

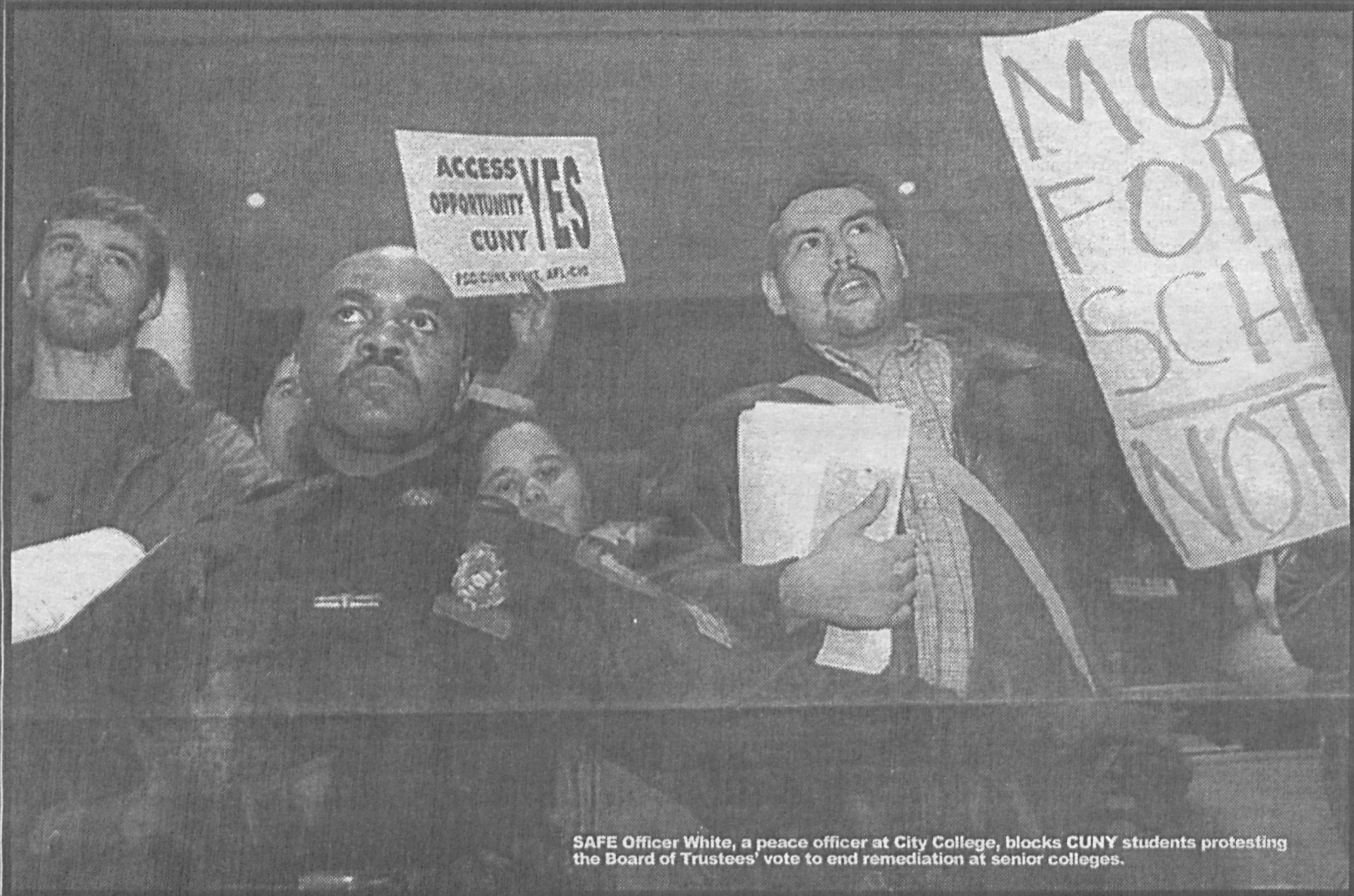
VALENTINE'S DAY: BEST SEX SPOTS AT CCNY PAGE 4

CUNY SECURITY ARMS ITSELF TO THE TEETH PAGE 2

HURRICANE MOSES RAVAGES STUDENT BODY PAGE 2

MESSENGER

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER VOL. 1 NO. 3 FEBRUARY 1998 UNIVERSITY OF HARLEM



SAFE Officer White, a peace officer at City College, blocks CUNY students protesting the Board of Trustees' vote to end remediation at senior colleges.

