 7am until 4pm but no replacement arrived. At 9pm she used a personal cell phone to call the Tort central office in Brooklyn and

was told by Shelton to stay there until midnight. If she didn't stay, Shelton told her, she would have to quit.

Shelton Denies the Call

Hernandez's on-site Tort supervisor Jimmy Bass soon arrived at the construction site and told her that being a security guard "is not for you." According to Shelton, Bass himself left City College and Tort altogether sometime during the past several months.

This is not the first time questions have arisen about Security management's role in covering up incidents and intimidating their own employees.

In March of last year a CCNY graduate student had her throat cut in the NAC Parking Lot. Her life was saved only because a peace officer who happened to be out on his lunch break near the parking lot spotted the student struggling with her attacker.

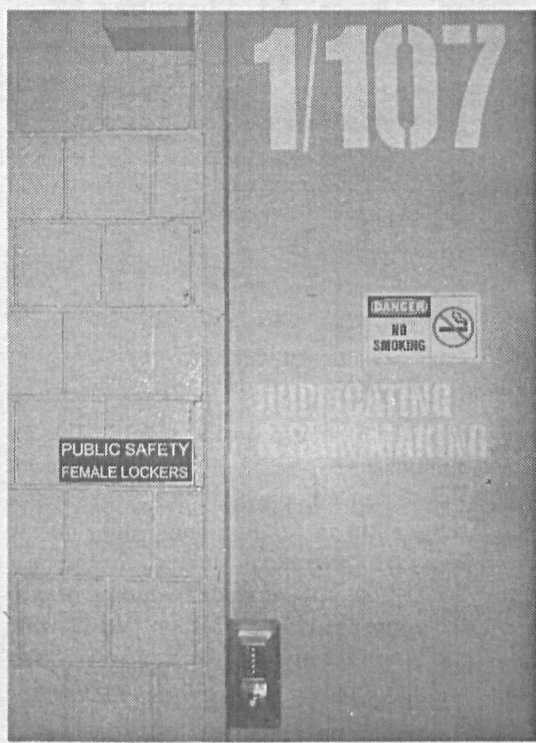
Security guards the *Messenger* spoke with at that time were upset the incident was, in their eyes, kept hushed up and mischaracterized by management.

The peace officer who saved the graduate student, Ray Turner, is one of several peace officers who have filed union grievances or lawsuits against Hubbard. According to some guards the *Messenger* spoke with, guards in Hubbard's doghouse are placed on "punishment posts" for hours on end in uncomfortable conditions, much as Hernandez was.

The *Messenger* spoke briefly with Hernandez. She refused to go on the record about the specifics of her experiences as she is currently pursuing a lawsuit. She did say, "They tortured me, basically," forcing her to quit. She has since moved on to taking classes at a local college.

"I see a lot of unfairness there," Hernandez said about the situation in which guards at City College find themselves.

"Security guards don't have the right to speak. This is a free country, they should have that right," she said. **M**



By Rob Wallace

The *Messenger* has learned that last semester a CCNY Security peace officer allegedly stole a private security guard's wallet from a NAC Building locker room. The guard who had her wallet stolen was apparently subjected to a campaign of harassment by Security's management until she quit.

Security Director Timothy Hubbard acknowledged the theft took place, but declared that after an investigation Security could not determine who stole the wallet from Security's locker room.

The Theft

The *Messenger* has reconstructed the events by interviewing a number of sources close to the situation. These sources identify the private security guard who had her wallet stolen as Maritza Hernandez.

According to the sources, early one April morning last semester Hernandez reported to duty in the Security office on the NAC's fourth floor. Hernandez realized she had not locked up her off-duty clothing when she changed in the female security guard locker room on the NAC's first floor. When Hernandez returned to the locker room she discovered her wallet had been stolen from her clothing. The individuals present in the locker room before Hernandez left for the shift's line-up were another private female security guard and three female peace officers.

City College has two types of security guards. Peace officers are state-employed officers that dress in dark blue uniforms. CCNY also contracts out to Brooklyn-based Tort Protective Group to provide additional security guards. Tort guards dress in gray uniforms.

Hernandez left campus and reported the theft to a local police precinct. The *Messenger* cannot establish to what precinct Hernandez made her complaint.

That day Hernandez's bank called her to ask if she was having problems with her ATM card as someone had attempted to access her account with the wrong PIN number. Hernandez learned that among the wrong PIN numbers tried were digits from her medical plan and social security numbers. She kept both numbers in her wallet.

Over the course of the next two days

Sources close to the situation identify the male as the boyfriend of one of the female peace officers present in the locker room.



Slumming: NY State Governor Pataki came to CCNY to sign the undocumented immigrant tuition bill.

Pataki Signs Immigrant Tuition Bill at CCNY

On August 9, New York State Governor George Pataki has signed a bill into law that will allow some students who are undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition if they are residents. The bill signing ceremony was held in the Great Hall. The new law will save eligible students over \$3000 per year in tuition costs.

Since 1989, CUNY had allowed undocumented immigrants to pay the State resident tuition level if the student met certain qualifications, but in Fall 2001 CUNY announced that undocumented residents would no longer be eligible for in-state tuition. CUNY claims that the change was made to conform to the 1996 Federal Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act and denies any connection with the increased scrutiny of immigrants following September 11.

Many groups organized in opposition following the announcement of the tuition increase. The CUNY For All Coalition organized a rally and march from Union Square to City Hall on April 30, while several interest groups, including NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Research Group), lobbied elected officials and worked behind the scenes to get a law passed that would provide relief for immigrants threatened with tuition bills that had suddenly doubled.

CCNY student Folasayo Fadahunsi was present at the signing and lobbied hard to get the law passed. Fadahunsi is involved with NYPIRG and is the current student Ombudsperson. "I just felt that someone had to fight," Fadahunsi—himself an immigrant—told the *Messenger*.

Fadahunsi didn't let his undocumented status deter him from activism, however. "What you have to remember is that you're fighting for [everyone affected] more than you're fighting for yourself," he continues.

The bill, which is a compromise cobbled together by state Senator Pedro Espada and Assemblymen Adriano Espaillat and Peter M. Rivera, requires either attendance of high school in New York State or a state-issued GED and places a five year time limit after graduation on entrance to a CUNY or SUNY school. This will leave out many new immigrants or those who decide to go to college to improve their lives after a long layoff.

Fadahunsi agreed that the new law should be more inclusive, but said that it was a compromise. "We pushed for to

cover as many [students] as we could get it to cover," he said. A simpler solution would be to eliminate or roll back the tuition that has been charged since 1976 and doubled during the 1990's.

Many suspect that Pataki's trip to CCNY is a ploy to secure votes for his upcoming reelection campaign. "That had everything to do with [the bill signing]," says Fadahunsi. "He's got to reach out to immigrants."

InSecurity Guards at CSI?

On October 15 at about 8:30pm, College of Staten Island student Ayman El-sayed was attacked and racially harassed by CUNY Peace Officer Peter Licata. El-sayed confronted Licata after Licata tore down a flyer advertising a teach-in on the war in Iraq, asking him why he removed the flyer.

El-sayed reports that Licata approached him in an aggressive manner, telling him, "I don't like what [the flyer] says." El-sayed also reports that the officer said: "Kill all the Arabs in Iraq," followed by, "Kill all the Arabs," a phrase he said repeatedly.

El-sayed returned with a photographer from the *College Voice* newspaper. El-sayed is an editor at the *Voice*. Renee Marhong, a co-editor of the *Voice*, said that Licata then tried to grab the camera.

Several student groups and students rallied at CSI to support El-sayed on October 24. Although CSI President Marlene Springer has appointed people to conduct an investigation of the incident, the students involved don't feel that enough is being done. "A security officer was confronting a 21-year-old student," Marhong said. "If we can't trust our own security guards, then who do we call when we need help?"

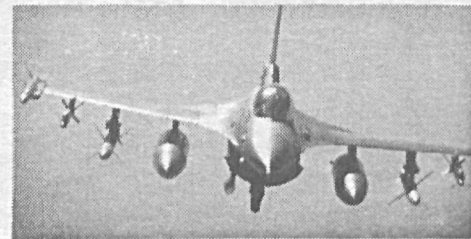
CSI students also report seeing officer Licata leave the office of the investigator with two other peace officers who were witnesses. "It seriously compromises the investigation to meet with all three witnesses together in a setting which, at the very least, encourages the peace officers to collaborate in recounting the incident," said Ron McGuire, who is head of the CUNY Emergency Legal Defense Project and is representing the students.

This isn't the first bad experience that *Voice* staffers have had with CUNY security. They say that last fall, a CSI peace officer was uncooperative after he responded to a situation where an unidentified man entered the *Voice* office, verbally abused the staff, and tore a flag off their wall.

Leave No Child Behind?

According to the US Government's Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, rising tuition charges and a shortfall in federal and state grants for low- and moderate-income students kept more than 400,000 qualified high school graduates from attending four-year colleges this fall and prevent nearly 170,000 of them from continuing their education.

The committee, using US Education Department data, found that 48 percent of all college-qualified, low-income students and 43 percent of students from moderate-income families will not attend four-year colleges because of financial barriers. The panel also found that 22 percent of low-



Paid for by our tax dollars.

President Bush has proposed \$10.9 billion for Pell grants in fiscal 2003, an amount the White House says is adequate. But some Democrats say that figure represents a cut in funding and would not be enough to provide all students the aid they need. This amount pales in comparison to the approximately \$1 billion per day that the proposed invasion of Iraq would cost and the roughly \$437 billion current military budget as estimated by the War Resisters League.

"We must find the resources to reverse these trends," Juliet Garcia, advisory committee chair and president of the University of Texas at Brownsville, told the *Globe*. "No new financing strategies will solve it. Only an increase in grant aid will work."

2003 Military Budget:

\$437 billion.

2003 Pell Grant Funding:

\$10.9 billion.

income students and 16 percent of moderate-income students will not go to any college.

Families earning less than \$25,000 each year are classified as low income. According to CityFacts, a publication of CCNY's Office of Institutional Research, 58% of CCNY undergraduate students fall into this category.

"The bottom line is that a really significant number of low-income students who graduate from high school fully prepared and meeting the criteria to attend college can't afford to go," Brian Fitzgerald, staff director of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance told the *Boston Globe*. CUNY tuition, for example, increased 256% in the 1990s: from \$1250 to the current \$3200 per year for full time undergraduate students. Tuition, on average, rose higher than the rate of inflation across the nation during the last decade.

Fitzgerald said financial aid issues will worsen over the next decade, disproportionately affecting minorities and low-income students. Over a 10-year period, the report shows, 4.4 million high school graduates will not be able to attend four-year colleges, and 2 million will attend no college at all.

The panel recommended that the federal government increase the number and size of Pell grants, the primary source of federal aid for low-income college students.

UMass Walkout Protests Budget Cuts

The Associated Press reports that thousands of professors and other employees at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst staged a brief walkout on September 5 to protest state cuts to higher education and salary freezes.

Many of the school's approximately 5,000 faculty members, support staff, and union workers took a "coffee break" at 10am and congregated at four points around the campus for about 30 minutes. Similar demonstrations were held at the state's nine four-year public colleges and 15 community colleges.

Massachusetts' Acting Governor Jane Swift vetoed the \$30 million in negotiated pay raises that had been approved by both sides. The state legislature's failure to override the veto angered workers who thought they had a deal.

"They [UMass] OK'd the contract," Fred Mielnikowski, a UMass maintenance worker told AP. "If they were having money problems they should have known then and not made us a promise of more money."

Professional staff and clerical workers at UMass, state colleges, and community colleges also are losing their raises, which were negotiated in 2000.

"We have a contract that was duly negotiated and signed by the governor," said Carol Concannon, who works in the Massachusetts Maritime Academy's regis-



UMass employees taking a "coffee break" on September 5.

the city and beyond

trar's office. "She said she supported funding it. The Legislature provided the money. And then she vetoed it," Concanon said.

The UMass system is struggling with \$28.5 million in state budget cuts, and Amherst is about \$17 million in the red. Amherst administrators have raised student fees, eliminated seven athletic teams, laid off about 100 workers, and phased out jobs to cover the shortfall. In addition, 121 professors and 391 of the school's full-time employees left under early retirement programs offered to help cut costs. Libraries, maintenance, and other services at the state's other public colleges also have seen spending cuts. PSC members teaching at SUNY and CUNY should be vigilant in case New York State tries a similar tactic after the elections.

