

THE PAPER

MEDIUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

"So We Stand Here On The Edge Of Hell In Harlem And Look Out On The World And Wonder What We're Gonna Do In The Face Of What We Remember" - Langston Hughes

December 2011

Volume 132 - Issue 2

CUNY ARRESTS



By Conor Tomás Reed

At Baruch College on Monday, November 21, CUNY Police and NYPD coordinated an attack on students and faculty seeking to peacefully enter a Board of Trustees public hearing. Video footage shows police brutalizing dozens of people in the Vertical Campus lobby to the shock of hundreds outside and a balcony of students above. Meanwhile during the public hearing on the 14th floor, CUNY advocates railed against the Board of Trustees' responsibility for a tuition hike totaling \$1500 over 5 years, teacher healthcare under threat, and an increasingly corporate-driven model of education. Altogether, 15 students and faculty were arrested in the lobby, and 5 were ultimately jailed for 24 hours (including a Baruch faculty member), all who had come to testify that CUNY serve the working people of New York, not wealthy administrators.

I was a participant in this faculty and student assembly at Baruch, where I teach writing composition. During the insane security billyclubs melee, a guard unzipped

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Five Years of Tuition Increases

By Professor Bill Crain

The CUNY Board of Trustees are expected to approve a tuition increase on November 28. Their plan is to increase tuition \$300 per year for each of the next five years. Chancellor Matthew Goldstein will have automatic authority to increase tuition by this amount for the next three years. After that, he will first need to show the increases to the Board's Fiscal Affairs Committee, which can be expected to grant its approval.

The State has authorized the five-year plan. The plan also includes proportional tuition increases in other CUNY programs, including a \$480 per year hike in Masters programs, except for even higher increases in Masters programs such as engineering and architecture.

In adherence to State policy, CUNY will set aside money to increase TAP for the neediest undergraduates. However, TAP never seems to help

all our students, especially those who need to attend part time. Five straight years of tuition hikes will aggravate students' problems significantly.

Chancellor Goldstein and other top officials say the tuition hikes constitute a "rational" policy because the hikes are steady and predictable. The predictable increases, they say, will allow families to plan their future budgets. But the chancellor and the officials seem to be thinking of middle class families--not those with lower incomes. Planning doesn't mean much to those who lack the funds to plan with.

I have been dreading this Board of Trustees' approval of the five-year tuition plan. At our historic university, which opened America's doors to working class and immigrant urban students, this tuition increase is a huge step backward.

Bill Crain is a professor of psychology at The College. His extension is 5650. His email is wcrain@ccny.cuny.edu

Grand Great Teeth

By Taqiyya Haden



1588 Amsterdam between 138th and 139th street

Two teeth or two pieces of a tooth were found in a shrimp roll purchased at the closest

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of New York

Editor's Letter Activism Is Still Alive!



By Oronde Tennant

In October, we lost a great hero, Professor Derrick Bell, the first African-American tenured professor at Harvard University and ardent civil rights activist. Professor Bell was a man of principle. He always stood up for what he believed was right even if it wasn't popular. A professor of critical race theory, he was unwavering in his quest to hold Harvard administration accountable for their failure to appoint a tenured African American female to its staff. Professor Bell left Harvard at the height of his career, vying to return only when the institution granted tenure to an African American female professor. Professor Bell always advised his law students to seek righteousness and truth. It is better to risk comfort and position than to sit by and witness injustice he was known to frequently say. A true agent of change, Dr. Bell remains an excellent example of courage and strength.

I had the honor of meeting Professor Bell a few years ago at a critical race theory lecture at Yale

University. He imparted knowledge and insight on the politics of race in a post-Obama election era. Racism and discrimination continue to plague our country despite advancements among minorities politically, economically, and socially. America should be ashamed of herself for perpetuating institutionalized racism within the penal system, law enforcement, employment practices, education, and the media. As a nation, we still have a long way to go to achieve a truly democratic and just society.

In today's political climate protests, uprisings, revolts, rebellions, and movements are necessary. Occupy Wall Street inspired Americans to stand up and challenge growing inequality. I began my activism as a student protestor with NYPIRG lobbying New York State policymakers to stop tuition hikes, climate change, government corruption and abuse and unfair consumer treatment. My activism continues as the executive editor of *The Paper*. Activism is alive throughout the globe from Occupy Wall Street to Libya. In this issue, *The Paper* stands in solidarity with these movements, using writing as a form of activism. I call on to all students: exercise your right to activism with *The Paper*. Write! Stand up! Be Heard! Serve the college community and join the movement!

The fight continues. We stand on the shoulders of giants. Giants who struggled, fought, sacrificed, and died so that we can enjoy the simple pleasure of writing and the opportunity to attend institutions of higher education. Students struggle to maintain balance in school, work, and personal endeavors as it becomes increasingly harder to afford college. It is our responsibility to

remind CUNY trustees of the difficulties we students face. It is a tragedy that our government is balancing budget deficits on the backs of students. For weeks now, the courage and commitment of our CUNY faculty and student activists who protest the proposed CUNY tuition hike is inspiring. Many faculty and students were welcomed with violence and aggression by law enforcement. Daily we witness our political right to protest threatened by the state when police exert unnecessary force on peaceful protesters. Law enforcement, CUNY administrators and the indifferent must be held accountable for their actions and inactions.

It is our mission to support and encourage students to exercise their activist voice. Stand up for principle! Stand up for justice! Stand up for equality! The movement has made tremendous gains, but there is more to be accomplished. It is imperative the struggle for equality, justice and freedom continue. The time has come to take the movement to the next level. With active community organizing, intense passion and increased participation the movement has the capacity to bring oppression to its knees. We must utilize the political process and vote lawmakers out of office who neglect to represent the people they were elected to represent.

