



BACK IN STYLE: RACIAL PROFILING ★ AIDS EPIDEMIC:
 GENOCIDE IN NYC? ★ CCNY LOOKS AT DEATH ROW
 ★ CCNY PREZ SNUBS STUDENT BODY ON 9/11 IMPACT

THE MESSENGER

A SUBSIDIARY OF THE ENRON CORPORATION VOL. 4 NO. 3 DEC-JAN 2001-02 UNIVERSITY OF HARLEM
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CCNY Student and Family Arrested by FBI, Face Deportation

Students organize in her defense

By Hank Williams, Alexis Logsdon, and Rob Wallace

The *Messenger* has learned that Reem Khalil, a senior biochemistry major at City College, and her family are being detained by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in New Jersey's Hudson County jail and may be deported any day.

According to Frances Aboushi, a CCNY international studies major and a close friend of Reem's, the Khalil family was arrested on February 27 by the FBI. Aboushi told the *Messenger* that the Khalils' house was stormed by a group of FBI agents at six in the morning. FBI agents shackled the family members' hands and feet before transporting family members in separate vehicles to FBI offices in Federal Plaza in Manhattan for questioning.

Aboushi told the *Messenger* Khalil's father was questioned by the FBI several weeks previously about terrorism. The father, who owns a Manhattan restaurant and has lived in the US for nearly two decades, was released when the FBI found nothing linking him to terrorist attacks. The Khalils are from Syria.

Because the Khalils are undocumented, the FBI turned them over to the INS, who are holding them in jail until deportation proceedings go through. The INS has split up the family, and is holding them in separate facilities. Reem, her mother and teen-age sister are in Hudson County, her father and one teen-age brother are in Bergen County (New Jersey), and a second teen-age brother is in Philadelphia. Two younger siblings who were born in the US (and, thus, are citizens) are being cared for by a neighbor.

Aboushi contacted the CCNY Coalition Against the War about Reem's

plight. The Coalition organized a speak-out in NAC Rotunda on March 7. Following the speak-out a group of about 25 students went to the office of CCNY President Gregory Williams to present the situation to him.

Williams wasn't there, but the group was able to talk to Jean Wiles, Deputy to the President. "We demanded [that] President Williams defend one of his students by speaking out about her detainment," said Shaun Harkin, who was part of the delegation that spoke with Wiles. "Additionally, we demanded the



Reem Khalil (center), the CCNY student kidnapped by the FBI and held in INS detention.

response be immediate since Reem's fate is in the balance."

A faculty member who spoke to Williams reports that the president was upset that students had gathered in his office and demanded to see him.

Several groups and individuals at CCNY are trying to do whatever they can to help secure Reem's release and publicize the case.

Aboushi, who has talked to the family's attorney, says that it will be difficult to win any concessions for Reem in the current political climate. Aboushi feels that the Khalils should be released and Reem be allowed to complete school. Reem was scheduled to graduate in June.

CCNY's Faculty Council passed a resolution asking for the college administration to act on the situation. A petition is also being circulated demanding her immediate release. "Over 200 people signed the petition," says Harkin, "and many now know about what's happened to her. This a good start, [but] now we have to build on it."

"If there's no proof [of the father's guilt], there's no way to justify [the arrests]," Pranita Tamma, a bio-med senior, told the *Messenger* when informed of Khalil's situation.

"The FBI was being careful, but the FBI's personal feelings played into their treatment of the family," said Nidhi Babbar, a senior biology major. "America is full of immigrants. When someone from another country does something wrong, you can't just link everyone of that descent to the crime." **M**

CUNY's Stealth Tuition Increase

By Hank Williams

The CUNY Board of Trustees has quietly implemented an array of fees and stealth tuition increases that will have CUNY students paying higher bills starting this semester. In the past few months the board has decided to force undocumented immigrants to pay out-of-state tuition regardless of where they live, ended the policy of offering free tuition for the last semester before graduation, and implemented a new "technology fee" for all students.

Attacking Immigrants

The first increase announced was the out-of-state tuition charge for undocumented immigrants. CUNY presented the plan last semester and was hit with a lawsuit by the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, as well as a protest including a hunger strike in front of CUNY's East 80th Street headquarters for several days in January.

The lawsuit failed, with New York State Supreme Court ruling that CUNY was allowed to charge out-of-state tuition to undocumented immigrants. CUNY estimates that around 2,200 stu-

dents throughout the university will be affected, although they don't seem to have an exact number. SEEK Professor Carol Smith told the *Messenger* that she believes that there could be as many as 500 such students at CCNY alone.

There are other attempts to organize around the issue, including a recent hearing by the City Council's Higher Education Committee and a bill introduced by state Assemblyman Peter Rivera of the Bronx that would allow undocumented students who graduated from a New York State high school (or received a GED) to pay in-state tuition. Texas and California offer similar plans. Jobs with Justice, a community organizing group, is also trying to organize a grassroots campaign to overturn the tuition hike, but for now immigrants will have until the end of the semester to pay the extra cash.

Hitting the Rest of the Students

Undocumented immigrants are by no means the only ones to suffer. Starting in the fall, full-time students will pay \$75 fee per semester, ostensibly to pay for improved computer facilities and to hire more lab technicians. Part-time students

will pay \$37.50.

Some students who feel that CCNY is technologically backward are meeting the fee with skepticism. "We have one printer for 10,000 students," one student told the *Messenger*, referring to the main computer lab in Cohen Library, which has a 10-page printing limit and is often beset by balky internet service.

The last immediate CUNY fundraising proposal involves the elimination of the Last Semester Free policy. CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein questioned the value of the program and noted that the extra income would provide \$9 million in added revenue, which would be enough to pay for 150 more full-time professors.

Goldstein maintains that this change "is not a tuition increase," or at least that is what he told the City Council Committee on Higher Education. Goldstein's semantics aren't fooling skeptics, however. "These charges constitute a backdoor tuition hike," says CCNY Psychology Professor Bill Crain.

Barbara Bowen, President of the Professional Staff Congress (CUNY's faculty and staff union), objected to the move,

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CUNY's War on the Poor

It seems that we've been hit with a dazzling array of new fees and increases the past few months. First was the announcement that undocumented immigrants would have to pay out-of-state tuition. Then came the end of Last Semester Free, a technology fee, the death of the Vallone Merit Scholarships, and, finally, Governor Pataki's scheme to withhold one-third of TAP payments until after graduation.

Despite the supposed hand-wringing and gnashing of teeth of CUNY Chancellor Goldstein, the Board of Trustees, and the state government, we're all going to be paying more next semester. Granted, some students will be hit harder than others, but even small increases can hurt a lot on a campus where the majority of students are from poor families and work to support themselves.

While a fee of \$75 per semester to buy more technology (or hire more full-time faculty, depending on to whom you talk) might sound good on the surface, there's no guarantee that the money will go to either of those areas and not just disappear into the CUNY vortex.

The fact is that CUNY is getting farther away from its mission, which is to provide education for the masses of people in this city who can't afford to go anywhere else. While scarce resources are squandered on useless tests and pet projects, vital programs like SEEK get hit even harder with budget cuts.

