



CELEBRATING BLACK LIBERATION MONTH ★ MLK'S  
1963 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS ★ THE REAL COLIN  
POWELL STORY ★ MEN'S B-BALL: CUNY CHAMPS!

# THE MESSENGER

THE 55 W. 125TH ST. ISSUE

VOL. 3 NO. 3

FEB-MARCH 2001

UNIVERSITY OF HARLEM

2000 WINNER, BEST CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATION, CAJP AWARDS

## Public Schools for Sale?

*Parents and teachers at nearby P.S. 161 fight off hostile corporate takeover. Edison Schools, Inc. chaired by CUNY Board of Trustees vice-chair.*

**By Rob Wallace  
and Hank Williams**

At a February 22 press conference, parents and teachers of Public School 161, right off campus on 134th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, denounced New York Board of Education plans to permit a corporation to run their school. They accused the Board of selling children to the highest bidder.

P.S. 161 is one of five New York City schools slated to be taken over by Edison Schools, Inc., a for-profit education company founded and chaired by Benno Schmidt, former Yale University president and current vice-chair of CUNY's Board of Trustees. P.S. 161 has about 1000 students, primarily Black and Latino.

In December 2000, Edison was chosen by Schools Chancellor Harold Levy to privatize five of what the Board of Education considers the city's worst public schools. In addition to P.S. 161, Middle School 246, M.S. 320, and Intermediate School 111 in Brooklyn, and P.S. 66 in the Bronx are targeted to be run by Edison.

The schools would be converted into charter schools and operate fairly freely from the Board of Education. In order for the conversion to take place, a majority of parents of students who attend these schools must vote in favor of the change. Voting is scheduled to take place over a two-week period starting March 12.

### P.S. 161 Set Up to Fail?

At the press conference, held by the Concerned Community for Better Education, parents and teachers denounced the arrangement. Several complained that for years the city had starved 161 of funds, assuring failure.

Considerable evidence supports their contentions. A 1997 report from New York City's Independent Budget Office showed the Board of Education's per-pupil spending to be the lowest in a decade. The Budget Office attributed most of the decline to the city's contribution to the education budget. Mayor Giuliani and the City Council cut \$1.3 billion from the Board of Education, much of it from education services.

A 1997 report by the Industrial Areas Foundation and the Public Education Association showed the city's worst-performing schools were concentrated in

the poorest neighborhoods. Fourteen school districts in the Bronx, eastern Brooklyn and Manhattan—where Black and Latino students are particularly concentrated—comprised, in the words of

the report, a "dead zone" of educational opportunity.

Last month, State Supreme Court Justice Leland DeGrasse ruled the New York State's budget allocation formulas

illegal, as they gave New York City schools \$2000 less per student than the state average. DeGrasse also declared the state in violation of federal statutes against discrimination as New York City schools teach three-quarters of the state's minority students.

Pam Hayes, a fourth grade teacher at 161, called the school system "in many ways like the Jim Crow system." She explained that during her first fifteen years at the school students used the same textbooks and furniture.

"It wasn't until [former Schools Chancellor] Rudy Crew placed the school in his 'Chancellor's district' that enough money was finally poured into the school," Hayes told the *Messenger*.

### On the Rebound

Parents say that administrators and teachers at 161 have been able to turn the school around. "I can see it through my child," said Carols Perez, who has a

*continued on page 6*



*Aliya and Talib Howard, students at P.S. 161, speak their minds at an anti-Edison press conference on February 22.*

## Three Strikes, You're Out!

**CUNY Trustees Issue Guidelines for Mandatory Exit Exam**

**By Coco Jervis**

Last December the CUNY office for academic affairs finally released a booklet on the CUNY Proficiency Exam [CPE] that outlines the policies governing the administration of the CPE, also known as the "60-credit test." The CUNY administration is demanding that students convince a suspicious administration that they are indeed capable of college-level work by a standard that supercedes the traditional method of determining academic progress: grading.

The CPE test, which consists of two parts and lasts for three hours, was designed to evaluate students' reading, writing, and interpretive skills, which are considered necessary for upper-level class work. The test, which is mandatory for all students who enrolled after fall '99, is offered at least four times a year: October, January, March, and April (and possibly in the summer). Students required to take the exam are notified by mail. Controversy mounted against the CPE exam because it was implemented in such a hushed and hap-

azard manner that even Hunter College testing officials had no definitive answers about the consequences of failing or passing the exam.

Fortunately, students who took the exam last October will not be penalized for failing. Due to the preliminary implementation of the CPE, the administrative booklet states that "Students who do not meet the established passing scores will not receive a 'Fail' designation, nor will this attempt be counted against the three [attempts] that are allotted." This only applies to the fall 2000 test takers.

Starting from the spring '01 semester the consequences for failing the exam are very real. According to the CPE governing booklet, students who fail their first try at the exam may retake the exam up to three times. All the tests and retests must be passed by the summer or winter intersession after completion of their 75th credit. (Appeals can be made.) In other words, you have three chances to pass the exam. If you fail to do so then your CUNY college career ends at 75 credits. Thus, all students who are required to take the exam must pass it in order to get a bachelor's

degree from a CUNY school.

Community college students must pass the CPE to get their Associate Degrees. For those seeking admission into the senior colleges, special provisions are being made for the time being to allow entrance to those who have completed all graduation requirements except for borderline failure of the CPE.

Certain students may be barred from even attempting to take the CPE exam because all students must pass the eligibility requirement for taking the exam. Students must be in good academic standing with a GPA of 2.0 or above and students must take the exam for the first time between their 45th and 60th credit. In rare circumstances, students who are not in good academic standing or have not reached their 45th credit can appeal to take the exam.

All students required to take the CPE exam must be provided with the appropriate pre-test preparation, tutoring information, a full description of the exam with the requirements for passing, sample questions, and reading and practice materials. **M**

*Reprinted from The John Jay Times.*



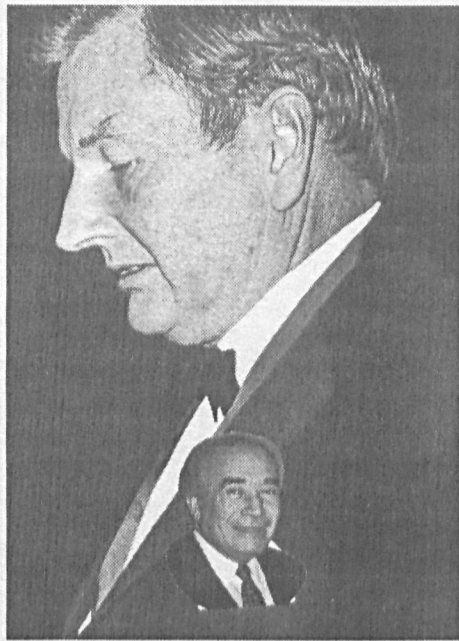
## In David Rockefeller's Pocket

We missed one important piece of the puzzle in last issue's article on CUNY Board of Trustees Chair Herman Badillo and the beginnings of his career ("At Robert Moses's Knee: Where Badillo Learned to Remove Blacks and Latinos from CUNY," Nov-Dec 2000).

We described how Badillo, as Mayor Robert Wagner's Commissioner of Relocation, drafted plans for the removal of thousands of families—many of them Italian and Puerto Rican—from Little Italy to make way for a planned expressway. Enraged residents defeated the plan.

The piece we missed was that the expressway was part of a larger development plan pursued by Chase Manhattan's David Rockefeller, and the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association he chaired, to turn Lower Manhattan into a "golden ghetto" where financial executives could live and work. Little Italy, Chinatown, and the Lower East Side would be cleared of 50,000 working people to permit the finance industry to "walk to work."

Rockefeller's role in protecting the \$40 million investment Chase Bank had in downtown real estate only reinforces the *Messenger's* thesis that Badillo was—and is—willing to sacrifice his own people, including Black and Latino CUNY students, on the altar of his personal ambition and the city elite's interests.



The expressway wasn't built. But Chase Manhattan Plaza, the World Trade Center, and Battery Park City were built with the help of the Port Authority and David Rockefeller's brother Nelson, who happened to be governor at the time. Protecting investments doesn't mean helping New York. The Twin Towers added to the millions of square feet of unfilled downtown office space. Millions of dollars in public bonds were issued through the Port Authority to pay for Lower Manhattan's development at the expense of low- and middle-income housing funds for the outer boroughs. The proceeds of the bond sales were deposited in Rockefeller's Chase Bank. For more, see Paul Du Brul and Jack Newfield's *The Abuse of Power: The Permanent Government and the Fall of New York*.

## The Greening of CCNY?

At the December 2000 Faculty Senate meeting, Vice-President Barbara Gliwa announced plans to re-do the surface in front of the Administration Building. Initially the project sounded as if it would be just another resurfacing. But it isn't. The pavement will actually be removed, and grass and vegetation will be planted.

The project is small but significant. It's not just that the campus will acquire a touch of beauty. The greening also is a rare reversal of a sweeping trend: industrial societies are constantly paving over the earth and smothering whatever tries to live in it. Even our national parks and forest preserves are subjected to highways and paved roads that make it impossible for countless species to carry out the migration patterns they need to survive.

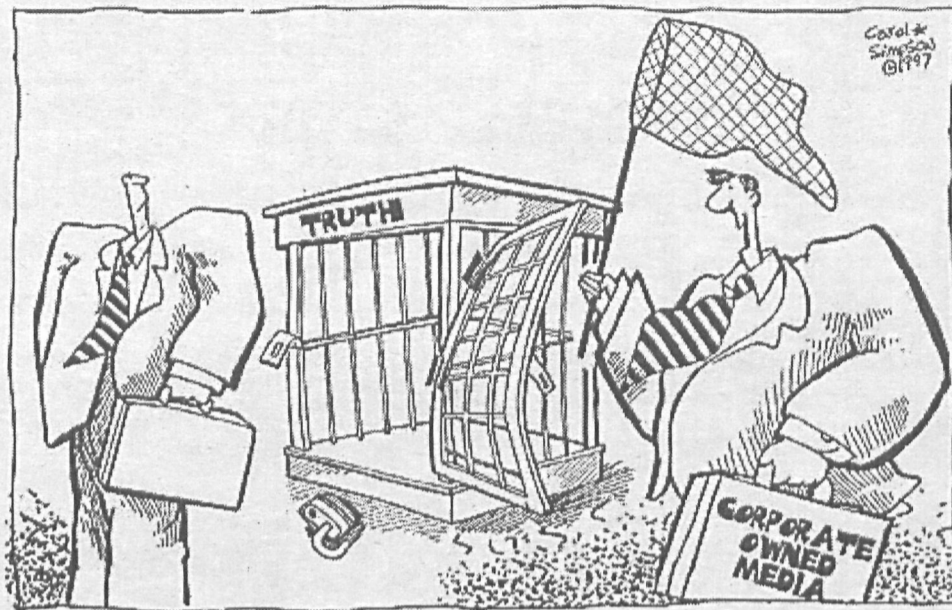
Consider what is happening to the natural earth and vegetation in our area. Last year the mayor tried to destroy numerous community gardens so real estate developers could install cement foundations.

Community protests halted some of the development but not all of it. Meanwhile, the Parks Department paved over much of the Hudson River's natural riverbank for the convenience of walkers, cyclists, and roller-bladers. In the parks, we keep seeing new concrete constructions and asphalt paths and parking lots. Everywhere we turn we see more pavement and concrete.

Some people might consider New York City to be a lost cause. They might say that our city is mostly a concrete jungle, anyway. But it's important that we work locally on behalf of nature. We have no right to urge distant states or countries to protect their natural environments if we aren't doing the same thing ourselves, however small the area at stake.

I congratulate The College administration for their plan to green the Administration Building's plaza. Let's hope it will be just a first step.

—Bill Crain



"Don't worry. It won't get far."

## Beyond these Walls

By Lester Jones

While college is considered by many to be a sanctuary from the harsh realities of the outside world, it is by no means removed from the latter's influence. In fact, the line which demarcates both milieus is often blurry; the walls of the college are neither high enough nor strong enough to keep out all of the external influences which constantly try to climb them.

We students sometimes straddle both worlds, alternately rejecting and accepting in one world the things we've learned from the other. A college education urges us to accept the established ways of seeing and doing things, but it can also provide us with a forum to challenge these same entrenched perceptions and practices. Higher education teaches us that some walls must be built, but it also teaches us that some must be torn down.

At City College, we have the good fortune of being members of a multiethnic student family. Our students hail from each of the earth's four corners and, in

this regard, our college is a microcosm of the world directly outside its walls—the melting pot world of New York City.

Simultaneous existence, however, does not necessarily presuppose harmonious existence (a fact which the history of race relations in America amply corroborates). When we build walls around us to lock out our neighbors we only entrap ourselves in the process. By failing to learn about and to understand others, we deny them the opportunity to learn about and to understand us.

We students who make up the variegated body of City College have an important responsibility. Instead of allowing the biases and prejudices of the outside world to scale the walls of City, we must instead bar their entry by entering into honest and open-hearted dialogue with those around us who come from different cultural, racial, or ethnic necks of the woods. We must not only prepare for the world outside; we must also prepare to change it. A good place to start might be the NAC cafeteria.

## Black Liberation Month in March?

By the way, if you're wondering why we're publishing a February-themed issue in March, you can thank a grant from the

school which was three months delayed, and one-twentieth the size of the request. More on this topic next issue.

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

Write in to the *Messenger's* Letters section:  
ccnymessenger@yahoo.com

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

**W I N N E R**

2000 CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE JOURNALISM AWARDS

*THE MESSENGER*  
\*BEST PUBLICATION\*

(CATEGORY B)

\*HONORABLE MENTION FOR REPORTING\*

CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE JOURNALISM PROJECT/CENTER FOR CAMPUS ORGANIZING  
2000 Judges: John Anner, Independent Press Association; Jeff Chang, ColorLines magazine and 360HipHop.com; Sonya Huber, former director, Campus Alternative Journalism Project; Cathy Madison, Utne Reader; Abby Scher, Dollars and Sense

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### CCNY'S SEMI-INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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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.

Thanks to the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation for providing us with a \$500 grant. Now we can get that Apple IIe we've had our eyes on.

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## The Need for Black Studies

I am a student here at City College. My major is sociology. Prior to my enrollment in a Black Studies course, I had no idea that the Washington Monument was a derivative of the Nile Valley river civilization, or that our founding father, George Washington was a slave owner. The only knowledge I had of President Washington was that he was our nation's first President and about his cherry tree. It appalls me to find that my administration exhibits such a lack of interest in and neglect of my education.

The eradication of Black Studies would be a great if not a fatal loss to the academic experience of the students here at CCNY, as well as to the community. Black Studies along with other ethnic studies are essential in understanding our increasingly multicultural communities. Courses such as world humanities and world history are theoretically supposed to introduce the accomplishments and histories of cultures around the globe from the perspective of each culture and how they define themselves; but instead we are given only the European altered view.