Minority College Enrollment Up...

First the good news: the college enrollment of minority students attending American colleges and universities jumped an average of 48% in the 1990's, according to a study by the American Council on Education. Now the bad news: Black and Latino student graduation rates still trail those of white and Asian-American students.

The report found that total minority enrollment increased from 2.7 million in 1990 to 4 million in 1999. This represents a gain of 68.3% for Latinos, 31.6% for Blacks, and 58.9% for Asian-Americans.

While the total numbers are up, women seem to be outpacing men. The gap is greatest for Blacks: 43.9% of women under age 25 are enrolled, while only 33.8% of men are enrolled in college, which represents a 5% decrease in male enrollment.

The other troubling aspect of the report is the graduation rates of minority students. Only 38% of Black and Native American and 46% of Latino students graduate within six years. In contrast, 59% of white students and 66% of Asian-American students graduate within six years.

...And So Is Prison Enrollment

In a possible answer to where the minority youth who *aren't* in college are going, a study by the Justice Policy Institute finds that there are more Black men in prisons than there are enrolled in colleges and universities.

There are currently 791,600 Black men in jail or prison, versus the 603,032 enrolled in colleges and universities. This

represents a tremendous increase since 1980, when 143,000 Black men were in jail and 463,000 were in college. This coincides with the prison construction boom that began in the 1980's. Regular *Messenger* readers may recall that a 1999 JPI report found that there was an almost exact transfer of funds from CUNY colleges to prisons from 1988-1998: college funding decreased by over \$600 million, while prison funding increased by about \$700 million over the same period of time. Thank you, Governors Cuomo and Pataki.

"It is a sad statement about our nation that it appears to be easier for governments to invest dollars into the incarceration of African-American men than it is for them to invest in higher education."

—Hilary O. Shelton,
Washington NAACP

Although the study doesn't account for the obvious age differences—most students finish college at a relatively young age—it does point out glaring problems with the system. Hilary O. Shelton, director of the Washington chapter of the NAACP told the *New York Times*, "It is indeed a sad statement about our nation that it appears to be easier for governments to invest precious public dollars into the incarceration of African-American men than it is for them to invest in higher education."

Don't SuperSize This

The *New York Post* reports that New York City officials provided a Manhattan McDonald's with free labor, using welfare recipients enrolled in the Workfare program. At least three welfare workers in food service training internships were required to work alongside paid Mickey D's staffers at for at least 6 1/2 weeks over the summer.

Jose Mercado told the *Post* that he had complained about having to do work for free for a company flush with cash, but was advised he had no alternative. "They told me if I did not keep working there they would close my welfare checks. I don't think it was fair for people like me to have to work in big companies that

make lots of money in the place of regular workers," the father of six said. Mercado said he worked 5 1/2 hours a day, three days a week at McDonald's.

Human Resources Administration spokesman David Neustadt said the McDonald's case was the first time a profit-making company had been provided with welfare workers. The HRA usually places workers in positions with non-profit organizations or the Veterans' Administration. Neustadt confirmed the arrangement with McDonald's ended in early

September, but declined to give specifics for the decision.

Mercado is now an active member of Make the Road by Walking, a low-income family advocacy group in Brooklyn. Despite participating in the city's job-search program, he still hasn't found a paying job.

"I always maintained myself and my family through work. I always worked," Mercado said. "I never asked for public assistance 'til something happened to me." **M**

not quite the news

By Hank Williams

The New Republicanz

New York State Governor George Pataki, running hard for a third term in office, had a secret campaign plan that would have been unveiled if the race with Democratic challenger Carl McCall proved tight, an unnamed source told the *Messenger*. Pataki—who has visited protestors on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques and called for reform of the Rockefeller Drug Laws (but not done anything to change them)—would have unveiled the secret campaign initiative: Republicanz 4 Life.

An unnamed source in the Pataki administration leaked the classified report to the *Messenger*. The plan had Pataki—who would have been known as "P-Dawg"—reach out to inner city Black and Latino youth: sections of the population that traditionally don't vote, and the ones that do usually vote for Democrats. "This population has been ignored by us for too long and written off by the Democrats", said our source.

Pataki's plan also included a makeover for reaching the new audience, including ads on MTV, VH-1, HOT-97, and magazines like *The Source*. The Pataki crew was so intent on the new plan that rap star Ja Rule was contracted as a special campaign consultant. Rule's duties included tailoring the governor's message to reach a young audience and coaching him in street talk, which proved a formidable task. "Money had no soul," Rule reportedly said. "I was trying to school him; telling him 'Yo, son, you got to keep it real,' you know."

Pataki apparently listened and made progress. "The governor was stiff at first, but he soon loosened up and readily adopted ghetto vernacular," said an aide. "Homeboy's shit was weak, but now he sounds dope," said Ja Rule.

At a mock press conference, a Rocawear attired Pataki, resplendent with a white do-rag and LA Lakers cap reportedly mounted the stage and said: "Aiiight, where my peeps at?" as the small audience looked on. "Yo, I wanna send shout-outs to all my crew. The P-Dawg's in the house."

The Pataki campaign office vehemently denies the reports, calling them unsubstantiated rumors.

More Proof: Hussein is a Goon

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, citing a classified report by an unnamed government agency and given to him by an unknown source, says that the US now has "incontrovertible evidence" that Saddam Hussein's Iraq has nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

"We knew it all along," gloated Rumsfeld. "I told you so!"

President George Bush was reportedly

skipping down Pennsylvania Avenue and could not be reached for comment.

The report clears the way for a full US military build-up leading to an invasion. "We're gonna put the smackdown on his ass this time. Bee-yatch," said Rumsfeld, grinning. Rumsfeld, who held the report behind his back during the press conference, said, "It's classified. If I showed it to you, I'd have to kill you. Just take my word for it."

Hussein Calls for 'Regime Change' in US

Iraqi president Saddam Hussein, in a rare public appearance, turned the tables and called for a "regime change" in the US. Hussein decided that he needed to respond to US President Bush's accusations.

"I'm the one that's elected," a clearly pissed Hussein said. "All this talk about 'regime change, regime change'—look, I won my election. Bush needed help from his little brother. My people did it the right way: you could only vote for me! Bush should've done the same thing."



Hussein won his election; can Bush say the same thing?

Hussein also blasted the charges that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction. "The UN inspectors—when they weren't spying on us—oversaw the destruction of all that stuff. I'd like to buy more, but all my suppliers are in the US! They won't sell me any more poison gas or nuclear materials."

Hussein also said that he would support a change in government in the US. "They're the ones who should have a regime change," said Hussein. "I still can't believe Bush is president. He's so stupid that he failed Headstart," said Hussein, drawing laughter from the press. "If they took a brain scan on him, it'd be a still life."

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer dismissed Hussein's accusations. "Hussein is lying as usual," Fleischer said. "President Bush was able to pass Headstart after some tutoring in fingerpainting and naptime." According to Bush's former teachers, he also played nicely with others. **M**

150,000 March against War on Iraq



On Saturday, October 26, throngs from around the country gathered in Washington, DC for what was probably the largest anti-war demonstration since the Vietnam war, and certainly the largest protest against a war that hadn't yet started.

CUNY Prof Runs for Gov

An Interview with Green Party Gubernatorial Candidate Stanley Aronowitz

By Lauren Fasano and Hank Williams

Stanley Aronowitz, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Urban Education at the CUNY Graduate Center, is the Green Party's candidate for governor. Although it seems like an unlikely choice to make for someone with decades in labor and social activism, to Aronowitz it makes sense. "The Greens are a party that is half a social movement and half an electoral party," he explains. His view of using electoral politics as only one arena of a wider campaign for social justice is, in part, what differentiates Aronowitz from the other candidates.

Although he is scarcely making a dent in the polls, he is succeeding in one major goal: moving the discussion of the candidates and the public in general to a more progressive agenda. Aronowitz supports abolition of the death penalty, free tuition in CUNY and greater support for public education, decriminalizing drugs, and a living wage. The Messenger's Lauren Fasano and Hank Williams engaged Prof. Aronowitz in a wide-ranging conversation, excerpts of which are reprinted here.

TM: Why run for governor?

SA: The main reason I am running for governor is that New York state politics is dead on arrival without the presence of a strong alternative, which the Green Party has offered. Since nobody of celebrity status was willing to run, I felt it was important to use this opportunity to raise the issues and reach out to people and give them some hope that something could change. The second major reason is that I have never run for public office, and before I die I figure it would be a good idea.

TM: How do you plan to accomplish the goals you propose? Some of them are very contrary to the business interests and special interests that have dominated for so long.

SA: I think that dichotomy—the split between electoral politics and social activism—is false. I think we need to use every opportunity and vehicle that is made available to us for this limited democracy that we live in to expose the issues and sometimes to win public office.

Although, my whole career has been through the labor and other social movements. I was active in the Civil Rights movement, against the war in Vietnam,

and I have been active in housing and education. But I think that the electoral arena really gives us an opportunity that we should not turn our back on.

I have gotten a fair amount of publicity and the publicity has been for the issues that we care about—at least ones I care about and many others in New York State care about. So I think that electoral politics is not the road to fundamental social change, but it is part of that process.

I think the criminalization of drugs has one point in this state: it provides \$2.5 billion to prisons and incarcerates Blacks and Latinos. Imagine if you had \$2.5 billion for CUNY and SUNY, for education, for other purposes.

TM: What are the Green Party's goals: are they to get a certain percentage of the vote and go further than you had before, or reach out to groups that you weren't?

SA: It is both. You got to get the vote to stay on the ballot and you have to understand that we are a ballot party: it gets us a lot of exposure that we wouldn't get if we were not a ballot party. Second thing, we are trying to build the party. It is the environmental people as well as the people concerned with social justice issues. And there are new constituents. We have growing student campus organizations, especially in upstate New York and New York City. There are campus organizations in CUNY, NYU, Columbia, and perhaps at St. John's. We are also doing considerable outreach to Black and Latino communities. [...] Those are the three major contingents: students, people in Black, Latino, and Asian communities, and labor.

Aronowitz on Economics and Minimum Wage

SA: In the city especially, how can you live on less than \$10 an hour?

TM: It's impossible.

SA: I mean there's a bill in the legislature to raise the minimum wage to \$6.75 per hour; they couldn't even pass that. There was a bill introduced by the Democrats for \$6.75 and the Republicans wouldn't even support that, so the bill is dead.

When we talk about our legislative programs, we're not talking about advocating for not only what is possible, we're talking about what is necessary. Why settle for the possible? If we were in a position over fighting for a minimum wage bill, we would start with \$10, and we would negotiate it—if we had to—down, but when you start with \$6.75, you end up with nothing.

So it's a different strategy from that of the Working Fam-

ilies Party or the strategy of the Democrats, which is always to start at the minimum and go down to the bottom. We're not interested in the race to the bottom, we're interested in the race to the top. It's a very different position.

Aronowitz on Drug Laws

SA: The Rockefeller Drug Laws—repeal the Rockefeller Drug Laws and decriminalize drugs. Now what that means is we don't consider drugs a criminal activity, we consider them a public health problem, like alcohol. We don't criminalize alcohol, do we? Why do we criminalize drugs?

You know we didn't criminalize drugs in 1900? This criminalization of drugs is a relatively recent phenomenon. Drugs are no more dangerous to people's health or people's well being than alcohol. Now, I am not for criminalizing alcohol, but I'm not for maintaining the criminalizing of drugs.

I think the criminalization of drugs has one point in this state: it provides \$2.5 billion to prisons and incarcerates Blacks and Latinos. Imagine if you had \$2.5 billion for CUNY and SUNY, for education, for other purposes?

Aronowitz on Civil Liberties

TM: How would you protect the public's safety and guard our civil liberties at the same time?

SA: I'd repeal the PATRIOT Act. I think that we have enough law in the United States to protect our safety. I think that much of what is going on with this safety business with the Homeland Security is really about—do you know what the Homeland Security Act is about? It is the follow-up to the PATRIOT Act.

The Homeland Security Act is a way of throttling federal labor. It's another anti-labor law. That is why it is failing to pass Congress, because for once the Democrats are underneath the pressure.