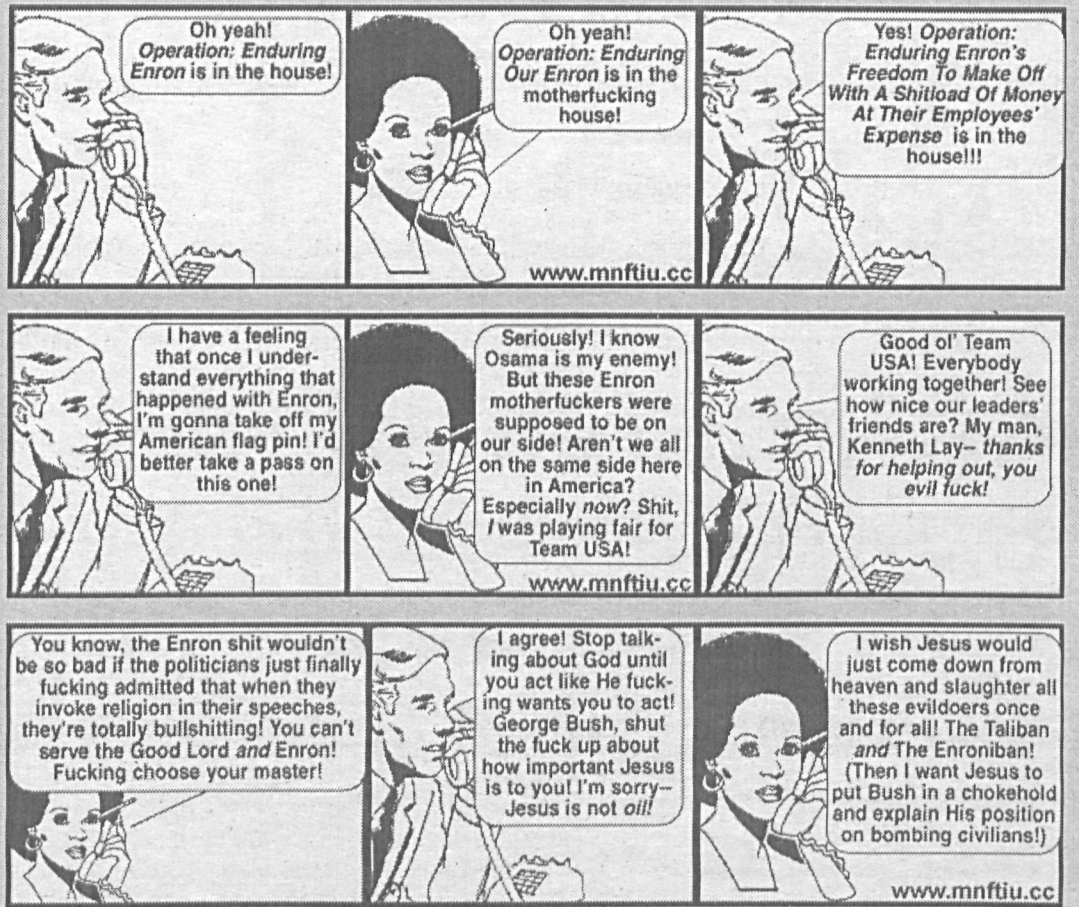
It's worth remembering that CUNY was free for nearly 130 years (until 1975,

curiously the same year CUNY became majority students of color) and that higher education in most industrialized nations is still free. To say that the United States can't afford it is a lie: a few less fighter planes or corporate bailouts could easily pay the cost.

Mass protests and building takeovers won open admissions and defended our educational rights over the years, and it might come to that if we don't see some improvements fast. Pataki and Bloomberg can find the money they need for schools by cutting corporate welfare. We should tax big businesses and stop wasting taxpayer money on tax cuts for the wealthy and the growing police state.

Fortunately, students, labor, and community groups show signs of organizing and forming the coalitions that will be necessary to beat back the cuts. It'll be a tough fight, but it's one we have to win.

get your enr on



Cronholm's Reign of Error

The *Messenger*, the *Campus*, and the *Paper* have all had newspaper bins filled with newspapers stolen from NAC in broad daylight. We think we know who the perpetrators are, too. Sources have told us that the kidnapping was the brainchild of CCNY's new Chief Operating Officer (COO) Lois Cronholm, who had them removed as part of a beautification project.

We're not sure on that, however, because whoever handed down the edict didn't have the guts or courtesy to tell us, but, then again, there is no honesty among thieves. At this point, our property is being held hostage and there's no ransom note.

We do have reason to suspect Cronholm, as we have learned that the hanging of banners has been outlawed and that bulletin boards for posting flyers in the NAC Rotunda have been removed also. That's a direct attack on the First Amend-

ment. Freedom of speech applies to the distribution of literature in public places, which would include the NAC Rotunda and lobby.

Unfortunately, we're used to CCNY administrators having complete disregard for both the law and students' rights. Former president Yolanda Moses and Student Affairs VP Thomas Morales violated just about every rule there was and presided over the reduction of the student body by one-third.

Cronholm, whose arrogance seems only to be matched by her cowardice, has refused to discuss any of these issues with students. That's unfortunate, as some people would see student activity and communication with the student body as beautiful things, but Cronholm's myopia apparently doesn't allow her to see that. Hopefully, she'll get some glasses, but, until then, we want our papers and bins back. You know where to find us.

Free Reem!

As we go to press, CCNY student Reem Khalil and her family sit in jail awaiting deportation. As far as we can tell, the only thing Reem and her family are guilty of is failing to be US citizens. The *Messenger* thinks that they are victims of the expansion of racial profiling. Bush's War on Terrorism has made being from anywhere in the Middle East (or just looking like you are) a crime.

Reem's undocumented status in the country means less to us than the facts. Reem and her family came here looking for safety and a better life. Her family opened businesses, and Reem came to CCNY, worked hard, and is ready to graduate. Call us sentimental, but we thought that's what CCNY and the American

Dream are supposed to be about: the opportunity to make hard work pay off for yourself in a better life.

Instead, the Khalil family have had the worst horrors of the United States visited on them. They were arrested for no good reason and subjected to the worst treatment the FBI and INS have to offer. Sadly, they're not the only ones to go through an ordeal like that: hundreds of thousands of immigrants and citizens alike have faced the wrath of law enforcement due to the crackdown on petty drug offenses in the so-called War on Drugs.

It looks to us like the real enemy is a government that starves schools and social programs for funding while bombing poor countries back into the stone age.

WBAI is Back!

In a great victory for free speech, the former management and staff of radio station WBAI (99.5 FM) have been returned to the station after a bitter year-long fight with management that was installed by the national board of the Pacifica Network, which owns the license to 'BAI and five other stations around the country.

The Pacifica board is in the process of being democratized after the resignation of some of the corporate vultures who dominated the board for a few years and nearly ran the network into bankruptcy by their crony capitalism and extravagant spending.

The win was particularly important, as WBAI has returned to its true mission of empowering people by covering local activism and the struggles of ordinary people like us. And it was the activism of lots of normal people who came together to fight for their station that saved it. It serves as an important lesson about what a dedicated group of people can achieve when they fight for something important.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of the *Messenger*, we featured a short story titled "Paper Napkins" by Chris Ross. Unfortunately, his name was not printed with the story. We regret the error.

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

Racial Profiling Makes a Comeback

By Alexis Logsdon

It's been almost six months since September 11th and the United States has claimed no great victory in its "War Against Terrorism." Thousands of civilians have died in Afghanistan and the Bush Administration has vowed to rout suspected and potential terrorists on every front.

In his first State of the Union address, Bush, Jr. pointed his finger at the "Axis of Evil": Iraq, Iran and North Korea. Hundreds of prisoners of war are being held at a US military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba while hundreds of foreign immigrants are being detained across the US in INS detention centers for an indefinite amount of time.

The detention by the INS of several hundred men from all over the Arab and Muslim world is being done in the name of what Attorney General John Ashcroft calls "protecting American freedom," but

the effects of this racially specific round-up have been devastating.