According to the world humanities curriculum the fathers of world philosophies still derive from ancient Greece. Aristotle and Plato are the founding fathers of philosophy for Europe, not the world. Furthermore it is not noted that many of these world's renowned philosophers went to Mali and later Cairo to become educated and enlightened, for these were the pillars of knowledge for the world, yet none of this is noted in these courses.

The fight for black studies started at City College and set precedence for rest of the country to establish an African Studies department. There was obviously a great need for it 31 years ago and there is certainly a need for it now as well as in the future. A strong and well-funded Black Studies department (not just a program) is imperative in establishing an African perspective on the world in which we live in. In fact, it should be criminal to limit City College students, or any other students to only a European-based curriculum, especially since students of African descent make up the majority of CUNY students. The omission of Black Studies or any other non-European area studies would surely help maintain the already destructive system of white supremacy.

—Aisha Rena Leffries

## The \$100,000 Answer

In the article titled "The \$100,000 question" in the November–December 2000 issue of the *Messenger*, quite controversial topics were discussed. The student government was questioned on issues regarding approximately one hundred thousand dollars that was earmarked for evening student services.

Due to the statements made within the article, many of the students have been concerned about how trustworthy our administration here at City College is. Unfortunately, this question is not unique to this campus but can be found at almost every college. I want to take the opportunity to express my views on some issues as well as put the students of the college at ease regarding our administration.

The article rightfully questioned the

location of computers promised to last year's student government. Though justifiable, clarification on certain points needs to be made. At the time the article was printed the computers were not available for use, but they were on campus. There are several reasons why students were not told of their arrival and not granted access to the facility.

One reason was the need for proper security for the room. As you may recall, while last year's student government was leaving the office, we experienced several computer thefts. With so many new computers being purchased, this had to be addressed.

Another subject is with regards to set-up. Not only was there a need to remove the old computers from this location, but additional wiring was needed for Internet access. While the average student might not have been aware of this information, I am making it available to you to demonstrate that the administration in the college is trying to please our requests.

The article also indicates that I accused the Vice-President of Student Affairs Thomas Morales of having had bad intentions for the use of the money at an SSC Board meeting. Not only was the Vice-President not present at this meeting, but it was never discussed between us. Where I believe I was misunderstood was probably where I stated that the committee discussed placing the new surplus of \$21,000 in the same place as last year's agreed-upon proposal of \$79,000.

The article in the *Messenger* does an effective job of stating the history that has lead up to these events. As stated in the *Messenger*, the agreed-upon proposal of \$79,000 was to be spent on computers, remodeling, and fitness equipment.

The reason why I requested to table the issue was because I was uncomfortable with this \$21,000 following the same path as the old. I was sure the money could prove to be much more useful in another location. After speaking to the administration, specifically Vice-President Thomas Morales and Dean Paul Bobb, they presented no opposition. In fact, they offered help in implementing the ideas that we had proposed.

This article should no way damage the credibility of the *Messenger*. In fact, the *Messenger* has won various awards and I still feel is a fine aspect of our campus community. One of the things you learn dealing with the media, is that one must be very specific when speaking of others. Unfortunately, I did not express myself as clear as I should have leaving many statements left to interpretation.

As students of the City College of New York, we are fortunate to have people like Rob Wallace and Marcela Putnam (the authors of the article in the *Messenger*), and other members of the college media, for their undying effort to educate our campus community.

It is the job of the media to report the concerns of the campus, and I must say they are doing quite an effective job with such a hard task.

Student government is quite different from the media though. As student body president, I do not have the luxury of only reporting; I am required to act upon the concerns of the students. For this reason I have to thank Vice-President Thomas Morales and Dean Paul Bobb as well.

The Office of Student Affairs has provided enormous assistance to this year's student government in helping us fulfill many tasks. Whether speaking on how the

vice-president agreed with our request to not bring the College Television Network on campus, or the vice-president's orchestrating meetings with the higher administration, or even the one-on-one discussions where Dean Bobb has offered a helping hand, the student government has benefited from their willingness to help.

While there are statements that Vice-President Thomas Morales and Dean Bobb have done negative things toward the student body in the past, this year's student government has not experienced that. In fact, we would be forced to say that they have done nothing but advocate for students' rights.

It is for this reason that I am sure the unresolved funds will be handled in a fair manner to appease the writers of the *Messenger*, student government officials, and—most importantly—the student body.

—Jason E. Compton  
President, USG

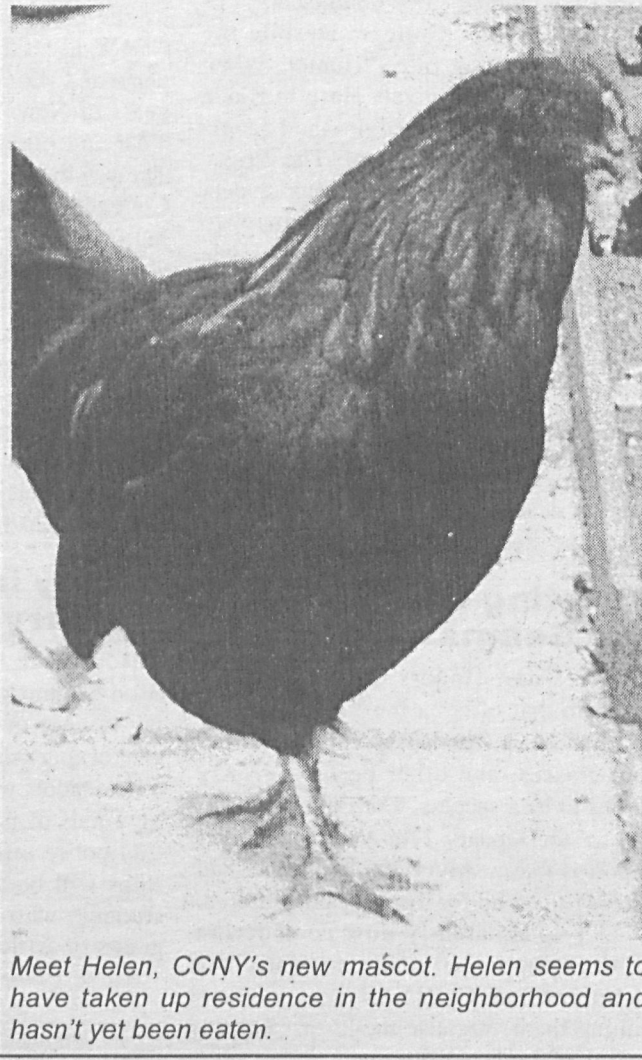
## Rob Wallace responds

The *Messenger* would like to thank Compton for clarifying his views. Compton provides a wonderful example of taking part in a *public* discussion of campus issues, a *public* discussion that has been so largely absent on campus the last few years. We ask—no, beg—CCNY students to follow Compton's example and write in. The *Messenger* letters page is your open mic. Let's talk, argue, debate, discuss, explain, agitate about issues that affect us here at City.

In the spirit of a public dialogue, the *Messenger* offers these thoughts. That Morales and Bobb are now cooperating is terrific. At the beginning of the school year, the two also acquiesced to USG demands to abandon plans to bring CTN to campus, which would have sabotaged WCCR and SAME-TV [see the May 2000 *Messenger*, available online at <[www.geocities.com/ccnymess](http://www.geocities.com/ccnymess)>].

But current cooperation doesn't obliterate their sordid histories at City College. Morales and Bobb have rigged student elections, closed down a student newspaper, suspended CCNY students for organizing against budget cuts, blocked speakers invited by student groups, greatly restricted student groups' right to free

## Uptown Chicken



Meet Helen, CCNY's new mascot. Helen seems to have taken up residence in the neighborhood and hasn't yet been eaten.

speech as well as their abilities to hold events on campus.

The \$100,000 episode is exemplary of their history here. In May 1999, Morales and Bobb, who dominate the Student Services Corporation, pushed the SSC Board to vote the \$79,000 that accumulated in the ESG's account for the Wingate gym. That money grab was blocked by the Board of Trustees' Committee on Student Affairs because CCNY students did not have input on how the money was to be spent. In Fall 1999, Morales proposed using much of the \$79,000 in evening student fees on a new gym evening students would not have been able to use. It wasn't until USG officials rewrote the proposal that evening students were permitted some access to services paid for with their fees.

It was laudable of Compton and the USG to step in this year and, in essence, nullify the arrangement in favor of spending the additional \$21,000 from the *Nightwatch* account in a way the USG, *not administrators*, thinks best for students.

That Morales and Bobb are currently cooperating is a victory for students. But there is still much wrong with how the Office of Student Affairs is run. The next president of CCNY should clean that office out and, as is the general custom with new presidents, will in all likelihood do exactly that. Maybe Morales and Bobb are cooperating because they're so worried about job security. Their CCNY records give them plenty to worry about.

**Get Involved in  
the *Messenger*!**

**meetings: Tuesdays, 12:30PM  
Baskerville 103B  
x21000**



**Thanks—Sort Of**

The January 17–23rd issue of the *New York Press* features a complimentary article about Hunter College. Despite the ominous sounding title (“Hunter: When You Absolutely Positively Have to Kinda Go to College”), it’s a fair—and favorable—review of the school. The *Press*’s Ned Vizzini—apparently a Hunter student himself—writes: “Do you want to go through the least amount of crap possible and still get an actual college degree? Come to Hunter. Not only is it inexpensive, it is the most professional, least bull-shit place you will ever deal with. Six months here and you’ll wonder who is running the rest of the world.” It’s a good thing Vizzini didn’t come to City and have to deal with such bureaucratic tedium as the dreaded Overtally Forms.

**Bursting at the Seams**

CUNY’s new Honors College—a new program that offers a few select students free tuition, a free laptop computer, special classes, and other perks—already seems to be a success. The Education section of the January 17th *New York Times* reported that nearly 1,200 applicants had already lined up for the 100 spots offered. CUNY is apparently now considering admitting up to 200 students (“University Scholars,” as CUNY is calling them) because the “pool of high-achieving applicants is so strong.”

The new recruits will arrive in September at Baruch, Brooklyn, City, Hunter, and Queens Colleges. At best the Honors College will provide assistance to only about one-tenth of one per cent of the nearly 200,000 CUNY students.

**City University Merit Scholars**

CUNY Applicants who don’t make the cut for the Honors College might still be eligible for the CUNY Merit Scholarship. Graduates from public or private New York City high schools with a B average or better are eligible for the scholarships, which pay \$1,450 per year. Scholarships are based solely on academic achievement.

The CUNY Merit Scholarship, established by the New York City Council, is available to full-time students who enroll directly into a CUNY college no later than two semesters after high school graduation. CUNY Merit Scholars must enroll in an associate or baccalaureate degree program and maintain a cumulative B average or higher. Baccalaureate degree students are eligible for a maximum of ten semesters of scholarship

award. Associate degree students are eligible for six semesters.

The scholarships are an important step by the city government toward making CUNY accessible to working class students and taking up some of the slack of years of New York State budget cuts to TAP and other financial aid programs. The patchwork nature of this, the Honors College, and other efforts, however, still fall far short of programs like California’s Cal-Grants, which virtually guarantee a full tuition scholarship to every new high school graduate who demonstrates financial need and earns at least a C grade average.

Even the Cal-Grants are no substitute for the commitment to widely accessible public higher education that most other industrialized nations have already made.

**Money in Amadou’s Memory**

Saikou Diallo has donated \$5000 each to Bronx Community College and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to fund a total of four scholarships in memory of his son Amadou, who was slain two years ago by a hail of bullets fired by New York City police officers. Two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded at each school to students who are either African immigrants or African-American with a grade

point average of 3.0 or better.

**High Rent District**

The CUNY Board of Trustees will vote on a plan to raise the housing allowance for the college presidents from \$3,000 to \$5,500 per month and the chancellor’s allowance from \$7,500 to \$9,500 per month. That’s yearly undergraduate tuition for nearly three full-time senior college students every month. This is in addition to the salary increases approved last year for the 281 people in the executive pay plan that the University Faculty Senate estimates will cost nearly \$2 million.

Despite the protestations of the CUNY central office and Board of Trustees that they are trying to make the university more “student centered” and support faculty, their actions (as with the establishment of the Honors College) suggest a Third World view of CUNY, where those at the top take the spoils and the majority at the bottom have little.

**Do Not Pass Go**

CUNY has implemented its new ACT remediation exit exam. Students who fail either the writing or reading parts cannot move on to the first English composition course, regardless of their grades in remedial courses or their instructor’s assess-

ment of their writing.

Faculty who have worked on the test report that it doesn’t seem very valid. CCNY Psychology Professor Bill Crain reports that about 25% of community college students and 50% of senior college students passed both sections of the test and can move forward this spring. CUNY has provided no data on the test’s validity at our university. In the fall, it will be used to bar students from the senior colleges, too. The nation’s blind faith in standardized testing is as strong at CUNY as anywhere.

**Breaking the Bank**

The share of family income required to attend New York public and private colleges and universities is close to the highest in the nation, according to a first-of-its-kind U.S. report card on higher education.

The report card, called “Measuring Up 2000,” was released by the independent, nonpartisan National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. The entire report is available online at <[www.highereducation.org](http://www.highereducation.org)>.

According to the report, New Yorkers contribute 36% of their income, after financial aid, to attend public four-year colleges; in the best-performing states, families devote 19% of their income to cover college costs. New Yorkers devote 85% of their income to cover the cost of private four-year colleges, compared to 30% in the best-performing states.

CUNY’s community college tuition is the second highest of any public two-year community college in the nation. CUNY’s charges are even slightly higher than the State University of New York community colleges, even though CUNY’s students are much poorer (and more frequently students of color).

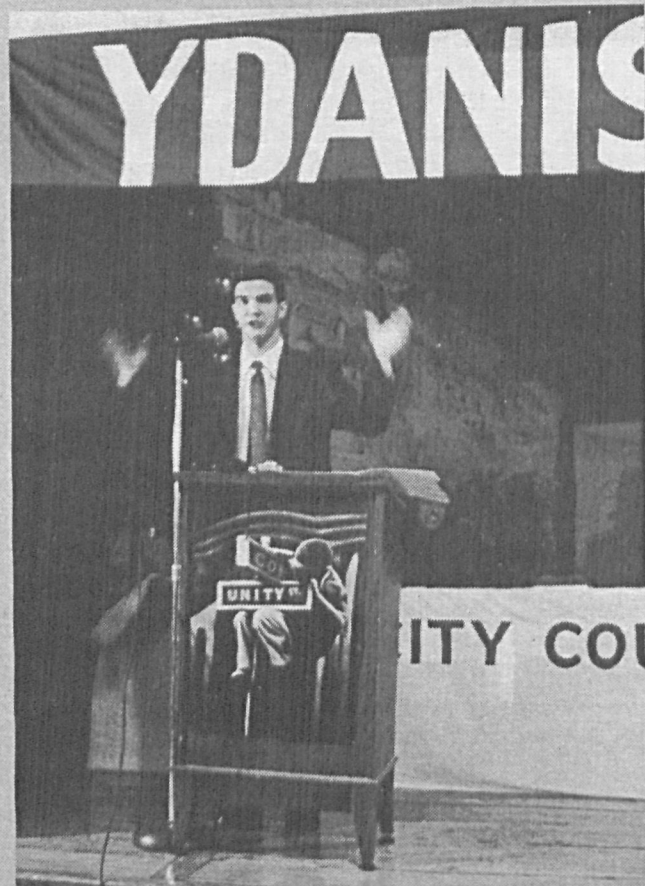
This is not surprising considering that studies by the have shown that Student Association of the State of New York show that tuition has been rising above the rate of inflation since 1991 and CUNY tuition doubled during the ’90s. The Justice Policy Institute ([www.cjci.org/jpi](http://www.cjci.org/jpi)) found out where those funds went: to jail. The state prison budget soaked up the \$615 million worth of cuts to CUNY.

