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PRESIDENT WILLIAMS INTERVIEW PART 2 ★ POETRY

# THE MESSENGER

DEAR FBI: WE DON'T KNOW NUTHIN' VOL. 4 NO. 2 DEC-JAN 2001-02 UNIVERSITY OF HARLEM  
2000 WINNER, BEST CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATION, CAJP AWARDS

## Students Sue NYC to Stop CUNY Budget Cuts

By Hank Williams

Students from Hostos and the Borough of Manhattan community colleges have filed lawsuits against the City of New York to stop the city from illegally cutting the CUNY community college budget. The city is required by state law to provide four-fifteenths of community college funding, with New York State and student tuition providing the other two thirds of the budget.

In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attack, the city announced a 15% budget cut for all city agencies, which included a \$19.2 million cut to the six community colleges in the CUNY system. The funds would be placed in a special reserve account that CUNY would not be able to spend without the city's approval.

Placing the funds in a reserve account, however, does not solve the problem. As CUNY needs to plan courses far in advance, which often involves hiring adjunct professors, the lack of funds would force a reduction in the number of classes held and an ensuing drop in student enrollment.

The prospect of even fewer classes and services prompted Hostos students Miguel Malo and Pedro Rivera to file the lawsuit against the city to stop the budget cut on November 15.

Unfortunately, efforts to circumvent the law and attack CUNY have become routine. "This is the fourth time since 1995 that CUNY students sued the Giuliani administration to enforce the Maintenance of Effort Law," says Ron McGuire, head of the CUNY Emergency Legal Defense Project and the attorney representing the students, noting that the city lost all three previous cases. "It is a disgrace that students have had to go to court four times to make the Giuliani administration respect the letter of the law regarding the City's obligation to fund CUNY's community colleges."

The Maintenance of Effort Law requires that the city contribute either four-fifteenths of the community college budget or an amount equal to the previous year's funding level. The state is required to pay 40% of the budget, and the contribution from student tuition is capped at one-third. Courts ruled in all of the three previous lawsuits that the state law prohibits the city from cutting funding from CUNY's community college budget below the level the city allocated the previous year.

While 15% may not sound like much in the midst of a financial crisis, the effect on CUNY would be disastrous. CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein detailed some of the effects of such a cut in a letter to the city's Office of Management and Budget. If the cut were to hap-

pen, CUNY would be forced to reduce faculty and class sections and increase class sizes for remaining sections in the community colleges. The letter points out that "this, in turn, would precipitate a loss in enrollment as students lose access to classroom instruction."

CUNY estimates that more than

3,600 full time students would be lost as a result: a drop of about 8%. "This translates into a loss of tuition revenue of over \$11 million, roughly 9% of the total tuition collections at the community colleges," according to Goldstein's letter.

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### PSC Faculty Union and Students Rally at BMCC against the Cuts



On December 5, faculty, staff and students linked arms around BMCC calling on the US government to keep its promise to invest \$20 billion in NYC.

## The Calm before the Storm Trooper?

FBI, INS, and other agencies investigate students on 220 campuses nationwide post-9/11. Are CUNY campuses next? CCNY denies any contact with government authorities. PATRIOT Act hobbles FERPA.

By Rob Wallace

Since the attacks of September 11, federal and local authorities have launched a nationwide investigation of foreign students studying at US college campuses not seen since the red scares of the Cold War.

Government officials claim one of the suspected terrorists in the attacks, Hani Hanjour, used a student visa to enter the country. Hanjour's visa was granted so he could attend a Berlitz language course in California. He never showed up for the course.

In response, the Bush administration has pursued a crackdown on visa violations and begun a nationwide canvass of Arab college students for more informa-

tion about the attacks. Bush-supported bills are also working their way through Congress to establish a computerized database of foreign students that includes students' whereabouts, college registration and classes.

### Canvassing Colleges

In October, the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers released the results of a survey of US colleges on the consequences of the September 11 attacks. The AACRAO survey showed that 220 of the 1138 college campuses that responded to the survey were contacted by federal and other authorities for information about foreign students.

One hundred seventy colleges were contacted by one government agency

and 50 more by more than one agency, reported AACRAO. One hundred forty-nine colleges were contacted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 56 by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 18 by other federal authorities, and 66 by state and local officials. One hundred twenty-one campuses were asked for records for particular individuals. Sixteen campuses were asked for records of students of a particular ethnicity.

The colleges contacted included Columbia University, Tufts University, and San Diego State University.

According to the *New York Times*, agents from the FBI and the INS asked contacted colleges for information about what subjects students were studying, their academic performance, and where they lived.

"One of the reasons why they want to know where a student lives is so that they can come find them when necessary or simply watch them," Catheryn Cotton, director of the international student office at Duke University, told the *Times*.

What is disturbing about the AACRAO survey is how willing colleges were to release students' information, even as they were not required to do so. According to the AACRAO survey, only twelve requests for information at colleges nationwide were accompanied with subpoenas. One hundred ninety-two requests, on the other hand, were not accompanied with subpoenas.

Most registrars did not seek advice from their campus's legal divisions

*continued on page 11*



## Pricing Immigrants out of CUNY

As New York City begins the holidays, many CUNY students are receiving a very upsetting letter. It tells them that because they are undocumented students, they will no longer be allowed to pay in-state tuition. Beginning next semester, they will have to pay the higher out-of-state fee. If they are attending a CUNY four-year college, their tuition will more than double.