Organize, protest, fight, and stand up for justice!



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Great Grand Teeth *continued*

Chinese restaurant to The City College! On Saturday night after a long day of studying and with plans to study into the night an editor of *The Paper* decided to order food from a local restaurant we are all known to frequent. The Grand Great Wall! Yes...the one right across the street from us! The editor was eating a shrimp roll and bit into something extremely hard. At first we all thought it was a piece of uncooked rice, odd, but not unfathomable in an egg roll. To our dismay the item was a human tooth with a silver filling still in it. The restaurant blames J.I. Qiang Trading Corp., stating the egg rolls are pre-ordered and not prepared on their premises directly. We did not see them discard the remainder of the egg rolls and they did not offer an apology, though the money for the entire food order was refunded.

We contacted 311 who will file the official complaint with The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. We also investigated the latest inspection on the restaurant. The grade for October 26, 2011 is still pending. These are the violations listed on www.nyc.gov/health/restaurants:

1. Cold food items held above 40 degrees.
2. Filth flies or food/refuse/sewage associated with flies.
3. Food not protected from potential sources of contamination during storage, preparation, transportation, display or service.
4. Facility not vermin proof; harborage or conditions conducive to attracting vermin to the premises and or allowing vermin to exist.

The Paper is printing this story for the protection of our campus and the surrounding community. It is not fair that establishments like this are allowed to function and profit, especially from our hard working starving students. In addition, this could very well be evidence of a crime. How do we know that the teeth do not belong to a victim? We contacted the local prescient at the advisement of our public safety officers but they did not seem interested in following up with an investigation. We invite any students of the sciences interested in examining the tooth to contact our office for access!

Grand Great Wall
新長城

Chinese Food To Take Out
1688 Amsterdam Avenue
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Purchase One \$ 10.00 FREE (1) Can Soda
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One \$20.00 FREE (3) Can Soda or 2 Liter Soda
More Purchase will Get More Soda
Not include Lunch Special
Not include Drink

OUR MISSION

In 1969 two student leaders, including Louis Reyes Rivera, founded *The Paper* as a radical social voice for people of African descent. We stand on the shoulders of journalistic giants! Our mission is to carry on this legacy. As an organization, we encourage and develop socially progressive student activists. *The Paper* will continue to serve CCNY and the surrounding Harlem community.

The F^lash Black

Because we strive to connect past lessons with today's struggles, we are thrilled to present this feature in our publications—the FLASHBLACK! For each issue, we will reprint articles and photographs from the *Tech News* and *The Paper* archives which are housed in our own Cohen Library. We encourage our readers to respond to these blasts from the past, build on their legacies, and spread the word about our college's amazing political history.



"RACISM" BURNING. Over 1500 students watched while the figure which presumably represented Dr. Gallagher burned. Photos by Mike Chayes

Strike Still On; South Campus Shut Down

By PAUL B. SIMMS

Several hundred Black and Puerto Rican students locked the gates of South Campus yesterday and thereby closed all classes. Neither instructors nor students were allowed to enter the building, although workmen did enter.

The action was part of a continuous demonstration by the Black and Puerto Rican community to show dissatisfaction with Administrative response to the Five Demands.

At 8:00 A.M., all the gates to the South Campus were closed and locked. Black and Puerto Rican students were behind the gates, yelling at the students who attempted to enter, advising them to go to North Campus to discuss the issues raised by the demonstrators.

About 8:30 the police appeared and removed the locks from the main gate, but the Black and Puerto Rican students did not move. Burns Guards, at-

tempting to prevent any violence from occurring between the white students trying to gain admittance to the campus and blacks already inside, lined up in front of the open gate and quieted several unruly whites.

One spokesman for the Black and Puerto Ricans said, quite calmly, "We don't hate you white people. We are not saying that at all. All we want is that Blacks and Puerto Ricans be admitted to this College without having to come from Bronx Science or Stuyvesant."

Over 100 white students from North campus came marching down to the South gate and demanded entrance. The Black and Puerto Ricans just tightened themselves into the opening on 133rd Street and refused to move. The whites yelled "Let us in!" The Blacks and Puerto Ricans screamed back "Go home."

Fifty white students began protesting the take-over in front of the Administration building at 11:00 A.M., showing their disapproval to Dr. Gallagher.

Twenty-five faculty members, both white and Black, and several white students had found their way to the South Campus cafeteria, with hopes of staying in Finley Student Center. Several Black students came up to the cafeteria, however, and requested that they leave.

One female student questioned their right to ask her to leave. Not wanting to cause a major confrontation, the male students called several female demonstrators who, along with Dr. Young, convinced her that her leaving was in her best interests.

One student, who had barricaded himself into the gateway cried, "We'll call this Howard — as it should have been!" referring to the demonstration on the Howard University campus last year.

At 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, the confrontation remained unresolved. The Black and Puerto Rican students had South campus. The white students wanted it. Until this point, there was no violence.

TECH NEWS

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WEDNESDAY — 23 APRIL 1969

NEW YORK, N. Y.

1500 Protest Administrative Failure

Compiled by BRAUN, LAYTNER, LOWENTHAL, SCHOENFELD, SIMMS, SPIRO and VOYTICZKI

Approximately 1500 striking students marched through several campus buildings before rallying in front of the Administration Building on Monday.