ACCESS DENIED

The Board of Trustees once again votes out remedial classes at senior colleges despite CUNY's own studies showing some 50% of Blacks, Latinos, and Asians applying are to be blocked from entering into the senior colleges. Students and faculty see the Board's cowardly actions, snuck in during the winter break, as another attack on New York's working class.

By Brad Sigal, Alex Hogan, and Rob Wallace

REMEDIAL CLASSES are now slated to end at CCNY next year. While we were on vacation, CUNY's Board of Trustees snuck in a vote to end remedial classes at all four-year CUNY colleges. The decision will continue to be challenged by students and faculty, as well as by civil rights and human rights organizations in the courts and by the New York State Board of Regents.

Even though the Board of Trustees called the vote while students were on break in order to avoid protests and publicity, hundreds of students and faculty found out about it and showed up to disrupt the historic vote that could end the era of 'open admissions' at CUNY.

STUDENTS HUMILIATE THE BOARD

In the face of chanting from students and faculty in the audience, the Board of Trustees voted 10 to 5 to eliminate all remedial education at all senior colleges by the year 2001 at their January 25 meeting. The plan stipulates the phasing out of remedial instruction. Remediation will end in January 2000 at Baruch, Brooklyn, Queens and Hunter; in September 2000 at Lehman, City College, John Jay, College of Staten Island, New York City Technical and in September 2001 at Medgar Evers and York. After that date any student failing any one of the three assessment tests in reading, writing and math will not be allowed to enroll at any CUNY senior colleges. In effect, the assessment or SEAT tests become entrance exams.

The vote to end remediation was originally held in May but the Board was forced to revoke because of a ruling by the State Supreme Court which blocked its implementation. The Court found a suit filed by City College psychology professor William Crain and graduate student David Suker had merit and that the Board was guilty of violating New York's open meeting law by expelling the public audience after some in attendance heckled the Trustees and holding the meeting in a too-small room.

Over 400 students, professors and community members packed into the Mainstage Theatre at LaGuardia

REMEDIAL CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Dr. Moses & Ms. Hyde

Institutions of higher education in the United States are products of Western society in which masculine values like an orientation toward achievement and objectivity are valued over cooperation, connectedness and subjectivity.

SO WROTE anthropologist Yolanda T. Moses in 1990, three years before she became president of City College in August 1993. Moses told the *New York Times* in September 1993 that she was only summarizing a pedagogical literature, but went on to defend many of the same principles of a multicultural education. In the past, educators assumed "that students are homogenous, that they come from the same kinds of backgrounds, that they have the same cultural backgrounds," she told the *Times*.

The *Times* article marked the opening salvo in what has become, so far, a 5-and-a-half-year public relations campaign aimed at cultivating Dr. Moses's image as a conscientious liberal. Indeed, last May she was conferred an honorary degree by Bloomfield College of New Jersey for "embracing human diversity in all its manifestations" and "making City College an international model for enhancing human potential." Over the winter break, Moses was named to the board of directors of Human Rights Watch, an organization that monitors human rights abuses around the world and whose aims include "to prevent discrimination" and "to uphold political freedom".

But given Moses's record at CCNY, both honors bestowed on Moses appear ludicrous and reward an image that reality demolishes.

Liberal image: According to Shana Moses Bawek, Moses's daughter, Moses provided her this feminist life advice, "You can be the doctor, you don't have to be the nurse."

CCNY reality: In 1995, Moses closes down an entire School of Nursing. Many of its students are women and would have served in New York hospitals.

Liberal image: Moses served on a "Free Angela Davis" committee after the communist black activist was falsely jailed in the early 1970s.

CCNY reality: In 1995, Moses has the NYPD and the SAFE Team jail 47 CUNY student activists peacefully hunger striking against budget cuts in the NAC Rotunda. In 1998,

Spin Dr. Moses



she uses false accusations to shut down the elected Graduate Student Council and the *Graduate Student Messenger* newspaper, and kick out student activist David Suker, all of whom she disagreed with politically. She also permits CUNY Security to install a video camera in a smoke detector outside student activist office to spy on activist movements. Human Rights Watch needs to open a file on Moses, one of its own directors.