Most of the undocumented students came to the US with their families when they were young. Most are quite poor. They are ineligible for state or federal tuition assistance and must work long hours at low-paying, off-the-books jobs just to afford in-state tuition. The higher fee is likely to force over 500 students at City College and over 2500 students CUNY-wide to drop out, and it will prevent countless others from ever entering.

And CUNY will have retreated from its historic mission, which is to give immigrants and the poor a chance for the college education they couldn't otherwise afford.

Upon receiving his letter, one student said, "I cannot pay this new tuition. I am already working three jobs to pay the current amount. Some jobs I've had pay only \$3 an hour."

"I have lived here almost all my life," the student added. "I always thought I could get an education if I worked hard. Now if this goes through, I won't be able to go to college."

The new tuition policy came about when CUNY decided to review all its policies in the wake of September 11. CUNY's head lawyer, Frederick P. Schaffer, concluded that the university must comply with the 1996 federal immigration law which forbids undocumented students from receiving any tuition "benefit" denied to US citizens outside the state. CUNY believes that the 1996 law gives it

no choice in this matter.

But after talking to the New York Immigration Coalition and other immigrant advocates, I believe CUNY does have options.

The simplest option is to charge all students, including out-of-state residents, in-state tuition. This would erase any benefit to undocumented students. The percentage of students who come to CUNY from other states is tiny anyway, so CUNY wouldn't suffer any huge financial loss. In fact, the lower fee would probably attract many more out-of-state residents and thereby increase the university's funding.

There are other options that involve technical interpretations of the law. California and Texas are successfully pursuing these possibilities for the sake of their own undocumented students, and CUNY could do so, too.

Many people have difficulty sympathizing with undocumented immigrants because their status is officially illegal. But most undocumented CUNY students would obtain legal status if they possibly could. Immigration laws make this practically impossible. Perhaps their best chance is to marry a US citizen, but even this avenue is complicated by the government's painstaking efforts to prevent any marriages for the purpose of citizenship.

Many undocumented students are in a state of shock. Despite the hardships they have faced, they believe in America as a nation of immigrants and opportunity. They can't believe CUNY would price them out of college. But this is precisely what CUNY is doing. We should call upon CUNY's chancellor and Board of Trustees to halt the tuition hike until the university community has time to consider if this is really what it wants to do.

—William Crain  
Professor of Psychology

## Credit Where Credit is Due

*The Messenger* has often been at odds with the Office of Student Affairs and Finley Student Center over the difficulty of holding events and the voluminous amount of paperwork needed to do anything around here, among other things.

So it came as quite a surprise last month when we were able to hold a lecture featuring Ralph Schoenman. Schoenman's a controversial guy, but his analysis of the history of US intervention in the Middle East is deadly in its accuracy.

Student Affairs, particularly Associate Dean Paul Bobb; and the Finley Staff, including Wendy Thornton, Harry Mars,

and Lee Nealy went out of their way to make sure the event came off, despite the last minute nature forced by Schoenman's travel schedule and the uncertainty of ACC funds.

True, they were all doing their jobs, but they came through when it would have been easy not to, and worked extra hard to get things done. The nearly 100 students and community members who attended were certainly grateful and we are, too. For a while, we were reminded what can happen at City College. Thanks, and keep up the good work.

## Bush's Lynch Justice

In the wake of the horrific attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, President Bush has seemingly found not only a cause to champion, but justification for ramping up the military budget, an outrageously extravagant and useless missile defense plan, and a pretext to justify further erosion of American civil liberties. And lest we forget, huge handouts to corporations while rank-and-file-workers receive pink slips and layoffs.

One needs to look beyond the pledge to "rid the world of evildoers" to see the hidden agenda, however. The American government is casting itself as the leader of a global posse—the world's sheriff in the battle against terrorism. However noble the goal may sound, the reality is different. This next phase of the New World Order is a continuation of the war against indigenous and oppressed people of the world and will be used to strengthen the stranglehold on the world's resources.

In the old south, "lynch justice" was widely practiced. Suspected criminals were hanged, and sometimes burned, dismembered, and castrated in the process. This often happened either in concert with—or at the behest of—the local law enforcement authorities, many of whom were Ku Klux Klan members or sympathizers anyway.

Lynching was seen as just punishment for rape and theft—usually served only to Black perpetrators of such crimes,

although Jews, immigrants, and suspected communists sometimes found themselves in the noose. That shows what the real nature of lynching was: a check against Blacks who got too "uppity" and demanded civil rights or to be treated like people rather than slaves. The point was also to keep the system of exploitation that oppressed both Blacks and poor whites in place.

And calling what was done "justice" is hardly an accurate description. The mob ruled and acted as judge, jury, and executioner. Not that the legal system in the south was much better than the lynch mobs, but at least courts had the appearance of fairness and the accused had an opportunity to defend themselves.

Fast forward to 2001. If one looks past the facile pledge to "find 'em, get 'em running and hunt 'em down," the specter is much more sinister. Israel, for example, wasted no time in parroting Bush's rhetoric in their assault on the Palestinians.

While Bush gets his posse together to crack down on terrorism around the world, Americans are being stripped of their civil rights and the poor and oppressed overseas are catching hell. Even if Operation Enduring Freedom really does bring freedom to the Afghans, the justice being applied is suspect. Sheriff Bush can't be trusted.

## The Return of the Black Bag Job

An important anniversary went largely unnoticed this month. On December 4, 1969, the Chicago Police announced their presence at the home of Black Panther Party members Mark Clark and Fred Hampton with a fusillade of bullets. Hampton and Clark were killed and Hampton's pregnant partner was wounded in the assault, but survived.