The good news is that New York State is a top performer on the proportion of high school students who take and score well on advanced placement tests—a statistic the report claims is one indication of strong preparation for college.

**CCNY Leader Runs for City Council**

On February 9th Ydanis Rodriguez announced his candidacy for New York City Council District 10 in Washington Heights. Rodriguez is a CCNY alumnus, CUNY activist, and a founder of the Union de Jovenes Dominicanos (Dominican Youth Union).

Rodriguez entered CCNY in 1987 and in 1988 became involved with the successful student effort to stop CUNY tuition increases. UJD has also actively organized against the death penalty and police brutality. Rodriguez also served as General Coordinator for the Dominicanos 2000 Conference held at CCNY last spring.





## New Trial for Jailed American Journalist

Lori Berenson has been charged with collaboration with Peruvian terrorist organizations by the Peruvian government and will have to stand trial. Berenson has been held for more than five years, but last year her conviction by a Peruvian military court for treason was overturned when the military admitted that it had no proof that she was guilty.

Peruvian authorities claimed that Lori was a member of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA). Former President Bill Clinton telephoned Peruvian President Paniagua to urge resolution of her case before he left office and the Bush administration has reportedly been briefed on the situation.

Berenson's parents, Mark and Rhoda, have been working diligently to fight for her release from prison and released the following statement: "Since Peru has already violated several international laws and its own constitution in Lori's case and since Peru is incapable of giving Lori a fair trial, Mr. Paniagua should intervene to prevent an ongoing injustice." Mark and Rhoda Berenson are both former CUNY professors who resigned to work full-time on their daughter's case.

Peru's unstable political situation following the resignation of President Alberto Fujimori for corruption in his administration is complicating matters.

Although the prosecutor concurred with the Supreme Military Council's finding last August that Lori Berenson was neither an active participant nor even a



Lori Berenson in 1995 in Lima, Peru.

member of the MRTA, her trial is still going forward, which has her parents and human rights organizations worried that she will not receive a fair trial.

According to Jose Miguel Vivanco, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch's Americas division, under the existing Peruvian laws the definition of terrorism is so broad and so vague that almost any activity could qualify as terrorism.

Support for Berenson is growing both in the U.S. and internationally. Amnesty International, the Organization of American States, and Human Rights Watch have all asserted that her jailing is for political reasons. Berenson was a magazine reporter and was critical of the Fujimori government for the extreme poverty in Peru. The New York City Council recently adopted a resolution calling for Berenson's release.

## City Settles Civil Suit with Former Black Panther



Dhoruba bin Wahad.

Dhoruba bin Wahad has agreed to drop a civil lawsuit against New York City on charges that he was wrongly imprisoned and convicted for the 1971 murder of two police officers. Wahad, then Richard Moore, was sentenced in 1973 and held until 1990 when his conviction was overturned.

Wahad now lives in Ghana and cited the uncertainty of a trial—especially considering the decision of a judge not to allow some crucial evidence—as the reason for accepting the settlement. He will receive a payment of \$490,000. He settled a lawsuit against the Federal Government for \$400,000.

The decision again brings to light the actions the FBI, CIA, and local police forces used to disrupt political group such as the Panthers in the 1960s and 1970s. Many Panthers were targeted by the government counter-intelligence programs and either assassinated, like Fred Hampton, or jailed on trumped-up charges, like bin Wahad, Geronimo ji-Jaga (Pratt), and Mumia Abu-Jamal. ji-Jaga settled a lawsuit with the government last year; Abu-Jamal remains on death row in Pennsylvania and is fighting for a new trial.

Wahad and his lawyers obtained more than 300,000 pages of classified FBI documents pertaining to government harassment of political groups.

## Giuliani Union-Busting Continues

After waiting for two weeks beyond expiration of the teachers union contract, the Giuliani administration demanded "merit" pay, a 6 percent salary cut, a longer workday and the abolition of tenure.

Giuliani's attack on the teachers is the latest in the administration's largely unchallenged union busting, a policy bracketed in time by assaults on Legal Aid unions during and since their 1994 strike, and injunctions against transit workers in December 1999.

Transit workers were threatened with onerous fines and arrest if they even mentioned the word "strike." The action was ruled illegal, but the Mayor's bluff paid off: the combination of strong-arm tactics and negotiations produced a contract agreement much more favorable to the city than to the transit workers.

The city appears to be following a similar pattern with the teachers, even if the rhetoric is less confrontational. These developments come at an important time, as many city contracts are in negotiation this year, including the one for CUNY's faculty and staff union, the PSC.

The Master Plan, a blueprint for CUNY's next four years, cited a "need to achieve productivity and program savings," which should be an warning to the PSC in their contract negotiations. It appears that the corporate model is in full swing here at CUNY. The top execs receive even more lavish perks (see "High Rent District" in the CUNY Clipboard section) while staffers are whipped harder

to produce and students make do with substandard facilities, full classes, and a panopoly of excuses from two-faced administrators about a lack of funds.

## Clinton Approves War Crimes Court

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton, who engaged in an unprecedented flurry of activity before his departure from the White House, signed a treaty for the creation of an International Criminal Court.

The establishment of this court represents one of the most important advancements in human rights protection since the adoption of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the most significant step for international justice since the Nuremberg Tribunal. The court will be an effective mechanism for bringing to justice those responsible for the most serious human rights crimes: genocide, war

crimes and crimes against humanity.

The idea is to have a permanent body convened with the power to investigate and prosecute such crimes. Ratification will most likely have some sort of built-in mechanism for only limited prosecution, as powerful players on the world stage have been accused of many war crimes themselves. Ironically, Clinton himself has been called a war criminal (though an unconvicted one) for the U.S.' targeting of civilians in the war against Yugoslavia and the continued bombing of Iraq.

So far, 139 governments have signed the Rome Treaty and 27 have ratified it. Sixty ratifications are needed for the treaty to enter into force and for the court to be set up. Human Rights Watch reports that the pace of signature and ratification has greatly increased over the last six months. They anticipate that the treaty will enter into force by mid-2002.

## WBAI: The Coup on Wall Street

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Information is the raw material for new ideas; if you get misinformation, you get some pretty fu—d-up ideas.

—Eldridge Cleaver  
former Minister of Information  
Black Panther Party

With late-night lock changes, and a phalanx of security guards prowling the halls, the coup of WBAI-FM, the flagship station of the Pacifica Network, has begun.

Popular veterans of the listener-supported station, like program manager Bernard White and WBAI union shop steward Sharan Harper, (both producers of the morning "Wake Up Call" show) received letters of termination at their homes several hours before their shifts were to begin. WBAI general manager, Valerie Van Isler, who, like White, was a 20-year vet of the station, was similarly fired by Pacifica, ostensibly for failing to accept a position at network headquarters in Washington, D.C.

While these firings were attempts to remove, and thereby install, management personnel, it was also an opening salvo in a pitched battle designed to silence radical dissent, and open the airwaves to the corporatization of WBAI.

If you want WBAI to become a nice, sweet, safe alternative, like NPR, then do nothing. It will happen. If, however, you want to continue to hear about the struggles of the peoples of the world for liberty, for life, for dignity, as in East Timor; or of the noble life and death struggle of the Zapatistas in the mountains of Mexi-

co; or of cases like the slaughter of African immigrant Amadou Diallo; or of the continuing human rights violations occurring every day in the nation's burgeoning prison-industrial complex, then you must fight for it, as you would fight for your very life, or anything dear to you.

The great Frederick Douglass perhaps put it best when he said, "Without struggle there is no progress." If the various communities of New York and northern New Jersey don't struggle for their vision of WBAI-FM, it will be gone. It's as simple as that.

What's happening at 'BAI was attempted a year ago at KPFA-FM in San Francisco. The people of the Bay Area rallied in unprecedented strength—over 10,000 folks at one protest—and backed the Pacifica board down. Listeners to 'BAI must do no less!

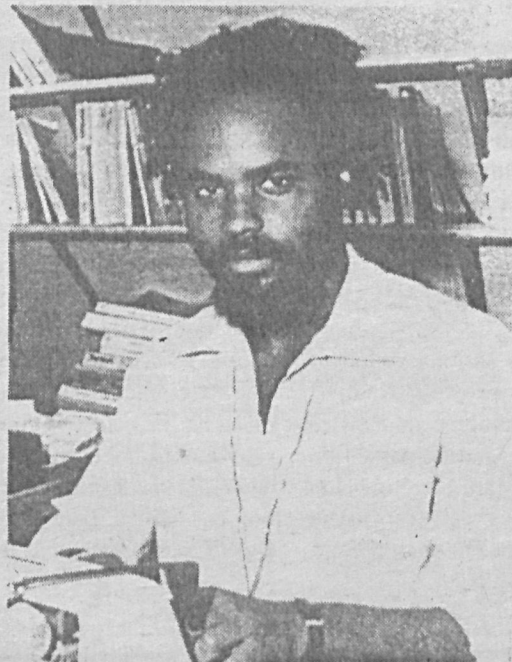
In theory at least, the airwaves belong to the people. For the last 40 years, the staff and local management of WBAI have tried to make that theory in America a reality.

If you are thrilled by the no-holds-barred radio reporting of "Democracy Now's" Amy Goodman, who is constantly threatened and harassed by the Pacifica board for her radical reporting, then fight for her.

For in fighting for her, you fight for the finest traditions of WBAI, and against the corporationists who want to turn a national resource into just another commodity.

To keep it raw, to keep it real, you've got to fight for it. **M**

Written 1/29/2001  
For more info contact Concerned Friends of WBAI: 800-825-0055; 718-707-7189; www.savepacificanet



Mumia, pictured in 1981 while a news reporter for NPR's premier Philadelphia radio station WUHY (now WHYY).



# Giuliani Minion Raab Picked as New Hunter President Despite Broad Opposition

By Eulan Atkinson  
with Jennifer Weiss

The selection of Landmarks Preservation Commissioner Jennifer J. Raab as the new president of Hunter College has many in the Hunter community upset. In a meeting organized by student group SLAM! on February 6, faculty and students objected to the way her selection was driven by the influence of the mayor and his allies in the CUNY administration, criticized her total lack of academic experience, and expressed fears about the role she might play at Hunter.

Raab, who currently runs the 60-employee Landmarks Commission, is a corporate lawyer who has served in various positions under the Mayor since working as Issues Director of his unsuccessful 1989 mayoral campaign.

Her appointment was the result of a nine-month selection process in which she was pushed strongly by some CUNY officials but met opposition at every step from Hunter representatives.

In the first step of selecting a new president, the Board of Trustees appointed a search committee chaired by Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Benno Schmidt

and consisting of four trustees, one alumnus, two faculty and two student representatives. The necessary qualifications advertised included experience in academic management, fund raising ability, and an earned PhD.

The committee first reviewed 59 applications and voted for the ten candidates to be interviewed. Although Raab was not among the top ten because the committee found that she did not fulfill the qualifications, CUNY officials insisted she be interviewed.

## 'Keep Voting Until You Get It Right'

After the interviews another round of voting was held to choose four finalists who would visit the campus, meet with the campus community, and be passed on to CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein for the final selection. Although the Hunter representatives on the search com-

mittee were opposed to Raab, Trustees Randy Mastro and Benno Schmidt insisted the group vote repeatedly until she made the list. Of the four finalists Raab, she received the least support and the fewest votes. The other three candidates were all seasoned academic administrators including a law school dean, a provost and a chancellor.

The four finalists each spent a day at Hunter meeting with faculty, administrators, students and alumni and holding an open forum.

Chancellor Goldstein chose to recommend the appointment of another finalist, Old Dominion University Provost Jo Ann Gora, saying that she met all of the advertised qualifications. During the tense and drawn out final vote on January 29, the Board of Trustees was split between two camps. On one side were the six trustees,

including Vice-Chairman Benno Schmidt, who supported Chancellor Goldstein in his recommendation for Gora. Supporting Raab were the nine trustees allied with the mayor and led by Chairman Herman Badillo.

The 10-6 vote in favor of Raab was the first time the Board has failed to approve a presidential appointment recommended by the Chancellor. Before the vote, Trustee Michael Crimmins publicly objected to what he called "external political intimidation." Many of the trustees appointed by the mayor are city employees dependent on him for their positions. Another trustee later said he had received dozens of phone calls from representatives of the mayor and governor urging him to vote for Raab.

"What kind of person would accept a job when they knew that everyone they would have to work with opposed them?" asked one professor at the February 6 meeting.

Others were concerned that Raab is the local face of a national trend of decreased public support for higher education and education in general. During the selection process, CUNY officials trumpeted Raab's connections which they say will make her an effective fundraiser from private donors. "She brings her Rolodex with her," Trustee Randy Mastro told the selection committee. State and city support for CUNY has plummeted in the last decade

despite increasing enrollment. In primary and secondary education, voucher programs and the management of schools by for-profit companies have all appeared on

the agenda in many areas in the last few years. **M**

Reprinted from the Hunter Envoy.



You might say the other candidates for the presidency of Hunter were Raabed.



CCNY's Ydanis Rodriguez joins parents and teachers to denounce plans to allow Edison Schools, Inc. to take over P.S. 161 on 134th Street.

## Schools for Sale

continued from page 1

son in second grade at 161. Perez said his son had taken more to reading, needed less help on his homework from his parents, and takes part in the school's after-school program.

Perez explained that Edison has promised parents at 161 that it would institute Success For All (SFA) reading programs and to extend school hours. "But our school already teaches SFA and already has extended hours," said Perez. Perez thought the Board of Education and Edison were taking over schools that had already instituted new programs and were already on the rebound.

Edison promises to wire every class, install three computers in each, provision multimedia classrooms, and give home computers and modems to each student. Literature provided by the Concerned Community group declared computers provided to Edison schools in Texas were old-model Apples with slow modems.