Liberal image: In 1968-69 Moses helped organize a Black Studies Program in Watts, Los Angeles. In 1980-82 she helped found and chaired a

Department of Ethnic and Women's Studies at the California State Polytechnic University in the face of a backlash from "old-boy" anthropologists.

CCNY reality: In 1996, Moses shuts down four ethnic studies departments under the guise of a budget crunch and the departments' lack of student majors. When asked by the *Amsterdam News* why, following her reasoning, she wouldn't close the Physics department which had fewer than a dozen student majors, Moses, "the activist", responds, "What you fail to understand is that the physics department brings in over \$4 million a year in grants."

Liberal image: Moses speaks at colleges across the country, pontificating on the virtues of a multicultural education and the fight against racism.

CCNY reality: Despite CUNY's own reports showing some 50% of Blacks, Latinos, and Asians entering CUNY under the old entrance criterion would be blocked by the Board of Trustees' decision to end remediation at senior colleges (see front page), Moses, afraid of the Board, remains completely silent save offering a plan that parrots the Board's proposal to end remediation.

In a chapter of a 1996 book, *The Conversation Begins—Mothers and Daughters Talk About Living Feminism*, Moses describes her mother's fight against America's racism, "When my mother learned that most black or Latino students were automatically placed on the noncollege track, her militancy kicked in. Taking on the entire school system, she said, 'My kids are going to be in college-prep classes because they are going to college.'" Moses's refusal to speak out against the Board of Trustees' attack on remediation, as the presidents of Brooklyn College and Medgar Evers College presidents have, directly contradicts her mother's admonitions to "[take] a stand when things are not right."

Moses continues, "When the school guidance counselor refused to recommend me for a college scholarship ('You'll be a good secretary'), my mother said, 'We don't need this,' and showed off my work to the PTA. In the fall of 1964 I entered San Jose State College on a four-year scholarship from the national PTA." During her tenure Moses has shown herself committed to pulling the educational opportunities she herself enjoyed out from under New York's own Black and Latino youth. Her cowardice will help force thousands of minority women—many without the support of their PTA or the nannies Moses hired to care for her children—into secretary-type positions. That is, if they're lucky. Already 13,000 CUNY students have been forced into Giuliani's workfare.

It's clear what City College needs is Moses's mother, a strong woman who fought back against a racist system in an attempt to increase educational opportunity, not Dr. Moses, the liberal mirage intent on sacrificing her students' futures for her own career ambitions. —ROB WALLACE



In the basement of the Marshak Science Building is one of City College's hidden treasures: the CCNY planetarium. According to Physics professor Victor Chung, the planetarium is comprised of a dome with a 9.1 meter diameter, seats 60 people, and is equipped with a star projector, video and movie players and slide projectors. Along with introductory astronomy and physics courses, the planetarium is used to educate neighborhood elementary school students in a program funded by the Division of Science. Call the Physics department (x6832) for information about the next multimedia show open to the CCNY community.

A bullet for every two CUNY students

The SAFE Team, CUNY's political police, prepares for student protests: 9mm Glocks, hollow-tip bullets, shotgun rounds, and body armor. Coming soon: the \$90,000 security guard.

By Keith Higgenbotham
The Hunter Envoy

DESPITE repeated claims to the contrary, CUNY Central administration is continuing the militarization of CUNY peace officers that began six years ago under former chancellor Ann Reynolds.

CUNY records, obtained by the *Hunter Envoy* under the Freedom of Information Act, show that during the last three years alone, CUNY security has purchased in excess of 110,000 rounds of small arms ammunition worth in excess of \$30,000.

These ammunition purchases include many types that might be considered inappropriate for typical campus security, such as 9mm hollow point, .38 caliber Ny-Clad, and 12 gauge shotgun rounds. In addition to the ammunition, CUNY security has purchased 7 Smith & Wesson .38 caliber pistols and 8 Glock 9mm semi-automatic pistols. Seven of the Glock's were also fitted with 'night sights', which allow the pistols' sights to be seen in low light conditions.