The Panthers were singled out by the FBI for surveillance under the COINTELPRO program that also tracked the Puerto Rican Young Lords, the Native American independence movement, and people like Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. The purpose of the surveillance and counterintelligence measures was, ostensibly, to keep track of anyone who posed a threat to law and order. Tactics such as illegal break-ins of the homes of people under surveillance (called "black bag jobs" by the Feds) and unlimited wiretaps were routine. Application of the policy usually meant tracking down people fighting for their rights and an improvement in their lives: the Panthers and Lords got much worse treatment than did the Ku Klux

Klan, for example.

While Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft remind us of the sinister specter of terror lurking under every nook and cranny of American society, a look back at history is in order. The government's definition of who is a terrorist or subversive is usually expanded to include anyone deemed dangerous to society, whether they're actually engaged in terrorist activity or simply demanding fair wages or an end to police brutality.

That is why it's more important to defend our rights in times like this. We've seen Bush and Ashcroft's vision of who is dangerous before, and it looks a lot like us.

## With a Little Help from our Friends

This issue of the *Messenger* was paid for by the generosity of faculty members and friends in the CCNY community. As detailed in the past, we receive virtually no funding from the college. That has forced us to cut the size of this issue by four pages and print fewer copies. While we fight for funds to match the popular support we have, we thank all those who keep us rolling along.

# THE MESSENGER

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

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

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

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# Police Spies on Campus

By Terry James

In a minority community the sight of police officers isn't always a welcome one. In the past there have been scuffles on campus between officers and students when the officers felt that students were out of place in demonstrating the misdeeds that had occurred here on campus. This is a school in a neighborhood populated heavily by minorities—not only from the surrounding communities but also from others such as East New York, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and Washington Heights.

So it came as a shock to us when we learned that officers were using school grounds in order to do surveillance of the neighborhood. Members of the surrounding community have recalled seeing officers spying on neighborhood since they were children (see p.16 of the October issue, for example). Were they spying on the neighborhood or were they spying on the students?

Which lead us to this summer's incident. A staff member in the art building was called on the scene involving a man looking out a window onto Amsterdam and the surroundings. According to her, she was in her office when a student in one of her classes came to her and informed her that a police officer was in the one of the rooms.

She followed the student back to the room, and she saw that "standing close to the window with a pair of binoculars in one hand was a gentleman." As described by her, the gentleman "was dressed in street clothes, with tattoos." She later learned from other students that he'd been there for months. She asked him who he was and what was he doing there. He proceeded to show her a badge, informing her that he was an undercover NYC police officer, and that he was there for surveillance, checking for drug transactions. She told him that he couldn't be there, that the space was being used for rehearsal. The officer furiously followed her back to her office, asking for whom she worked.

The staff member told the officer who she was and he stormed off. She than



The bathroom in Compton Goethals where the police were found.

called security chief Timothy Hubbard, who informed her that, according to her, "he was surprised that they were there, but that they were there to protect the neighborhood." She then informed him that there was a shortage of space for rehearsal and that the officer was disturbing the students. She told him to ask the officer to leave, and he said okay.

Later the *Messenger* was able to sit down and chat with security chief Timothy Hubbard who, when asked if he knew about the incident, said that he "recalled being called by a member of the staff about an officer in the art building." According to him, the officer had been there "conducting an investigation in the theatre, the old dance studio, for a particular case." He added, "Officers aren't there all the time, and it's nothing persistent, it's not like a constant occupation of the campus. A call was made for the space not to be used, and they stopped using the space."

He also said it had been "conveyed to them that it was a concern of the people that the area was assigned to. I offered to allow them to use some other space elsewhere that would accommodate their needs."

When asked about the job of the security chief, Hubbard said, "My charge here

is to keep the campus safe, and I do that sometimes by creating a liaison with the local police and to have a cooperative spirit. They do things for the college when we have a particular problem, for example when we have students getting robbed, then we can count on the police coming in to give me some assistance."

## Drug Dealing Years Ago

Chief Hubbard made it clear that there were reasons for his giving permission to the officers for being here. He recalled that many years ago there was heavy drug activity between 138th and 140th streets. People there were shooting each other, and that placed the campus community at risk. People couldn't go to the restaurants on that side, or they were uneasy about it. They didn't know if they'd be safe or in the middle of a gunfight.

As a result, the "Manhattan North Initiative" was extended to cover Amsterdam Avenue outside the campus in order to bring strong cases against those the police rooted out. Hubbard went on to say, "This is not about just spying on the neighborhood. These are legitimate investigations for criminal activity. This is not to hurt the community; in fact, the community benefits in the form of successful apprehension and prosecution of these people."

When asked whether different locations couldn't be used, such as spying from a vehicle or from an apartment building, if there was a need to spy on that particular area to conduct an investigation, Hubbard said, "They do that also, but for this particular investigation that vantage point was the most useful."

He continued, "There may be other times we might accommodate them as long as it doesn't disrupt the college. The college cooperates with the local officers when it can." He reiterated that "the particular space wasn't being used at that particular time."

## The Incidents Continue

It seems that that particular investigation hasn't ended yet. Just before this article was about to go to press we learned of a more recent incident. On the night of Wednesday, November 14th, officers in uniform were spotted in the men's bathroom on the third floor of Compton Goethals. Students trying to use the bathroom on Wednesday night were told to keep the light off when using the facilities. Supposedly the light would draw the attention to the window in which their cameras were located. It has been reported that this recent incident took place after officers walked into the building—uniforms, guns and all—without notifying security. This was after security chief Hubbard had said that he had asked the officers not to return. When reached about this incident he said, "I was unaware that the officers were going to be there."