Promises of new technology aside, has Edison delivered better test scores? P.S. 161 parents pointed out Edison's below-par results in Miami, Boston, and Minnesota. Moreover, Edison has fudged its record, the parents said. For example, in Boston, Edison schools pushed out students who did not do well on tests as well as special-ed students, as a way of ameliorating school test scores.

"We've shown more improvement than they have," Brigett Rosario, an instructional specialist at 161, said of Edison.

Attrition in teaching staffs has also been widespread at Edison schools. According to articles cited by the Concerned Community group, Edison schools in Dallas lost 23% of their original teachers, twice the national average. Minneapolis Edison schools lost 75% of their staffs.

To stave off a similar exodus, Edison plans to offer teachers at the five New York schools laptop computers, more money for longer hours, and even stock options. But is it enough? Teachers who have left Edison schools elsewhere have complained about overly prescribed, off-the-shelf curricula over which they had no control. Hayes explained that she wanted to continue to work with parents at P.S.

161, but "If Edison comes in, I'm out."

## Heavy-handed Pressure

Lobbying for parental support for Edison has been intense. The *New York Times* reported the Board of Education provided Edison close to \$100,000 to lobby parents to vote for Edison. When asked by the *Messenger* whether the Board had given Concerned Community \$100,000 to lobby parents against the Edison plan, Desiree Howard, another fourth grade teacher at 161, where are own children attend school, shook her head, no. "They only give us \$200 a year for supplies. I pay \$500-1000 of my own money on supplies," Howard said.

In January, Edison held a meeting with parents. According to teachers and parents, NYPD surrounded the school building and kept teachers from attending the forum. "I thought there was a bomb threat," said Perez of all the police. The forums have since been moved to outside locations where parents are spoon-fed information about Edison by Edison.

A contract with as large a school system as New York's would give Edison a chance to redeem an endangered reputation with Wall Street. Edison has raised close to \$400 million in investment but is under severe pressure from stockholders. The company has turned no profit and has generated severe losses, including \$36 million in the year ending June 2000. Edison spends on average \$1.5 million on each school startup, 36 percent over what it takes in from school districts. To begin to profit Edison must operate at a larger scale, taking over more schools. For its stockholders' sakes, Edison must force its way into new markets.

The parents and teachers of P.S. 161 think the runaway concern with turning a profit is a danger to students' education. "People who are in education should make decisions about schools, not businessmen. Teachers know what's needed in the class. We work in the trenches every day," said Howard. **M**

The Concerned Community for Better Education is holding a Town Hall Meeting on the Edison situation at City College on March 6 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 650-5008.

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# AIDS and Black People: Genocide is Here Today



By John Olafson

These days it's a struggle to get many non-Black people to accept that the term "genocide" could be applied to the treatment of the African peoples centuries ago during the slave trade. It's an even tougher to assert that genocide is going on in the year 2001. But the facts are there staring us in the face if we care to look:

- Over 35 million Africans have contracted a disease which, left untreated, is fatal essentially 100 percent of the time.
- The developed countries have treatments which dramatically lower the death rate from the disease, as well as the resources to pay for the treatments and for prevention programs.
- The developed countries have chosen not to pay for more than trivial amounts of assistance to the continent, and are actively pressuring African and other Third World countries not to manufacture the medicines themselves.

The future of the African continent is being changed profoundly as we speak. A whole generation of women and men of the age where they bear and raise families and engage in productive activity is just being wiped out. Millions of babies are being born with AIDS and will never see adulthood. It is not an exaggeration to say that the AIDS pandemic appears to be sending the continent into something approaching a new dark age.

And it's not just Black people in Africa being devastated by the disease. Here in the U.S. AIDS has made a demographic transition. It is now sweeping through the Black population at a skyrocketing rate. AIDS is now the leading cause of death for African Americans between 25 and 44. More than half of all new HIV infections occur among Blacks. Blacks are now ten times more likely than whites to be diagnosed with AIDS and ten times more likely to die from it. Black women are affected the most profoundly of all, accounting for 64 percent of all new infections amongst women in the U.S.

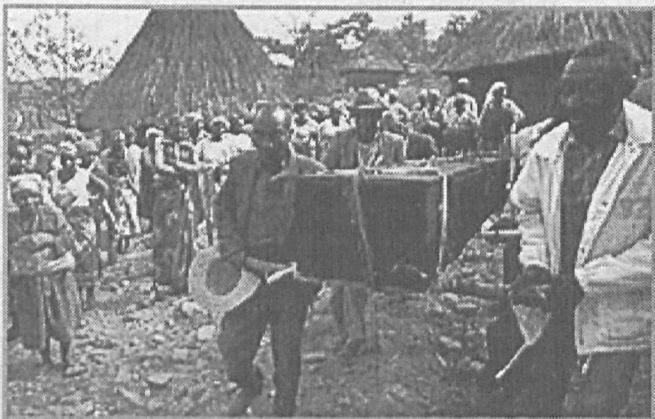
## Why is this happening?

On occasion you'll hear stories from the conspiracy-minded about how AIDS was created by a government experiment to wipe out Black people. This is silly. AIDS arose somewhere in the middle of the 20th century when a strain of Simian Immunodeficiency Virus mutated and made the leap from chimpanzees to humans in central Africa, probably as the result of the eating of the apes as "bush meat." The best biotechnology doesn't have the capability of engineering this virus today, and it certainly didn't 50 years ago.

AIDS evolved naturally, but its spread is indeed happening through conscious and systematic human action (and inaction). As with many other diseases, it flourishes in conditions of poverty, under-education, and social disruption. Which is the continent in the world most beaten down by the slave trade, colonialism, neo-colonialism, Apartheid, and economic underdevelopment? Africa. Where is

AIDS most rampant? Same place.

The same is true here in the U.S. Black people are faced with much greater conditions of poverty, disruption of families, imprisonment, and other conditions favoring the spread of the disease than the U.S. population as a whole. And now the virus



UNRAIDS/MICHEL SZULC-KRYZANOWSKI

is taking advantage of those conditions.

We mustn't see all this as an unfortunate accident of history, because it isn't. The conditions allowing AIDS to take hold were caused by the systematic policies of the First World mentioned above. And now it's policies driven by the same underlying factors of greed and racism that are allowing AIDS to become the worst pandemic in the history of the world.

## Drug Companies: Profit Trumps Millions of Lives

In recent years powerful three-drug combination therapies have been invented that dramatically lengthen the lifespan of people with AIDS. As a result the death rate since 1996 has plummeted amongst infected people in the First World who can afford the \$10,000 or more a year in drug costs.

The thing is that the actual production costs for these drugs are a tiny fraction of the price the drug companies charge. For example, Cipla, India's largest domestic drug manufacturer, has recently announced that they will sell generic versions of the three-drug cocktails to non-profit organizations for \$350 a year. But the First World drug companies are doing everything they can to prevent such things from happening as it will of course threaten their rate of profit. According to *Forbes* magazine the 10 largest U.S. drug makers had a total profit level of \$100 billion last year. In comparison, they only spent \$21 billion on research and development.

In 1995 as part of the creation of the World Trade Organization (the international body whose famous December 1999 Seattle meeting was shut down by tens of thousands of people opposed to their policies), a set of international rules known as Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) were established. As part of this agreement, any WTO member country is forced to respect other countries' patents or face serious sanctions. And according to this law, pharmaceutical patents are given protection for a minimum of 20 years from the time of their granting.

There is a loophole in the law allowing for "compulsory licensing," in effect giving countries the ability to ignore the patents when it is in the public interest. The drug companies have been fighting tooth and nail the last few years to prevent Third World countries from applying this

public interest rule to the AIDS crisis. And they have had a lot of success at it.

## First World Gov'ts: Allies of the Drug Industry

The drug companies have had this success because they have the U.S. and other First World governments on their side. These governments have been putting heavy pressure on Third World governments to adopt patent protections that are even stricter than the ones allowed for under the WTO and TRIPS. They understand that they are battling a leaky dam, and if an opening is allowed anywhere in which even a few poor countries ignore the patent laws and start manufacturing affordable AIDS drugs in quantity, the rest of the world will probably soon follow suit.

A classic example of the U.S. government's fronting for the pharmaceutical industry happened in the period leading up to the 2000 Presidential election. South Africa announced that it was going to invoke the public interest clause of TRIPS and begin manufacturing AIDS drugs domestically. In response, Al Gore himself, along with U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, placed heavy pressure on South Africa to cancel their plans. In response, AIDS activists targeted the Vice President repeatedly at campaign appearances with signs saying things like "Gore's Greed Kills" and "Medical

Apartheid."

After repeatedly being shamed in the media over several months, the Clinton-Gore administration made a concession and stated that although they still wouldn't allow compulsory licensing of AIDS drugs, they would allow South Africa to make use of "parallel importing." In other words, the country could import drugs from third countries where the rate of markup on the drugs' prices is somewhat lower than in the U.S. (a practice the WTO already allows). After further embarrassment, they finally caved last fall and agreed to allow compulsory licensing in South Africa.

The U.S. is now putting similar pressure on Brazil. This Third World country has a model AIDS program that gives free treatment to any person in the country who needs it. As a result of their prevention and treatment programs, Brazil has kept its infection rate at 0.6% of the adult population. (Parts of Africa have infection rates as high as 50%.) Brazil is threatening to break the patent on two AIDS drugs because they can't get them cheaply enough, and U.S. is threatening to prosecute Brazil under the WTO rules.

The crisis of AIDS in Africa starkly raises the question of whether we are going to place a higher value on corporate profit and the ability of the already rich to get even richer, or on millions upon millions of human lives. The U.S. government has shown where it falls: it considers the lives of the African people to be worth essentially nothing, and the lives of Black people in the U.S. not terribly much more. Fortunately, more and more people, in Africa, the U.S. and many other places are coming to the realization that such a valuation amounts to genocide and that we aren't going to stand for it. **M**

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 WOMEN \* WOMEN  
 MAKING STUFF \* MIXING  
 MEDIA \* MIXING  
 WORK & PLEASURE \*  
 ART, CRAFT, CREATIVITY  
 \* NEON ART \* SCULPTURE  
 \* CERAMICS \* NEEDLE-  
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 YARN \* CRAFTY WOMEN  
 \*WOMENMAKINGSTUFF \*  
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 TRADITIONAL \* LOCAL \* GLOBAL  
 POLITICAL \* WOOD \* GLUE \* CLAY  
 \* RECYCLED \* BRAND NEW  
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# Blood on His Tux



*Bush's new Secretary of State and City College's own, Colin Powell seems to personify the American dream. Ask 500,000 dead Iraqi children what that dream involves.*

By Rob Wallace

General Colin L. Powell personifies the American dream (according to his book blurb anyway). Out from a South Bronx ghetto, Powell attended City College (Class of '58) and made his way up the ranks of the US Army to the pinnacle of his profession: National Security Advisor under Ronald Reagan, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under George Bush, and now, under Bush Junior, Secretary of State.

With Black History Month, Powell's latest appointment might seem a timely reminder of the struggles and hopes of Blacks in America. Powell has already generated an aura of a national folk hero, particularly as, for liberals, he personifies a refutation of white supremacy: Blacks are perfectly capable of helping lead their country. For conservatives, including Powell himself, his history exemplifies American meritocracy: You can pull yourself by your bootstraps and, out of the worst of ghettos, become whatever you wish, even—CNN drums—Hero of the Gulf War.

As a result, the media and, in January, the Senators who confirmed his nomination as Secretary of State have treated Powell with kid gloves.

But whole swaths of Powell's history—and present actions—puncture this carefully crafted folklore. For starters, in his ghost-written autobiography Powell vehemently denounces the racism he was confronted with in the South during his training at Fort Benning, Georgia and after his stint in Vietnam. Yet Powell hasn't spoken a peep about the way Blacks were disenfranchised in Florida—and across the country—during an election that returned him to a position of power.

## The Bronx and CCNY

The *Messenger* won't spend too much time on Powell's life story, save a couple illuminating anecdotes.

Powell's acceptance to City College, although more than a decade before open admissions was instituted at CCNY, showed the power of affirmative action policies his compatriots in the new administration demonize. Despite a 78.3 average in his final year at Morris High School, Powell was accepted to New York University and City College. His choice was dictated by what his family could afford. NYU was \$750 a year, CCNY \$10.

Powell, at his family's insistence, began as an engineering major, but, by his own admission, couldn't cut it. He graduated with a geology degree. But Powell's true major was Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). Even in the McCarthy 1950s, City College remained a bastion of leftist radicalism. The *Campus* newspaper called for dissolving the ROTC. Even so, as many as a thousand male CCNY students took part in the ROTC.

Powell joined one of the three military societies—fraternities—on campus, the Pershing Rifles. One very-long-time CCNY staff member told the *Messenger* that, "Powell would walk around campus

in uniform like a stiff. Even then Powell had a stick up his ass."

Rushing for the societies involved beer and grainy 8-millimeter porno movies in which, remembered Powell, "the male star usually wore socks." Powell excelled in the Pershings, becoming cadet colonel, running the entire ROTC regiment: "The drill hall became the center of my universe." Powell, folk hero, declares he discontinued the porno movies at the Pershings rush. Of course. Never mind that dur-



IN THE THICK OF IRAN-CONTRA. Powell with other members of the National Security Planning Group, starting far left around the table, Ronald Reagan, George Shultz, Jim Baker, Jim Miller, Howard Baker, Powell, Bill Graham, Ken Adelman, Bill Crowe, Frank Carlucci.

ing these movies Powell "hooted and hollered with the rest of the college boys."

In any case, the rest, as they say, is history. Powell joined the Army after college.

To his credit Powell has spoken out and fundraised for City College. But he is unable, or refuses, to connect the College's fiscal straits, and urban blight in general, with a Pentagon that drains billions of dollars out of social and education programs. In his autobiography, Powell

praises Ronald Reagan for "strengthening" the military.

Hunts Point in the Bronx, where Powell grew up, wasn't yet the burned-out ghetto it became by the mid-1970s. People didn't leave their doors unlocked, but Hunts Point was a vibrant, working-class pastiche of Blacks, Latinos and ethnic whites. When Powell was in college, his family moved out of Hunts Point for the then-upperly mobile neighborhood of Hollis, Queens.

But it wasn't his parents' hard work that permitted the move. His father won \$10,000 in a numbers game, a princely sum that paid the down payment on a three-room bungalow in Hollis. The *Messenger* has no problem with that. But it certainly puts in perspective Powell's mantra that hard work—pulling yourself up by your bootstraps—permits escape from poverty. It's absurd to tell that to people who don't have any bootstraps to pull on in the first place, lucky number-



Powell with fellow Forstmann Little & Co. board member Donald Rumsfeld during the latter's first stint as Secretary of Defense.

picking notwithstanding.

## The Powell Doctrine

In 1963, after his officer training in Georgia, Powell was shipped off to Vietnam as one of President Kennedy's 16,000+ U.S. "advisors" in Vietnam. Powell did more than advise, unofficially leading a South Vietnamese unit that patrolled the countryside. Unable to attack the Viet Cong (VC), Powell and his squad destroyed peasant livestock and defoliated crops.