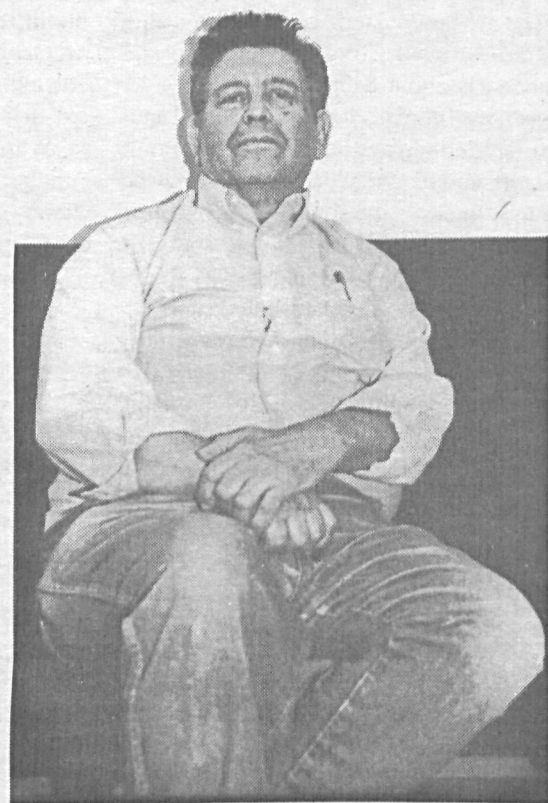
I think we need protection against the government. I think labor needs protection against the government. I think individuals need protection against the government. I think the PATRIOT Act and Homeland Security Act are unnecessary. I think that basically what we require is more vigilance against terrorism.

There is every indication that if there is this genuinely independent commission that we will discover that the Bush administration knew there was going to be an attack and didn't take adequate measures to protect us.

TM: How would repealing the death penalty protect our safety?

SA: There is no evidence that the death penalty is a deterrent to crime. We have a higher rate of murders, of homicides, in the United States and states where we have the death penalty, like Texas, New York, and other places.

We have a higher rate of homicide than any country in Europe, none of which have the death penalty. No European country—zero—(western European country) has the death penalty. They've repealed the death penalty and their rate of homicide is still lower. It doesn't mean that because they have repealed the death



Thurman Simabrita

penalty, they have lower rates of homicide. But the point is, there is no evidence there is a correlation between the death penalty and lower rates of homicide.

On the contrary, we have the highest rate of homicide in the world and we have a country where most of the states have the death penalty. So I say if you really want to eliminate homicides, you eliminate the causes of homicide. And, obviously, one of the causes of homicide is that too many people are poor. It's true that families are in terrible crisis because most homicides are not between strangers; most homicides are between friends or family members. We have to deal with those issues and not think that there's an instant solution called the death penalty.

So I'm for repealing the death penalty because it's inhuman, it violates—I believe—equal protection provisions of the US Constitution, and I think we ought to get on with providing jobs and actually fixing society, not worrying about whether we're going to kill people who have been convicted of murder.

We should have life in prison without the possibility of parole for people who have been convicted. But you know how many cases we have—in Illinois the governor said he's stopping the implementation of the death penalty because there's so many cases of wrongful conviction. Lots and lots of African-Americans have been put on death row unfairly and the death penalty has been used in Texas primarily against people of color. I mean, this is a scandal in the United States and still people hang on to the death penalty. Fortunately in New York State we haven't killed anybody [since the death penalty's reinstatement], but why should New York State maintain the death penalty when we know what it's about?

Aronowitz on CUNY

TM: What kind of movement do you think will be necessary to reinstate free tuition in CUNY?

SA: Students taking their education in their own hands and taking responsibility. I think tuition is outrageous, especially at a place like CUNY where most people are working class people and most come from families with incomes under \$20,000. Students have to get TAP, and the governor



Thurman Simabrita

held TAP out for a while because he wanted to punish people based on their grades.

I think the only way that we can restore dignity to this university and the economic viability of higher education for students is to reinstate free tuition. And that means raising taxes. You have to raise the money. Let me give you an example. State University of New York—including CUNY—gets 31 percent of the total budget of the state university campuses (of which City College is one) from the state. That means that 69 percent comes from other sources, and of that about half of the 69 percent comes from tuition. And I think that means that students are paying for their own tuition in cases where they can't afford it.

You know, higher education was instituted to benefit the total community. This is not just a benefit for individuals. This is a benefit for the business community because you have trained workers, this is a benefit for the polity—which is the community that participates in public affairs—because people are presumably more educated as a result of their attendance in higher education, so we ought to re-shift the emphasis from individual gain, which is true, to what the community gains from higher education. We don't ask people to pay for elementary and secondary education. We assume that that it is in the interest of the community to make it free. Although there are people pressuring for privatization even there, but we still regard—and, I think mistakenly—higher education as a privilege. It's a necessity.

I think the only way that we can restore dignity to this university and the economic viability of higher education for students is to reinstate free tuition.

Eighty-three percent of high school graduates in New York City go to some form of post-secondary or higher education. And the reason they do that is because there are no good factory jobs left. Because the service jobs are paying much closer to the minimum wage, which is still down in the sewer somewhere, in the \$5.15 category than decent wages. So in order to make a living wage, in order to make a decent income you need a credential. You need a community college credential, but particularly a four-year college credential. And if that is true then we ought to regard college education as a right, and if it's a right, then it ought to be free.

Aronowitz on Social Movements

TM: Do you see any connection with the strength of social movements and social gains? Because in '69 when there was the takeover of City College, you had the Black Panthers and Young Lords very active and a lot of community support when they tried to call the police on campus, but by 1975 to '76—partly because of government repression, but for a lot of other reasons—those movements had declined.

SA: That's exactly right. And if I may use a mathematical formula, there's a direct correlation between the strength of social movements and the progress that we make. [Consider] Frederick Douglass' old

phrase: there is no progress without struggle. And in fact when struggle abates, it's not going to be the legislature and its not going to be the men and women at the top of the political or the economic pyramid that are going to enact real social change, social change will come always from the bottom and from the strength of social movements.

Social change will come always from the bottom and from the strength of social movements.

TM: Which, I guess, goes back to what you started with about the two-prong strategy of having strong social movements and direct action—well, you didn't say direct action...

SA: I believe in direct action. I believe in civil disobedience, and when the laws are bad laws they should be disobeyed. I follow Martin Luther King in that regard.

There is no reason why people should obey racist laws. They undertook freedom rides, they undertook sit-ins in lunch counters to get real fundamental Constitutional rights. I see no reason if such rights are being abrogated by the PATRIOT Act, by anti-immigrant stuff, by the refusal of the administration and the legislatures to enact decent laws, why shouldn't people take direct action? Now direct action doesn't necessarily mean civil disobedience. It could mean demonstrations, it could mean mass lobbies, it could mean picket lines, it could mean a whole variety of other things. But the right to free speech is what we're trying to protect.

Aronowitz on the War on Iraq

TM: The Bush administration, it seems, is pushing harder and harder for a war on Iraq, even though a lot of people are not quite there yet. What kind of movement do you think is going to need to be built to actually to prevent that?

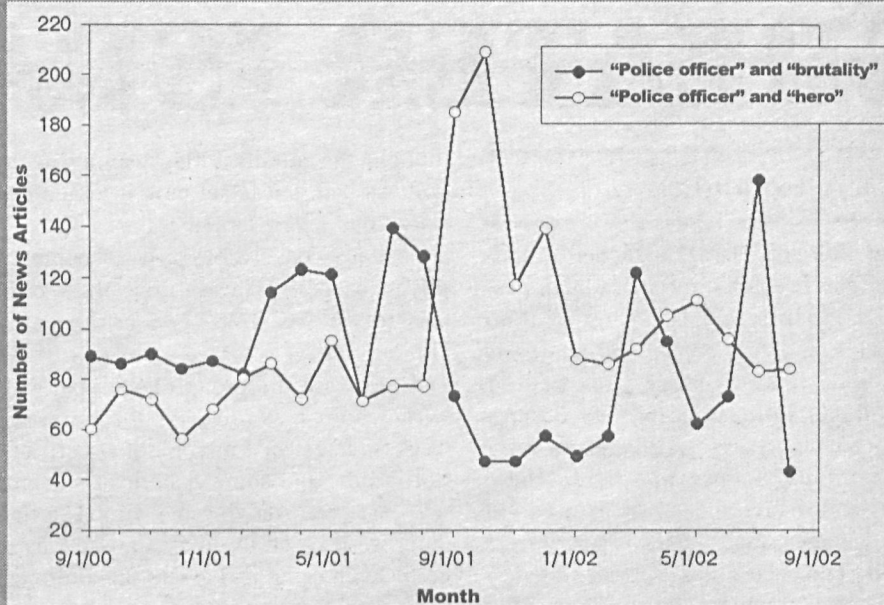
SA: I have my reference of the anti-war movement in Vietnam. We had a million people [protesting] in Washington DC in 1967. I think that it is only a popular mass anti-war movement that is led primarily by young people that is going to change this. Older people will participate and have an interest in participating, because sending the US to war among other things means no money, but it is the younger people who will be directly affected if a full-scale war starts.

I don't think they will stop at Iraq. I think that the idea of limited war is not the Bush administration agenda. They tried to overturn the government of Venezuela, and they failed and there is no reason we wouldn't see further efforts all over the world to try to topple governments.

Now Brazil will have a left-wing president. Do you think that the Bush administration is going sit there and let the left-wing president run the country unless he is in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank? No, I think they are going to try and subvert him one way or another.

I don't want that kind of government and I don't feel comfortable being an American as long as this country is going to subvert democratic will all over the world. I feel Saddam Hussein is a bad man there is no doubt about it. The Baath in Iraq is a one-party state and I am against that, but the Bush administration want to go to war to maintain [the supply of] oil. **M**

Brutal Heroes?



Using Lexis/Nexis, the Messenger contrasted the monthly number of articles published in major newspapers nationwide that used the words "police officer" and "brutality" somewhere in their text against the number using "police officer" and "hero." Before September 11, discussion of police brutality typically outpaced police adulation. In the six months following September 11, talk of heroism apparently pushed brutality off the mainstream's radar. Even as post-9/11 police boosterism has since waned a bit, discussion of brutality remains sporadic at best.

Whether police brutality actually declined is not known as police departments refuse to release statistics for civilian complaints against officers by month or precinct. But according to the October 22 Coalition, an anti-police brutality organization, 150 civilians have been killed by police since September 11, 33 of them in the New York/New Jersey area. In addition to a continuing "baseline" brutality, there are the thousands who have been detained without charge as a part of the Bush administration's so-called "war on terror." State repression is a type of police brutality.

Why Spit Hate at Homosexuals?

By S.P.

Most individuals in this society would agree that people deserve equal rights. They would agree that women should be able to rise on the economic ladder and that children should have a say in this world. They would even state that religious freedom is something to be had. But let a parent hear that a local schoolteacher is gay; they may end up pulling their child out of the school. Those are the people who swear up and down that equality is the key. They talk the talk, but they certainly do not walk the walk. Homophobia is a serious issue and we should treat it as such.

Homophobia is when someone has an intense fear or a hatred for a person that is attracted to the same sex. We all as human beings have things that we do not comprehend. It is natural to be wary of what is totally foreign to us. What is wrong however is to see something that is foreign and to attack it for no valid reason. Society has to remember that homosexuals are human beings too. Just like anyone else they need to work, they need a place to stay and they need to eat.

One day during this semester I was walking with a male friend of mine and we were conversing and laughing as friends usually do. We came to a stop, in front of two other people. I heard one of the individuals say the word "faggot" and they were looking at my friend. My friend had no clue that they had mentioned this word. I chose to ignore it. But even so I was angered that those people had the gull to use a word like that and continue laughing. So what if the guy was feminine? I thought that they should have given him some respect, if they didn't like something about him then they should of went on with their business.

Sometimes heterosexuals feel that if a gay person comes out to them then there must be some attraction. That is not

always the case. A homosexual may come out to a straight friend just so that he/she can be free with themselves or because he/she respects the other party so much that they feel that it is okay to reveal something that is so intimate. Of course it is a shocker to the heterosexual friend but the best thing that a person can do is to look at their gay friend as a human being. To see them as a whole person, not just at the fact that they are attracted to the same sex.