It's interesting to note that Hubbard claims that he was delegated authority from the president, who would have been Roman, "to cooperate with local authority" at first, but it seems that the officers have bypassed the security chief and his "delegated authority."

When we first spoke to Chief Timothy Hubbard, he had said, "I think I'm doing a positive job, [the] crime rate is very low in relation to the outside." But, that may be because of the fact that we are a college, and these are students, not criminals. **M**

Terry James is a sophomore majoring in film.

## Budget Cuts

continued from page 1

So the total loss to the community colleges could be over \$30 million in 2002.

The loss of revenue and student enrollment would have a snowball effect in subsequent years, however. Because funding from New York State uses a formula that considers student enrollment and city contributions, funds from the state would drop also. CUNY estimates a loss of \$9.5 million in 2003. "These losses mean further cuts, which will generate further declines in enrollment and losses of revenue—feeding an unending downward spiral," says Goldstein.

Goldstein recommends that the reserve fund be reduced to 2.5% of the community college budget.

The city, perhaps sensing defeat, agreed not to withhold the money from the CUNY budget, but there is fear that the city will take the funds from federal government disaster relief funds for damages incurred in the September 11 attack. The Borough of Manhattan Community College is a few blocks away from where the World Trade Center stood. BMCC's Fitterman Hall is a block from ground

zero and is unusable due to damage from the attack. Fitterman housed about one-third of their classrooms, which is why some BMCC students will be housed at City College in Spring 2002.

On December 10, seven BMCC students filed a lawsuit against the City to stop it from taking the \$19 million from the disaster relief funds. The students

"were concerned that such a diversion of FEMA funding could have serious consequences for BMCC and they... wanted an opportunity to review the details of any proposed transfers before acquiescing [to] the agreement reached by the City and CUNY," says McGuire, who is representing the BMCC students as well.

What the lawsuits and Goldstein's let-

ter don't address is the impact on access to CUNY as a whole that such a cut would have. When CUNY eliminated remedial classes at senior colleges, the promise was made that preparation would be done at the community colleges. Any reduction of students at the community college level would have an adverse effect on future senior college enrollment.

The budget priorities of the Giuliani administration have to be seriously questioned, however, as two days after announcing a \$766 million budget cut to city agencies in early December, plans for a new \$800 million baseball stadium for the Mets were announced. The *Daily News* reported that the city would split the cost with the Mets. Giuliani is a known Yankee fan, and the Yankees have been trying to get a new stadium of their own, so plans for that might also be in the offing before Giuliani leaves office.

Mayor-elect Bloomberg is reportedly planning to investigate the stadium deal, but the episode is a fittingly ironic end to the Giuliani legacy. On the way out of office, he's giving working people and students a kick, while the corporations get a windfall. "Giuliani time" is ending none too soon. **M**

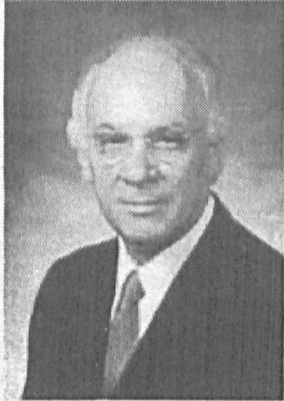


Faculty, staff and students marching at BMCC against budget cuts on Dec. 5.



**Press Conference Pablum**

CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein (CCNY '63) delivered a press conference to an audience of about 30 CUNY media writers and editors in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11th. The mood at the CUNY Grad Center was a mix of sorrow and patriotism with a description of the destruction of the Fiederman building at Borough of Manhattan Community College. The 90-minute speech gave way to a question and answer session that was quickly taken over by a ready group of City College reporters armed with pointed questions about the weak response to a series of libelous New York Post articles that portrayed City College as terrorism apologists.

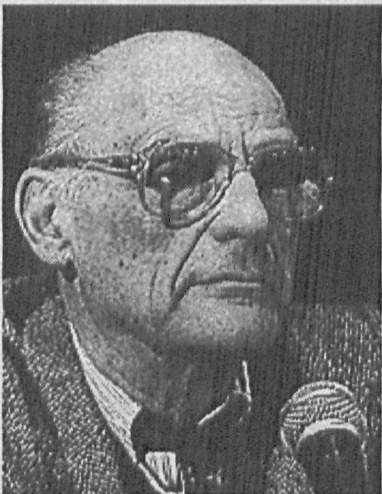


Chancellor Goldstein

As could be expected, there were evasive responses from Goldstein saying, "I don't set policy for the news papers, and I don't write editorials." Other concerns were more threatening. The CUNY chief noted that there will be a significant budget cut affecting all junior colleges and that the senior colleges may also face another round of cuts. The future of BMCC seemed to be particularly uncertain given its proximity to the terrorist attacks. The Chancellor did make a point to exclaim, "Xenophobia is a disease, we have to be careful not to discriminate because people are different." In the end the Mr. Goldstein said he found the conference to be helpful and thought students should have access to the Chancellor "once a semester."