With the exception of Lehman College, normal CUNY peace officers are not allowed to carry firearms on campus. This decision rests in the hands of individual campus presidents, and for the most part, none of them have



SAFE Team officers at metal detectors at January 25 Board of Trustees meeting at LaGuardia College. According to SAFE "rules", one of them, or a NYPD officer there, was armed.

likely for fear of the political or legal fallout from allowing weapons on their campus. (In 1996, CCNY president Yolanda Moses rejected a proposal submitted by Security Director Timothy Hubbard to arm City College guards after vociferous protests by students and faculty.)

However, CUNY SAFE officers, culled from the upper ranks of CUNY peace officers and designated with the mission of dealing with student protests, are permitted to carry firearms if they feel the situation calls for it. Dave Fields, the Special Consul to the Chancellor, points out that despite SAFE's ability to carry weapons, they have never done so, with one notable exception. At the 1995 Black Solidarity Day rally at York College, several SAFE officers brought

weapons to the highly charged event. Fields says that the weapons at this event were immediately locked inside a safe that was located in one of the SAFE vehicles. "The weapons were never taken into the rally area," says Fields.

Another exception is when a metal detector is used for events or functions. CUNY policy states that either an armed NYPD officer or an armed SAFE officer must be present when a magnetometer (metal detector) is used on campuses. Fields, who helped draft the related policy, says that the emphasis is put on trying to get an NYPD officer to perform the duty and only use an armed SAFE officer as a last resort.

Over the three years of records reviewed, various other types of so-called "non-BULLETS CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE MESSENGER

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

c/o CCNY SLAM!, 138th St. & Convent Ave., New York, NY 10031

The *Messenger* is an independent newspaper put out by students of 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*, CCNY students, or anybody other than the individual writers.

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Pataki gets wacky

The governor plans to cut TAP, wants 15-credit minimum to get TAP. Meanwhile, new 38% pay increases for Pataki and state legislators.

By John Olafson

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI seems to think that the only people who should be eligible for TAP, the state-funded Tuition Assistance Program, are those who don't need it.

As part of his proposed 1999-2000 budget, Pataki proposed a raise in the requirements for eligibility for TAP from enrollment in 12 credits a semester to 15. He also wants to raise the portion of tuition a student pays under the program from 10% to 25%. (It used to be 0% until 1995.) A student currently paying \$320, about 10% of the current CUNY tuition, would pay about \$850 under Pataki's proposal.

Why is the governor trying to do this? He says it's about saving money. The pro-

posal would reduce the projected budget for TAP by \$114 million. But the projected budget surplus for the state is \$1.79 billion—about 15 times greater than the projected savings on TAP.

He also says it's about raising standards. Because "fewer than two of every five college students in New York complete their baccalaureate degree in four years," raising the credit requirements will promote "timely completion of degree programs." Under Pataki's proposal students who complete their degrees in four years will receive reimbursement for the tuition they had to pay on their own.

But the amount of time it takes a person to complete college has little or nothing to do with how well she performs, and a lot to do with how many hours she has to work to get by. Poorer people, of course, tend to have to work more because their families can't do as much to

support them.

Pataki's attack on working students echoes those Giuliani regularly makes on CUNY students.

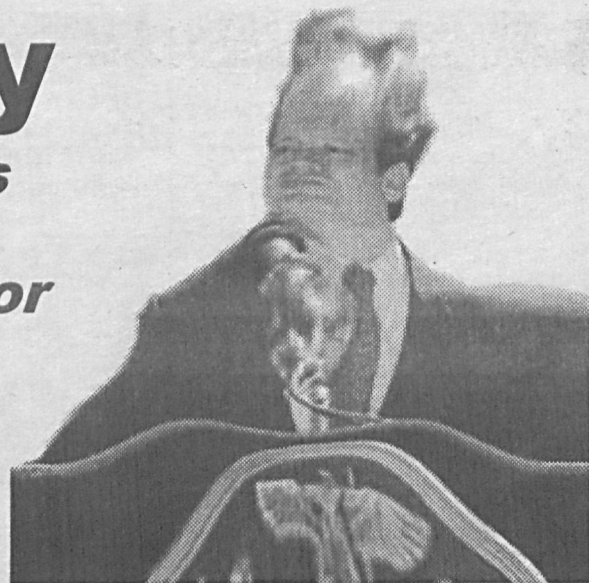
Mohammed Alam, a CCNY sophomore Film major and member of the International Socialist Organization, told the *Messenger*, "If Pataki's plan is imposed than working class students—most CUNY students—can not go to school. Fifteen credits is impossible to take while working full-time."