Tolerance and acceptance is the key here. Tolerance means that you don't agree with the homosexual way of life but you will not hinder them in any way, shape, or form. It's okay to not agree with something, everyone has that right to that, but again the fact that you do not agree is not a basis to harass an individual because of his or her orientation. Acceptance means that you are okay with it, and that is a fine mind frame to have as well.

Homophobia is an issue that is very much alive today, but you as a person can do something about it. You can either agree to push it along or to help stop it. The choice is yours. **M**

S.P. is a member of the CCNY Rainbow Alliance.

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A REPORT-BACK FROM GREATER ISRAEL PALESTINE

By Marc Rodrigues

Earlier this year, Israel launched a massive offensive against the Palestinian people. Bulldozing homes on top of their occupants, shooting people and purposely denying them access to care, re-installing a brutal and suffocating military occupation over previously nominally "autonomous" Palestinian land—these crimes and many others were carried out with assurance, funds, and weaponry from the US. The excuse this time was "Palestinian terror," which was combatted, in turn, by terrorizing three million Palestinian people.

The International Solidarity Movement

Before, during, and since this period, the International Solidarity Movement, a Palestinian-led organization which believes in the philosophy of nonviolent direct action, has organized the presence of hundreds of "internationals" from North America, Europe, and other parts of the world to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people. ISM activists directly confront, with the aid of our privileged "international" status, the machine of Israeli occupation. Activists document the daily human rights violations so that we may come back to our own communities and spread the truth about what is happening—a truth radically different from the

thought the mindless flag-waving in the US was bad, but Israel took it to another, ridiculous level. Israeli flags hung from almost any conceivable piece of public or private property; it wasn't out of the ordinary to see cars with 2 or 3 of the plastic clip-on variety.

I met with the group of internationals with whom I would pass the next two weeks—an eclectic mixture of Americans, Europeans, and some American students who had been studying in Cairo. The first thing we decided to do as a group was to go to Jenin camp and assess the aftermath of the Israeli onslaught.

As we often did, to get from our base in East Jerusalem to some city or town in the West Bank, we would catch a Palestinian cab early in the morning who would take us as far as he could go without running into any checkpoints. At a given point, he would stop and let us out, and what we often had to do was sneak around and surface on the other side of the checkpoint, where another cab would be waiting for us.

Of course, this was only a slight inconvenience for us, and we would suffer little if any reprisal. For Palestinians, it's a matter of life or death. Ambulances, wounded people, and pregnant women have been stopped and denied passage at checkpoints resulting in many deaths. Sneaking around a checkpoint is an offense that may carry an on-the-spot death sentence for Palestinians. Checkpoints and roadblocks are



Members of the International Solidarity Movement stepping over the barricade at the Church of the Nativity.

blatant lies and misinformation most Americans are fed through the mainstream media. I joined the ISM in the West Bank and Gaza from April 20 to May 5 of this year.

I joined the ISM because I could no longer bear to watch and hear the daily reports coming out of the Occupied Territories and knowing that my tax dollars and my complicity were making this horror possible. I could no longer bear to witness such a tragedy unfurl before my eyes and do nothing. The reports kept coming in: 40 Palestinians killed in one day; international activists fired upon with live ammunition; Ramallah and almost every other major city in the West Bank overrun and occupied; egregious curfews and human rights violations; Jenin.

Seeing with My Own Eyes

Thirty minutes into Israel and I was already being familiarized with its jingoistic and settler-colonialist character. I

rampant throughout the West Bank and Gaza, virtually imprisoning entire populations and preventing normal daily activities.

The Devastation in Jenin

Arriving in Jenin City (adjacent to the refugee camp) I was reminded of the scenes from Ground Zero and the light-colored dust that covered everything in the area. The same type of dust made a thin layer that covered everything in Jenin, a result of the massive destruction of homes that took place in the center of the camp.

Jenin camp was a scene of utter destruction that words can't sufficiently describe it. The Palestinian Authority headquarters was completely destroyed by rockets fired by Apache helicopters, and its operations had been moved into tents out in front of the rubble. The entire middle section of the camp was flattened. Army bulldozers had flattened rows of



Much of Jenin Camp now looks like the surface of the moon.

houses with people inside them to make wide enough paths for tanks to come through. The camp was bombarded from the air. Several of the Palestinians who died in Jenin bled to death from only minor wounds—Israeli forces would not let in an ambulance until two weeks after the initial attack.

As I walked around Jenin, I saw piles of rubble that used to be people's homes. I saw pieces of chairs, mattresses, scarves, a tiny shoe that belonged to an infant, and other possessions jutting out of the debris. I thought to myself, is this the "terrorist infrastructure" that Israel claims it was targeting in Jenin? Does it serve "Israeli security" to level refugee camps?

Amidst all this destruction there was one piece of heavy machinery digging out some of the rubble, and 20 or so people around it, just looking as it dug. People didn't really know what they would find under all of this, and I realized as I walked on some of the rubble that there could very well be someone's corpse not too far under my feet. The smell in some parts of the camp certainly indicated this possibility, as well as the fact that they had pulled out some bodies from the rubble in the days before I got there.

"We Will Stay Here"

I saw one small boy trying to move aside some small pieces of rubble with a fork. I saw several people sitting in their living rooms that were missing one or two walls, just looking out at the destruction, or not looking out and just trying to have some semblance of a normal life. I passed by a barbershop that was missing the entire front wall and had no electricity, and sure enough a man was sitting in the seat getting his hair cut.

As we walked along a lot of people started to gather around the volunteers from the Medical Relief Committees who were with us, and I saw two of them put on some latex gloves and take out a plastic bag. They had discovered a piece of a child's skull that still had some hair attached to it. People just looked on and shook their heads. Besides a crude type of rage and bewilderment, I didn't know what to think. Was this some

more of the "terrorist infrastructure?"

One elderly man said to me in English, "This is Hiroshima New." Looking around at the destruction, I had to agree with him: it did in fact look like an atomic bomb had gone off and leveled the center of the camp.

I saw many signs of resilience from people. In fact, the resilience and courage of Palestinian people is something that I have never experienced before in my life. On the side of one house appeared a spraypainted slogan: "We will stay here." This single phrase sums it all up—Israeli policy is a policy of continuous intimidation and violence, in which they exercise control over Palestinian life and movement, destroy crops, and kill civilians with impunity, in an effort, ultimately, to drive Palestinians out, if not totally, at least out of those areas deemed strategic by Israel or which contain large amounts of potable water.

Overwhelmingly I saw the Palestinian response to this policy: "We will stay here" is the mindset of a people determined to hold on to their land and way of life and to not be intimidated by these tactics. Palestinians in refugee camps can point to the map or in some cases look with their own eyes and see where the village they were born in is located—in



A building turned into Swiss cheese by the Israeli Occupation Force.

many cases, the buildings are still there, the occupants Israelis. How can we talk about the violence of Palestinian “suicide bombers,” and not talk of the daily violence of curfew, checkpoints, tanks, F-16s, and second-class citizenship? How can we talk about “peace” while people are imprisoned in Bantustans and live under a belligerent foreign military occupation? Where is the logic in this?

In Jenin we also visited homes that were taken over and decimated by Israeli soldiers during the attack. They demolished staircases and used the stone to barricade windows. They punched holes through walls to be able to shoot at anything that moved outside. They vandalized, defecated in, and destroyed people’s homes. One of the homes taken over belonged to a doctor. He and his family were locked in a back room while Israeli soldiers shot at people who were unknowingly coming to seek medical attention.

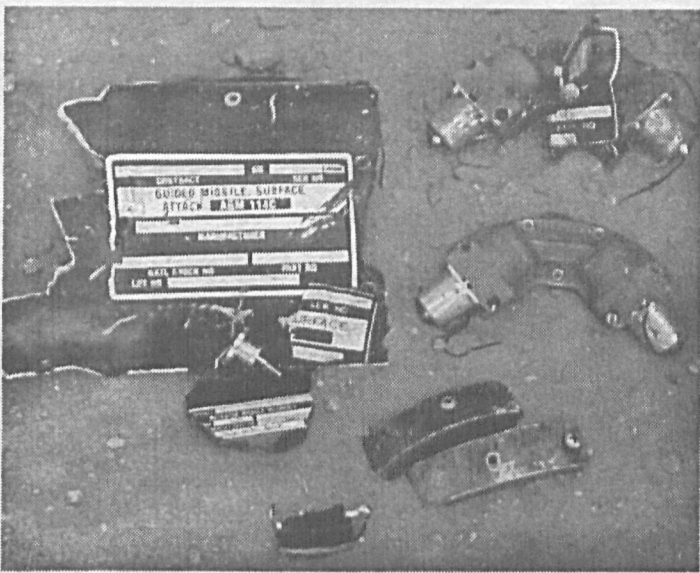
The US Contribution: Weapons

While in Jenin I also saw one of the many American contributions to Palestine—an olive green container for one of the many rockets fired at Jenin. I noted that it had Hebrew writing on one side, with “Made in the USA” on the other, along with a serial number, which I wrote down and looked up when I returned home, yielding this description:

66mm High Explosive Antitank Rocket... its light weight and ability to penetrate more than 30 centimeters of armor make it a weapon that can be used against enemy tanks, bunkers, and other hard targets out to a range of 200 meters.

The container also carried a warning on it which said: “Caution Radioactive Material.” The fact that such a weapon would be used against civilian homes in a refugee camp gives you an idea of what is really going on here.

Our group also participated in a nonviolent march on the first Friday after cur-



Remnants of a guided missile made in the US and a rocket from a helicopter that is made in the US.

few was lifted in Ramallah. Our march was greeted by live ammunition, tear gas and concussion grenades, the last of which exploded near a journalist’s face, severely burning him. That was before the soldiers started aiming them at ambulances.

We were also among the first people to break the siege on the Church of the Nativity, attempting to deliver supplies to those inside. We refused to recognize the illegitimate authority of the occupation forces and simply got up and left after they tried to detain us near the church. They put up some resistance but ultimately let us go, one of the many episodes in which it was revealed they literally have no idea how to handle nonviolent protest; or any protest for that matter where they don’t have a green light to shoot and kill.

The Prison of Gaza

I would like to describe what I saw in Gaza, because it has been largely ignored by both the mainstream and alternative media, I think, because it hasn’t been the scene of a full, direct invasion—yet. However, the day-to-day conditions that Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are subjected to amount to a very unique type of terror.

Gaza is in effect a huge prison which is one of the most densely populated areas in the world and where only a few thousand Israeli settlers control 40% of the land, control the usage of water and the main road, with Israeli military outposts to “protect” them. Meanwhile, over one million Palestinians live on the rest of the land in a state of constant intimidation and with almost no right or ability to leave Gaza and only a slightly better ability to move around within Gaza.

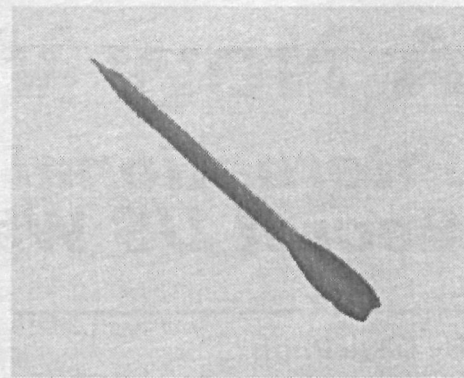
In Gaza I saw a Bedouin village in

which thousands of refugees live in aluminum shacks and have very limited access to water and medical care, overlooked by an Israeli military tower which “protects” a nearby illegal colonial settlement and has the habit of shooting at anything that moves, especially after dark. I saw many huge dirt mounds in the streets that people have built in an attempt to protect themselves from incoming Israeli tanks. I drove on a beach on the Mediterranean Sea to avoid having to go through a checkpoint, and was stuck for an hour as we tried to pull the car out of the wet sand, a weekly occurrence for the driver.

Banned Weapons

I visited Wadi Salka village in the south of Gaza where Israeli soldiers had recently gone on a mindless rampage, destroying crops and trees and ripping up irrigation systems. We were taken to a concrete shack that housed the water well which many of the villagers relied on. There were gaping holes in it, the result of a gratuitous attack by Israeli soldiers. The villagers pointed out to us a large amount of what appeared to be two-inch-long metal darts, which were impaled in everything from the concrete wall to a metal fence.