**City Literati**

Pulitzer Prize winning and world-renowned playwright Arthur Miller accepted the John Huston Finley Award at City College's 121st Alumni dinner. Actor Eli Wallach (CCNY '38, *The Godfather III*, *The Magnificent Seven*) was there to present the award to the acclaimed playwright. The creator of *Death of a Salesman*, *The Crucible*, and *Incident at Vichy* (should be ringing a bell, people) had a very brief encounter with CCNY in the early 1930s. Accepting the award Miller said, "I'm particularly touched by this award, which comes from a very unique institution. I don't think anything like it exists anywhere else. I



Arthur Miller

hope that it will go on for a long time introducing other individuals to higher learning." The award, named after City College's third president, recognizes Mr. Miller's theatrical works as outstanding contributions to the City of New York.

**CUNY Sets Up Foreign Student Help Centers**

In response to new federal laws requiring immigrants here on student visas to register as out-of-state students, CUNY has established three centers to assist its foreign students. The centers, located in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens, offer students free assistance in determining student status and information on citizenship. Staffed with people experienced in immigration issues, the centers also offer qualifying students help in securing permanent citizenship.

The new laws also allow the FBI to search student records and query private information such as financial records causing some to question the potential for abuse and privacy concerns. In addition to establishing a database to track the 600,000 foreign students, universities must also notify the FBI if foreign students drop out of school. For more information visit the immigrants' center at CCNY NAC 1/206 or call (212) 650-6620 or -7967 or -7968.

**Did You Know?**

Dr. Jonas Salk graduated from City College in 1934. In 1954 Dr. Salk developed a vaccine for polio.

**Poor to Pay More**

CUNY's general counsel ordered a tuition increase for undocumented immigrants, forcing them to pay out-of-state tuition starting next semester.

Many of these students are living dangerously close to the poverty level and are ineligible for all federal tuition assistance programs most likely forcing many of them to drop out or reduce their course load.

The rate increase is said by CUNY to be necessary to comply with the 1996 Federal Immigration Law, but other states like California and Texas have chosen not to enforce it.

For some students this could prove to

**Demonstrators Converge on NY Post**

By Derek Townley

Nearly 100 people gathered in front of the *New York Post's* headquarters November 7th to speak out against the bombing of Afghanistan and to protest the *Post's* recent attacks on City College. New York Schools Against The War (NYSAW), a coalition of universities that includes City College, Columbia, Sarah Lawrence, Hunter, NYU, and others, organized the protest that also stood to defend free speech and to demand an end to proposed CUNY budget cuts.

The two-hour demonstration included various speeches including City College's own Hank Williams with his "We will not be intimidated," along with professor Walter Daum, also from City College and Sarah Hines from Columbia. Another speaker, Seth Rosenberg, colorfully declared, "the *Post* is a racist piece of crap," to a cheering audience.

The protesters, mainly college students in their early twenties, had catchy chants like "George Bush, whaddaya say, How

be the least of their worries: if some "illegal" students are found to be overstaying their visas, they could face deportation.

**PSC Passes on Paltry Pay**

The Professional Staff Congress rejected a contract from CUNY management earlier this year and is still waiting for another offer. The three-year contract called for a 2% increase for the first two years and a 2.5% increase the third year. The contract, which took ten months to negotiate, was deemed unacceptable by the union's negotiators. PSC President, Barbara Bowen, called the management proposal "insulting to our members." She pointed out that PSC members' salaries "have lost 30 to 50 percent of their value over the last three decades."

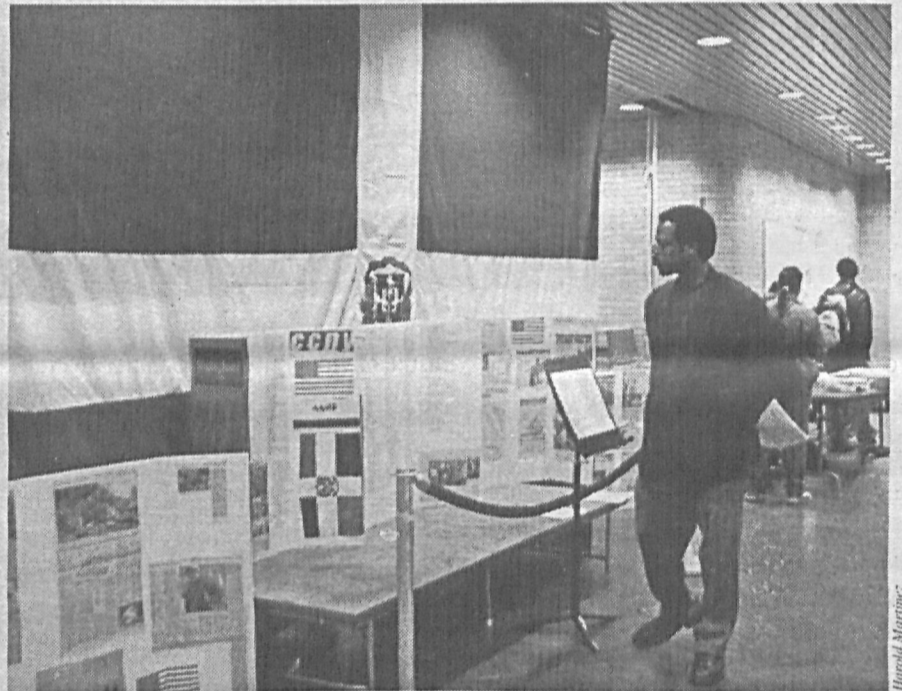
Above all, the PSC President said, management's economic proposal would do nothing to rebuild the university after the damage done by decades of disinvestment and contracts that did not address



PSC President Barbara Bowen

our needs. "How does this square with subway ads that say, 'Study with the Best'?" Bowen asked the CUNY management team. "You can't 'study with the best' unless you pay them adequately." The salary offer is, in effect, a signal that university management does not believe the working people of New York deserve a serious research university. "That's what's at stake in these negotiations," Bowen said.