If cutting working people's access to the financial aid they need to attend college will make them work harder—an absurd assumption—why can't this logic apply to Pataki, his top aides, and state legislators? Just a month ago, state lawmakers voted a 38% wage increase for themselves and Pataki. Five days after

proposing the cuts to TAP, Pataki gave pay raises to six top aides, each raise worth about \$20,000.

In response to the governor's education proposals in this year's budget, Oswald Graham, City College's NYPIRG coordinator, told the *Messenger*, "Anything that causes detriment to college students in New York is truly a tragedy and needs to be re-examined by the public as a whole."

"The only way we can save our educational rights is through mass struggle, by organizing together and fighting back," asserts Alam.



REMEDIAL CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Community College in Long Island City, Queens to witness the vote. It was held there instead of the regular Board meeting place at East 80th Street in order to accommodate the expected large turnout and to get around the court's ruling that the Board had violated the open meetings law in the May 1998 vote.

The auditorium was peppered with pro-remediation and pro-CUNY signs with a variety of slogans including *City College for City People* and *Save Open Admissions* among others. From the opening of the meeting, members of the audience began to loudly chant *Keep Admissions Open!* and *Keep the door open!*

Chairwoman Anne A. Paolucci looked visibly shaken as the crescendo of voices began to rise as she attempted to give the University report.

Paolucci also periodically warned the audience that if they continued, they would be removed. However only one protester, William Crain, professor of psychology at City College, was removed. He was dressed in graduation robes and was wearing a sign saying *Save CUNY* and was arrested as he attempted to move near the stage where the Trustees were seated. Crain called his academic garb, his "battle uniform". Crain told the *Messenger* the garb was "symbolic of an academy getting destroyed."

Trustee James P. Murphy opposed the resolution and attempted to tack on an amendment which would have substantially altered the original resolution. His amendment called for excluding only those students who failed the assessment tests in math and reading and allowing those students who failed the writing test one semester of remediation at the senior colleges. The majority of students with English as a second language fail the writing test. Asking the audience to quiet down, Murphy said that under this amendment we won't be driving out our most qualified students. The amendment only drew support from five other Board members and was voted down.

Many in the audience chanted "No compromise! No compromise!", feeling Murphy's alternative was hardly any better.

Trustee Edith Everett, who in the past has defended remediation, was particularly critical of the resolution. More than 75% of American colleges have remediation she said. She went on to attack those members of the Board who supported the plan. "They repeat these false numbers and then they are reprinted in the tabloids," she said.

Also critical of the resolution was Richard Stone, who despite voting for it last spring said "I and other trustees who



CCNY students David Thurston (left) and Mohammed Alam (right) join Hadas Thier (center) and hundreds of other protesters at the raucous January 25 Board of Trustees meeting at LaGuardia College.

voted, expressed concern about the motion." Despite this, Stone who supported Murphy's amendment, eventually voted for the original resolution, as he had done in May.

Speaking in favor of the resolution was Trustee George Rios. Echoing President Clinton's State of the Union address which denounced social promotion in the schools, Rios, barely audible above audience booing, declared, "By supporting social promotion, we are supporting failure."

In an unsuccessful last ditch effort to prevent the resolution from being voted in untouched, Everett moved to have an amendment attached to it which would have prevented it from being implemented without it first being examined by the State Board of Regents. Her effort failed and the vote was taken on the original resolution.

Along with Paolucci, Rios, and Stone, the trustees in favor of the original resolution were Herman Badillo, who for years has attacked remediation, John Calandra, Alfred Curtis, Kenneth Cook, Ronald Marino, Satish Babbar, and Kathleen Pesile. Voting against it were, along with Murphy and Everett, were John Morning, Mizanoor Biswas (the student trustee),

and Nilda Soto Ruiz. Trustee Michael Crimmins was absent.