INS Round-Up

As many as 300 of the detainees were jailed for over a week without being charged. Most of these had been arrested for holding expired visas, a common infraction among the 8 million undocumented immigrants in this country and one which is not usually enforced by INS officials.

The horror stories of detainees are endless. There is Ahmed Alaneny, a doctor turned cab driver from Egypt, who, as of January 6th, had been in jail three months for an expired visa. The government has acknowledged that he is not a terrorist and that he should be able to return to Egypt, but has continued to hold him in a New Jersey jail. He was arrested when he parked too close to a fire hydrant while waiting for a fare. A police officer stopped and asked him where he was

from. When Alaneny said, "Egypt," the officer asked to see his papers and carted him off to jail.

Perhaps even more disturbing is the story of Mohamed Desouky, also Egyptian, who was awoken by six FBI agents invading his room. They then asked for his visa, which was expired, and took him into custody. "The FBI doesn't seem to have any interest in him as a part of the terrorist investigation, but the government is opposing bail in all these cases," Desouky's lawyer, Halim Morris, said in an early February *New York Times* article. "Before September 11th, no one in this situation would have been detained." Desouky, who has lived in Massachusetts for five years and has never had any trouble with the law, has been in a Rhode Island jail since January 7th.

Law enforcement officials on all levels have taken on an increasingly powerful role in apprehending "terrorism suspects." One man from Jordan was picked up

when he went to renew his driver's license. Another was incarcerated after he asked a police officer at Newark International Airport for directions.

There is increasing evidence that racial profiling has become an accepted tactic of law enforcement. The Justice Department decided in January to make the arrest of 6,000 young men from the Middle East their top priority in an effort to ensnare hundreds of thousands of foreign citizens who have ignored deportation orders. Meanwhile, John Ashcroft continued to deny that ethnic background plays any role in the government's strategies to fight terrorism.

Rewards for Racism Program

In late January, Ashcroft urged American citizens "to be vigilant, to be alert to any possible threat" of terrorism in an effort to

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AIDS and Black People: Genocide in NYC

By Rob Wallace

As part of last year's Black Liberation Month special edition, the *Messenger* ran an article by John Olafson on "AIDS and Black People: Genocide Is Here Today." Olafson reported that over 35 million Africans have contracted HIV, the virus

that causes AIDS. He went on to describe the disparity in access to treatment for the disease between developed and Third World countries.

This year we focus on the *here* in "Genocide Is Here Today" and describe the effects of AIDS on Black people in New York City. We show the disparity in access to treatment here at home as well.

We begin with two maps (a and b) of Manhattan and the Bronx, two boroughs of New York. The maps, using 1990 Census data by zip code, show clear overlapping geographic polarities in race and class. There is an apparent line running through 96th Street in Manhattan separating populations of the poor and minorities in Upper Manhattan and the Bronx from affluent whites in Lower Manhattan. Indeed, New York is one of the most segregated cities in the world.

There are important exceptions to the apparent relationship between race and class. For example, the Black population of the northeast Bronx is a generally affluent one. The Lower East Side in Manhattan—another example—has considerable

poverty but a small Black population. (There are relatively large populations of Latinos and Asians on the LES.) These exceptions show essentialist characterizations of race and class in New York should be replaced with an understanding that human ecologies can be very complex.

Still, geographic distribution in New York is remarkably Old South segregationist. Any minority looking for housing in New York can testify to what has long been a truism in New York: Real estate is racism.

The next map (c) shows the total number of adult AIDS cases that were diagnosed in 1993, the peak year of the AIDS epidemic in New York. Each zip code's number of new cases (or incidence) is standardized by the population size living within the zip code. This standardization controls for what is known as an allometric effect: larger zip codes will have more AIDS cases if only because they have more people living there. By standardizing by population size we can remove the allometric effect and are now able to directly compare zip codes.

Much of Manhattan and the South Bronx (with interesting exceptions) had comparatively large AIDS incidences at the peak of the epidemic. Blacks suffered—and still suffer—much greater

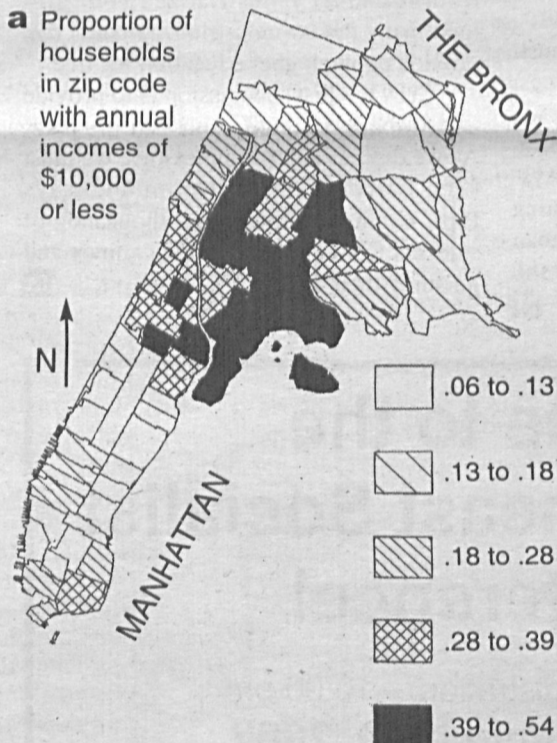
AIDS rates than the population as a whole (data not shown). Black AIDS incidences have reached as high as 3000 per 100,000 Black zip-code population. The epicenter in Lower Manhattan was comprised largely of white males infected via homosexual sex. The Harlem and South Bronx epicenters were characterized largely—but not exclusively—by heterosexual and intravenous modes of HIV transmission.

The epidemic, for the total population and the Black population, began to decline after 1993. But it was in 1996 when the epidemic began to contract the most. That year a new cocktail of anti-AIDS drugs known as HAART (highly active anti-retroviral therapy) was introduced. These combination therapies greatly control individuals' HIV infections. For most patients HAART keeps the infection from entering the last and fatal stage, AIDS.

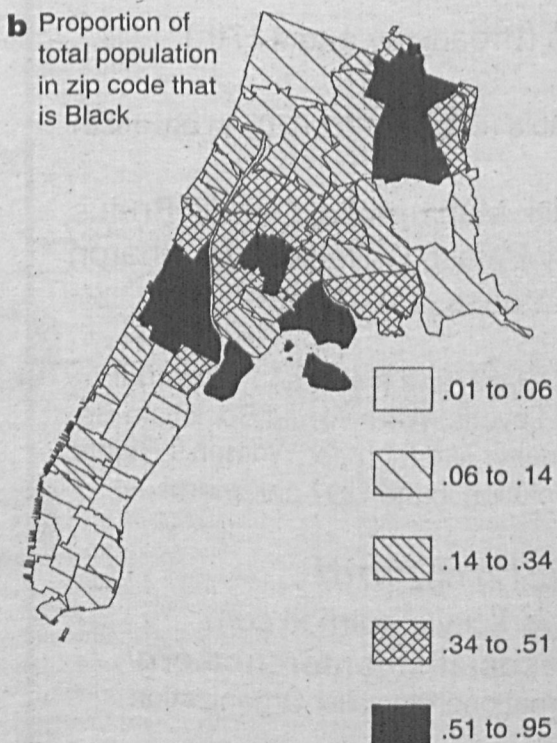
The fourth map (d) shows the percent decline in new adult AIDS cases from 1993, the peak of the epidemic, to 1998. Zip codes in Lower Manhattan—generally characterized by white and affluent populations—showed much greater declines in AIDS incidence than Harlem and the South Bronx, the other epicenters.