The rally organized by the Black and Puerto Rican Student Community as well as various white student groups, was to protest the "barrage of administrative bullshit" on the Five Demands. The demonstration began at 11:00 a.m. on the lawn adjacent to Cohen Library ("Liberation Hill") and shortly afterwards, moved towards Wagner Hall. The leaders carried the red, black and green flag of the Third World and a dummy labeled "Racism." As they began to march, the students were joined by nearly 400 Music and Art students. As the group filed into Wagner Hall shouting "On Strike: Shut it down," a significant number of on-lookers joined. Inside the building, the procession marched through the corridors chanting slogans and singing. Many demonstrators opened classroom doors, urging students and faculty to "join us."

As the hundreds of protestors passed, Prof. Bernard Bellush sat quietly in his classroom. With him, seated in a semicircle, were 20 students. The marchers, passed chanting. Several times the door was thrown open and shouts of "join us" greeted the seated students but no one moved, no one spoke — a few smiled at each other uneasily.

Exiting through the front en-

trance of Wagner Hall, the strikers paraded around South Campus Lawn, passed students playing soccer and football, around Finley Student Center, and marched up Convent Avenue toward the North Campus Quadrangle. The Quadrangle had been the scene of a demonstration earlier in the day.

The CUNY Labor Committee set up a platform at the center bench of the Quad at 9:30 a.m., and addressing a crowd of about 25 persons, they spoke for about two hours. The high volume of the speakers sent echoes throughout Shepard and the buildings in the Quadrangle. Only a few more students, however, stopped to listen. Many students in the crowd held similar beliefs to Stuart Schrage, who feels that more Black and Puerto Rican students should be allowed into the College through the SEEK program, rather than an open enrollment plan.

Leif Johnson, a member of the CUNY Labor Committee, stated that his organization was not for abolishing grades, nor the elimination of any attendance requirements — EDS Demands — because the Committee feels that these things would only result in a higher dropout rate. He also admitted that there was a real lack of unity among the many organizations seeking better education for Third World students.

After circling the Quadrangle, the students entered Shepard Hall, following the pattern set in Wagner. A short argument and a shoving match ensued when an instructor insisted that the door to his classroom re-

main closed.

Leaving Shepard, the demonstrators marched through the North Campus cafeteria and proceeded to the Administration Building. There, the protest was highlighted by a mock trial in which "the Man" (presumably Dr. Gallagher) was accused of a host of crimes including denying Black and Puerto Rican students a separate school of studies and a separate freshman orientation program. Besides reiterating the Five Demands, speakers condemned the so-called "mechanical niggers"

who allegedly sabotage their cause.

Convicted, the dummy was set aflame amid shouts of "Burn him! Kill the pig!" As the dummy burned, the crowd sang, "Time to pick up the gun; the revolution has come."

Commenting on his reasons for striking, Michael Silverstein, Assistant Professor of Sociology said, "the only kind of an educational system compatible with a real democratic society is one which is open to all who want to make use of it." Another

(Continued on Page 2)



MARCHING OUT of Wagner Hall, the protestors sang "We love our Brothers and Sisters."

Harlem University

By Jennie C. Trotter

The takeover of CCNY and the renaming it to "Harlem University" in the fall of 1969 was a most memorable, exhilarating and inspiring experience for me at age 21. We were invincible, proud, defiant, and righteous radicals with a deep commitment to changing things that we consider were unfair. Who today would not stand up for an Open Admission Policy for everyone to attend college or for a Department to study the contributions of African Americans and other People of Color? These things benefit the greater society and are essentially good for the whole.

That was my belief 42 years ago and it still is my belief at the ripe golden age of 63. I am still a Maverick, out spoken and challenging at times when I need to be, but much more spiritually grounded and aware than I was 42 years ago. When you become conscious, you must speak the truth but even more, you must live the truth and be the truth that you speak, as the saying goes, "your actions speak louder than words". In my old age wisdom now, I seek divine counsel in all things because I knew there is a master plan. Each experience in life, good or bad, teaches you something. How you use it for growth is up to you or you can choose to repeat the experience again and again until you learn from it. I find myself meditating more in my later years, understanding and feeling the connection between me and all living things on the planet. I am a piece of the whole, connected and a reflection of something much bigger and powerful.

We are energetic human beings and this energy connects us to everything in this universe. Our thoughts are energy and that is why it is important to be careful of what you think. Positive thoughts carry positive energy affecting you, your environment and the universe and negative thoughts do the same. I have learned that some of the same natural elements that are in the stars are within our bodies and that our bodies are 70% water and so is the earth. Japanese Scientist, Emoto Masaru, proved with his experiment with water that crystals in water responds to the positive or negative words spoken over it, regardless of the language, time or place. We are more powerful than we know, but within our everyday life, we give our power away to people, circumstances and things. By connecting to this universal source, you can manifest what you want in your life, for your community and for our world. Like attracts like and our consciousness (internal) affects matter (external). We are brought up in a world to think the opposite that our happiness depends on things, people, money, etc. Happiness is internal and it doesn't have to depend on outside circumstances.

Much knowledge has been sought and shared with me by many Master teachers over the years. One of the most profound impacts on my life has been from Master Chunyi Lin, Creator and Founder of Spring Forest Qigong (Chi-Gong), a Chinese slow moving healing exercise that involves active exercises/movement, and passive exercise/meditation. It includes the daily practices of the principles of

unconditional love, forgiveness and kindness. It differs from other exercises in that it connects one to the Universal Source. It has become a way of life for me. A Chinese Philosopher LaoTzu says, "Be Kind, Think Kind and Act Kind." This practice has locked answers for me as to where I fit in the bigger scale of life and helping me understand the impact and contributions I can make to the world I live as a resident of of the universe.