Professor Crain told the *Messenger* that during the meeting he had "a feeling of horror".

"We're moving back into an age long-past, into days of slavery. 81% of U.S. colleges offer remediation. Now the poor and people of color won't have that help. It's just disgraceful," Crain said.

Despite the loss today, defenders of remediation are arguing that all is not lost. The most likely option that was floated was some sort of lawsuit. "I want to assure all that this not the end game, we will continue to fight...There is the courts, the Board of Regents, the court of public opinion and the ballot box," said Trustee Murphy.

EFFECT ON CITY COLLEGE

OF INCOMING City College freshmen in 1997, 51.8% had to take at least one remedial class, while 78.9% of incoming SEEK students had to take at least one remedial class. If this new policy is implemented it will force current remedial students back to a community college,

and will bar incoming students who don't pass the three placement exams. Going by CCNY's 1997 data (the most recent available), this would mean a drop in freshman enrollment by 51.8% and a drop in SEEK enrollment of 78.9% at City College. December 1998 SKAT test data show 62% of this year's freshman class will require remedial classes. Proposals to further downsize CCNY by closing entire departments and firing faculty and staff are sure to come. SEEK would be in serious danger after losing almost 80% of its students.

Kenyi Ogando, a psychology major at City College who is also in the SEEK program and a member of Students for Educational Rights, told the *Messenger*, "[The Board's decision] is completely wrong. They should allow minority students to go to college. We should go to the high schools and let the students know what's going on. I took the math remediation class and it helped me pass the SKAT test. Why can't students that follow me have that opportunity?"

In the face of this obvious assault on CCNY, President Moses has remained conspicuously silent. Her only statement to the campus was a June 10 "presidential communique" in which she declared she was working to prepare City College for a post-remediation future. But Moses wrote nothing in defense of remediation and the policy of Open Admissions.

In fact, last semester Moses forwarded a collaborator's agenda, submitting a plan to reduce remediation at City. The plan, *City College for the Twenty-First Century*, called for stopping remediation after one semester, denying students who fail all three SKAT tests entrance into CCNY, requiring SAT test scores and Regents credits. The plan was voted down in a resolution by CCNY's Faculty Senate in December.

Below you'll find the placement test status for freshmen and continuing undergrads at City College for 1997. What's clear from the table is that, for the most part, students who fail the placement tests, take remedial classes at CCNY and pass the SKAT tests when they take them again.

	Reading			Math			Writing		
	Pass	Fail	Total	Pass	Fail	Total	Pass	Fail	Total
First-Time Freshmen	68.4%	31.6%	938	80.3%	9.7%	931	40.3%	59.7%	917
Continuing Undergrad Students	94.4%	5.6%	6,863	93.8%	6.2%	6,902	86.6%	13.4%	6,836

Source: City Facts 1997-1998, CCNY Office of Institutional Research

lethal" crowd and riot control equipment were also purchased by CUNY Central. These include hundreds of ASP extending batons, over 400 mace/pepper spray dispensers, body armor for SAFE teams, and federally approved riot helmets. During her tenure, Chancellor Ann Reynolds made no secret of her desire to have a SWAT-type force at her call to deal with student demonstrations and protests, and her hiring of University Security Director Jose Elique, a former Port Authority counterterrorism expert, and the formation of SAFE in 1992, brought her very close to her goal.

However, many people thought that this elaborate buildup and arming of CUNY security had stopped with her resignation two years ago. According to CUNY records, this is not the case. Security at CUNY still receives the highest financial funding of any college system in the northeast United States,



Glock 9 mm semi-automatic

between \$30 million and \$40 million a year. The highest paid SAFE officers, at \$81,000 a year, now make more than top CUNY professors who max out at \$78,000.

There are even plans in the work to create a new SAFE rank that will put some SAFE officers in the same pay range, close to \$90,000, as college presidents.

According to CUNY security officials, this money and equipment is all necessary to maintain the peace. However, CUNY records show that crime rates at CUNY schools have remained almost constant over the last ten years, especially in the area of violent crimes. Last year there were less than a dozen violent crimes on the 21 CUNY campuses. The obvious question that many students and faculty are asking is, "If after six years and close to \$100 million we are no safer, what has been the point of SAFE?"