It appears, then, that during the 1990s Blacks and other minorities had less access to or made less use of the new anti-AIDS drugs. **M**

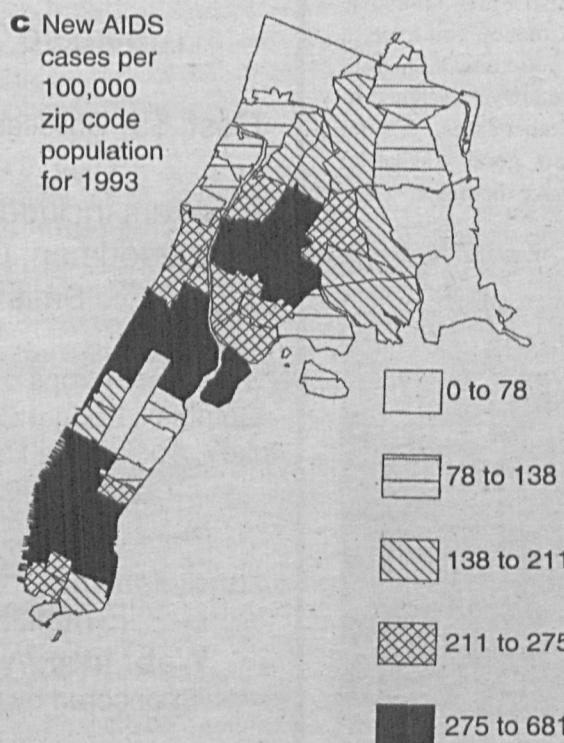
a Proportion of households in zip code with annual incomes of \$10,000 or less



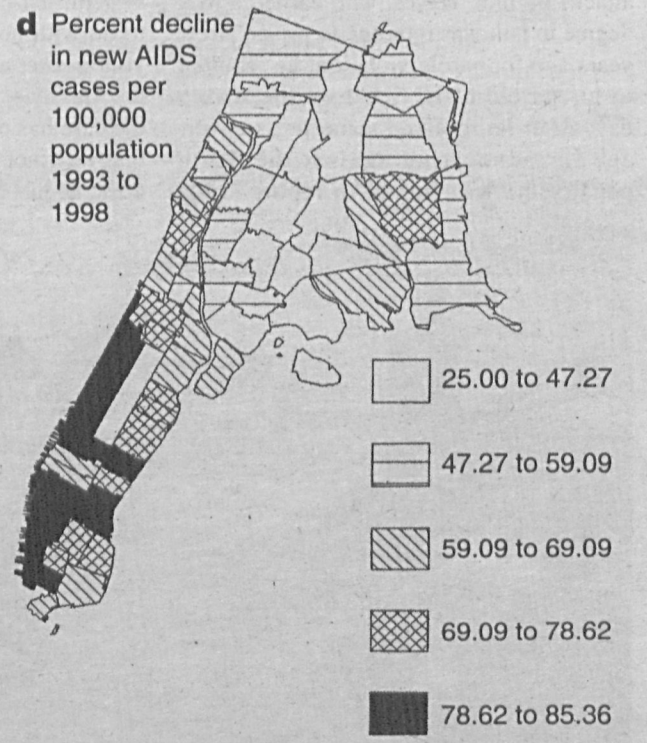
b Proportion of total population in zip code that is Black



c New AIDS cases per 100,000 zip code population for 1993



d Percent decline in new AIDS cases per 100,000 population 1993 to 1998



City Stars

CCNY Communications students Tomiko Karino and Zyphus Lebrun are co-hosts of *Study With the Best*, a new series on the CUNY-TV cable channel. CCNY Journalism Professor Linda Prout is the senior producer and writer. CUNY's press office describes it as a "fast-paced magazine show... using eye-popping cross-cuts, funky camera angles, and chart-topping music tracks." The point is to showcase CUNY and, hopefully, boost enrollment.



CCNY stars Tomiko Karino and Zyphus Lebrun.

Being cable-less, we haven't actually seen the show yet, but CUNY's hyperbole-filled propaganda on their "new bold high-tech TV magazine" leads us to expect it to be MTV-ish in nature. Nevertheless, it is the first television series devoted to opportunities in higher education, and does give one a chance to support the home team.

Check it out on Sundays at 8 on cable Channel 75 or—for us cable-challenged folks—Saturdays at 3pm on Channel 25.

If CUNY's new \$150 technology fee ever actually buys us some technology, you can view streaming video excerpts on the CUNY web site: <www.cuny.edu>.

NYU and Union Agree on Grad Student Pay

The *New York Times* reports that New York University and the United Auto Workers have reached the first union agreement between a private university and its graduate teaching and research assistants.

The four-year agreement will raise stipends for many graduate students by nearly 40 percent, provide them with health care benefits, and pay them extra if their teaching or research work takes more than 20 hours a week.

But the agreement still gives NYU continued control over academic decisions like which courses graduate students will teach and how many students will be in their classes. The contract, which covers more than 1,000 graduate assistants, also includes a no-strike provision.

The agreement comes as graduate students at Columbia, Brown and several other major universities are also seeking union representation and is expected to become a model.

Until now, stipends for NYU's graduate teaching and research assistants ranged from \$9,000 to \$14,000 a year. The minimum stipend will now be \$15,000 and rise \$1,000 a year over the next three years.

Left Turn on Campus

The *Los Angeles Times* reports that a recent UCLA survey found that more college freshmen today describe themselves as politically liberal than at "any time since the Vietnam War."

"It's a real change, a broad-based trend toward greater liberalism on almost every issue we look at," said Alexander W. Astin, a UCLA education professor who started the survey, the US's largest, in 1966.

The researchers measured "liberalism" by asking students to describe their "political views and to take positions on certain benchmark issues." For instance, a record proportion—57.9%—believe that gay couples should have the legal right to marry. The highest portion in two decades—32.2%—say the death penalty should be abolished.

About half of the respondents still view themselves as "middle of the road" politically, however. And 20.7% consider themselves conservative or "far right," while 29.9%—the highest figure since 1975—say they are liberal or "far left."

In 1971, at the height of the anti-Vietnam War fervor, 40.9% of those polled called themselves liberal. **M**

Tuition Increase

continued from page 1

as well. Bowen told *The Chief*, "It's dangerous to pit students against faculty," adding that there was no guarantee that the money would go to hiring new faculty anyway. Goldstein revealed to *The Chief* that apparently CUNY is \$150 million short for the cash needed to fund this year's portion of their five-year strategic plan.

Dramatically Misplaced Priorities

Bowen's comment cuts to the point, however. City funding for CUNY has decreased by nearly \$32 million over the last decade, and state funding has dropped even more precipitously. A 1998 Justice Policy Institute Report found that state funding for New York's city and state university systems had declined by \$615 million since 1988, and the state now spends more on prisons than it does on public higher education. NY State now ranks 47th in the nation in per-capita higher education spending.

Private corporations rake in billions in profits on prison contracts and construction, however. So the money is available, but isn't going in the right places, and CUNY students are forced to fight over artificially scarce resources as a result. "The broader political fight continues. We cannot let CUNY price these students out of an education," says Prof. Crain.

The continued cuts to education spending and tuition raises will limit access to the working class and poor students who need public higher education the most. It also places the United States farther away from the other industrialized countries (and many not-so-industrialized ones) that provide public higher education for free.