From where I sit, we are here to provide service, fulfill our life time goals (self actualization), value our connections with family and friends, leave a legacy for the future generations, be grateful for our blessings, have fun, laugh and enjoy life, not to sweat the small stuff, find the good in all things, honor yourselves by taking care of ourselves so that we can have the best quality of life while we are on this short journey.

I moved to Atlanta in 1972 to raise my family. During the early 80's Atlanta experienced the Missing and Murdered Children and Youth Crisis. The crisis increased stress in children, youth and adults during a five year period. It was my prayer to be of service in reducing the stress in children and their families. In 1984, I left my secured job to start a non-profit agency called the Wholistic Stress Control Institute, Inc. (WSCCI).

WSCCI is now a 27 year old African American award-winning agency (www.wholistic1.com) nonprofit community based program located in Southwest Atlanta. WSCCI mission is to teach wholistic stress management by promoting wellness and healthy lifestyle choices. WSCCI has 10 free

community programs in the area of prevention of violence, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency and HIV/AIDS. We currently have 15 staff and served over 3,000 children, youth and adults yearly. WSCCI has won numerous local and national awards for its prevention program. In all of our programs WSCCI teaches participants wholistic techniques to include the mind, body and spirit connection to reduce stress by exercising, mediating, eating nutritious foods, positive thinking, visualization and more.

I have visited many countries (India, China, South Africa) to learn wholistic stress management healing techniques to aid WSCCI mission in promoting wellness and healthy lifestyle choices for people. WSCCI has a Healing Room where we provide healing therapies such as massages, reflexology, acupuncture and aromatherapy for the community. Our exercise room holds community classes in Yoga, Tai Chi and Qi Gong weekly. WSCCI also provide training classes for participants to learn stress management and anger management techniques.

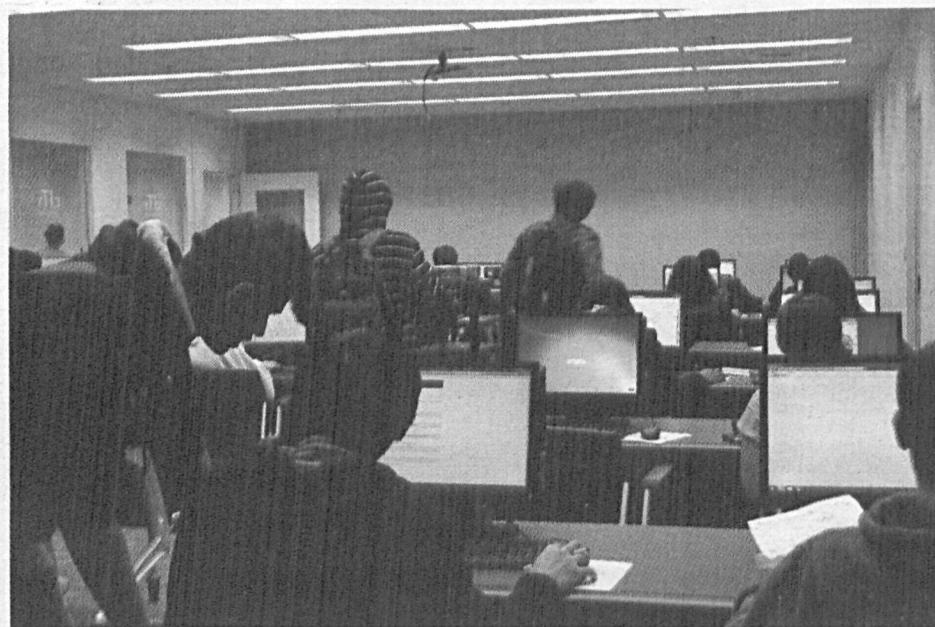


Technology is Imperative to CCNY Libraries

By Zerline Alvarez

Where would be without technology within our school's libraries? We'd still have plenty of books and librarians to help us out, but let's really think about our libraries without any computers or internet. Undoubtedly there will be an immense amount of students lined up at the reference desk waiting for assistance. The students that don't have personal computers at home will be at a disadvantage. They will have to go to an inconvenient place to complete academic papers. And how about checking out books? Another long line formed by desperate students. Can you imagine the stress that librarians at our libraries will have! That being said, technology has greatly impacted CCNY's libraries in a tremendously positive way.

CCNY's libraries are rich in technology. Each one has their sets of computers and as a whole they share an electronic catalog with CLICS



(CUNY Libraries Inter-Campus Services), where students can search for books online, borrow books from other colleges within CUNY, and even

borrow books from other libraries worldwide through ILL (Inter-Library Loan Services). According to Charles C. Stewart, Library Chief of Technical Services, the libraries' electronic catalog began in the 1980's and continues to evolve. Within the CUNY catalog there are seven million books or so that CCNY students are entitled to. And within ILL, students can borrow sources from libraries in other states or countries but it can take a week or ten days to arrive to CCNY. Thus, there are more than enough books for undergraduate and graduate students in all majors. This online catalog seems to benefit the students of CCNY in several ways. Mariel Acosta Melo, freshman at CCNY states, "It is very helpful because I don't have to go and ask a librarian. From bed, I could check if there's a book that can help me with my essay."

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Surprising Turkeys

By Professor Bill Crain



Three years ago, four young female turkeys were left at our sanctuary for abused farm animals. We know little about their early lives, except that they probably began life on a factory farm. We suspect this because they are all white. Factory farms breed turkeys to be all white because customers don't like any colored pigment on their meat.

Our turkeys also are missing parts of their beaks and toes, another sign of factory farm upbringing. On factory farms, turkeys are raised by the thousands in indoor sheds and are packed so tightly together that they can barely move. This overcrowding causes such extreme stress that the turkeys fight and sometimes even kill one another. Factory farms could eliminate the fighting by giving the turkeys a little more space, but this step would lower production. So, to prevent lethal injuries and product loss, the factory farms cut the turkeys' beaks and toes (without anesthesia).