They explained to me exactly what these darts were and when I returned home I did some research which only confirmed my disgust: Each of the rockets fired contains thousands of these darts, called “flechettes,” and disperses them in an area 300 meters long and 90 meters wide. If the purpose of this type of weapon is not to terrorize people, then what is it? For all the hype we hear about Palestinian bombs laced with nails, have



Steel “dart” that is fired from Israeli Occupation Force tanks. There are hundreds of these deadly darts fired with each round. Each dart is about 3.5 cm long. Imagine what this could do to a person. Isn’t this a terrorist’s weapon?

you ever heard of the Israeli use of flechettes? A use, by the way, which violates international law.

Things here are far worse than I ever imagined. After having seen what I have seen it is clear to me who are the “terrorists” and who are the victims. The Palestinian people live under an overwhelming occupation that restricts their freedom of movement and their very right to live. This is the “democracy” that you hear of so often.

And I have not even begun to describe it. **M**

Marc Rodrigues is a student at Queens College and a member of Students for a Free Society.

For Further Information:
ISM: palsolidarity.org
directactionpalestine.com

Student Space

continued from page 4

space for our program. There is no other place to meet and have our supplies,” said Kenyi Ogando, a student in Education and a long-time volunteer for the pre-university program.

“I would like them to leave us alone so we can concentrate on matters worth fighting for and on things that are more productive than having to keep looking behind our shoulders worried about our space,” Pichardo told the *Messenger*. “These administrators—Dagan, Ryan, and Posamentier—are creating a climate of intimidation.”

Empire-Building

Faculty the *Messenger* spoke with noted that there are “many empire builders” at City College. They cited Dean of Humanities James Watts, who took over the space for Academic Advising for his own suite of offices after getting Academic Advising disbanded and relegated to the Departments.

The Dean of Social Sciences moved the Sociology Department offices down the hall on the NAC’s sixth floor. The English as a Second Language program was downsized and relocated to a room near the garbage elevator.

Sources told the *Messenger* Posamentier is moving to expand his “space empire” now that he officially became Dean of Education this year. “AI is a favorite of the Provost. He gets more rooms and faculty lines,” one faculty member told the *Messenger*.

Campus imperialism was somewhat regulated in the past. For years an Operations Committee coordinated the allocation of space on campus. That committee, on which students, faculty and staff served with administrators, has for the past

decade been largely defunct.

A new committee is to be formed under the auspices of Strategic Planning. Strategic Planning is an effort at City College to devise and implement a five-year plan to improve the campus. The effort is comprised of five task forces, largely consisting of faculty. Each task force is dedicated to a specific set of campus problems: facilities, enrollment, technology, academics, and a 9/11 consortium.

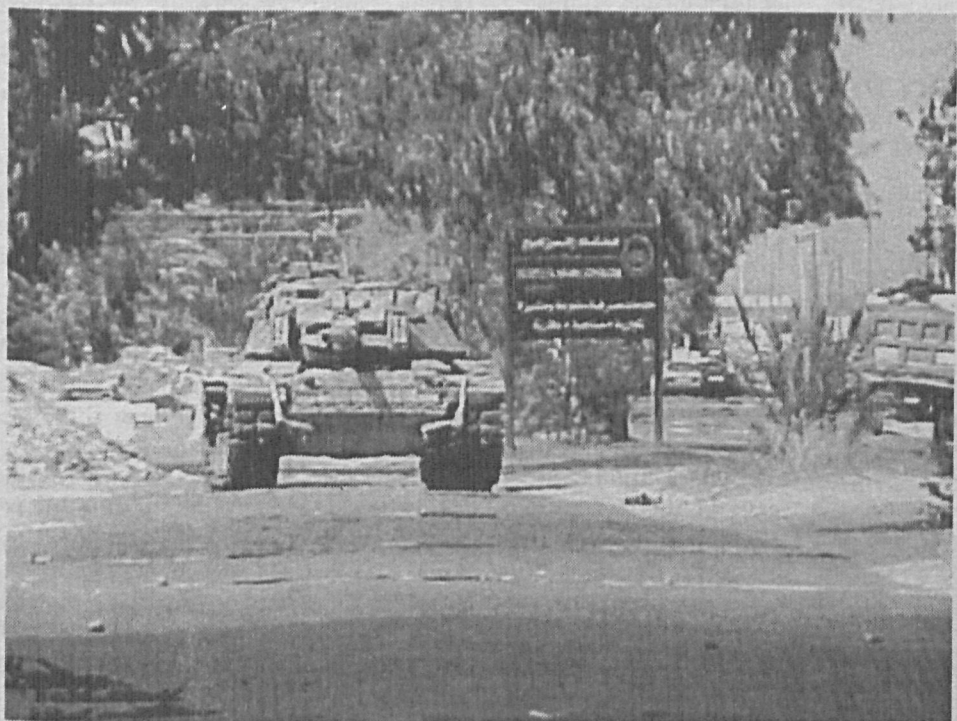
The Facilities Management Task Force recommended the formation of a new committee overseeing space allocation. The “Space Advisory Committee” would only “advise” the President about space allocation and “provide an adjudication process for disputes.”

All email inquiries to members of the Facilities Management Task Force about whether Cronholm informed them about the plans for Wingate Gym and whether the Space Advisory Committee has yet met went unanswered save by one task force member. Architecture Dean Lance Brown referred the *Messenger* to one Lois Cronholm.

“I think ‘public’ space is a particularly serious issue here at City, as the idea seems to be that ‘public’ space is to be controlled and defined by the administration,” said Professor Lawrence Hanley, chapter chair of the Professional Staff Congress, and, for the record, *Messenger* faculty advisor.

“So far, that control has not seemed to promote the kinds of values—debate, openness, discussion, free speech—one usually associates with either academic values or the public sphere,” said Hanley.

For the record, Rob Wallace is a Community Center staff member, *Messenger* editor Henry Williams is the Community Center’s Assistant Director and Center Director Felipe Pichardo helps with the *Messenger*’s distribution. **M**



Israeli Occupation Force tank blocking our path—or are we blocking its? This tank was between us and the intersection we must cross to get into the central portion of the Gaza strip. The Israeli Occupation Force fired three warning shots at us and also shot at some Palestinian youth to the left of us throwing rocks at the tank.

A New Vietnam in the Philippines?

International Solidarity Mission Pulls Covers off Secret US War

By Dave Pugh

From July 25 to 31, I joined 68 people from 10 countries on the International Solidarity Mission against US Armed Intervention in the Philippines (ISM). As an anti-war activist today (and back in the day), I was interested in finding out why the Bush administration wants to make this archipelago of 80 million people into the "second front" in its so-called war on terrorism.

I was eager to learn more about a progressive people's movement that has deep roots among the Christians, Muslims and indigenous peoples who live in the Philippines. I also wanted to understand how the Filipino people look at the US, their former colonial rulers from 1898 to 1946.

Philippines 101

Along with others from the US and Canada, I visited organizations that are working effectively among workers (KMU), farmers (KMP), women (GABRIELA), urban poor, fisherfolk, the indigenous peoples of northern Luzon (Cordillera People's Association), and teachers and students. These groups are part of the national democratic (ND) movement.

We had the opportunity to observe how ND activists have built a mass base numbering in the millions to fight for genuine national freedom, democracy and social justice. They have built a broad, militant and unified movement against foreign domination and wealthy Filipino landowners and comprador capitalists (who front for multinational corporations).

The ND activists I spoke with were very knowledgeable about the Philippines-US war, fought between 1898 and 1914. This war is typically described in American high school history books by a picture showing Commodore Dewey sinking the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay. The Filipino people are absent.

In actuality, almost 60 percent of the US Army had to be sent to the Philippines to suppress a powerful nationalist movement that had just won independence from Spain. According to a progressive member of Congress, Rep. Satur Ocampo, the human cost of the US conquest was 800,000 to over 1,000,000 dead. This was 10 to 15 percent of the total population of the Philippines at that time!

In order to justify and carry out this slaughter, the American troops were trained to call the Filipino people "niggers" and "monkeys." After his troops lost a battle on the island of Samar, General Jacob Smith issued orders to "kill everyone over the age of 10." This racist, genocidal war set the pattern for later US wars in Korea and Vietnam.

A university teacher in Manila described the segregated, Jim Crow US Army to me, and the extremely high rate of desertions among Black soldiers. He also talked about David Fagin, an African-American soldier who decided he had more in common with the Filipino people than his racist commanders, and became a highly decorated general in the Filipino independence army.

This savage war led to nearly 50 years of direct U.S. colonial rule of the Philippines. Political independence was granted in 1946. However, this led to a new form

of colonial rule ("neo-colonialism"), in which US interests are protected by a tiny Filipino elite. I could see why American history books suffer from amnesia when it comes to the last 100 years of US-Philippines relations. It just doesn't fit the official theme for the 20th century: "American democracy and capitalism spread their benefits to the grateful, backward peoples of the world."

Who Are the Abu Sayyaf?

On July 25 we flew to Zamboanga, home to the Philippine Army's Southern Command and the U.S. military HQ for the Philippines. We spent the following two days on the nearby island of Basilan. (See map.)

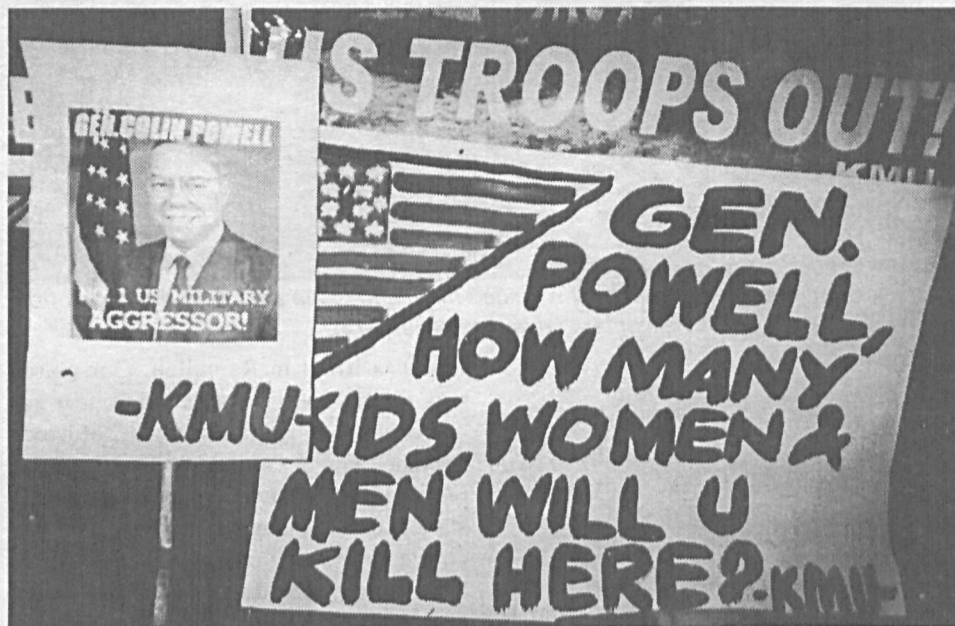
The main part of our trip was spent interviewing and hearing testimony from Muslim victims of military raids, and prisoners falsely accused of being Abu Sayyaf members. In Isabela, the capital of Basilan,



lan, the mayor told us that the Philippine Army had deployed twelve combat battalions on the island, with orders to search for, and destroy, the Abu Sayyaf Group.



A peaceful protest at President Arroyo's state of the union address on July 22 is attacked by riot police.



Kilusang Mayo Uno, a militant trade union federation based in Manila, sends a message to CCNY alumnus general Colin Powell.

He estimated that the Abu Sayyaf had 70 to 80 fighters.

In our background briefings, we learned that the Abu Sayyaf was founded by Filipino Muslims (with CIA assistance) during the anti-Soviet war in Afghanistan. When they returned in the early 1990s, the Abu Sayyaf was used to split and discredit the Moro Muslim movement in the southern Philippines. With its main goal accomplished by the mid-'90s, the Abu Sayyaf degenerated into a bandit group. It specialized in kidnappings for ransom, with occasional beheadings of hostages.