Powell shamelessly reprints some of his combat notebooks in his autobiography:

10 Feb.: Rain. Located evacuated village; destroyed houses and 100 K [kilos] rice, 20 K corn. Harassing fire on 3rd Co.

11 Feb.: Rain. Killed 3 buffalo, pigs, chickens. Harassing fire from VC.

13 Feb.: 2nd Co. made contact with VC. Bloodstains indicate cas [casualty]. Crossbows, quiver of possible poison located vicinity of river.

18 Feb.: Sprayed 2 hec [hectares] sweet potatoes, manioc destroyed.

21 Feb.: 0910. Ambushed. 1 KIA [killed in action]. 1 WIA [wounded in action]. 1610, 1 KIA. 1 confirmed VC cas. 2 houses destroyed.

"Why were we torching houses and destroying crops?" asks Powell. He answers,

Ho Chi Minh had said the people were like the sea in which the guerrillas swam. Our problem was to distinguish friendly or at least neutral fish from the VC swimming alongside. We tried to solve the problem by making the whole sea uninhabitable. In the hard logic of war, what difference did it make if you shot your enemy or starved him to death? As for the poor Montagnards [peasants], caught in the middle, with their crops and huts ruined, they were forced to rely on the South Vietnamese for food. That explained why these nomadic people were living on the dole at base camps like A Chau. The strategy was to win their hearts and minds by making them dependent on the government. I am sure these mountain people wished they had never heard of the ARVN, the Viet Cong, or the Americans.

However chilling this destruction of homes and crops reads in cold print today, as a young officer, I had been conditioned to believe in the wisdom of my superiors, and to obey. I had no qualms about what we were doing. This was counterinsurgency at the cutting edge... It all made sense in those days.

The last sentence implies Powell learned his lesson later. But Powell has



always been a rabid proponent of such scorched earth policies. During the Persian Gulf War Powell helped implement what became known as the Powell Doctrine: if the U.S. enters a war, it must annihilate its opponents. No half-measures.

But what of the consequences of such a philosophy? In his book Powell makes little of the casualties during the Gulf War, making passing mentions of US casualties, nothing on Gulf War Syndrome, and zilch on the 200,000 Iraqis killed in the war, half civilians, save concern that the media would portray the end of the war as "slaughter for slaughter's sake." The doctrine of utter annihilation stems from Powell's—and other right-wingers'—Vietnam War complex, an affront bubbling throughout Powell's book. As if, dropping more ordnance on the little country than it dropped in all of WWII, the U.S. had one hand tied behind its back.

Powell would soon make the whole sea uninhabitable for the Iraqi people as a key architect of the now ten-year blockade of Iraq that, according to the United Nations, has caused 1 million preventable deaths, half of those of children. As Secretary of State, Powell has already begun a new round of saber-rattling on Iraq.

### Operation America

Part of Powell's appeal to white liberals is the general's air of calm and rationality. But just about every example of the folklore of Powell's moral rectitude and reasonableness is undermined by cold facts.

As described by Alexander Cockburn and Ken Silverstein in their book *Washington Babylon*, Powell makes a big deal about joining the infamous Americal Division only after the My Lai massacre and providing army investigators with the Division's combat reports on My Lai, where US troops raped and slaughtered over three hundred unarmed Vietnamese villagers. In reality Powell blocked a letter from a soldier who attempted to expose the massacres by Lieutenant William Calley's brigade. Instead, Powell reported, "Relations between American soldiers and the Vietnamese people are excellent." My Lai wasn't an aberration and massacres were routine.

It isn't necessarily that Powell is consciously lying. It's just that the linchpin of his mental and moral landscape appears to be the story of an America that doesn't exist: America as righteous John Wayne, a characterization Vietnam tarnished. It's a mythology—misnamed "patriotism"—rampant among military brass and politi-

cos. George Bush, Sr. contended that he believed America is always right no matter what the facts are.

Powell provides in his autobiography exhibit after exhibit of his own case of John Wayneitis. Like other Americans watching his Gulf War unfold on TV, Powell

watched a TV reporter shove his microphone in front of a young fighter pilot just back from his first combat mission, helmet tucked under his arm, hoses dangling, face sweat-streaked, hair matted. After answering the reporter's question, the flier started walking away, then he turned back to the camera and said, "I thank God I completed my mission and got back safely. I thank God for the love of a good woman. And I thank God I'm an American and American fighter pilot." I sat there, melting. This was the military I wanted the country to see, not the old stereotyped dropout from nowhere-ville, but smart, motivated, patriotic young Americans, the best and the brightest.

Powell's Vietnam malaise melted in every pilot's sweaty swagger. During the Gulf War American fighter pilots watched porno movies to get pumped up before flying their sorties—The Pershing Rifles Doctrine!

A John Wayne always needs a villain to justify his militaristic worldview. In 1991, with a U.S.-created Hussein now defeated by his former clients, Powell complained, "I'm running out of villains. I'm down to Castro and Kim Il Sung." He and his compatriots had until then been able to contrive villains for popular consumption and public annihilation. Powell bought into or promoted every bullshit story of the Reagan era: the Cuban airstrip in Grenada, Sandinistas exporting revolution, Noriega and drugs, saving Kuwaiti democracy.

It isn't even that Powell isn't ethical. It's just that all ethics become malleable in service of the prime directive. Goodness and righteousness must serve only one master—the interests of the United States of America (i.e., the American elite), no matter what the consequences, dead Iraqi children and all.

Powell continued practicing his selective ethics after he left Clinton's administration. In 1997 Powell toured Asia on the lecture circuit. According to the political magazine *CounterPunch*, in a speech delivered in Jakarta, Powell called for the immediate sale of F-16 fighter planes to the Suharto dictatorship. The moral standard Powell told his audience of executives and government officials that, "Arms



THE POWELL DOCTRINE. Iraqi babies as—ahem—"collateral damage".

sales to Indonesia should be based on the entire agenda of issues between the United States and Indonesia, not on the single issue [of human rights]." The US helped install Suharto in 1965 and aided his subsequent genocide of hundreds of hundreds of thousands of leftist and ordinary Indonesians and 200,000 East Timorese.

Powell also called for the continuation of US economic and military aid to the murderous Suharto, including training Indonesian officers through the International Military Education Training program. At the time of Powell's speech Indonesia was only recently reinstated into the IMET program after being suspended since 1992 for massacring hundreds of East Timorese.

### Pol For Sale

The real Powell further undermines the Powell image by taking money from corporations with business before his administrations past and present.

According to *New York Newsday*, in 1999 Powell, along with new Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, profited from General Dynamics's purchase of aircraft manufacturer Gulfstream Aerospace. Gulfstream was at that time controlled by Forstmann Little & Co., a Wall Street firm owned by Theodore J. Forstmann, a big Republican contributor. Powell joined Forstmann Little's advisory board in 1996, joining an all-star cast of Republicans, including former Secretaries of State Henry "Butcher of Cambodia" Kissinger

and George Schultz.

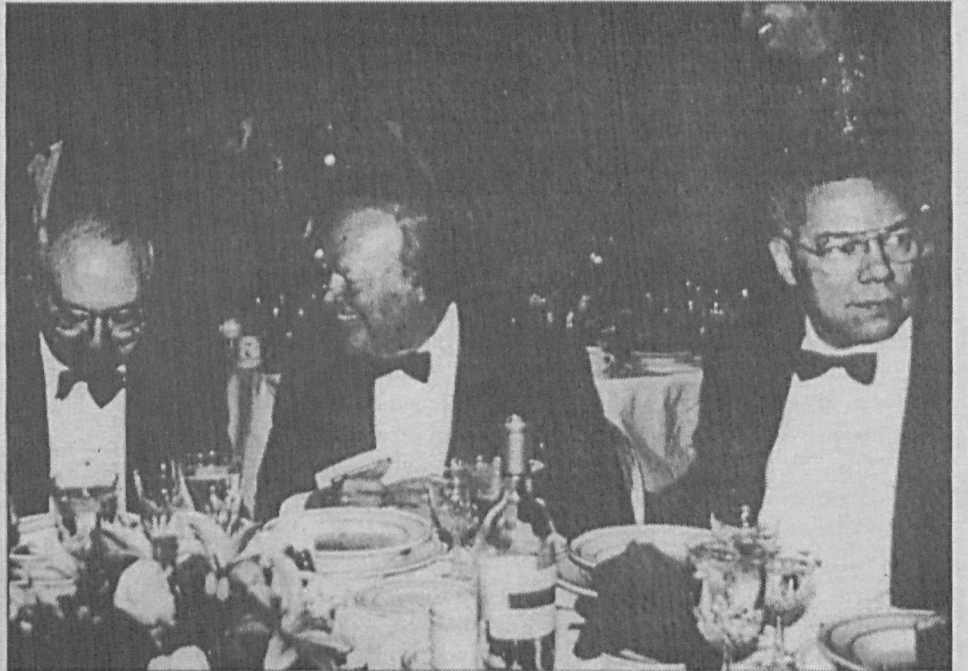
Forstmann Little had bought Gulfstream from Chrysler for a little over \$2 billion in 1990. Forstmann's advisory board was installed as Gulfstream's directors, entitled to stock and stock options.

In June 1999 Forstmann Little sold Gulfstream to General Dynamics for \$5.3 billion, a \$3 billion profit. The deal involved a one-to-one stock swap, earning Powell, by then with 16,289 shares in Gulfstream stock, \$206,624. Rumsfeld took in \$1,791,845 from the deal with General Dynamics, a weapons giant with 95% of its income—\$3.6 billion in 2000—from the tax-payer funded Pentagon Rumsfeld is to lead.

Powell submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee supervising his nomination for Secretary of State that he had an estimated \$500,000 to \$1 million in General Dynamics stock.

All this is legal, mind you. But you'd have to willfully blind yourself to believe Powell's windfall isn't exemplary of the sleazy quid pro quos in which Washington and corporations partake.

Powell embodies a lesson for Black History Month: People of color are as capable as white people at cheating and wrecking the countries they lead. That's not to say that therefore it's all right to have all-white leaderships. Not true. But if you think browner or more feminine faces in the temporary government make kinder, gentler governance, I've got an honest cabinet member to sell you. **M**



HAVE TUX, WILL DINE. Left, former CCNY President Yolanda Moses fetes Colin Powell at CCNY fundraiser. Right, Powell chows with Senator Phil Gramm and ABC-TV's Roone Arledge.



# Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1963 City College Commencement Address



*Martin Luther King, Jr. was actually the replacement for the scheduled speaker, civil rights activist Medgar Evers, who was murdered a few days beforehand in Mississippi. King delivered his speech in Lewisohn Stadium, which was located where NAC now stands.*

President Gallagher, members of the faculty of the City University of New York, members of the graduating classes, ladies and gentlemen:

Let me first commend the members of the graduating classes for reaching this significant milestone. Tonight you bid farewell to the friendly security of this academic environment and prepare to enter the clamorous highways of life. As you move out in your various fields of endeavor, you will be moving into a world of catastrophic change and calamitous uncertainty.

Indeed we live in a day of grave crisis. The crisis of this age presents a real challenge to all men of good will. We are challenged to develop a world perspective. No nation or individual can live alone in the modern world. We must all learn to live together as brothers or we will all perish together as fools. All life is inter-related and all men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

John Donne placed this in graphic terms. "No man is an island, entire of itself; everyman is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." And he goes on toward the end to say, "Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Another urgent challenge facing mankind today is a responsibility of keeping our moral progress commensurate with our scientific and technological advances. One of the great problems confronting us today is that we have allowed our civilization to outdistance our culture.

Some years ago, Professor MacIver, following the German sociologist, Alfred Weber, gave a clear distinction between civilization and culture. Civilization deals with what we use. Culture with what we are. Civilization is that complex of devices, techniques, instrumentalities and mechanisms by means of which we live. Culture is that realm of spiritual ends, expressed in art, literature, religion and morals for which, at best, we live.

Our dilemma is found in the fact that we have allowed the means by which we live to outdistance the ends for which we live. So much of our modern life can be summarized in the arresting dictum of the poet Thoreau: "Improved means to an unimproved end." Unless we can reestablish meaningful ends for living we may very well destroy ourselves by the misuse of our own instruments.

This presents a special challenge to education. It is clear that education has a two-fold function to perform in the life of man. The one is utility and the other is culture. Education must enable a man to become more efficient and it must also humanize him. The complete education will equip one with the power of concentration, but it will also give him worthy objectives upon which to concentrate. It will give him a critical faculty for precise judgment, but it

will also give him profound sympathies with which to temper the asperity of his judgments. It will give him not only knowledge which is power



The 1963 commencement in Lewisohn Stadium at which Dr. King spoke.

but wisdom which is control, not only truth which is light but goodness which is warmth.

We are also challenged to maintain a keen sensitivity to the social evils of our day. First that is the evil of war which threatens the very survival of the human race. If we assume that life is worth living, we must find an alternative to war. In a day when stupendous space ships are dashing through outer space and guided ballistic missiles are carving highways of death through the stratosphere, no nation can win a war. The alternative to disarmament, the alternative to suspension of nuclear tests and the strengthening of the United Nations may well be a civilization plunged into the abyss of annihilation.

The second social evil that clouds our day is economic injustice. Millions of people still go to bed hungry at night. Millions of others are deprived of adequate housing, education, and medical care because of economic insecurity. Can we be content while these our brothers are smothering in an airtight cage of poverty? We must work assiduously to bridge the gulf between superfluous, inordinate wealth and abject, deadening poverty. We must not rest until all men have the basic necessities of life, realizing that there is enough, and to spare, in this world for that purpose.

The third social evil that should arouse the conscience of every American is that of racial injustice. This tragic injustice has risen to ominous proportions. Less than twenty-four hours ago a dastardly



act occurred in the State of Mississippi which revealed the moral degeneracy to which some will sink on the question of race. Just as the sunlight of reason stemmed into American homes and the wisdom and courage of a President were eloquently expressed in an appeal for justice and human dignity, the most sullen cloud which has appeared on our national horizon has darkened our sky.

In the death of Medgar Evers, America has lost one of those pure patriots whose most passionate desire was to be an American, and to be acknowledged as an American. Truly Mr. Evers died in the trenches on the front line where the issue is now joined between that which our President has called for and the last ditch stand of the segregationists who would prefer to create a bloodbath of violence than to

relinquish the deadening status quo.

The history of Mississippi is one of ruthless denial of every American concept of justice and law. Here the Reverend George Lee was shot in cold blood. Here teen-age Emmett Till was killed in monstrous fashion. Here a bloodthirsty mob brought about the death of two persons at the State University. This tragic murder of morality, murder of a man one hundred years after emancipation was declared, a murder of a man who peacefully insisted on the elemental freedom of mankind, is an inexpressible tragedy and an unspeakable outrage. As long as acts like this are possible no one in our nation is safe or free. We must honestly see that the harvest of violence that we are now reaping is due to seeds of apathy planted in the past. Therefore we must work passionately and unrelentingly to rid our nation of every vestige of segregation and discrimination.