In the Valentine's Day spirit, we want to help our fellow students find passion and romance at CCNY. The *Messenger's* roving reporters roamed the NAC Building and the library asking CCNY students to tell us the best place they've heard about to get busy on campus. Here's what we found out:



**Narita Braytino
Sophomore
Film and Video
Production**

Where's the best place you've heard to have sex on campus?

Lots of people go on the 8th floor, on the roof of the NAC Building.

When was the last time you saw Yolanda Moses?

The last time was at the Freshman orientation seminar about two years ago.



**Brendan Sampson
Sophomore
Electronic Design**

Where's the best place you've heard to have sex on campus?

I've heard on the roof of the Science Building. You climb one roof, then you climb up the antenna and then go up on top of another roof. It's the highest point in the school.

Last time Yolanda Moses sighted.

I've never seen her.



**Tony Room
Junior
Economics**

Where's the best place you've heard to have sex on campus?

We've heard in those rooms on the third floor in the library, in the study rooms.

Last time Yolanda Moses sighted.

Tony: Like never. Anisa: I've never seen her.



**Anisa Goberdhan
Sophomore
Economics**

Where's the best place you've heard to have sex on campus?

People say in the first floor in the library, the bottom floor.

Last time Yolanda Moses sighted.

Elizabeth: I saw her in October in the Great Hall in Shepard [for the Race Initiative event].

Cayra and Alexander: At the Freshman Convocation at the start of last semester.

**Elizabeth Santana
Freshman
Economics**

**Cayra Delarosa
Freshman
Psychology**

**Alexander Cuevas
Freshman
Electrical
Engineering**



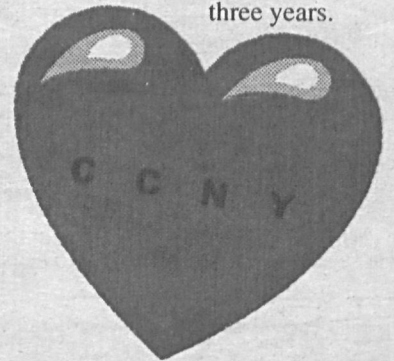
**Jean Jeanty
Junior
Communications**

Where's the best place you've heard to have sex on campus?

I don't know anything about that.

Last time Yolanda Moses sighted.

I've never seen Yolanda Moses. I don't have any idea what she looks like. And I've been here three years.



**Will Remain
Anonymous
Senior
Education**

I don't know about having sex, but the best place to get screwed is over at the administrators' offices.

Support the victims of the
**COLUMBIA
EARTHQUAKE**



This January a massive earthquake hit Columbia and thousands of people were killed, injured, or made homeless. At City College, the Friends of Columbia Club is collecting canned foods, medicine, blankets, kitchen utensils, and other essential goods. Donations can be placed in the provided box in the lobby of the NAC Building or taken to the Finley Student Center NAC 1/210. To volunteer, call 650-5902.

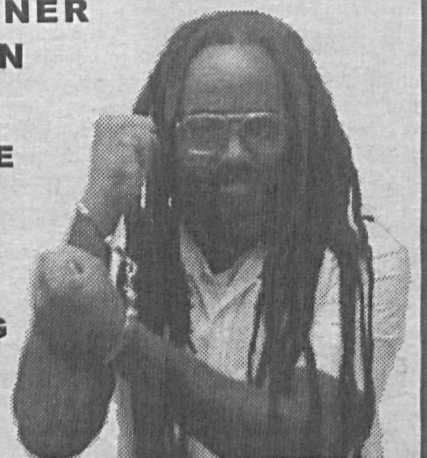
JUSTICE FOR MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

DEMAND A NEW TRIAL FOR BLACK POLITICAL PRISONER ON DEATH ROW IN PENNSYLVANIA!

**JOIN THE MASSIVE
APRIL 24
RALLY IN PHILLY.**

BUSES WILL BE GOING FROM CCNY

Contact SLAM, ISO or SER for more info on buses from CCNY



THE MESSENGER

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