Every year, about 45 million turkeys are slaughtered for Thanksgiving dinners, and the overwhelming majority of these turkeys are raised on factory farms. Although turkeys' natural life span is about 10 years, factory farmed turkeys are usually killed at four to six months of age.

When our young turkeys arrived, we knew little about turkeys' natural behavior. But we soon saw how sociable they are. We saw how they like to wander about as a group and to sleep nestled up. They also look out for one another if any trouble arises. If, for example, a turkey gets into a confrontation with another animal, such as a goat, another turkey is sure to come to the first turkey's aid.

But we never would have expected what happened one day when a troop of girl scouts visited the farm. After presenting us with gifts for the farm, the scouts held a ceremony in the barn. They formed a circle and took turns standing in the center while reading pledges. They vowed to always respect animals, to treasure the love and beauty animals bestow upon us, and to uphold animals' right to a natural death. The ceremony was very solemn and moving.

Soon after the scouts began reading their pledges, our four turkeys, who up to then seemed to spend every waking moment noisily moving about, joined the circle. They sat perfectly still at different places in the circle, with their eyes fixed on each reader, as if the turkeys were listening intently to the words. Several of us exchanged looks of astonishment.

The turkeys could not understand the scouts' words, of course, but they apparently felt the scouts' solemn devotion and responded to it.

There is much to be learned about what goes on in the hearts and minds of animals. Perhaps the time will come when learning about them will take precedence over the way we treat them now.

Bill Crain is a professor of psychology at The College (ext. 5650). He and his wife Ellen Crain founded Safe Haven Farm Sanctuary in Poughquag, NY

CUNY ARRESTS *continued*

my backpack and emptied its contents onto the floor, including a notebook with my students' writing and grades, and a CUNY library book. As I shielded myself and others, I was grabbed by several guards and thrown to the ground, pinned down with my shirt ripped and glasses broken, and had zip-ties placed around my wrists so tightly that I couldn't feel my hands. Only half an hour later, after I had been relocated to a 14th floor room (coincidentally, about 100 feet from the BoT hearing) with over a dozen other detainees, were my ties loosened. Many other detained CUNY students similarly experienced this tight cuffing and rough handling, and were otherwise in tremendous pain at the whim of a frighteningly disorganized and cocky security force.

The decision for who to ultimately arrest and "put under" was based on racial profiling and confidence in the face of authority. All five of us were CUNY students of color (four men and 1 woman), with me also in the peculiar position of being charged with trespassing on the campus where I teach. One CUNY security officer sexually harassed the young woman in custody--after she told him not to touch her while we were being led outside Baruch, the officer said, "I can do whatever I want to you." He was one of the leading officers throughout the whole ordeal. Alleged charges wildly abounded and switched around as we were brought to the NYPD's 7th Precinct. We were told at different times that we were being held for assaulting public safety officers, trespassing, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, and for one of us, attempted grand larceny (trying to "steal" a billyclub that was twice pummeled into the student's ribs). In a bizarre situation of legal limbo, I've been personally charged with trespassing and resisting arrest, but have been told that I can return to teach my class on Tuesday, November 29.

Another important detail to emphasize is that it was CUNY security officers who directly processed us through fingerprinting, paperwork, and even the transfers from Baruch to the 7th precinct to 100 Centre Street. We had no idea that CUNY's security apparatus was so thoroughly trained and embedded in NYPD operations,

though this perhaps better their having little clue how to treat protesters yesterday evening. The CUNY Graduate Center Doctoral Students Council's recent open letter expressing dismay at heightened campus security in student socializing spaces has me similarly ill-at-ease that all this "professional training" of our school security force has been occurring off-campus with the NYPD--the authority force that's been nationally spotlighted as extremely repressive of the recent waves of city-wide protests. We need to send a clear message that police brutality and administrative brutality on poor students of color must both be challenged as part of the same problem of violent social exclusion.

We need to make sure that this never happens again at CUNY. This Monday, November 28, our university will rally again outside Baruch College at 4pm to protest the Board of Trustees' business mtg that will pass measures to further squeeze the public out of CUNY. Even though these mtgs are legally obligated to be open to the public, Baruch's president has announced that the Vertical Campus will be closed to almost everyone by 3pm. In this case, we will reclaim CUNY on the outside, and clearly expose the Board's illegitimate mtg happening inside. We'll need our families, other schools, unions, community groups, and the broad Occupy movement to bring out mass support. Together we can demand a stop to this violence by the CUNY police and administration upon our school community, and that we see being inflicted elsewhere upon pro-democracy movements from UC-Davis to Occupy Wall Street. Our university and communities are not for sale, and we will not give up our rights to free speech and assembly. FREE CUNY!



Qatar Times

By Malik Oxford

When I told people I was moving to Qatar, there is one question that was asked (or implied) before I left, it was "Is it Safe?". Some other more indirect rhetorical questions/responses sounds like this:

– Really? Wow (But like Wow, as in "He's sending his family to the equivalent of Iraq)

– Are you sure? (translation: Are you sure you want to work in a war zone?)

– I've even had folks suggest that they fear being kidnapped or forced being wrapped in a burqa like Taco Bell wraps burritos. Just to be clear, I don't have a problem with the burqa or the niqab or any other covering. Women have the freedom to wear what they want, but they shouldn't be forced or unduly prohibited from wearing these types of coverings.