It is also necessary to realize that the problem of racial injustice is not merely a sectional problem, but it is a national problem. No section of our country can boast of clean hands in the area of brotherhood. We must see that the de facto segregation of the North is as injurious to the Negro student as the legal segregation of the South. And therefore it means that we must work all over America to make the American dream a reality.

In this period of social change we must guard against two myths that will make it impossible for us to achieve the ideal society. One is the myth of time. This is the idea that only time can solve the problem of racial injustice and that if we will sit down comfortably by the wayside the problem will soon solve itself.

Well, the only answer that we can give to this myth of time is that time is neutral. It can be used either constructively or destructively. At times a people of ill will have used time much more effectively than the people of good will. And it may well be that we will have to repent in this generation, not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence and apathy of the good people.

Somewhere we must come to see that human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. Evolution may be true in the biological realm, and in this point Darwin is right. But when Herbert Spencer seeks to apply it to the whole of society, that is very little evidence for it. We must come to see that human progress comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals. And without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the insurgent forces of evil and the forces of social stagnation. We must see that the



time is always ripe to do right, and we must forever help time.

The other myth is that which states that legislation cannot help in solving the problem of racial injustice because you cannot legislate morals. Well, this represents a half-truth. It may be true that morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me—which is pretty important also. It may be true that the law cannot change the heart, but it can restrain the heartless.

And so through legislation we often control the external effects of bad internal attitudes, and that is the need in this session of Congress for strong, vigorous civil rights legislation. And it is very significant that the President of our nation is now preparing to call for civil rights legislation to eliminate segregation in public accommodations where we have inter-state commerce involved, legislation which will speed up school integration, and legislation which will deal with the right to vote for all citizens of our nation.

But realism impels me to be apprehensive about the practical possibility of strong civil rights legislation being enacted during this session of Congress—if the forces of good will will not get together and bring the necessary pressure to bear so that the Southern senators will not filibuster the civil rights bill to death and so that the coalition of Southern Dixie-crats and right-wing Northern Republicans will not again bring into being the legislative incinerator that will burn to ashes any progressive move in the area of civil rights. And therefore all people of good will in America must work hard to see that this job is done.

Some of us have come to the conclusion that if the filibuster is threatened and actually used, it will be necessary to present our very bodies in a non-violent, creative protest in Washington, and it would be necessary, or should be necessary, for thousands and thousands of people to join in such a non-violent march on the Congress of the United States so that this issue can be placed on the conscience of people all over this nation.

I'm only saying that this problem will not be solved in our country until enough people come to see that racial discrimination, is morally

wrong and they are willing to take a stand against it. For this is, in the final analysis, not merely a political issue, not merely an economic issue, but it is a moral issue. Racial segregation is wrong because it substitutes an "I-It" relationship for the "I-Thou" relationship, and relegates persons to the status of things. And therefore we must get rid of it, not merely because it is diplomatically expedient, but because it is morally compelling.

There are certain technical words within every academic-discipline which soon become stereotypes and clichés. Every academic discipline has its technical nomenclature. Modern psychology has a word that is probably used more than any other word in modern psychology. It is the word 'maladjusted.' This word is a ringing cry to modern child psychology. And suddenly we all want to live the well-adjusted life in order to avoid neurotic and schizophrenic personalities. But I say to you this evening that there are some things within our social order to which I'm proud to be maladjusted, and to which I call upon men of good will to be maladjusted until the good society is realized.

I never intend to adjust myself to segregation and discrimination. I never intend to become adjusted to religious bigotry. I never intend to adjust myself to the madness of militarism and the self-defeating

effects of physical violence. And I can only say that it may well be that the salvation of our world lies in the hands of the maladjusted. And this is why I would like to call for the immediate formation of a new organization, The International Association for the Advancement of Creative Maladjustment.

Men and women who will be as maladjusted as the prophet Amos, who in the midst of the injustices of his day, could cry out in words that echo across the centuries: "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

As maladjusted as Abraham Lincoln who had the vision to see that this nation could not survive half-slave and half-free.

As maladjusted as Thomas Jefferson who, in the midst of an age amazingly adjusted to slavery, could scratch across the pages of history words lifted to cosmic proportions: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

As maladjusted as Jesus of Nazareth, who could say to his followers: "Love your enemies... Bless them that curse you... Pray for them that spitefully use you."

With such maladjustment we will be able to emerge from the bleak and desolate midnight of man's inhumanity to man into the bright and glittering daybreak of freedom and justice. With this faith and with this work we will be able to speed up the day when all of God's children will be able to live together as brothers.

With this faith and this work we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith and this determination we will be able to bring into being that great day when all of God's children—Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands right here in this nation and sing, in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!" **M**

Thanks to the Cohen Library Archives for assistance on this piece.



## Beavers Win! CCNY Takes CUNY Championship

By Hank Williams

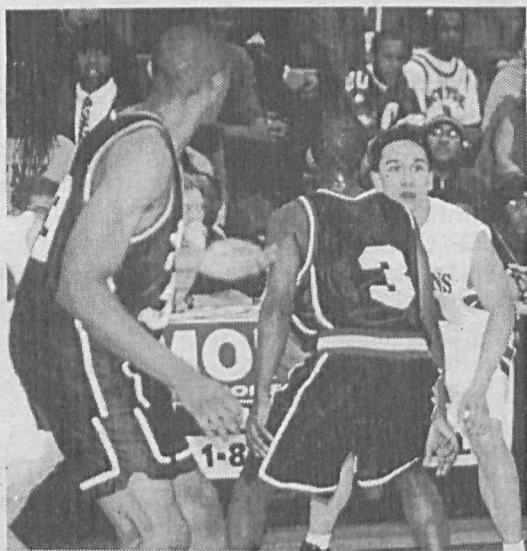
THE CCNY men's basketball team's post-season Cinderella run ended with an 82-65 loss to Catholic University in the NCAA Division III Championships in Washington DC on March 1st, but not before a romp through the CUNY Athletic Conference Tournament that netted the Beavers their first CUNYAC Championship since 1980.

CCNY beat Brooklyn College, defending CUNYAC champ Baruch, and York before defeating the College of Staten Island 77-69 in the finals before a home crowd of nearly 1,500 in Nat Holman Gymnasium.

Freshman standout Obinna Efobi led the Beavers with 19 points and Ralph Perez was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

CCNY hosted the CUNYAC Basketball Championships.

During a halftime ceremony in the championship game, three surviving members of the 1949-50 CCNY men's basketball team were honored. The '49-'50 squad is the only team to win both the NCAA and NIT tournaments in the same season and was coached by the legendary Nat Holman, whom the gym in Marshak is named for. **M**



CCNY's Vernon Dantzler (#3) guards CSI's Lorenz Albano during the CUNY Championship game in Nat Holman Gym.



From left, Ed Warner, Leroy Watkins, and Floyd Lane were honored at halftime. The three played on CCNY's '49-'50 NCAA and NIT Championship team.

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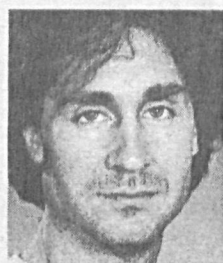
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### election 2000: the press & the mess      Tues. Feb. 27, 6-8 pm

Television's late-night announcement of Bush's "win" is now the stuff of election legend, but that's just a small part of the bewildering mishmash of "Indecision 2000." Leading journalists try to make sense of it all.

**Walter Shapiro**, Columnist, USA Today  
**Richard Cohen**, Columnist, Washington Post  
**Eleanor Randolph**, Editorial Board, New York Times  
**Hendrik Hertzberg**, Writer, The New Yorker  
**Dan Abrams**, Reporter, NBC News (invited)  
Moderator: **Tom Rosenstiel**, Director, Project for Excellence in Journalism

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1100 Avenue of the Americas (at 42nd St.)  
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### Reese and Ted's excellent adventure      Tues. March 6, 6-8 pm

As founding president and CEO of CNN, creative mastermind Reese Schonfeld changed TV forever. In his new memoir, *Me and Ted Against the World: The Unauthorized Story of the Founding of CNN*, he describes the dawn of the first all-news network.

In conversation with **Bill Carter**, TV Writer, The New York Times.  
Location: TBA

### digital books: the next chapter      Wed. March 7, 6-8 pm

E-books will change the face of publishing, marketing and distributing books. Publishing luminaries on the future of the "e-book" versus the "p-book."

**Olaf Olafsson**, Vice Chairman, Time Warner Digital Media; Author, *The Journey Home*  
**Jason Epstein**, Editor Emeritus, Random House Inc.; Author, *The Book Business: Past, Present and Future*  
**Joni Evans**, Agent, William Morris Agency  
Moderator: **Prof. Robert Baensch**, Journalism Department, NYU  
Time and Life Building, 8th Floor Auditorium  
1271 Avenue of the Americas (at 50th St.)

### Investigative Journalism: going to extremes      Tues. March 13, 6-8 pm

Part 1: **Ted Conover**, Author, *Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing*. Learn about Conover's harrowing year as a guard in one of America's most troubled penitentiaries.

Part 2: **Peter Pringle**, Author, *Those Are Real Bullets: Derry, 1972* (co-written by Philip Jacobson). As a reporter for the London Sunday Times, Pringle covered the "Bloody Sunday" massacre that triggered three decades of Irish conflict.

Moderator: **Prof. William Serrin**, Journalism Department, New York University

CUNY Graduate Center, Rehearsal Hall, Main Floor  
365 Fifth Avenue (at 34th Street)

### Walter Bernstein: surviving the blacklist      Wed. March 21, 6-8 pm

A victim of anti-communist hysteria, renowned screenwriter Bernstein was forced to endure the derailment of his career. For ten years his film and television work was attributed to others.

In conversation with **Stuart Klawans**, Film Critic, The Nation (website)  
HBO, 15th Floor Theater  
1100 Avenue of the Americas (at 42nd Street)  
Co-Sponsored by HBO

### online Journalism: issues & ethics      Thurs. April 18, 6-8 pm

With the recent slowdown, the future direction of online news media is up for grabs. Will higher standards save journalism on the Web, and will the big guys hang in long enough to find out?

**Jesse Kornbluth**, Editorial, Director, AOL  
**Martin Nisenholtz**, CEO, Times Company Digital  
**Christopher E. Moyer**, Sr., Managing Partner, Alan Weisenfeld  
Moderator: **Tom Rosenstiel**, Director, Project for Excellence in Journalism  
Time & Life Building, 8th Floor Auditorium  
1271 Avenue of the Americas (at 50th St.)

### convergence: advertising in the digital age      Wed. April 25, 6-8 pm

The dot-com craze has wound down, but the promise of the Internet endures as new and old media team up to create interactive strategies targeted to an ever-more fragmented consumer pool. Learn from leading innovators how convergence is changing everything.

**Scott Murphy**, Tech TV  
**Marc Goldstein**, MindShare Worldwide  
**Dave Moore**, CEO, 24/7 Media, Inc  
**Genessa Krasnow**, Microsoft TV  
The Ney Center, Young & Rubicam  
285 Madison Avenue (between 40th & 41st Streets)

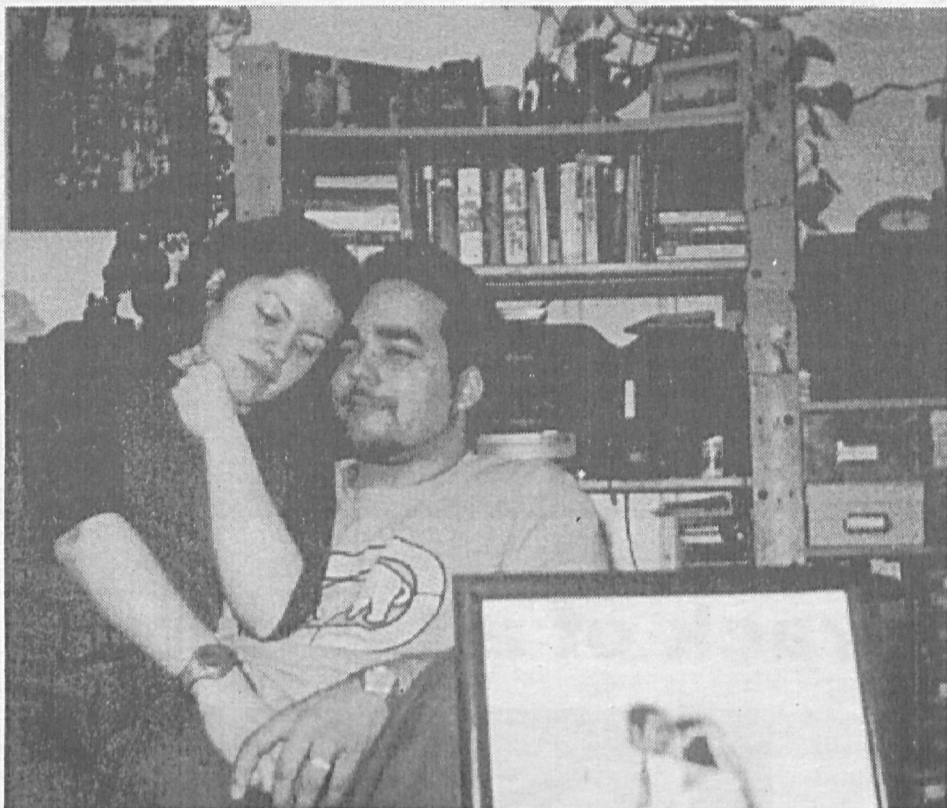
### Chris Matthews: playing hardball      Mon. April 30, 7-8:30pm

Former speechwriter, policymaker, this ultimate Washington insider now holds court every night on MSNBC and CNBC.

In conversation with **Margaret Carlson**, Senior Writer, TIME; Panelist, *The Capital Gang*, CNN  
Co-Sponsored by the Graduate Program in Media Studies at The New School University  
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## Night and Day in Kingsbridge

By Anne Naughton

**CASTLE:** One bedroom apartment in prewar, six-story brick building, with working elevator and illegal roof access.

**LOCALE:** Kingsbridge section, Bronx.

**OCCUPANTS:** Sirin Samman, (1999 graduate of CCNY Art Department, full-time employee with CCNY Web Development), Dario Fernandez (Part-time employee with CCNY Computer Services and Academic Computing, Lehman College Student), Trouble, (pit bull), Lucas and Nina (cats and brothers).

**COMMUTE TO CITY:** Local roads to the 207th Street bridge to Harlem River Drive, 20 minutes in Sirin's blue "retired cop-car" Chevy Caprice.