As the Bush administration launched a global war on terrorism in 2001, the Abu Sayyaf stepped up its anti-people activities. It staged several internationally publicized kidnappings of tourists and two fundamentalist missionaries from Kansas. The Abu Sayyaf provided a convenient excuse for renewed US armed intervention in the internal affairs of the Philippines.

Moreover, there are credible reports of government infiltration of the Abu Sayyaf, and of continuing collusion between Abu Sayyaf leaders and high-ranking military officers. This could explain why the Philippine armed forces—even with US high tech weapons and advisers—has been unable to crush a terrorist group of less than 100 men.

131 Prisoners in 4 Cells

Our first visit on Basilan was to the Provincial Jail, where 131 prisoners were being held in four cells. Even the guards were worried about contracting TB due to the appalling conditions inside the jail. We met with 25 detainees who were suspected Abu Sayyaf members.

I met with three boys, ages 14 to 16, who told me they had been picked up by soldiers while they were at school. Like the adult male detainees, they were taken to a military post and tortured to make them admit they were Abu Sayyaf. Then they were put in this hellish jail and imprisoned for months without a hear-

ing, without any charges, and without any evidence against them. Sound familiar?

The next day, we split up into three groups. One group went to the town of Lamitan to gather more information about continuing reports of collusion between the Abu Sayyaf and the military. In June 2001, the Abu Sayyaf seized over 20 hostages and holed up in a hospital in Lamitan.

We interviewed Father Cirilo Nacorda, a parish priest in Lamitan, and other witnesses. They described how Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya and his men escaped after talks with the governor and army commanders. Fifty million pesos (US \$1 million) reportedly changed hands.

A second group traveled to a barangay (village) just outside Isabela City to investigate the "Makiri Massacre" and its aftermath. On March 19, 2002, residents of Barangay Makiri were leaving their homes to avoid nearby army gunfire. Four of the men from Makiri, ranging in age from 11 to 36, were taken away by the military.

Later that day, Makiri residents were shocked to see the lifeless bodies of three men and a boy on TV. The military identified them as "Abu Sayyaf killed during a [military] encounter with the army." ISM delegates interviewed two of the widows of the victims, and the mother of the 11 year old.

Unarmed Filipino Muslim Shot by US soldier

The third group had just received a report of a shooting of an unarmed Muslim man by an American soldier in Tubaran, in a remote part of Basilan. That afternoon, Juraida Isnijal told us of how her house had been raided on the night of July 25 by two Filipino soldiers and an American soldier, and that the American shot her husband in the leg while he was sleeping with his family. The team collected physical evidence of this raid: a shell casing, bloody sheets and floorboards, and US Army C-rations and dextrose packs.

We also interviewed a Filipino doctor who treated Mr. Isnijal that morning. He stated that Isnijal was brought to the hospital by a US Special Forces sergeant named Reggie Lane and two white American soldiers who had been present at the raid.

Conflicting stories began to come out from the authorities. The Philippine army



The campus of Polytechnic University, in the background, situated right next to an urban poor community, in foreground. Sort of the Philippines version of City College in Harlem.

first said that Mr. Isnijal was wanted for murder. A day or two later, the military said that he was a suspected Abu Sayyaf member. General Ernesto Carolina from the Southern Command publicly stated that US Special Forces were present at the raid, including a Reggie Lane, but they had not taken part in the raid.

The US military in Zamboanga denied that its forces were present at all! The ranking public relations officer stated that they had never heard of Reggie Lane. (See

field to close. This powerful anti-bases movement was able to write into the Philippine Constitution a strict prohibition of combat operations by foreign military forces on Philippine soil. The Tubaran raid also violated the Terms of Reference of the current US-Philippines "military exercises"—which are supposed to involve only training.

The shooting of Mr. Isnijal made the headlines on the main Filipino papers and TV stations for a week! On the sixth day after the shooting, a Philippine army sergeant came forward to reveal that it was HE, not the American soldier, who had actually shot Mr. Isnijal. The ISM secretariat asked me to put on my "attorney hat" (I was a civil rights lawyer before I started teaching), and prepare some remarks on the use of this Filipino soldier as a "fall guy" for the US military.

My comments ended up on the front page of the leading Philippine daily on July 31, and I was able to press ahead on two Manila TV shows the next day. We repeatedly challenged General Wurster and Secretary of State Colin Powell (who was due in Manila on August 2) to meet with the US delegation before the ISM issued its final report. They didn't show up.

In Front of the US Embassy

The public uproar from the shooting of Mr. Isnijal forced Powell and President Arroyo to delay signing a formal pact that would allow the US to set up new military bases in the Philippines. The Arroyo regime reacted by banning demonstrations during Powell's visit. It also threatened to "detain and deport foreigners" participating in them.

In response, several thousand workers, Catholic, Protestant and Muslim religious leaders; youth and students; farmers from central Luzon; and the three Congressional representatives of Bayan Muna (People First), a progressive electoral party, assembled in downtown Manila on the morning of August 2. ISM members from five countries proudly joined our Filipino sisters and brothers in a peaceful, disciplined march and rally directly in front of the American embassy.

At the embassy rally, and throughout the ISM, speakers had returned again and again to two themes: the growing danger of direct US military aggression against the Filipino people, and a sharp increase in repression by the Arroyo government

and the armed forces.

Over the last year, more than 20 Bayan Muna party workers have been killed by military-organized death squads. Posters commemorate the lives of martyred human rights workers such as Benjaline Hernandez (see picture). The army invariably claims that these activists are really "New People's Army guerillas"—much like the US military in south Vietnam routinely added ordinary civilians to their "Viet Cong" body counts.

Next US Target: the New People's Army

As even progressive electoral work in the Philippines has become life-threatening, increasing numbers of young workers, farmers and students have decided to go to the countryside (or the mountains) to join the New People's Army (NPA). The Manila papers report that the NPA now operates in 125 guerilla zones throughout the country.

The revolutionary forces claim that a "people's democratic government"—



Above: Benjaline Hernandez, a 22-year-old human rights worker in the Philippines. Below: The same woman, dead, after a military-organized death squad got through with her.



which has a written constitution and bill of rights—exists in about 20 percent of the Philippines' villages. In these areas, visitors have witnessed broad campaigns for land reform, increased production, education, health and hygiene, and for military defense of the people's communities.

Amnesty International and other human rights groups have documented the armed forces' extensive record of attacks on civilian communities—by means of aerial bombing, artillery, flame-throwers, and strafing by rifle fire. The Philippine army routinely tortures and murders captured members of the NPA and suspected supporters.

In contrast, the NPA shares food with captured soldiers, gives medical care to the sick and wounded, and voluntarily releases ordinary soldiers in good condition. Due to this humanitarian policy, ex-POWs have resigned from the armed forces and become vocal critics of the government.

Just days after her meeting with Gen. Powell, President Arroyo and her generals declared "all-out war" on the NPA and its political leadership, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). Back in Washington, DC, Powell added the NPA and CPP to the State Department's list of alleged "foreign terrorist organizations." In the first week of August, the rationale for US armed intervention in the Philippines shifted from suppressing a tiny Islamic terrorist group, to targeting a nationwide revolutionary movement that strongly opposes terrorism and has deep roots among the Filipino people.

US Military Operations Move to Central Luzon

The next "joint training exercises" will involve over 5,000 US troops, and are planned to last from October 2002 to June 2003. They will be concentrated in central Luzon, where no Abu Sayyaf are present! However, this area is a stronghold of the NPA and the mass organizations that look to it for political leadership and physical security. US Special Forces units have already been observed conducting intelligence and combat operations in this area.

Thus, the shooting on Basilan uncovered by the ISM should serve as a "warning shot" to the American people. Bayan Muna's representatives are organizing a congressional investigation of this incident and the US armed intervention in the Philippines. Solidarity activists in several US cities are starting a campaign to gain a parallel inquiry in the US Congress.

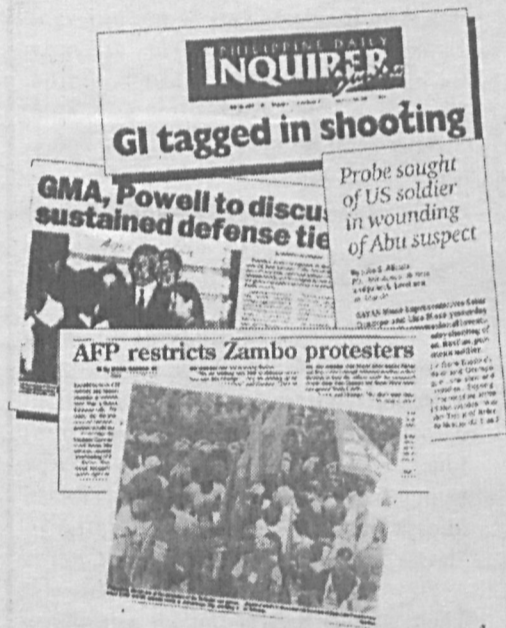
During my trip, I had surges of memories about another US war in Southeast Asia. During the early stages of the Vietnam War, several thousand US advisors were providing training to the south Vietnamese army. Then, as now in the Philippines, the US was propping up a corrupt, repressive government of a wealthy elite who serve foreign imperialist interests.

Will tens of thousands of Filipinos, and Americans, have to die in a Second Philippines-American War? Isn't it time to sound the alarm?

If you are interested in hearing more about the ISM, or how you can hook up with Philippines solidarity work, please contact the addresses below.

Network in Solidarity with the People of the Philippines (NISPOP): (212) 741-6806 nispop@nispop.org www.nispop.org

Dave Pugh is a NYC high school history teacher. Some of his students from A.P. Randolph, Grace Dodge and Theodore Roosevelt H.S. currently attend City College. M



headlines from the Manila newspapers.) The nine US members of the ISM attempted to set up a meeting with Brigadier General Daniel Wurster, the commander of US forces in the Philippines, to hear his side of the story. We hand-delivered a letter to General Wurster's office, and were told that we would receive an answer the following day. All we got was non-existent phone numbers and the runaround. A cover-up was underway.

This was the first solid proof that US Special Forces have been leading the Philippine army in combat, that a secret war is already underway in the Philippines. The Tubaran raid was not reported anywhere in the US mainstream media. It seems that the Bush administration (and the loyal Democratic opposition) want to avoid a public debate on what the US military is really up to in the Philippines.

Tubaran Raid Touches a Raw Nerve

In the Philippines, this incident touched a raw nerve. Many Filipinos have not forgotten the Philippines-US War. In 1992, the Filipino people forced the huge US military bases at Subic Bay and Clark Air-

art the Messenger attack arts and entertainment section

Going on a Poverty Safari

In *Nickel and Dimed*, Barbara Ehrenreich charts the unexplored territory of the working class, replete with khakis.

by Alexis Logsdon

"I had the salmon and field greens," Ehrenreich says in *Nickel and Dimed*, "and [then] the conversation drifted to one of my more familiar themes—poverty." The conversation with her editor led Ehrenreich to go undercover as a low-wage worker. The contrasting luxury of her surroundings and the poverty she is discussing ("the roughly four million women about to be booted into the labor market by welfare reform") is an irony not lost on Ehrenreich. Throughout the book she refers back to the comfy life she will eventually return to when her foray into hands-on investigative journalism is over.

Ehrenreich began the project in the fall of 1998, as welfare was wrested from millions of women and they were forced to enter the job market with few skills and less pay. Ehrenreich chose three cities (Key West, Portland, Maine, and Minneapolis) and applied for the jobs she thought she—or, at least, the non-PhD-holding version of herself—qualified for: waitressing, housekeeping and retail sales. Her goal was to find out what recent ejectives from welfare were up against.

In the chapter on waitressing, Ehrenreich describes a co-worker, "Joan, who had fooled me with her numerous and tasteful outfits... [and] lives in a van parked behind a shopping center at night and showers in [a co-worker's] motel room. The clothes are from thrift shops." Ehrenreich notes that though no statistics exist on the number of working people living in their cars, "Nearly one-fifth of all homeless people... are employed in full- or part-time jobs." This combining of anecdote and statistic is frequent in *Nickel and Dimed* and is the most successful tactic Ehrenreich uses to make the problems of the working poor seem "real" to her middle class audience.