I have no idea what other warped ideas swirl in people's minds when you mention any country in the Middle East, but the ones above are the more obvious fears. At the same time I can't be too hard on folks being that their main intention is concern for my safety. But like an over-protective parent can be for their children, some of this concern is grounded in a bit of fantasy, xenophobia and misinformation.

I do realize that there are a lot of revolutions/upheavals going on in the Middle East, but we have to be able to distinguish one county from another and one region from another. Yes the Arab Awakening (known in the states as the Arab Spring) is in full effect. Yes there are wars and civil wars going on in Iraq, but that doesn't mean it's happening all over the Middle

East nor does it mean that these skirmishes have the potential to bleed everywhere in the Middle East or North Africa. I'm going to address two things in this post. The proximity of some of these skirmishes and some basic demographic data of Qatar.

So now to answer the million dollar or riyal question: Is it Safe?

Yes. It's extremely safe. People leave their cars running while they hop inside and outside of stores. Yes gas is \$1.00 a gallon and yes it's really hot (people keep their cars running to keep the A/C on), but the safety is there. You guessed it, the country with the highest per capita income is Qatar and has been for the last 10 years. And can you take a wild guess which country has one of the lowest crime rates in the world? Um..Qatar again with a score of 1.0 while United States has a score of 5.0 and has a higher homicide rate that close in numbers to such countries as Yemen and Ukraine. Iraq, a U.S. occupied country, has a score of 7.3.

If you look at the 10 most dangerous cities you'll be surprised by the cities that made the list. You can easily search the web for answers, and although the list is different for each site (in regards to which city is the most violent), there are two American cities that made the list. Detroit has 43.7 murders per 100,000 and New Orleans has 52 per 100,000.

If you take the distance between Qatar and Libya we are looking at a distance that reaches from New York to Las Vegas. If you take the distance between Qatar and Tunisia you are reaching a distance that almost spans the entire length of the United States of America.

Distance statistics:

- Distance between Qatar and Libya [2100 miles]
- Distance between Qatar and Tunisia [2500

miles]

- Distance between Qatar and Cairo, Egypt [1300 miles]

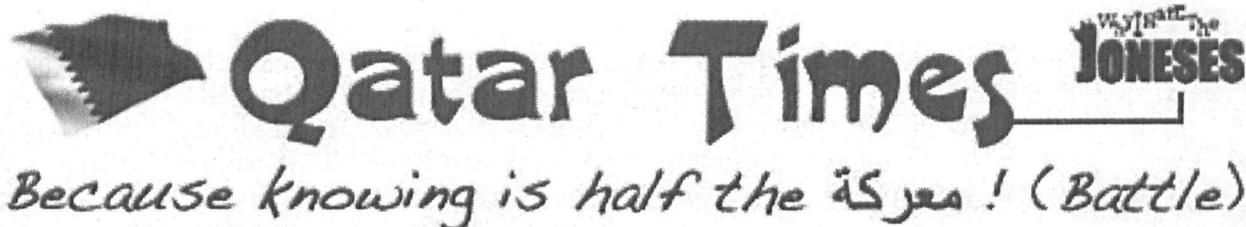
- Distance between Qatar and Bahgdhad, Iraq [680 miles]

- Distance between Qatar and Bahrain [70 miles]

Now when so-called "super powers" share a list with such countries like Mogadishu, Somalia, Karachi, Pakistan and Baghdad, Iraq (650,000 civilians dead since 2003), Cape Town, South Africa (50 murders a day) in regards to the most violent cities, you have to wonder who is really safe? I do understand that the proximity of many of these awakenings or uprisings are probably closer than any one individual would like but I can assure you, I do not see burning tires and bellowing smoke from my window. I don't hear gunfire and I don't see a legion of militias driving banged up Nissans pickups with AK-47s. The only Nissans pickups I see are from construction workers. The only thing that lights up the sky is the moon, not tracer fire from a machine gun. Notice that the only Middle Eastern country that made the most violent city list is Iraq and this is an occupied country. The countries violence is attributed to U.S. occupation and not necessarily something inherently violent in Iraq. Suicide bombing didn't start until the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

It's time to separate fact from fiction. Many people are doing themselves a disservice by limiting their world view to the border of the United States of America. Com' on over to the Middle East where the sun is always shining and the diversity is as beautiful as the people who live here. I'm not here to spin away the problems from the region, but put some context and clarity as to what is going on in the Middle East

and North Africa. In the next installment of Qatar Times, I'll give a bit more detail about the people of Qatar and how our experience has been.



One Israeli Soldier for Hundreds of Palestinian Prisoners

By Mai Sabour

On Tuesday, October 18, a highly structured prisoner exchange took place in Jerusalem that stirred up Middle East politics. An Israeli soldier held for more than five years by Palestinian militant group Hamas was swapped for hundreds of Palestinians who spent many years in Israeli jails, all of them freed to thrilled welcomes mixed with some bitterness and grief. Buses transported the first phase of Palestinian prisoners between Hamas and Israel. The first group were over 400 Palestinian prisoners released by Israel in exchange for Sergeant First Class, Galid Shalit, 25, taken from Gaza, where he was been held since Palestinian militants captured him in a cross-border raid in 2006. Shalit was handed over to Egyptian officials at the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt, and was then taken by Israeli officials to the Tel Nof air base. At that moment he was given a medical check and confirmed to be in good health. The release of Shalit enabled the

release of 477 Palestinian prisoners by Israel to Gaza and elsewhere.

In an interview with Egyptian television at Rafah, Shalit said that he hoped that the deal that allowed for his release on Tuesday would help Israelis and Palestinians achieve peace. "I will be very happy if all Palestinian prisoners are freed so they can go back to their families ... I hope this deal could help reach peace between Israelis and the Palestinians and strengthen cooperation," he said.