**The Bronx overwhelms me. It's so densely populated and cut across by highways, expressways, grand concourses and elevated trains, that I have a hard time figuring out where a neighborhood ends and begins. Yet, I feel provincial here. You're chummy with your neighbors watching TV in their double-parked car, your brother's girlfriend lives one floor down, and the aspiring CIA agent from upstairs, who you got a job working "with Curtis" on City's computer infrastructure team, just dropped by to talk Desktop Publishing shortcuts. I should mention that Colin Powell, our most celebrated alumnus, is from the Bronx.**

(Sirin) Really? Joshua who works at the bookstore says that Colin Powell used to work for him. One day we were in the bookstore and Joshua started telling us in front of a long line of people about how Colin Powell used to come with a gun to school. (Dario) Calvin Klein is from right here, he went to school by Moshulu parkway. And Ralph Lauren is from here too.

**Maybe these three distinguished fellows can help restore the Bronx's reputation. Sirin, you're from Austria, is it true that in Europe, "The Bronx" is used as a derogatory term to describe any and all things associated with urban decay?**

(Dario) They're afraid of it over there. (Sirin) Yeah, my parents and everyone are

like, "Are you *sure* you're OK in the Bronx?" And meanwhile, the Bronx has everything. There are mansions here that you could *never ever* afford. (Dario) I used to use the Bronx as a pick-up line when I worked in the youth hostel.

**And Sirin was one of the lucky lady travelers who got to hear it.**

(Dario) Sirin is the only woman I spoke to at the hostel. (Sirin) Yeah, right. (Dario) It's true. (Sirin) In the summer of 1995 I came here to work in Massachusetts on a horse farm. (Dario) She loves horses. (Sirin) This horse farm was run by these two gay men who lived with one of the men's sons in a big house. They were really strange—white, upper class. (Dario) She slept with the horses! (Sirin) I had to sleep in the stables. I got up at 4 in the morning to braid the horses' hair and then at night the owners would go up to their house and that was it, lights out. Complete nothingness, it was so secluded. It was beautiful for the first two nights, but I couldn't go anywhere. It was terrible. They alienated me so badly. And I do love horses. (Dario) She was the little peasant girl who worked in the back.

(Sirin) I took a trip to NY one weekend with someone who came to the U.S. to work as well. She was going to the hostel where Dario worked and I was going to 145th St. because it was cheaper. We went first to drop off my stuff. We got off at the bottom of St. Nicholas Park. We were total tourists: backpacks, shorts, video camera; this cop started asking us what we were doing there and then he said 'You *can not* stay here, it isn't safe'.

**I feel the sticky fingers of fate at work here: not only did you end up going to school and working in that very neighborhood, but Dario was working the desk at the hostel you ended up at.**

(Sirin) I was in New York for a couple of days and went back to the farm and a couple of weeks later I quit and came back to the city. I was supposed to get on a plane and I just skipped my flight. I had no money, no credit card, nothing! I loved the city and there was him, although nothing was going on at the time. I got a job at a front desk at a hotel on 50th Street.

There were hookers working there. I had a little room and a sink with brown water. I shared a bathroom with the other staff. I had no food, no money. Dario would come down and we would get pizza. (Dario) It was kinda funny, I was wondering why she was eating the pizza like she was making love. (Sirin) I was *really* hungry. (Dario) She appreciated the food.

(Sirin) After one month, my grandmother sent me money so I could change the ticket. I flew home on my birthday, it sucked. I thought that I would never see him again. I was going crazy, I never felt this way before. By January it was tearing me apart. Then a cab hit me while I was riding my bike and everybody—strangers, the police, the ambulance—was handing me their cards saying "I'm a witness." So a couple of days later I walked into a lawyer's office to ask some questions and he said, "Yeah, yeah, I'll call you back."

One month later I had the equivalent of \$1,500. I bought a ticket and two weeks at the hostel. So, then my money was out, he said you must stay and I moved in with his family in the Bronx. (Dario) They liked her. The said she was the first decent girl I brought here. All the others were kinda freaky. (Sirin) That was a very intense time. His Dad got sick and we spent every day in the hospital. He died the day before I left.

**And then you came back six months later, Dario converted to Islam and you got married. I love the photos from both weddings: In the Yonkers ceremony, you're wearing a white satin mini-skirt number that you found on Fordham Road and white platform high top sneakers, and in the Austrian wedding, you are wearing a puffy satin gown that was hand made by a relative in Syria.**

(Dario) Her father wouldn't accept the marriage if I didn't. My mother didn't mind as long as I wasn't an atheist, as long as I believed in God.

(Sirin) It was really funny, when I called the Islamic Center on 96th Street to ask about conversion, the man on the phone said, "Oh, you know we have many capable men here who are looking for wives."

(Sirin) My life was so stressful the first six months I was here that I lost 25 pounds. I was miserable. We lived next door to this gang that were stealing cars and robbing people. (Dario) If we didn't have the Great Dane, they probably would have robbed us. (Sirin) I didn't care though; I would take the dog out at 4 in the morning. I would just walk around taking pictures. I just thought, this is America, this is how it is. (Dario) And she was Daddy's little girl in Austria, she had everything. (Sirin) Then my roommate got arrested and I moved to this place that had 15 minutes of sunlight a day. A dark, dark tiny apartment. (Dario) It was cozy. (Sirin) It was so terrible, I was so depressed. (Dario) It was cool. (Sirin) Dario and I are like day and night. He can't stand light and I can't live without it. And I never thought I'd be with a Republican. (Dario) In the Dominican Republic, we were upper class. My great grand uncle was Trujillo's right-hand man and I'm named after him. Trujillo used to stay in my grandmother's house when he came to the village.

**Well, you both take photos.**

(Sirin) He likes Man Ray, I like Mary Ellen Mark. He likes slick, almost abstract stuff. I like documentary. He's very good at Illustrator, I'm awful.

**Dario, why work at City and take classes at Lehman?**

I work at City and I don't like how they treat students. At City, things are more staff-oriented, at Lehman it goes more towards the students. And Lehman is much more technologically advanced. Registration there is done on wireless laptops. It only takes ten minutes. **M**

## ACT Exit Exam Fiasco

By Bill Crain

Around the nation, educators are questioning standardized testing. Growing evidence suggests that the tests measure only a narrow range of information and reward quick, superficial thinking. The tests also favor white, middle-class students and often turn education into a dreary, "teaching to the test" affair. Recently the president of the University of California recommended dropping the SAT and ACT as admissions requirements.

But CUNY's attitude is, "The more tests the better." CUNY's leaders keep imposing new tests on students—even before they have evidence that their tests are valid.

At the end of the fall semester CUNY implemented its new ACT remediation exit exam. Students must pass the ACT reading and writing tests before they can enter their college's first regular composition course (at City College, English 110). CUNY doesn't care whether instructors determine that students are ready for the composition course. Nor has CUNY done the appropriate research to know whether the exit exams are valid at our university—whether they accurately predict college grades. CUNY simply says that students must pass its tests, and that's that.

One aspect of the exit exam is clearly inappropriate. The reading test requires

students to read within tight time limits. When in scholarly life do any of us read with a stopwatch over our shoulders? I am personally a slow reader, and could see myself tensing up under the pressure of a timed test.

At City College this spring students were not properly informed that the ACT would determine whether they could enter English 110, and 40 students were de-registered from the course. It's not clear who was responsible, but I am told that despite the error, the CUNY central administration insisted on strict enforcement of the new ACT test rule. The English Department and college have tried to help these students develop reasonable programs, but the students should never have been treated so shabbily in the first place.

What is behind CUNY's obsession with standardized testing? I believe that CUNY's right-wing Board of Trustees, spurred on by the mayor and the governor, are trying to use testing barriers to further destroy open admissions. They didn't like the way the open admissions victory of 1969 opened CUNY's doors to so many inner city youth, and they are trying to use a host of tests to close the doors—or at least keep students out of the new, elite tiers of the university. CUNY's leaders don't care about the evidence, documented by sociologist David Lavin, that open admissions has been a stunning success. They simply want to kill it. **M**



## Ken Burns' *Jazz*: Soundtrack of a Century

By Hank Williams

Despite all the criticism and commentary about Ken Burns' latest epic documentary about *Jazz*, there are a few common topics that always emerge in any conversation about it.

First: yes, it really is some 17-odd hours long. It does have several strange omissions, and it does cover a lot of territory. It's more important, however, to look at the series in context to appreciate the totality of *Jazz*: both the documentary and the music.

What *Jazz* does best is to place jazz (the music) in the context of history and tell stories that make the performers come alive. Who knew, for instance, that piano great Art Tatum loved Pabst Blue Ribbon beer?

A more serious sub-

ject, and a major subplot, is the persistent influence of racism on the composers and performers featured, who were not exempt from the segregation and racism that were clearly the law of the land during jazz' golden age.

To Burns' credit, the subject is explored thoroughly and skillfully, as are the contradictions brought about by rampant discrimination in the United States. Ironically, many Black American virtuosos of what has rightly been called American classical music felt compelled to flee to Europe to escape either violent discrimination, indifference to their music, or both. Also pointed out is the irony of Black soldiers who fought in World War II—ostensibly to defeat Fascism—yet returned home to face equally virulent prejudice.

So, while the *Dallas Morning News* hailed Duke Ellington as an "African Stravinsky who had erased the color line between jazz and classical music," his band was refused service in hotels and restaurants in both the South and the

North. Ellington finally chartered a train for their tours to solve both the housing and dining hassles.

The best that could be said about Ellington's treatment at home was that it was better than in Nazi Germany, where the band was refused entry in 1934. The Nazis banned both Blacks and jazz, calling it "Nigger-Jew music."

*Jazz* tends to focus on a few main performers in depth, fully exploring their stories to trace the development of the music.

Many big names are only dealt with superficially, which makes sense, considering the scope of the project.

*Jazz* traces the music from the early stages through the big band era, with Benny Goodman and Duke Ellington, to Bop pioneers Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie through the modern era.

A difficult subject, and one that Burns tackles head-

on, is the influence of drugs on many jazz masters. The introduction of heroin was particularly destructive to both musicians and Black inner city neighborhoods.

The short life of saxophonist Charlie Parker is examined at length, and the portrait presented is tragic. That Parker's tortured, painful brilliance was able to outshine the heroin and alcohol addiction that often left him minimally functional is a testament to his phenomenal ability.

Singer Billie Holiday is profiled also. Holiday died at age 44, her demise hastened by heroin and alcohol. She was fighter, however. Her song "Strange Fruit" denounced Southern lynchings of (primarily)

young Black men and she fiercely and outspokenly opposed the rampant racism she encountered in the United States.

*Jazz* does an excellent job tackling the 1950s and '60s, tracing the music's response to social unrest and upheaval over increasingly adamant demands for civil rights and opposition to the Vietnam War. A stroke of genius is the juxtaposition of film footage of American cities burning after race riots with aerial shots of Vietnamese villages burning from American napalm bombing while Max Roach's "Freedom Now" suite wails in the background. A bond is created between the victims of American imperialism both at home and abroad. That scene alone makes *Jazz* worth watching.

One flaw, or at least a curious omission, is the absence of interviews with many jazz greats who are still alive, or at least were alive during Burns' six-year production of *Jazz*. City College's own Ron Carter isn't interviewed, even though he spent years playing with Miles Davis and many other prominent musicians and a clip of his collaboration with M.C. Solaar is featured.

Also missing are interviews with John Lewis and the late vibraphonist Milt Jackson, although there is a



Charlie Parker's brilliance was able to outshine heroin and alcohol addiction.



Sax great John Coltrane pushed the limits with inventive solos.



Miles Davis the "Prince of Darkness" was instrumental in re-defining jazz.

lengthy segment on the Modern Jazz Quartet. Presumably they could have offered an interesting perspective on the music that they helped to create.

The biggest flaws of *Jazz* are its treatment of the modern era and the absence of any real discussion of Afro-Cuban and Latin jazz. Although the task of chronicling the development of jazz is monumental and daunting, the influence of artists like Tito Puente, Dave Valentin, and Cal Tjader can't be ignored.

*Jazz'* treatment of the modern era is heavily biased toward acoustic jazz, and—aside from some early '70s Miles Davis—fusion is completely ignored. Weather Report, John McLaughlin, and Pat Metheny aren't even mentioned.

The absence of so much contemporary jazz wouldn't be as bad if the rest of the series didn't proceed at such a leisurely pace. *Jazz* tries to forge a link with the present in the last episode and show the music as more than just a relic from the past, but the effort is subverted by the scant coverage given to the music of the '70s to the present.

Despite the flaws, *Jazz* is very watchable, enjoyable, and succeeds at maintaining a balance between making the series sophisticated enough for enthusiasts while keeping the discussion at a level neophytes can understand.

The best part, of course, is the music, and viewers are treated to lots of it, usually accompanied by still photos. Burns does a good job of conveying both the emotions that go into the creation of the music and allowing the viewer to experience the feelings that come from listening. *Jazz* dissects the music and makes it accessible to everyone, which it should be. After all, as Charlie Parker said, the essence of jazz is "just trying to play clean and looking for the pretty notes." **M**



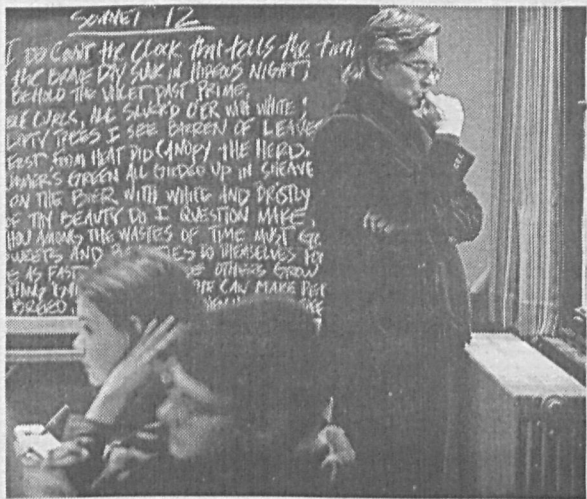
# Five Films You Should Have Seen this Year, but Didn't

By Yechiel Hoffman

Shame on the Hollywood machine. Spending their time and money pumping out Impossible Missions, not so Perfect Storms, and Bimbo Angels and concealing the real jewels that hit your theatres this past year. These five movies came to a theater near you, yet you probably missed them. Due to their lack of potential cash-ola for the studios, these films were sentenced to limited releases and low advertising budgets. They have been seen by only a few, but word of mouth should grant them new life on video and perhaps in late theatrical runs. There is still a chance for you to view these gems. Here they are in order of release.