"CUNY's historic mission is to provide opportunities to immigrants and the poor. As we discuss legal complexities, we must keep CUNY's mission in mind," says Prof. Crain. "Will we stop thousands of students from developing their minds and pursuing their dreams?" **M**

Live from Death Row at CCNY

By Hank Williams

On February 19, CCNY hosted "Live From Death Row," an event featuring a call from a prisoner on death row in Illinois and numerous speakers who shed light on the flaws in the US criminal justice system. Illinois, for example, recently passed a moratorium on the death penalty after finding gross violations in sentencing and conviction, including allegations of the use of torture by the Chicago Police to force confessions. Several convictions have been overturned as a result.

Lawrence Hayes, a former Black Panther who spent 20 years in jail in New York State based on a wrongful conviction in 1971 for killing a police officer, talked about some of the politics involved.

Hayes is on parole for life and has had trouble holding jobs and building a normal life because of politically motivated attacks on him. Hayes, who earned a MA degree in jail, was returned to prison a few years ago for parole violation: he reported to his parole officer, but on the wrong day. After he received some press coverage for advocating against the death penalty, he was forced to report to his

parole officer every day, which made it difficult to hold a job.

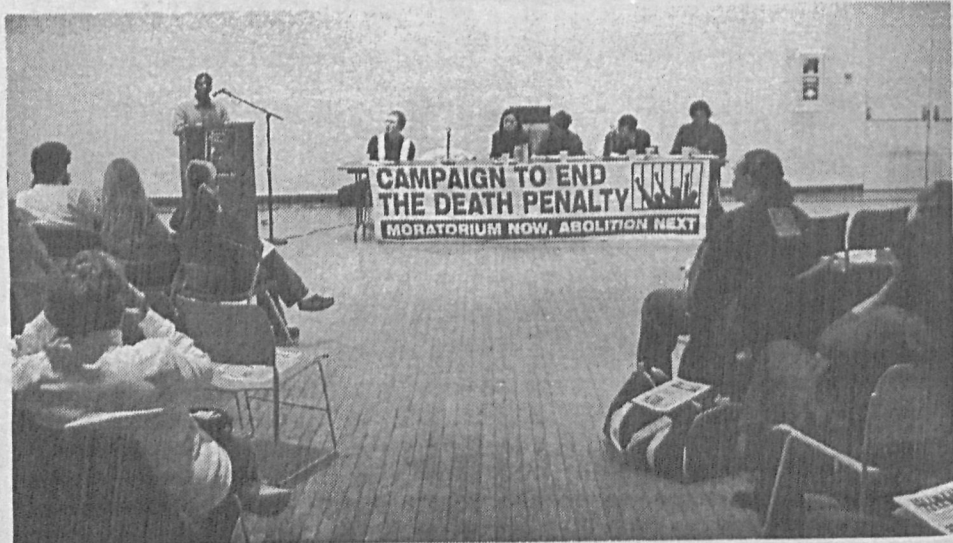
Hayes lost his last job after his parole officer called his employer and asked them if they knew they had a cop killer on the payroll.

Hayes feels that the US government's policies are hypocritical: "Killing is wrong, period, whether it's done by George W. Bush and his 180-or-so executions [as Texas governor] or the Joe Blow in the street with a Saturday night special [gun]. The state is supposed to be more enlightened."

Brooklyn resident Carol Lee Brunner described the situation her son, Caed, is facing on death row in Florida. Caed wanted to go to school outside New York and enrolled as a student at Tallahassee Community College. He has been arrested and accused of first-degree murder, but Brunner and Caed maintain his innocence.

Brunner has seen the injustice of the system first-hand: "[Justice] definitely has to do with how much money you have in your pocket and who you know." She told the *Messenger* that the lawyer assigned to the case has over 100 other cases. "It's not that he's not capable or good at what he does; he just doesn't have the time."

Fighting for her son's life has exhausted all of Brunner's time and resources. She is broke and has lost some friends who couldn't deal with the situation. Still, she works hard to speak out against a system that she feels is more about winning convictions and career advancement than actual justice. "It's my son's life!" she exclaims. **M**



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A Missed Opportunity

CCNY President Williams rejects chance to talk directly to the student body on the ramifications of September 11. Anti-War Coalition to hold town hall meeting in his stead.



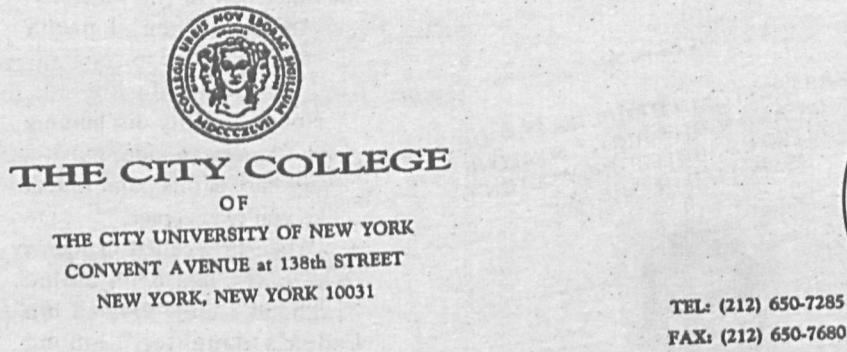
3 For the good cynics among us, Williams's psalm to the Bill of Rights may smack of boilerplate. We believe that's not the case. As the Patriot Act and the interminable jailings of immigrants without charge in the wake of

September 11 show, the Bill of Rights is taking a bloody beating. So public declarations in favor of the ideals of civil rights are laudable. This is particularly so at City College where the previous administration, under Yolanda Moses, regularly trampled students' constitutionally protected rights. Moses and her upper administrators, some of whom still remain, 1) shut down a student newspaper, 2) overturned a student election, the results of which administrators disliked, 3) permitted security to arrest and spy on students peacefully organizing against budget cuts and around other issues. And that isn't all. For more of the administration's previous attacks on student rights, check out the *Messenger* website: www.geocities.com/ccnymess/.

1 At the end of last semester, the CCNY Anti-War Coalition invited CCNY President Gregory Williams to join the Coalition in sponsoring a town hall meeting on issues surrounding the FBI's questioning of foreign students, the attacks on academic freedom, and the increase in CUNY tuition for undocumented students, all ramifications of the September 11 attacks. Williams's letter back, while courteous (a

welcome change from the previous administration) is troubling. Williams rejects an easy and obvious opportunity to talk to and hear from the campus community on era-defining issues. The letter also reveals a myopic understanding of the nature of the City College community. In short, it assumes CCNY students and staff would be satisfied with having their voices go unheard.

2 That Williams replied to the Coalition's letter indicates a willingness to engage members of the campus community, an excellent thing. It is unfortunate that willingness did not extend to addressing the campus as a whole.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

From: President Gregory H. Williams *GHW*
 Re: Proposed Town Hall Meeting on the Effects of September 11th on The City College
 Date: January 18, 2002

5 CUNY's deferral of the new tuition policy, is an "amelioration" of a policy that CUNY brought upon its students in the first place. To try to pass the deferral off as a gift to students is disingenuous. The lawsuit was brought by students and faculty against the CUNY administration (see page 1). The lawsuit has since failed and hundreds of undocumented students now face a grim choice: pay double or drop out. Such a policy—along with the end of remediation, the closing of ethnic studies, increases in regressive fees—means the return to CCNY's whitened—uh, golden—era.

Thank you for your letter regarding your concern about the impact of the aftermath of the September 11th attacks on The City College community. I am pleased that you are concerned about the impact of that terrible tragedy on the college and your fellow students. As a lawyer who believes deeply in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, I share the concern that you and so many others in public and private life have voiced about how best to preserve the civil liberties and values that make us who we are as a nation and at the same time ensure our security.