Israel's portion of the prisoner swap was more intricate. Ninety-six Palestinian prisoners left the Ketziot prison, followed by another 334 from the Katsiout prison in Nagab and a group of female prisoners from HaSharon Prison in central Israel. They were all taken to the Karem Shalom crossing, the southern-most point of

the Israel-Gaza border. Both Israel and the divided Palestinian Party leadership—Fatah who runs the West Bank and Hamas controlling the Gaza Strip—were taking extra precautions for the Tuesday prisoner swap. IT will end the five year captivity for just one Israeli soldier, Sgt. Gilad Shalit; and a much longer captivity for hundreds of Palestinians. This still leaves more than five thousand Palestinians prisoners sitting in Israeli prisons, most of who were imprisoned for taking up arms against

Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian lands or for other questionable charges.

The plainclothes Palestinian prisoners are called to board the buses, to start their journey of freedom once Sergeant Shalit crossed the Gaza border into Egyptian Sinai. In the West Bank, President Mahmoud Abbas greeted the prisoners at a ceremony in



Ramallah. Even though the swap was negotiated by his rivals in Hamas, Mr. Abbas wished to portray the affair as a neutral Palestinian achievement as much as possible. Hamas's minister of prisoners' affairs, Atallah Abu al-Sebah said that the prisoners be released in Gaza would be first greeted inside the Rafah crossing by 200 officials and at least four members of each prisoner's family. There would be a "short official reception," including the Palestinian national anthem. Mr. Sebah said that any prisoners who needed accommodation, including those who did not have families in the strip, would be put up in hotels for one month, irrespective of whether they were associated with Hamas, Fatah or other factions. They would then be moved to apartments being prepared for them around Gaza.

"We call upon our Palestinian people to put our brothers from the West Bank in their hearts and eyes, regardless of their affiliation," he said. "It is enough that they belong to Palestine."

Salvation

By Elizabeth Arias

I wake up this morning feeling like today is going to be a good day. I throw on a robe and head towards the front door. I open it, and the sun shines its heavenly rays on my face. I pick up the crisp newspaper waiting for me by the grey floor mat, remove the rubber band, and open up the newspaper. Guess what's on the front page?

"JESUS, BACK FROM THE DEAD. THIS MAY WELL BE YOUR LAST SUPPER." About time he came back for us. My eyes hungrily scan the page for more information. They center on one very important sentence: The only way to salvation is to be eaten by Jesus himself. To my delight I find that he's going to be in Albany tomorrow.

I quickly close the door, the clicking sound resonating in the empty hallway. I walk to the kitchen, passing the chipped wooden cross propped up against the white wall. I grab the phone off the wall and dial Betty's number.

4:33 AM

By Keilicia Goulbourne

poem supposed to be about one minute
and the lives of three women in it
writing it
speaking it
singing it
and up the block a child
killed by her mother

poem now about one minute
and the lives of four women in it
writing it
speaking it
singing it
screaming it

"Hello?"
"Betty? Guess what! Jesus is back. And the only way to be saved is by having him eat you. We have to get in line early. Apparently he's going to be at City Hall tomorrow."

"Are you serious? Where did you hear about this?"

The newspaper. So, what do you think I should wear? I was thinking maybe not too many layers since Jesus will have a lot to digest to begin with."

"I agree. I'll do that, too. What time should we meet and where?"

"Why don't we meet at the corner of Tonk Street and Merryweather at 7:00am?"

"Sounds good to me. Well, I'm gonna go now. I have to tell my mom. She's been waiting for this day since she was 10."

The next day I get up at 6:00am. Maybe I'll get to see him in all his glory before he starts eating people. I decide to wear my white t-shirt with the blue rose on the front, its delicate petals glistening with water, its stem a faded green and my favorite black cotton shorts. I want to make this as

in columbia
she sits in a dark room
in an empty building
housing empty souls exchanging
empty handshakes
and pointless wishes
carving into her arm
spanish come, come see
what is done to my flesh
run, come see
what is done to me
quick, come
black words written in red ink
jamaican mother
cowering under the bed

effortless as possible for Jesus, so no jewelry. He's done so much for us, it's the least I could do for him.

As I walk to our meeting spot, I watch the willow trees dancing in the wind, the leaves swaying to their own music. The desolate bank across the street, the lonely swings in the park to my left, and the dark 24-hour supermarket all seem so lifeless and sad. I spot Betty in the distance. She's wearing a yellow and red floral dress that comes together at the waist and fans out to land neatly just above her knees. I reach her, and we speed off without a word towards City Hall, our feet pattering against the cold concrete, both aware that we have no time to waste.

When we are finally close enough to see the tall, menacing stature of City Hall's giant steps, perfectly ridged columns, and dull grey exterior, Betty and I notice that there are already people there. Damn it. We should've gotten here earlier. There are already about 100 people here, all in line with their loved ones and friends and there must be even more further on in line. I spot Jimmy Brown with his wife Angela

holding her son's head to her heart
softly praying
patois look, look here
what is don't to my flesh
please, look here
what is done to me
lord, look
his thick hair all that's left of her
all that she can keep
in indonesia
she folds pay up into her blanket
washes her face
and waits her next turn
hands her heart to mother
today's earnings to father

and little Nancy by their side towards the front of the line. As I scan the crowd I see Edward Singleton, the nosy man from across the street and Mrs. Jones behind him knitting what looked like a sweater with the words "Our Savior" on it. We start to head towards the back of the line, recognizing a couple of faces here and there. The line never seems to end. It reaches Ware Street about 3 blocks down before we are able to take our place in line. As we take our place in line, I start to observe the man in front of me. He's an overweight man, his rolls of fat spilling off the sides so that it looks as if his fat is a tutu that isn't long enough to cover his butt. His greasy grey hair sticks to his cheeks and his sweat serves as the glue. He's wearing brown shorts that end just below his knees, revealing his hairy legs. He's wearing worn-out boots that look a size too small for him, suffocating what should be his ankles. Are you telling me this is the guy that's going before me? Jesus is going to be full after eating that mass of blubber and fat. Then what happens to me? I have to wait? I don't get my turn? I should go first.