**City College Remembers the Victims of Flight 587**



After American Airlines flight 587 crashed in Far Rockaway on Nov. 12, Dominican students at CCNY organized a memorial to express their grief.

many kids have you killed today?" and "1,2,3,4, We don't want your racist war." There were also clever posters stating "Once proud paper now breeding ground for idiots," playing on the *Post's* own headlines as well as, "Let our teachers teach," "Education cannot be censored," and "Money for schools not for war."

Among the crowd of people supporting the demonstrators was attorney Ron McGuire. Mr. McGuire is representing the two Hostos students who were arrested for handing out leaflets at the Hostos campus. The lawsuit also seeks to stop the proposed \$15 million budget cut for CUNY junior colleges. Mr. McGuire was a student at City College in 1969 when protestors demanded, and received, open admissions and increased support for the SEEK program. In some ways these protests reflect what went on more than 30 years ago. If CUNY allows the budget cuts to take place, the era of open admissions will be left further behind.

The mood of people passing 6th Avenue and 48th street was a mixture of curiosity, sympathy and animosity. Mid-

dle-aged white males were the most vocal with some shouting such intellectually profound phrases as, "Shut up and go to hell," "Go back to Afghanistan," "Assholes is what they are," and "Kill 'em all." Thankfully, these were not from the majority and most people were just curious as to what the big scene was all about.

A representative from NYSAW said she was happy with the turnout and had plans for more resistance movements in the future, but she would not discuss specific information.

Eight New York City police officers and a small delegation of security staffers from News Corporation were watching closely to make sure the protest didn't get out of control. The chief of security for News Corp was also there but soon left after seeing the size of the crowd, "We actually expected a lot more people here," he said politely. The *Post* is one of 175 newspapers owned by Australian multi-billionaire Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation along with Fox television, 20th Century Fox Films and Harper Collins publishing.



# 'I Made the Right Decision to Come Here'

The Messenger interviews CCNY's new president, Gregory Williams. Part 2 of 2.

The Messenger interviewed CCNY's new president Gregory Williams October 5 in his office in the Administration Building. Part one was published in the October-November issue of the Messenger.

Messenger Editor-in-Chief Hank Williams and staffer Rob Wallace conducted the interview. The interview has been minimally edited for publication.

**The Messenger (M):** What are your first impressions of the college? It's certainly been a more exciting first few months and weeks than we're sure anyone would have imagined. We were wondering how you're settling in. The challenges are obviously much different than you were expecting.

**President Williams (PW):** Well, who knows what expectations are? To be honest I've really enjoyed the job very much. I've had the chance to meet faculty. For instance, I was just talking with a faculty member today—Harold Veese [of the English Department]—and meet faculty members like that who are just absolutely committed to City College, to meet the guy from History [Professor Louis Masur] that we awarded the best teacher award yesterday and to see the commitment he has to City College and his students. To talk with the students—to talk with these students yesterday, freshmen students who are coming here and are so excited. I went through and personally tried to shake everybody's hand in line yesterday at the reception and talked with them a little bit about why they come to City, what they want to do, and saw the enthusiasm and the energy. These are bright students who have high aspirations. So that certainly has been energizing and something that I have really enjoyed.

I do think we have some great programs here: Engineering, Architecture, Creative Writing, Music. There are just some truly outstanding programs. I suspected that City College had great programs, but I have been able to reinforce that with my own evaluation. And as you may or may not know, I've spent a lot of time walking around campus. People wonder who's this tall guy [he laughs] walking around campus. But I try to go in and meet everybody, from the mailroom to the cafeteria to Registrar's office and other places to get a feel for the institution. And to a person, folks really feel very positive about City College and it certainly has something that has made me feel that I made the right decision and decided to come here.

**M:** Good. Going on to SEEK [a program aimed at aiding financially and academically disadvantaged students] and remediation. Along with Brooklyn College, City College is the only CUNY college that had a significant decline in its freshmen class [this year]. City College admitted 770 freshmen. Hunter College, in comparison, admitted 2077 freshmen. The *Times* article [from which these figures came] declared that much of the decline [at City] came from decline in the SEEK program. It went on to say that City College is attempting to limit the size of the SEEK program for "financial and academic reasons." What are the "financial and academic reasons" for limiting SEEK?

**PW:** Well, I'm not sure that *New York Times* article is totally accurate on that point. Basically, you're right, there was a reduction in the SEEK program, but there

was also reduction in the budget for the SEEK program. And so, obviously, anytime there's a reduction in the budget—Because, as you know, the program provides special assistance for students that are admitted through the SEEK program. In essence, there was about an 8% reduction in the budget and there was about an 8% reduction in the number of students that we have in SEEK. So there was some similarity there.

There are some other concerns though. One of the things we had concern was that we felt there is a minimum level of preparation that in fact is needed for students to succeed. It's the same type of thing that we dealt with at the law school of Ohio State and the University of Iowa—That we want students to come here who have the ability to succeed. In the past, we'd asked, I guess, the central administration to send us students with around a 73 average. But they were sending us students with between a 65 and a 70 average. And those students are going to have some pretty substantial difficulties here. And so that was a concern. And this year we asked them to do that [increase the grade-point average of the admitted class].