As I have indicated in a number of forums to date, neither The City College administration nor any of our admissions or registration offices has been contacted by any federal investigative agencies. As you know, I have instructed all faculty who receive requests for non-directory information about CCNY students to inform their Deans and to direct the requests for information to the Dean of Faculty Relations. It is my understanding that CUNY-wide organizations which represent registrars and admissions officers are meeting and seeking the advice of counsel to determine a course of action if such requests for information are made.

Regarding the current City University policy of charging undocumented students non-resident tuition, there has been an effort to ameliorate the immediate effect of the policy. Pending the outcome of a lawsuit filed to stop implementation of the policy, all students in this category have been sent information notifying them of the pending lawsuit and informing them of the availability of a hardship deferral program to assist them in structuring the payment of the non-resident tuition rate. The College will continue to keep students informed of the status of the lawsuit and we are working diligently to assist affected students to ensure that they remain in school.

I share your view that it is important that The City College community stay informed about actions that occur as a result of the September 11th tragedy. Thus, we will continue to monitor the situation and as specific issues develop that directly impact on the College we will take appropriate action to inform the College community of those issues and of our response to them.

Perhaps you are unaware that I have been attending a series of student meetings organized by the Division of Student Affairs and that I meet regularly with our Policy Advisory Committee that has student representatives in its composition. At many of these meetings, as well as at Faculty Council and Senate meetings, several of the issues you raise have been addressed. It is the consensus within each, that a general meeting to discuss hypothetical scenarios would not be as beneficial as localized meetings to discuss a specific action, should it arise, once a thorough examination of the information presented has been completed.

7 Yes, we are unaware of these meetings.

9 In other words, a reactionary approach to campus situa-

Again, thank you for your interest and your questions. The administration will continue to make every effort to address your concerns in a manner that will be most effective and beneficial to the entire college community.

tions—that is, reacting to a situation rather than planning for the possibilities—appears to be the new administration's credo. Proactive direction is dismissed as "discuss[ing] hypothetical scenarios." That approach does not bode well for the campus.

10 "Every effort" includes a town hall meeting. And the administration has refused that opportunity. The CCNY Anti-War Coalition will be holding the town hall meeting anyway on April 4. The meeting will address the war and its direct effects on CUNY students and staff. Find out what the administration has declined to share. Students or clubs interested in helping organize the meeting should contact the Coalition at x5008 or by e-mail at ccnyforpeace@hotmail.com.

4 Forums to which the general student body has never been invited. The student body does not attend meetings of the Faculty Council, the Faculty Senate or the President's cabinet. Students do not know what Williams presumes is common knowledge about the state of the campus. The only places any of this information has been made widely available to students are the student newspapers, including the *Messenger*, a newspaper the administration has long worked to deny funding for publication. Keeping his administrators in Student Affairs from blocking funding to the student newspapers would make Williams's belief in the Bill of Rights more than words.

6 "Deferral" does not mean rollback. Under deferral, undocumented students still have to pay double tuition this semester even if it's over a couple months. Williams said the administration is working diligently to assist affected students. How? A campus-wide forum, which Williams refused, would be an apt opportunity to tell the campus of the administration's efforts.

8 In essence, Williams declares the only appropriate forums for discussing campus issues are meetings that are, from the students' perspective, secret and behind closed doors. Are all students notified of Faculty Senate meetings? No. Would all students interested be allowed into Policy Advisory Committee meetings? No. Meetings of the Policy Advisory Committee—the President's cabinet—are often attended by a single student government official, if that. USG presidents past and present have told the *Messenger* the PAC is completely dominated by administrators. "Student representation" as defined by the Governance Charter may provide the administration a political fig leaf. But that's not democracy in action. Williams goes on to insinuate only meetings organized—and controlled—by the Division of Student Affairs have the proper imprimatur for a presidential appearance. The problem is anything organized by the Division of Student Affairs, an administrative unit, isn't really a student meeting, is it?

Profiling

continued from page 3

bring in more terrorism-related tips to the government's "Rewards for Justice" program. Rewards for Justice was created by the State Department in 1984 and has recently been revived to, in the words of their public service announcements, "Prevent Terrorism." One of their posters shows a photo of terrorism suspect Mohammed Atta, but conveniently fails to mention his name. The accompanying text reads, "What can you do? He lived among us, attending classes, shopping at the mall... Sometimes you spot things that just don't add up. And that's the time to give us a call." By depicting an Arab-looking man and failing to disclose his identity, the poster creates a generic face for terrorism. More than 24,000 tips have been received since September 11th, none of which has garnered any results and most of which, according to the program's spokesperson, have come from "emotionally disturbed" individuals.

"Voluntary" Interviews and Crackdown on Dropouts

It is in this climate of anger and paranoia that millions of Arab Americans and Muslims must continue to try to go about their everyday lives. Young people and students have come under increasing scrutiny. 5,000 young men hailing from the Middle East who have entered this country in the last two years were recently sent letters "inviting" them to be interviewed by federal authorities.

Many of these were international students, and some may be City College students. The only thing that these men had in common was that they came from countries that the US government believes harbor active Al-Qaeda cells.

In a further attempt to crack down on immigrants, State Senator Kenneth LaValle (R-Port Jefferson) proposed a new law requiring New York colleges to report to the INS and state police all foreign students who were enrolled but not attending classes. If a school refuses to comply, they could be fined \$1,000 per student and potentially lose their right to host foreign students altogether. New York has more than 50,000 foreign students. This new legislation could signify an increasing backlash on all persons of foreign birth, broadening the focus from Arab and Muslim men. Senator LaValle admits that the September 11th attacks have spurred on this hunt for foreign students. He told *New York Newsday* earlier this month, "After Sept. 11th, I think everyone is into crossing their t's and dotting their i's."

Doubled Tuition for Immigrants

A large number of the 2,200 undocumented immigrant students in CUNY will be crossing a lot fewer t's this semester. In the wake of September 11th, CUNY administrators, citing a 1996 law that made it illegal to privilege undocumented immigrants over U.S. citizens, resolved to charge the those students out-of-state tuition starting this semester. A group of students affected by the tuition hike filed a lawsuit in the New York State Supreme Court, but lost their case. Because most undocumented immigrants must take poorly paid, "under the table" jobs to support themselves in college, they have now been effectively priced out of an education. Many undocumented immigrants at

City College have lived in New York City for most of their lives.

Both of the above situations will have detrimental effects on City College.

At the end of last semester, the City College Coalition Against the War sent a letter and petition signed by more than 80 students, staff and faculty to college president Gregory H. Williams. The petition urged President Williams to "refuse to comply with the unfair and unjust tuition fee hike [for undocumented immigrants]," and also to "refuse to hand over information [about Arab students] to the FBI."

In his response, dated January 18, 2002, Williams



assured the signatories that "neither The City College administration nor any of our admissions or registration offices has been contacted by any federal investigative agencies." It is unclear what action the administration will take once requests for information are made. Williams says only that faculty who are asked for non-directory information should report it to their deans, who in turn should "direct the requests... to the Dean of Faculty Relations." Once the Dean of Faculty Relations is notified, there is no set recourse. Williams says only that he believes that there are "CUNY-wide organizations...[that are] meeting and seeking the advice of counsel to determine a course of action if such requests for information are made." (The complete, annotated letter can be found on page 5 of this issue.)

As to the petition's plea regarding the tuition increase, Williams said only that a payment deferral system was being implemented. The deferral will not change the fact that affected students will still need to come up with an additional \$1,700 by the end of the semester.