To be continued....

sings bahasa wow, can you believe
what is done to my flesh
whoa, can you believe
what is done to me
oh, can you
the white-haired one favored her
she now has food to eat

poem supposed to be about one minute
and the beauty of three women in it
and up the block a child
killed by her mother

poem now about one minute
and the truth of four women in it

CCNY Libraries *continued*

She notes that the electronic catalog is a convenient source that helps organize the libraries.

Other than the catalog, the CCNY Library also provides about 200 electronic databases. These databases, according to Stewart, are paid in part by CUNY and in part by CCNY. In these databases you can find scholarly articles, journals, book chapters, and much more. To attain access to these databases off campus, all students need is a free proxy account. But not to forget, there

still are some paper journals in the second floor of the Cohen Library that are not in the databases. Stewart points out that "one sort of disadvantage of the internet is that people think that it's all there." He thinks that Google leads people to believe that and that it is important to.

Another disadvantage of the Internet Stewart notes is it's "information overload." It becomes harder for students to narrow their search and find accurate information.

As a result, he urges students to take advantage of the Reference Desk. "The real person can be a valuable help too," he says in reference to librarians. He claims that they can provide guidance to students that need specific help.

Nevertheless, Stewart agrees that the advantages of technology outweigh the disadvantage. For one, it brings more usage to the library. The renovated tech room in the first floor of the Cohen Library has been successively utilized by students and faculty. This goes to show how important the

Internet is to students while performing their research.

Currently, the CCNY Library staff is making some changes within its web page. The subject guide pages and the online catalog are in the course of revision and experiments to update their look. CCNY Library's constant progress helps make the research process easier and more efficient for students. Technology will always be evolving. But the thought-provoking question is, how far will technology go to improve our education?

The 16 Days of Activism

By Asantewaa Harris

The 16 Days of Activism Committee of the City College of New York are organizing a series of events in November and December, towards raising awareness against gender violence. These events will contribute in launching a community wide campaign towards gaining a women's center on campus. In the face of continued cases of sexual assaults all across the City of New York, we are seeking solutions that will bring safety, protection and better responses for women.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Every year from November 25 to December 10th, efforts are made towards increasing the support for human rights as it relates to gender specific violence. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates

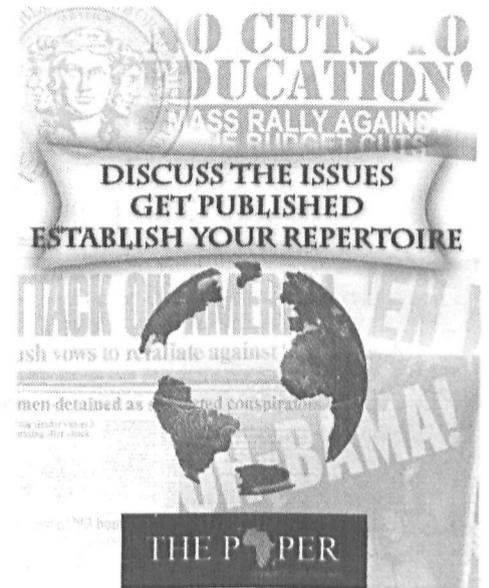
including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

Our goal at the City College of New York is to ultimately establish a Women's Center for the campus community where anyone of any shade, ethnicity or gender can seek resources as they pertain to women's rights and health. We will propose this center through self-defense, educational and inspirational programming throughout the 16 days. Community participation in this campaign is essential in achieving this goal and we are beyond excited to service the City College and Harlem community through our efforts. The 16 Days of Activism Committee Tri-Chairs are Ms. Asantewaa G. Harris, Ms. Nathalie Deller and Ms. Stephanie Petit-Homme. In addition

to coordinating weekly planning meetings, two co-chairs have just returned from an important conference in Beverly, Massachusetts. Human Trafficking – What Can We Do About It was organized by the Association of American University Women's Massachusetts Chapter and provided valuable information on policies and programs. We look forward to bring more awareness, discussion and solutions to address gender violence issues for our campus and the surrounding communities.

We are proud to be part of an international movement of activism that will benefit our community through gender violence education. We hope you will be able to accept our invitation to support and to join us in 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence.

Our email address is CCNY16DaysofActivism@gmail.com and we can be reached via phone at (212) 650-5008. We thank you for your consideration.



Say something
if not now,
when?

Save the Dates

16 Days of activism AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

November 25-December 10

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					Nov 25 International Day	26
27	28 Speak-Out Verbal Expression Event	29 Art Exhibit Day I	30 Art Exhibit Day II	Dec 1 World AIDS Day	2 Gender Violence Panel Discussion	3
4	5	6 Medical Issues Relating to Gender Violence	7 Men's Roundtable Event	8	9 Closing Banquet	10

Self Defense Course Every Weekday from 11/28-12/8
Tentative 16 Days of Activism Schedule

Tri-Chairs:
Ms. Asantewaa G. Harris
Ms. Nathalie Deller
Ms. Stephanie Petit-Homme

The City College of New York
Guillermo Morales/Assata Shakur Center NAC 3/201
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