## Wonder Boys

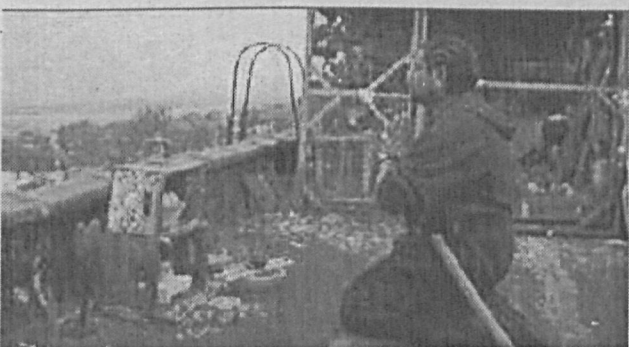
Curtis Hanson's follow up to the critical hit, *L.A. Confidential*, was a sure thing with the critics, yet floundered trying to



find an audience due to a inconsequential and limited advertising campaign. This insightful story about the world of academia and literature follows Michael Douglas' Grady, an author with one hit novel and writer's block, as he attempts to save his dignity without anyone noticing his failures. Hanson holds together this strong ensemble, which includes the amazing Frances McDormand, Tobey Maguire and Robert Downey Jr. He allows their performances to build in energy, using a free camera, beautiful cinematography and a folksy soundtrack, encapsulated in Bob Dylan's best song in years, Time Goes By. No, the movie is not perfect—the ending feels tacked on—but the film more than makes up for it with its wit, humor and reflection.

## Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai

It was not supposed to be possible. Jim Jarmusch should not have been able to blend the gangster, urban and samurai genres so seamlessly, but he did, beautifully. Upping his usual tepid pacing, having RZA infuse the soundtrack with amazing hip hop riffs and getting a career-best performance out of Forest Whitaker, Jarmusch delivers with his best results since



*Stranger in Paradise*. Whitaker is the unlikely choice for a Mafia hit man whose samurai philosophies motivate his passage through life. Jarmusch uses Whitaker's performance as a launching pad for the best-filmed action of the year, and some of the most insightful meditations on life in film today. Jarmusch takes the cross-cultural themes further, into the film's style and intent. An amazing soundtrack, genuine and hilarious performances by all, and inspired directing forces *Ghost Dog* stay with you long after you've seen it.

## American Psycho

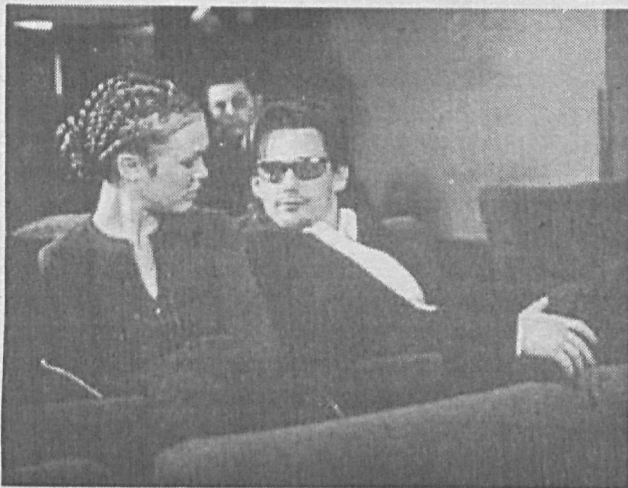
Controversy followed this film long before its debut. Back in its novel stage the book was either revered or hated; such is also the fate of the film. It took years before its intended director, Mary Harron, with star Christian Bale, finally made the adaptation. Bale's performance, one of the best performances of the year, allows Harron to take us into the subjective reality of a possible serial killer and definite '80s Wall Street jerk. Some say this film demeans woman, yet in my viewing it found a way to reflect upon the corruption of a society obsessed with control, money, power and materialism. The '80s setting provides a perfect background for the worst of what capitalism does to the individual it supposedly celebrates. Watch this film as critique rather than sensationalism, and you will see the subtleties created through performance, the film's mise-en-scène and soundtrack. *Psycho* does the right thing by forcing the viewer into the horrors of a dark world and making the vision's objectivity constantly questioned. Just try not to miss the message.



## Hamlet

Shakespeare has never been better. This is what filmed theatre should be, a complete motion picture experience. Michael Almereyda presents *Hamlet* as never before, a Gen X slacker, played by the ultimate Gen Xer Ethan Hawke, who wanders though modern day New York reflecting upon life to his DV camera. As he did with *Najia*, Almereyda twists a classic tale into a modern masterpiece. Almereyda transcends the written word by using modernistic images to tell the story. The images and symbols become as crucial as the actor's inflec-

tions on dialogue, such as Hamlet's pondering, "To be or not to be?" while walking through the "action" section of his local Blockbuster. Hawke, Sam Shepard, Julia Stiles, Liev Schreiber, Kyle MacLachlan and a magnificent Bill Murray round out an exceptional cast who float in and out of Almereyda's nightmarish New York. In Almereyda's camera, *Hamlet* is a meditation on the pursuit of corporate power, youthful mourning and failed ambition in a capitalistic world, where money and power have overtaken family and human



connections. When watching this film, forget you are seeing *Hamlet* once again, and pretend you are seeing it for the first time, but from a modern light.

## Requiem for a Dream

This is not your parent's drug film. Not since *Trainspotting* has the experience of a druggie's life been so visceral, complicated and impressionable. Like in his first film, *Pi*, Darren Aronofsky uses his skills as a director who is not afraid of his medium's style and technical opportunities to portray great conflict and meaning. Aronofsky delivers an anti-drug tale through the eyes of a junkie, Jared Leto, and his fellow heroin addicts, best friend Marlon Wayans, girlfriend Jennifer Connelly and his speed-addled mother, award worthy Ellen Burstyn. The narrative, framed by



## 10 Best of the Year (alphabetical order)

American Psycho  
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon  
Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai  
Hamlet  
High Fidelity  
Pollock  
Requiem for a Dream  
Traffic  
Wonder Boys  
You Can Count On Me

the seasons, shows the highs and destined lows of these characters' journeys through their addiction to drugs. Yet this film transcends the drug message and delivers a critique of America's obsession with

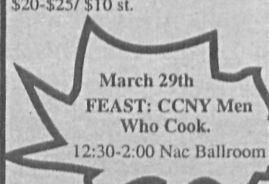
escapism and instantaneous gratification. The mother uses the speed as diet pills so she can go on a self-help show she is obsessed with. The son wants to open a legitimate fashion boutique with his girlfriend yet resorts to drug dealing raise the capital. Aronofsky elevates his critique through his dynamic camera work and editing that makes you spin, hurl and actually feel these characters' rise and fall. After departing

this film, you may feel disgusted, speechless and horrified, but realize that this is the purpose of good filmmaking, to make you feel the film's message—in your head, heart and stomach.

Just one year after Hollywood managed to deliver dynamic, insightful and powerful film to the public, they faltered, mostly due to the dependence on the big dollar and the firing of all those responsible for the great flicks, providing the public with boring dreck as not seen in years. Some Hollywood films made a cultural impact, *High Fidelity* and *Erin Brokovich* to name a couple, but when the public is left to hail films such as *The Perfect Storm*, *X-Men*, *Gladiator* and *Meet the Parents*, something is wrong. The movies above prove that good films are made each year; you just have to fight through the Hollywood resistance. Hollywood wants these films to fail so that they are validated for not putting any money into prints and advertising. It is up to you and me, the conscientious viewer and film lover, to seek them out and remind people that the gems are out there, they're just in the rough. **M**




March-April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b> Poetry Slam: CBG-B's downstairs lounge, 313 Bowery, 7pm; \$5: Feature poet: Alexis O'Hara + open mic/ open slam	<b>5</b> West African Dance Class. 6:30-8:30pm NAC Ballroom. Info: 212-699-3825 x3479	<b>6</b> Traffic in Women: The Drug War in America, The Prison System and Women: Featuring Deborah Small, CCNY graduate, of The Lindensmith Center. 12:30-1:30, NAC Student Lounge. POETRY: Shirley Kaufman, distinguished feminist poet, reads. 5PM Rifkind Room, NAC 6/316.	<b>7</b> West African Dance Class. 6:30-8:30pm NAC Ballroom. Info: 212-699-3825 x3479	<b>8</b> International Women's Day FORUM: Is This Campus Toxic? Swati Prakesh of West Harlem Environmental Action talks about everyday poison, asthma & environmental racism, & how to protect yourself and your family. TALK w/SLIDES: Botanica! Potions, Lotions, Orishas & Saints. Sophia Vackimes presents. 5 PM Nac 6/121/	<b>9</b> Critical Resistance: Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex. 9am-5pm. Columbia U. Law School. Info: 212.561.0912 (critresist.org) A Raisin in the Sun. Aaron Davis Hall, 7pm, Thurs-Sat.	<b>10</b> Critical Resistance (see Friday 3/9) CUNY Queer Conference. 10 am-7pm. 4 <sup>th</sup> fl. Student Union. Queens College. Info: 212-817-1955 or clags@gc.cuny.edu CONCERT: Mor Thiam & Royal African Drummers. 2pm. Aaron Davis Hall. \$10 A Raisin in the Sun. Aaron Davis Hall, 7pm, Thurs-Sat.
<b>11</b> Critical Resistance (see Friday 3/9) Poetry Slam: CBG-B's downstairs lounge, 313 Bowery, 7pm; \$5: Feature poet: Reggie Gibson + open mic/ open slam	<b>12</b> CONCERT: Classical Piano. 3 pm. Rm 95 Shepard West African Dance Class. 6:30-8:30pm NAC Ballroom. Info: 212-699-3825 x3479	<b>13</b> CONCERT: Classical Piano. 3 pm. Rm 95 Shepard Spiderwoman Theatre: song, movement, film and spoken word. 10:30am. Aaron Davis Hall. \$4	<b>14</b> West African Dance Class. 6:30-8:30pm NAC Ballroom. Info: 212-699-3825 x3479 FORUM: Music and Social Change. Brecht Forum, 122 W 27 St. 10fl. 7:30 pm Info: 212-242-4201. \$6-\$10.	<b>15</b> CONCERT: Friends of Music. 12:30. Rm 95 Shepard Architecture Lecture: Mental Landscape: Notes on Abstraction. William Curtis. Great Hall (Shepard, 2 <sup>nd</sup> fl.) 6:30pm. FORUM: The Right to Return: Palestinian Refugees. Brecht Forum, 122 W 27 St. 10fl. 7:30 pm Info: 212-242-4201. \$6-\$10.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Protest: First anniversary of Patrick Dorismond's murder by NYPD. 11 am. Church Av. Bet. Bedford-Rogers (Brooklyn). Info: 718-284-2255/ Haitiancoalitionforjustice@yahoo.com Poetry: Women's Performance/Open Mic with Alix Olson. Brecht Forum, 122 W 27 St. 10fl. 7:30 pm Info: 212-242-4201. \$6-\$10.
<b>18</b> Poetry Slam: CBG-B's downstairs lounge, 313 Bowery, 7pm; \$5: Feature poet: Shakespeare's Monkey + Limerick slam	<b>19</b> RECITAL: Nick Moran, guitar 3 pm. Rm 95 Shepard West African Dance Class. 6:30-8:30pm NAC Ballroom. Info: 212-699-3825 x3479	<b>20</b> PAINT THE CAMPUS RAINBOW: CCNY Rainbow Alliance hosts day long series of art & discussion. FORUM: Queer as Some Folk. 12:30-2:00, NAC Student lounge. READING: LGBTQ students & Faculty read Poetry & Prose. Featuring Linsey Abrams, 5-7 PM. Room TBA. callX5903. RECITAL: Sarah Okamoto, Classical piano 3 pm. Rm 95 Shepard	<b>21</b> Career Fair. 10am-5pm. Great Hall (Shepard, 2 <sup>nd</sup> fl.). DANCE: Alvin Ailey mini performance. 10:30am, 12:30pm. Aaron Davis Hall, \$4 West African Dance Class. 6:30-8:30pm NAC Ballroom. Info: 212-699-3825 x3479 MEETING: Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, NYC Branch. 7-9:30 pm 39 W 14th St. #206	<b>22</b> Puerto Rican Emancipation Day RECITAL: Nobuko Kiryu, jazz vocalist. 3 pm. Rm 95 Shepard Architecture Lecture: Architecture and the Nature of Evidence. Catherine Ingraham. Great Hall (Shepard, 2 <sup>nd</sup> fl.) 6:30pm.	<b>23</b> CONCERT: Jazz vocalists Claudia Acuna and Lenora Zenzali Helm. 8pm. Aaron Davis Hall. \$18	<b>24</b> DANCE: Alvin Ailey Dance Company. 2pm, 8pm. Aaron Davis Hall, \$20-\$25/ \$10 st. 
<b>25</b> DANCE: Alvin Ailey Dance Company. 3pm. Aaron Davis Hall. \$20-\$25/ \$10 st. Poetry Slam: CBG-B's downstairs lounge, 313 Bowery, 7pm; \$5: Feature poet + open mic/ open slam	<b>26</b> Musicians' Accord Reading 11-2 pm. Rm 95 Shepard RECITAL: Tomoko Ushio, piano. 3 pm. Rm 95 Shepard West African Dance Class. 6:30-8:30pm NAC Ballroom. Info: 212-699-3825 x3479	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> West African Dance Class. 6:30-8:30pm NAC Ballroom. Info: 212-699-3825 x3479	<b>29</b> CONCERT: Maria Zorjan, classical piano. 3 pm. Rm 95 Shepard Architecture Lecture: When Does Mythology End and Where Does History Start. Toshiko Mori. Great Hall (Shepard, 2 <sup>nd</sup> fl.) 6:30pm. LECTURE: Race and Labor in Nazi Germany. 7:30pm. CCNY Ctr. for Worker Ed. 99 Hudson St. 6th fl. Info: 212-925-6625	<b>30</b> FORUM: New Millennium Economy. Brecht Forum, 122 W 27 St. 10fl. 7:30 pm Info: 212-242-4201. \$6-\$10.	<b>31</b>

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Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex

Eastern Regional Conference

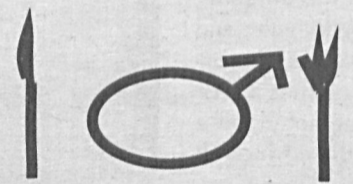
March 9-11  
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116th & Amsterdam

*just confirmed:  
Angela Davis*

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**CCNY Men Who Cook:**

The Second Annual cook-off, tasting feast is fine way to close Women's Liberation Month. Today we turn the tables over to the CCNY COOKING MEN. Male Faculty, Students and Staff pay tribute to Women's central role in culinary herstory and compete for the CASH PRIZE while ticket & plate holders get to sample what CCNY COOKING MEN can dish out.



Tickets are \$4 Students, \$7 Faculty & Staff. Proceeds benefit a Women's Liberation Month Scholarship. To sign up to cook or to purchase advance tickets, contact The Finley Student Center at (212) 650-5002 and visit The Women's Studies Program at [www.ccny.cuny.edu](http://www.ccny.cuny.edu) Thursday, March 29th, 12:30-2:00, NAC BALLROOM Sponsored by Finley Student Center, IRADAC, Women's Studies & The Division of Humanities & The Arts

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