Increased Acceptance of Racial Profiling and Slurs

City College students have been attacked in other ways as well.

Frances Aboushi, a senior majoring in International Studies, has made a brave stand of solidarity with Arab Americans and Muslims. "People think I'm crazy for wearing the head scarf. It's making it obvious that you're one of them," Aboushi told the *Messenger* in a recent interview. "'Them' being the bad people, 'them' being the Third World country that the US is bombing and destroying." Aboushi started wearing the headscarf after September 11th. "I'm a Palestinian American," she explained, "but when one

Town Hall Meeting on the war at home and CUNY tuition increases

Thursday, April 4 12:15-2pm, NAC Bldg

sponsored by the CCNY Coalition against the War and Racism, the Messenger, Amnesty International, CCNY ISO

side refuses to recognize... or is unfair to the other half of [my] identity, this is [when] I pretty much decided to show my Palestinian, Muslim side. Not necessarily disclaiming my American side, but it's very hard at this point to feel like you're accepted."

Aboushi recalled incidents where she has been called "raghead," and "Osama bin Laden's daughter," among other things. "In Staten Island," Aboushi relates, "there's a huge billboard with a hand holding the heads of Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein, ten minutes from my house, and it says 'bring their F-in' Heads back.'" Many drivers feel compelled to honk and cheer when they pass this sign.

Other students' experiences echoed those of Aboushi. One visiting student, who chooses to remain anonymous, said that people stare at him on the subway. He said that people "associate the Middle Eastern look with terrorists, and they think, *he* could be a terrorist." The student, who is actu-

ally Pakistani, not Middle Eastern, went on to say, "I really don't see any purpose [in rounding up 5000 Arab and Muslim men]... it's not going to help them in any way. It's just targeting a minority and harassing them and scaring them. I think that's very unpatriotic."

On the bright side, students seem to feel safe from verbal and physical attacks on the City College campus. Aboushi said she felt safer in Harlem than anywhere else in the city. "Here, [at CCNY], it's like nothing ever happened... this school is like my sanctuary... the only place I don't feel 9-11." The anonymous student concurred, saying, "I feel very comfortable here."

But depending on what sort of counsel the mysterious "CUNY-wide organizations" receive about handing over student records to the FBI, this "sanctuary" could quickly become a poacher's trap. The possible ramifications of further profiling and harassment are not lost on Aboushi. "I mean, come on, history repeats itself," she said in reference to the INS detentions. "We're back to the Japanese [-Americans] in World War II. All we need is camps and barbed wire and I think we're pretty much there." **M**

Marxism and the World Today

We are taught that capitalism is the best, fairest economic system possible. But around us we see a world in turmoil.

- Economic crisis is spreading throughout the world. It is even taking its grip on the U.S., with the masses of working class and poor people being told to sacrifice to save capitalist profits;
- Worsening racism, most recently in the form of "racial profiling" of Arab and Central Asian people, is reviving the targeting of all people of color by the police;
- Brutal exploitation and oppression in the "Third World" are giving rise to massive popular struggles as well as murderous terrorist attacks like September 11;
- An increasingly aggressive U.S. government using its military might to rain terror upon country after country.

The League for the Revolutionary Party believes that only genuine revolutionary Marxism can explain these events and point the way forward to a world free of poverty and oppression.

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Thursday, March 21, 2002
12:15pm
NAC 4/113

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Lost Reverie

By Anastasiya Adrianova

I wish I remembered my dreams, passing the North Star,
 yet they fly swiftly away straight ahead
 just as the morning sky a light breeze teases my hair,
 lightens with virgin rays freshly cut
 of the fertile sun on my right; with the scent of young grass.

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 April 2**

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Black Hawk Downs Somalis' Humanity

By Terry James

Black Hawk Down, directed by Ridley Scott (*Blade Runner*, *Thelma and Louise*, *Alien*) and starring Josh Hartnett, Ewan McGregor, Tom Sizemore, and Sam Shephard, tells the story of a failed US military operation in Somalia on October 3rd, 1993. The title refers to the type of helicopters used in the operation.

So far, *Black Hawk Down* has garnered 4 Oscar nominations (including a Best Director nod) and earned over 96.4 million at the box office.

Somalia is located in Eastern Africa, bordering the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, east of Ethiopia, occupying an area slightly smaller in size than Texas. The UN Mission in Somalia estimates the population to be about 6 million people, most of whom are Muslim.

The only way to make a truly realistic war movie, once observed director Samuel Fuller, would be to get enemy troops to fire on audiences in the cinema, and it is with this school of thought that *Black Hawk Down* descends upon the audience in an experience that is both bloody and chaotic. The film is based on a book of the same title written by Mark Bowden in 1998. Bowden wrote a series of articles for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in 1993 and also made Internet postings depicting many of the events taking place in Somalia. It's interesting to note that the book is much different than what had appeared in his original articles. Reports that US troops killed unarmed men, women, and children all throughout the mission were left out.

The main premise is that there has been a major famine for several years with thousands of Somali people dying every day, and thus the UN and other international agencies are there to provide relief. But Mohamed Farah Aideed, one of the rebel leaders, uses his troops not only to harass the peacekeepers but also to confiscate



cate the food and thus prevent the people from receiving adequate nourishment. His aim was to sell the food back to the people, then using the money to purchase more weapons for himself in order to take control of the country.

Mohamed Farah Aideed in fact wasn't only serving his own interests but was also serving foreign ones as well, and had once before been overthrown by the Somali people in 1991, after which he had fled the country.

The famine was caused by the leasing of nearly two-thirds of Somalia to four American oil companies—Conoco, Chevron, Phillips, and Amoco—who then began to force the people to flee from their rural and ancestral homelands to the cities and the capital Mogadishu, although the movie doesn't show this.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported on January 18, 1993 that companies holding the rights to the most promising concessions in Somalia hoped that the Bush Administration's decision to send US troops to safeguard aid shipments would also help protect their multimillion-dollar

investments there.

The *Times* and others reported at the time that Conoco's corporate headquarters in Mogadishu were converted into a US embassy a few days before the Marines were deployed to the war-torn country by George Bush I. In fact, the President's envoy stayed at the converted embassy.

The close relationship between Conoco and the US intervention left many Somalis and foreign development experts deeply troubled by the blurry line between the US government and the large oil company, leading many to liken the Somalia operation to a miniature version of Operation Desert Storm, the 1991 US-led military effort to drive Iraq from Kuwait and, more broadly, safeguard the world's largest oil reserves. But there is no hint of this in the film.

The US Army prepared for what was supposed to be a small operation to capture Mohamed Farah Aideed. They received intelligence on his whereabouts and then proceeded to the location, which happened to be in the middle of a marketplace in Mogadishu. Things then went

very wrong for no less than 1,000 Somali people and 19 US soldiers. In the film, the trip to the marketplace is dramatized with slow motion sequences and rock music.

The film casts little doubt in emphasizing the heroic efforts of the US soldiers, and under different circumstances, I would have had to agree—not because of what took place that day—but because of the lack of information that these soldiers had upon entering the mission, as many of us had upon first seeing the film. We have to remember also that these soldiers could have been some of our relatives who chose the military as the best way to serve their country or to gain some discipline while gaining a career for themselves as civilians when their duty ended.

Black Hawk may reveal more about the US military than it means to. Only one Black US serviceman is depicted, and his lines were few and far between. So it should be of little surprise that the House Armed Services Committee in a comprehensive report found that overt racism was commonplace on some military bases, and this was particularly serious in all-white elite forces and special operations units, such as those engaged in the Somalia operation.