The other thing that was different this year is that, you may be familiar with, there was kind of what's called a "triple-admit" policy. So the students would list three schools that they were interested in and as a result obviously we—meaning, overall—theoretically had a larger pool we were drawing from but when you get right down to it those that really had City College as their number one choice was in fact a much smaller pool this year. If you look at the yield ratio on those who did in fact express City College being their number one choice, the yield is about the same. We got 42% last year of those that expressed interest in City College and we got 42% this year as well.

**M:** That brings up the question, How do we get more freshmen to come here to City College?

**PW:** Well, that's a very good question. You know, you hit the nail on the head to a certain extent. One of our biggest problems here at City College is enrollment. We cannot continue to have a declining enrollment like we had in the past. We have to kind of take pretty substantial recruitment efforts. Which means recruiting not only in New York City, not only you have the community colleges, but throughout the country and internationally as well. So I think that's going to be a major effort that we're going to have to undertake at City College because we do need to enhance the enrollment. But we also need to bring in students who have a legitimate chance for success. Because it's unfair to bring students in if we can't, like for instance at SEEK, provide them with assistance they're going to need. We do need students who have a chance to succeed.

**M:** Some of the faculty have expressed

concern over what the effect would be on the racial make-up of the campus. Have you had any indication of what the racial break-down is of the new freshman class and how it compares to other colleges?

**PW:** As I've looked at that I think it's pretty much the same. There really hasn't been any change. I don't expect there to be major changes. This is still an institution that has incredible diversity and I expect that level of diversity to continue. And in fact I think that's one thing that will help us recruit students because they know that they are in fact coming to a very diverse college. And as I'm sure you know, a lot of folks these days when they are selecting colleges, a lot of students select colleges on the basis of diversity.

**M:** Moving into the area of personnel. We've heard some reports about the new Senior Vice President for Finance and Management, Lois Cronholm, and some faculty have said the appointment was made without a whole lot of input and not too much information as to exactly what her title is and why she was needed. Our understanding is that actually was a new position created, so we were wondering 1) where the funds came from to pay for her office and 2) if that is a new position exactly why it was needed.

**PW:** Well, one of my goals is to try to get the best people I can to work with me. And we are very, very fortunate to have Dr. Cronholm. As you know, she was the interim president and also served as provost at Baruch College, has a great reputation in terms of working with regards to strategic planning efforts and trying to think about where the college and university is going to go. She chaired the Task Force on Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness. As the president I was thinking, Who can I get to help me do the things I need to do in terms of organizing City College so we can become a more efficient institution. She was available, so I talked with her and was able to encourage her to join my staff.

**M:** One thing we were confused about: Does that actually replace the position of Vice President for Finance and Management or is this a new position?

**PW:** This is the Chief Operating Officer, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. For instance, the Provost really is in charge of the academic side of the institution and she's going to be in charge of the non-academic side of the institution, with a certain exception. She's in fact going to be in charge of strategic planning, which will have some spillover into the academic area to a certain extent. She's done that before and she has great skills and ability. I looked at City College and felt we need someone that has the ability to kind of give us the overall picture and lead us forward.

**M:** We take it that June Hendricks is currently the interim Vice President for Student Affairs?

**PW:** Right.

**M:** What's the hiring schedule for that position and what are you looking for in a Vice President for Student Affairs?

**PW:** Well, I'm looking for someone that can do a good job in working with students and helping deliver student services. She's acting in that position right now, but she's been doing a fantastic job, so I've been very, very pleased with that. We will in due course engage in a search for that. Obviously, we have a number of acting positions right now. So I'm trying to look and figure out which ones—Obviously, we can't search for everyone right at this point, so I'll try to be making some decisions as to what searches we will begin and when we begin those searches.

**M:** Typically new presidents like to bring in their own senior staff; we guess partly to have people that you're comfortable with or possibly to correct deficiencies that may be here now as you were saying with Dr. Cronholm. We were wondering if you had any plans to do so other than Cronholm. We know the Provost remains from the previous administration, among other people.

**PW:** Well, like I said, I've spent a lot of time kind of walking around the institution and trying to meet people and find out what's going on. Obviously, I think the staff we have here are very talented people and obviously as we go along I will start to make my decisions as to what I think is in the best interest of the institution as to who should be in what position.

**M:** The last question we have right now is, How is City College going to be better in a year?

**PW:** Well, I hope it will be better in many respects. Hopefully, one thing it will look better. As you know, the hut is down. Hopefully the scaffolding will be down soon. I think this is an absolutely beautiful campus. It's kind of like it's draped. So we need to kind of, I guess to a certain extent, make sure that the beauty of the campus does in fact come through. That's the physical aspect of it.

One of the things as I walk around the campus I've been interested in is ways we can improve services to students. I think we need to be more student-friendly. I'm not disparaging at all the people who are currently in position as obviously we have limited number of positions and people are overworked. But we do need to have a more student-friendly atmosphere and we do need to think about ways we can improve student services, so that will be part of it.

In fact, that is part of the assignment that I've given Dr. Cronholm; to think about that issue and other issues with regard to the strategic plan. Obviously, the enrollment—that's going to be a big issue. I don't know how that's going to change much in a year, but obviously we're going to spend a lot of time recruiting and trying to bring students in here.