Another theme is Ehrenreich's refusal to suffer certain "indignities," such as being drug-tested by her employer. While this is a humiliation and an invasion of privacy, many working people are subjected to and must comply with this at some point in their working lives. At one point in the "experiment," Ehrenreich develops a rash and, rather than waiting

out the night at the local emergency room as many people without health insurance have to do, she calls her dermatologist and gets a prescription over the phone. When the going gets tough for salmon-and-field-greens Ehrenreich, toilet-scrubbing Ehrenreich moves over.

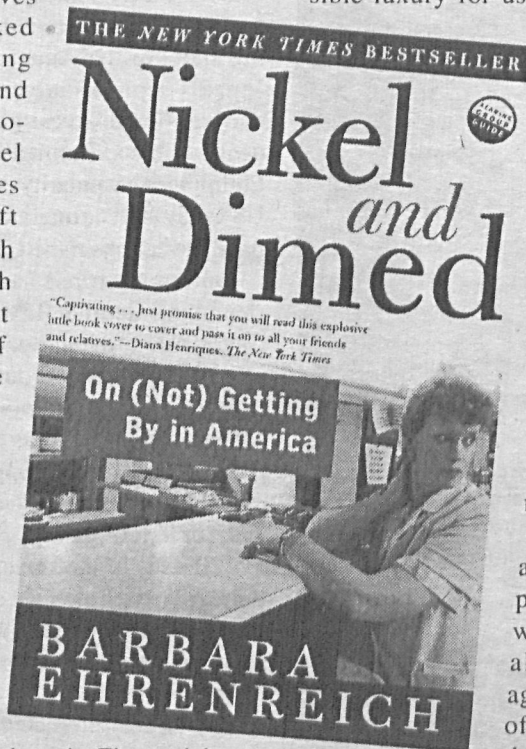
This gets at the heart of the book's biggest failing: it was written by and for the middle and upper classes—a book, as one reviewer put it, to be "shelved prominently in second-home bookcases." This may not seem to be a flaw in and of itself, but it does beg the question: Why are working-class people not writing and publishing their own stories?

As someone who has worked retail in Key West and waitressed in Minnesota (the reverse of Ehrenreich's experience), I know a little something about what it's like to survive in low-wage jobs in those cities. In Key West I lived with two other women in a one-bedroom apartment to afford the \$750-a-month rent while working for \$7 an hour at one of the town's ubiquitous t-shirt shops. Full-time hours were not available, nor was health insurance. Most people I knew had similar living situations, unless they lived in illegal storage spaces above restaurants and shops, where they had no running water. Ehrenreich's secluded cabin on the outskirts of town would have been an impossible luxury for us. In Minneapolis, I

worked as a busser and waitress in numerous restaurants. As with the retail shops, I worked without health insurance, guaranteed full-time hours, or even breaks. In the real working world, there is no dermatologist in shining armor to call in the night.

While Ehrenreich aptly describes the physical pain of waitressing, it is always painted against the backdrop of the pampered life she has left behind for

this field trip into the working world. Ehrenreich self-consciously reminds us she is not used to this backbreaking work and lacks the perspective to accurately describe the magnificent hardships of the working poor. Her reiteration of her "otherness" leaves the nagging question about real workers' stories hanging in mid-air. Where are these stories? And why does "one well-off woman's safari into the jungle of low-paid labor demand our attention in a way a worker's story would not?"



September Mourn

He called from the train station
to tell her
how much he had enjoyed
their anniversary dinner

He called as he sat on the train
staring out
at the endless towns
leading into the city
to tell her
he was tired
of the long journey everyday

He called as he stood by the window
of his office
on the 98th floor
to tell her
the view was breathless
and
he enjoyed the perks of his job

It was a sunny day

She called because
she had heard the terrible news
on the radio
but
the line was busy

He called as he crawled
under his desk
in pain
to tell her
that
he was not afraid to die

She cried

He called to tell her
to be strong
and
that he would always love her

She cried again

He called to say goodbye

—Lydia Ariaudo Gragg

News As Usual

Sprint announces
a wireless milestone
2000 minutes
anytime
plus
a free PCS phone

A
Sniper leaves
"I am God"
calling card;
another killed
while pumping gas

Kuwait assailants
who killed
a
U. S. Marine
went to al-Qaida camp
another violent incident

When Johnny comes marching home
John Walker Lindh
sentenced
to 20 years

Diocese to pay
950,000 to settle
suits by priests
as far back
as 1957
in New Hampshire

State Department
wants Americans abroad
to stay vigilant
because of
terrorists actions

Germans
arrest a Moroccan
involved
in 9/11 plot

President Bush
gains backing
for Iraq war resolution
Thank you
Senator John Kerry

Suicide bomber
kills one
after being subdued
by Israeli bus driver

Two Americans
to share
Nobel prize for economic sciences
for
trying to explain
idiosyncrasies in
"HOW PEOPLE MAKE DECISIONS"

There's never been
a better time
to invest
in
FUTURES

—Lydia Ariaudo Gragg

Some elements of Ehrenreich's book point to the answer. Though early on she mentions her father was a miner and a teamster before moving up and out to the green complacency of suburbia, Ehrenreich writes in a style guaranteed to comfort the upper- and middle-class audience she means to cultivate. The book is full of subtle, but unmistakable, references to middle-class trappings. When dusting the books in a wealthy person's home, she is delighted when she has "spotted an Ondaatje." Ehrenreich speaks to the audience most likely to buy her book in a way that gives them a frame of reference, if not an escape from the dire facts.

If I wrote a book about waitressing and described waiting to see the doctor in a Medicaid clinic for three hours, the cheap tips that well-off people often leave, or explained to the readers how their food was delayed because the restaurateur refuses to pay his Ecuadorian dishwashers more than five dollars an hour, leading the

dishers to stage a walkout so that the chef has to scrub his own sauté pans, most people would find it too discomfiting to read.

Ehrenreich's focus on building an affluent audience's awareness of the plight of workers fails to address the need for a strong labor movement. With a movie version in the works and a stage production in L.A., *Nickel and Dimed* has made a mockery of itself. Joan Holden, who adapted the book for the theater, for one, did not aim for serious social change with her play. She hopes only that people "stop to consider the working poor" and become "better tipper[s]" and pay their cleaning ladies more." While these actions will marginally improve the lives of a lucky few, most low-wage workers will still—in some cases literally—be left out in the cold.

Until the voice of the worker is an actual worker, instead of a safari-explorer disguised in restaurant-issue khakis, we can hope for nothing better. **M**

Fidel: The Untold Story

By Hank Williams

Estela Bravo's new documentary begins with Fidel Castro not in the Plaza de la Revolución, nor by the side of fellow revolutionary Che Guevara, but in Harlem, where he delivered a public speech a few years ago. Fidel isn't even shown at first. The camera focuses instead on the thousands of people who showed up to hear Castro speak, but couldn't get in, and those protesting Castro's appearance. Ultimately, that's the point that Bravo wants to get across: Fidel is a man of the people. The story is more complicated than that, though.

Cuba has been a pariah for the last 41 years, and Castro has been subjected to the same demonization currently lavished on Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden. Monsters, once made, are not easily unmade, which partly answers the lingering blockade and continued invective by the hardcore anti-Castro Cuban exiles and conservative dinosaurs like Senator Jesse Helms.

The documentary has already been panned by the *New York Post* and given marginally more praise by the *Times*. *Fidel* isn't objective—true—but a close reading of the rest of the title, *The Untold Story*, reveals that it does indeed deliver what it promises, which is not a bad thing. The anti-Castro zealots and all manner of Cuba critics are easily encountered on the *Post*'s alter ego Fox News, CNN, and in the *Times*. *Fidel* gives us the side of Castro and Cuba that is infrequently told: its identification with Africa, support of revolutionary movements around the world, and leadership in the areas of health care and education.

After a brief overview of Castro's childhood and early political career as a law student and activist at the University of Havana, the movie goes to more familiar territory, delving into the failed 1953 attack on the Moncada garrison that was quickly and brutally suppressed by Fulgencio Batista's forces. Interestingly, *Fidel* spends little time on the actual 1959 revolution, instead concentrating on post-revolutionary Cuba and the country's contradictions and challenges.

What *Fidel* does well is to return Castro to the realm of the human, rather than reinforce the prevailing demonic view. Castro comes across as witty, charming, and intelligent. He is shown hunting with Nikita Krushchev, joking with Nelson Mandela, and swimming.

The coverage of the CIA's failed 1961 attempt to overthrow the Cuban government at the Bay of Pigs provides insight into Cuba's priorities: rebels captured by the Cubans were exchanged for baby food and medicine.

In 1975, Cuba sent 33,000 soldiers to assist Angolan rebels in their struggle for independence from Portugal. The US, in contrast, sent CIA agents and support to South Africa, which entered the fighting on the side of the Angolan government. The rebels' victory in Angola dealt the Apartheid government a decisive blow, and, hints Harry Belafonte, helped change the face of Africa.

Cuban intervention in Angola was a risky proposition for Cuba: had the effort failed, their own revolution might have been in trouble. *Fidel* paints the assistance as an important episode in Cuban history; a chance to connect to their African roots. The difference in Cuban support is important here also: Cuba sent doctors and engineers to help rebuild war-torn Angola along with the military aid, not corporations seeking profits.

Fidel: The Untold Story does have flaws. It doesn't cast a critically objective eye on the problems homosexuals have faced, glosses over the very real problems of the "Special Period" after the USSR's collapse when Cuba almost imploded, and fails to address the current challenge of how to integrate the tourist trade with the ideals of the revolution. It also suffers from a soundtrack more suited to NFL highlight films and occasionally didactic narration.

A more serious problem is the contribution to worship of Castro as revolutionary hero. Cuba has responded to constant pressure by the United States and economic challenges by reaffirming its support for Castro. Indeed, *Fidel* points out that Castro personally oversaw all aspects of society during the economic restructuring, while ignoring the negative

aspects of this decision. Socialism is about true participatory democracy, not a cult of personality. Castro's influence and the lack of broad leadership and political debate in Cuba have weakened

the revolution and stifled the painful, but healthy process of creating a new society.

The mainstream criticism of *Fidel* is, I suspect, less a reaction to the real shortcomings of the film than a mirror of the fear of what Cuba has tried to achieve. The US-supported military coup resulting in the death of Chile's democratically elected socialist president Salvador Allende in 1973 serves as a warning for what the ruling elite here hoped would happen in Cuba. Overt identification with Africa, a serious attempt to undo the damage of institutionalized racism, and the nationalization of resources to benefit Cubans—not corporations—make Cuba too dangerous to contend with.

The common perception of Cuba, like that of most monsters, is one mediated by the fear of the unknown. Hatred masks our own insecurities. Watching footage of Texaco oil signs being removed from newly nationalized refineries after the revolution and confronting the gross inequities that capitalism doesn't even pretend to address must surely be disconcerting for those whose existence is inextricably linked with exploitation.

The truth can be a dangerous thing. Far better to keep it in the closet, hoping that eventually it will go away. *Fidel: The Untold Story* makes a valiant attempt to uncover the truth and start the process of healing and reconciliation that has been deferred for far too long. **M**

Fidel: The Untold Story. 90 minutes. Playing at the Quad Cinema in Manhattan and BAM Rose Theater in Brooklyn. Directed by Estela Bravo.



Justifiable Homicide, or Just Another Homicide?

By Dan Clemente

A mother's love can go a long way in her child's life. It also goes a long way to battle for justice for her son and nephew.

Justifiable Homicide is a fast-paced, gripping tale about Margarita Rosario, mother to Anthony Rosario, 18, and aunt to Hilton Vega, 22, the two of whom fell easy prey to the trigger-happy New York Police Department back in 1995. The two were victimized even though they, along with Freddie Bonilla, who police also shot, surrendered. The Bronx family has yet to receive justice.

This documentary successfully explores all of the steps taken by Margarita's organization, Parents Against Police Brutality, to seek justice for her family and families of other victims showing marches and speeches. It also depicts the emotions of and the expressions of all parties involved. This point is evident at the beginning, when she hammers out garlic for dinner. Because she's so heartbroken, she takes her frustration out on the garlic.

The movie lets Rosario take the opportunity to get inside her son as a person. By letting her talk about his past and what his aspirations were, while she holds up a picture of a 17-year-old Anthony, as well as taking the audience inside his old bedroom, which she has still left untouched, *Homicide* gives him a real personality. Anthony's Dad expresses disappointment by picking up his son's clothes, half-wanting to throw them in disgust, but holds on to them in dismay, pondering the tragedy. *Homicide* also gives the audience Vega's history and personality through pictures and video shots of him in his environment.