The *New York Times'* Elvis Mitchell wrote that the movie "converts the Somalis into a pack of snarling dark-skinned beasts [and] it reeks of glumly staged racism." My criticism goes out to the creators of the movie who, so many years later and when so many facts are known, chose to ignore the root causes of the events that took place in Somalia in 1993.

Watching the film reminded me of many of the old western movies I saw when I was a child with cowboys defeating barbarous Indians in the Wild West. Somalia is at the top of the Pentagon's list of countries to be the next major target of the so-called war against terrorism. This movie is a blatantly racist attempt to create support among the US public for a new war against Somalia. **M**

The first weekend of February, thousands of people came together to take a stand against the NYC meeting of the World Economic Forum. The WEF is an informal body of the richest and most powerful people in the world who come together periodically to discuss how they can more effectively continue to rule the world.

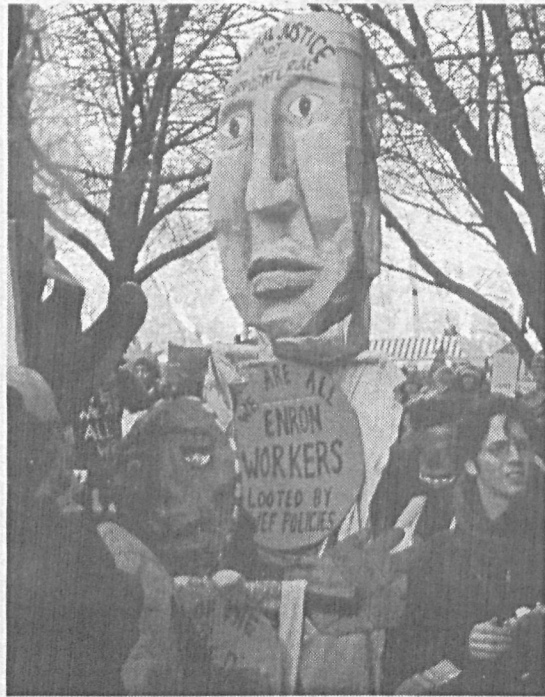
The WEF have been having problems of late. It normally meets in Davos, Switzerland, but in recent years

Confronting the WEF

one will want to rock the boat if we hold the meeting there," they said to themselves. They were wrong

larger and larger numbers of Europeans have been converging on Davos to oppose the WEF, despite the seclusion of the town. These recurring actions have brought negative publicity to the body, and so this time around the meeting planners sought to exploit people's grief at the events of 9/11 by holding the meeting in NYC. "No

On Saturday, February 2, at least ten thousand people turned out in the streets to let the WEF know that we will not be cowed into submission so easily. While the weekend's demonstrations were almost completely nonviolent, they were also confrontational. Following are some vignettes from the weekend.



Always Be Prepared

It was so noble of them to gather in our city. They gave up the luxury of their usual gathering spot, the ski resort of Davos, Switzerland, to show solidarity with the mourning city. These good-hearted creatures often caused—and never cared about—the death, destruction, suffering, and pain for millions of people around the world. Now, in a sudden arousal of conscience, they started to care. At least that was the story they were telling. Our governor and mayor welcomed them with wide-open arms and flattery.

While these parasites busied themselves by dividing up the wealth of the world among them,

thousands gathered to protest their sinister assembly. I was one of them. We were confronted by a blue wall armed with guns, batons, roadblocks, helicopters, sirens, pepper spray, and arrests. I was a little concerned about my safety. All week the police department issued threatening and intimidating messages. I thought it would not be a great idea to get arrested in the current atmosphere with a Middle Eastern look and Mohammad as a first name. My concern peaked when I saw a few pigs standing outside of a well-known coffee shop chain with their usual blue to ensure public safety.

I had to come up with a plan: a plan that would ensure my safe escape in case of a pig's attack. I decided that if they attacked, I would run with all my strength to find escape inside the nearest grocery. While in there, I would pretend to be working, and engage in the leisurely task of rearranging the product racks. And if I still came under suspicion, I could always answer with the obvious: "No speak English."

—Shumon Alam



Failure to Disperse

What a day! There's nothing so beautiful as seeing thousands marching against institutional injustice and a cabal of arrogant rich fops.

But at the end of the march near the Waldorf, the NYPD, capital's garrison, penned in the demonstrators, letting no one out. To every demonstrator's query where the exit was, the cops, outside the barricades, pointed toward the other end of the pen, a block away. So the crowd of demonstrators churned and churned, looking for the Kafka exit.

"Can we leave here?" I asked an officer one last time.

"You can exit that way," he said, pointing back from where we came.

"No we can't. We were told at the other end we had to come here to leave," I replied.

"Are we under arrest?"

"No," said the officer, miffed.

"Then why are you detaining us?" Busted, he complied at that point, and my friends and I left the pen relieved.

You see, by keeping the demonstrators searching for an exit that didn't exist, the cops absolved themselves of violating demonstrators' civil rights, even as they continued to detain the protestors without due cause. The cops' strategy was emblematic of the state's charge: to convince people their detention is an exercise of free will.

—Rob Wallace



Learning about Globalization

During the week leading up to the WEF protests, several groups including the AFL-CIO, Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (A.N.S.W.E.R.) and the International Socialist Organization (ISO) held forums to analyze the effects of corporate globalization on the world economy.

The ISO-sponsored event, held on January 30, had several speakers who offered critical analyses of US economic policy.

The panel, which was held at a union hall on West 15th St., included Frances Fox Piven, the well-known writer and professor at the CUNY Grad Center. Saying that 1% of the people in the United States own 40% of the wealth, Fox Piven called the rhetoric of globalization a "big ideological ruse." She concluded by saying that the answer to world poverty is not globalization, but "class mobilization," or, a movement of resistance against corporate interests.

Also on the panel was Gregory Palast, BBC reporter and author of *Enron and the Power Industry*. Palast, an economist, discussed the Enron scandal. "When you cut your budget and run a surplus during a recession, the official term is 'fucking stupid,'" Palast told the crowd of about 100 people.

Other speakers included Sandra DeMarco, a teacher in Harlem whose school fought the Edison Corporation and won, Sandra White, a welfare advocate, and Michael Letwin from NYC Labor Against War.

—Alexis Logsdon

Privilege within the Movement

Toward the end of the Saturday march, we were halted in the middle of a block by the crush of people in front of us and couldn't move forward for about twenty minutes. Many people behind us in the march began to get impatient and started pushing forward. They started pushing on our backs in an effort to get us to push forward as well. Some urged the crowd forward in loud voices. One young woman twice seized our contingent's megaphone and frantically shouted that there were no police ahead of us (which was patently untrue) and that we could make great gains if we all pushed forward toward the hotel where the WEF was meeting.

The contingent I was in had a number of people who were immigrants, some of whom could not get arrested under any circumstances. We had all come to a march that was understood to be legal and peaceful. Needless to say, people in our contingent began to get very upset. We called out to the people behind us to go around us if they wanted to push forward. One older member of our contingent tried to calm down the frantic young woman who had seized our megaphone. We heard a young white guy behind us yell out, "Get out of the way, old man!"

While it is extremely good that a confrontational movement has developed in recent years against these rapacious global institutions, many young radicals joining these actions have lessons to learn. Some in the movement have a lot more race and class privileges than others, including the ability to confront the police and get arrested with much smaller repercussions on their lives. While it is great that these privileges get put to good use where appropriate in mass actions, it is extremely bad to try to force others who don't have the same privileges into a similar situation.

—John Olafson