Those who either support the NYPD from day one of Mayor Giuliani's watch in the mid-1990s or have had their minds changed since 9/11 into thinking they're saints can't immediately have sympathy for anyone killed by cops. The police usually feel anytime they shoot a person dead and eliminate "waste," they're doing it for the benefit of the city, regardless of whether the person has a criminal history.

The Jon Osman-directed piece walks the audience chronically through the shooting, how it came about, and the reasons why the media, the mayor, the police and its commissioner excused the shootings orchestrated by 46th Precinct officers in the Tremont section of the Bronx. It gets information and input from lots of angles.

First, it emphasizes gruesome pictures of Rosario, shot eight times, and pictures of Vega, who had fourteen bullets pumped into his body. Then the much-maligned Civilian Complain Review Board offers exceptional insight in this particular case. A board investigator sheds light on Vega's police record and Rosario's lack thereof, which proved that they did not warrant the execution-style murders, despite what Giuliani said to a caller on his weekly radio show in a matter-of-

fact and upbeat fashion. The caller wanted new information regarding the case. Giuliani, as he did so many times, downplayed this police debacle.

The board discussed at length how the shooting and the cover-ups went down. It was all about a husband-and-wife team's scam gone awry, which involved the three young men. The wife called police to tell them that Rosario would come back to hurt them, which led the police to automatically assume that Rosario and whoever else would be packing some heat.

According to the CCRB, the husband of the couple involved, George Rodriguez, who had an extensive record and was by no means a nice guy, was given special protection by the police. Right from the moment Rosario, Vega, and Bonilla appeared on the Rodriguez doorstep, the cops were waiting for them to make their move by stepping inside. After the men gave themselves up by putting down their guns, they were dealt their fate of death, except for Bonilla.

Bonilla appears throughout the documentary in a CCRB video, where he gives his most detailed account of the shootings by going back to the alleged crime scene. Then this film shows how George and Hermanlinda Rodriguez were shuffled from place to place for free, compliments of the NYPD, in efforts that the CCRB does not come too close to examining. It also shows how family, friends and witnesses were not told of the murders right away and how they were forced not to testify against officers from the 46th Precinct.

What makes *Justifiable Homicide* appalling is the united opinion of Giuliani and the police that they were in the right, and that the environment of the borough and the uprooting of its residents is mainly responsible for the way the people in this particular borough are portrayed (stereotyped is more like it), making it okay for cops to unleash their biased furor.

It is this attitude, which the majority of police have, that calls for not only an overhaul but a revolution for a better criminal justice system. *Justifiable Homicide* proves this claim through not only nice editing, shooting, and music, but through cold hard facts that will make even the biggest police supporter either change their tune altogether or at least think about where their tax dollars are going to. **M**

Justifiable Homicide will be shown at Anthology Film Archives Nov. 6-12.

October–November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Art Show: Judy Chicago: <i>The Dinner Party</i> . The Dinner Party is a symbolic history of women of achievement in Western civilization. Through February 9, 2003. Brooklyn Museum of Art, 2/3 Train to Eastern Parkway.	28 Art Show: Gary Simmons. "Drawings, photographs, sculptures, and videos... using popular cultural references as their point of departure." Through January 5, 2003. The Studio Museum in Harlem, 144 West 125th Street (btw Adam Clayton Powell and Lenox).	29 Art Show: Lorna Simpson: Cameos and Appearances. Simpson has created provocative works in the areas of photography, installation, and film that challenge racial and gender stereotypes. Through January 26, 2003. Whitney Museum, 945 Madison Ave (75th St.), 6 train to 77th St.	30	31	1 Concert: Antibalas. 12am 'til dawn, advance \$12, day of \$15. S.O.B.'s, 204 Varick Street (Houston), (212) 243-4940.	2
3 Poetry: Amiri Baraka and Amina Baraka with New Ark. 8pm. \$15/10. Bowery Poetry Club, 308 Bowery @ Bleecker (across from CBGB's), 212-614-0505.	4 Black Solidarity Day. Keynote address by Charles Barron, panel on hip-hop and health and a play about Malcolm X. 11am. Atrium Amphitheater, NYC College of Technology, 300 Jay Street, Bklyn., (718) 260-5205.	5 Performance: Studio Orchestra. 3:00 pm, Shepard Hall, Rm. 95, 212-650-5411.	6 Forum: Marxism & the Black Panther Party. 7:30 pm, The Brecht Forum, 122 West 27th Street, 10th Fl., 212-242-4201, info@brechtforum.org. Film: <i>Justifiable Homicide</i> . Giuliani supporter is transformed into an anti-police brutality activist when NYPD detectives murder her son. Dir. by Jon Osman, 2002. Anthology Film Archives, 2nd St & 2nd Ave, through Nov 12th.	7 Film: <i>Strange Fruit</i> . Documentary about the anti-lynching protest song made famous by Billie Holiday. Dir. by Joel Katz, 2001. Film Forum, 209 W Houston St., through Nov 19. Film: <i>Cityvisions</i> . Films by Media Arts MFA students. 6pm, FREE, Aaron Davis Hall at CCNY. Architecture Lecture: "Circling the Drain." Malcolm Holzman. 6:30pm, Great Hall, 2 fl. Shepard.	8 Film: <i>Justifiable Homicide</i> . See 11/6. Forum: <i>Four Decades Of Puerto Rican Poetry In New York City</i> . 6pm, Lang Recital Hall, 4th fl. Hunter North, Hunter College: Lex Ave. @ 68 St., 212-772-5714. Langston Hughes Festival Award Ceremony honoring Nobel Laureate poet Derek Walcott. FREE. 6:30pm, Aaron Davis Hall at City College.	9 Film: <i>Justifiable Homicide</i> . See 11/6. Men's Basketball vs. St. Joseph's. 7pm, Holman Gym (Science Building).
10 Film: <i>Justifiable Homicide</i> . See 11/6. Reading: "Godmother," a play about Langston Hughes. 3pm, FREE, Aaron Davis Hall at City College.	11 CUNY Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting. 4pm, 535 E 80th, Rm. 104., 212-794-5450. Film: <i>Justifiable Homicide</i> . See 11/6.	12 Film: <i>Justifiable Homicide</i> . See 11/6.	13 Forum: "Jews and Power." Prof. Morris Dickstein talks about the dearth of political fiction from 20th Century Jewish novelists. 6:15 pm, CUNY Grad. Ctr. 365 5th Ave. @ 34 St., 212 817 8215. Last day to apply for "W" grade.	14 Book Party/ Forum: <i>The Puerto Rican Nation on the Move: Identities on the Island and in the United States</i> . 6:30pm, Rm. 217, Hunter West. Hunter College. Lex Ave. @ 68 St., 212-772-5714. Forum: <i>Building a Movement for Media Justice</i> . 7:30 pm, \$6-\$10, Brecht Forum, 122 W 27th St (6th/7th Aves), 212-242-4201, info@brechtforum.org.	15 Film: <i>Urban Warrior</i> . Documentary about use of military tactics in law enforcement. Dir. by Matt Ehling, 2002. 7:30pm, Brecht Forum, 122 W 27th St (6th/7th Aves), 212-242-4201, info@brechtforum.org.	16 Seminar: <i>Is Peace Possible?</i> Featuring Humberto Brown & Horace Campbell. 9am (all day). Brecht Forum, 122 W 27th St (6th/7th Aves), 212-242-4201, info@brechtforum.org.
17	18	19 Forum: <i>Independent Media</i> . With special guest Amy Goodman. 6pm, FREE, NAC Bldg., Room TBA, City College. Piano Recital: Eduardo Withington, jazz pianist. 3pm, Rm. 95, Shepard Hall.	20 Forum: <i>Justice and Reform in Child Welfare</i> . John Courney with Folasade Campbell, moderator. 7:30pm, Brecht Forum, 122 W 27th St (6th/7th Aves), 212-242-4201, info@brechtforum.org.	21 Concert: Gil Scott Heron. 9pm & 11:30pm, \$17. S.O.B.'s, 204 Varick Street (Houston), (212) 243-4940. Forum: <i>Healthcare in the US and Cuba</i> . Discussion of current state of healthcare in both countries and a talk on the Cuban medical school scholarships for minority students in the US. 6 pm, NAC 0/201. 212-650-5008.	22 Film: <i>Power and Terror: Noam Chomsky in Our Times</i> . Documentary by John Junkerman. Film Forum, 209 W Houston St.	23 Seminar: <i>Individual, Society & the Problem of Consciousness</i> . With Ray Rakow. 11am–2pm. Brecht Forum, 122 W 27th St (6th/7th Aves), 212-242-4201, info@brechtforum.org.
24	25	26 Piano MA Recital: Toyomi Shoji, jazz pianist/composer. 3:00 pm, Rm. 95, Shepard Hall.	27	28 No School.	29 No School.	30

Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping

A Different Kind of Faith-Based Initiative

By Brendan Costello

Among the many memorials that marked the one-year anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, those that emphasized dissent and stated "Our Grief is Not a Cry for War" received scant attention, even in the ostensibly left-leaning Village Voice.

One of the overlooked events of that day took place in St. Mark's Church on the Bowery, and featured speakers including Kurt Vonnegut, Malachy McCourt and many others representing a variety of grassroots activist groups. The evening was hosted by Reverend Billy, the culture-jamming founder of the Church of Stop Shopping. His sermon, part holy-rolling, part comedy, part improvisation, ended with the description of Bush et al. as terrorists who had hijacked the airliner of our government. In the impassioned conclusion, the Reverend exhorted the congregation to "storm the cockpit" and take back control to avert another disaster.

The Reverend Billy (creation of performer/artist/teacher Bill Talen) built his rep in New York City for pranksterish "shopping interventions" in the Disney

Store and Starbucks locations, as well as his dramatic campaign to save the Poe House on West 3rd Street from NYU's wrecking ball. Through it all, his ministry has focused on resisting the corporatization of our souls, and by extension the souls of our neighborhoods and our city.

His anti-consumerism message has morphed into an anti-war stance, aided by the post-9/11 call to shop for America, the Worldcom and Enron et al. scandals, and Andrew Card's now-infamous quote explaining that "from a marketing point of view," Bush's plan to attack Iraq would be released in September, because "you don't launch a new product in August." The war is being sold to us, as both a enticing but deadly entertainment, and also a distraction from the economy. In both cases, the mass media is not only complicit, but seems to be a willing partner.

Perhaps this is what makes Reverend Billy's method so effective—his approach is media-savvy, in the sense that it is something wild and exciting, imaginative and funny. He infiltrates the media by providing a good image. In many ways his project is born of the same impulses that characterized Seattle '99—not only



from the political issues but in the use of creative, performance-based and previously untried methods.

Plus, he really is a good preacher—like someone whose job is to inspire his flock every Sunday, he finds different ways to convey the same basic message. His church services are an antidote to the crushing repetition of most political rhetoric, spreading the anti-globalization, anti-imperialist, anti-consumerist gospel by taking on a variety of issues with compelling philosophy and, most revolutionary, with real humor.

Beginning on November 17th, the Rev will host a month of Sunday evening services that will be filmed for public access television. For more information, visit

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Space

continued from page 3

Community Center are only the latest in what has been a twenty-year rollback of student control of City College space, starting with Finley Hall, the old student union, torn down in the early 1980s. Only a couple floors in Baskerville Hall and a few rooms in the NAC are currently run by student clubs. Plans to refurbish Baskerville are likely years away from being realized.

How should students respond? Can students depend on their student government to defend them?

At some point in an interview with the *Messenger*, USG President Jonathan Rinaldi answered in the affirmative when asked if he spoke on behalf of the administration. Unfortunately, Rinaldi also characterized himself more as a "mediator" between students and the administration, not the representative he was elected to be.

It appears, then, that on this issue students will have to represent themselves. Five hundred students protesting in Chief Operating Officer Cronholm's office on the third floor of the Administration Building would be a good start. Sustaining a yearlong student power campaign to exact demands for more student space would be an excellent next step. Demanding USG act as students' representatives, not mediators, would cap off the semester nicely.

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