The big issue, of course, for us is the financial one. As you know, the state this year did not provide even the budget we received last year. And of course, with the World Trade Center disaster, there's going to be a lot of calls on the resources there are available at the state level. So that means it's going to be a real challenge for us to go out and to try to raise money privately and from other places. And so I will certainly be spending a lot of my time doing that. I have had some

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**"City College cannot continue to have a declining enrollment like we had in the past."**



# Brotherly Love's Finest Attack Mumia Rally

By Josh Sutter

December 8th, 2001 — I'm writing this on a bus as I return from today's rally to free Mumia Abu-Jamal in Philadelphia. Mumia is a journalist, a strong advocate against police brutality, and a political prisoner currently on death row convicted of a crime that it's clear (now more than ever) that he did not commit, the murder of a police officer. All in all, by my measurement, the event cannot be considered a success. Though I could be considered a little biased, as I bore personal witness to the acts of violence committed against my fellow protesters by the Philadelphia Police Department.

The day started off promisingly enough. The turnout was large in comparison to many demonstrations I've been to, but disappointingly smaller than other events organized around Mumia's cause in the past. I heard of the new evidence being put forward to show Mumia's innocence: an actual confession from a man named Arnold Beverly, to the shooting of officer Faulkner. The current Judge, Denbi, refuses to hear this evidence on a legal technicality, because the confession was not presented as evidence by Jamal's old legal team within 90 days of its occurrence. However, evidence of Judge Sabo's (the original judge's) prejudice will probably be heard. In addition to what's already known about Sabo's connection to the Fraternal Order of Police, his former court stenographer, Maurer Carter has come forward to quote him as having said in privacy to the prosecutors on the case "I'm going to do everything I can, to help you fry this nigger."

I'm not sure what will be said about our protest in the news, but I can tell you, because I was there, that it was entirely nonviolent. There were some vulgar verbal assaults on the police, on the part of individuals, but nothing happened to justify in any way what would happen next. As our march through the streets of Philadelphia was coming to an end, there was a feeling of strong satisfaction. Despite the bad weather and somewhat weak turnout, we had made our voices heard, and helped to do something significant in the cause of saving Mumia's life.

From the stories of witnesses at the scene, this is what happened next: a woman watching our march go by shouted something along the lines of "you're defending a cop killer!" It was at that point that a young man from the crowd approached her and told her that she was wrong, "Mumia Abu Jamal is no killer." It was at that point that the woman grabbed her and began screaming for the police, whose presence had at first not seemed as

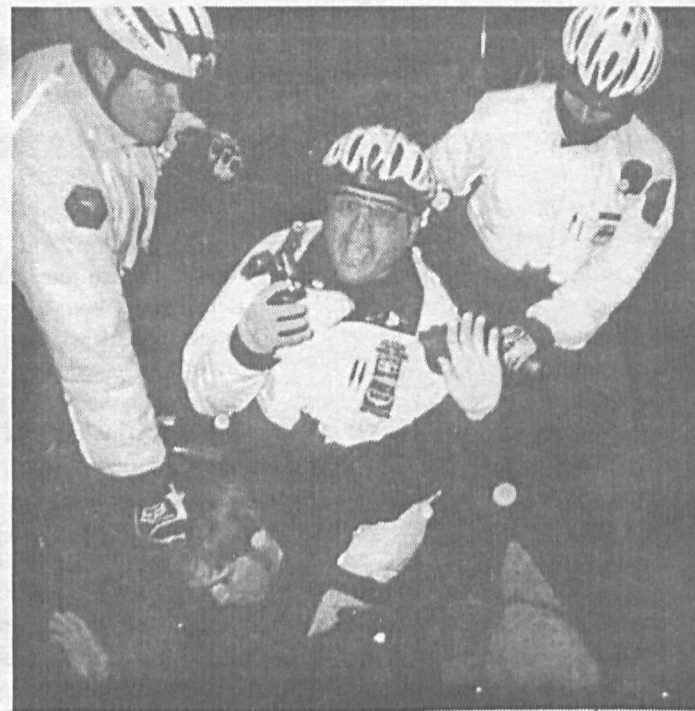
strong as at the other rallies, but quickly began to appear from everywhere.

It was at this point that I saw the two bicycle cops chase this man into the crowd tackling him onto the ground. The one holding him down had the man's red hair gripped in his hand, and drew his pistol on the crowd as we gathered around the spectacle, many screaming "shame" at the officer as he held the man facedown on the ground. I heard the man moaning the word help over and over again as the cop lowered the gun to the back of the man's neck still gripping the man's hair tightly. I felt a terrible and sick feeling right then at the thought that in a moment I'd hear the gun fire and see the man die while we all stood there, not knowing what to do. Over and over again the crowd shouted "shame!"

In the next instant, many more police officers pushed through the crowd, and anyone who made the mistake of confronting them in anger, or even bumping into them the wrong way, was hurled violently to the ground and arrested. I witnessed absolutely no one attempting to physically assault the officers, as they tore their way through the crowd, pushing

some back as they moved and assaulting others in order to arrest them. One photographer was snatched from the roof of a car, he fell to the ground as the officer screamed at him, demanding to know why he'd climbed to the roof of the car. To anyone at the scene it was obvious why he had. He was trying to get a shot of a woman being dragged across the street's pavement on her bareback by two officers. His camera was of course taken from him.

We all wanted to help. To stop right there, and demand some kind of basic decent treatment for the many protestors being arrested, but a line of officers appeared, pushing us further and further away from our beaten comrades. Some tried to reason with the officers. "Just



A Philly police officer attacks and pulls his gun on a peaceful marcher for Mumia.

doing our jobs," I'd heard a few of them say. Others sobbed and screamed at the officers in outrage, "fucking pigs!" Most of the officers would coldly continue to push us back in response to this, but other sneered and laughed and winked.

What can I say about what happened today? I can say that it was a peaceful rally... and then the police showed up. I know, because I was there. **M**

## Forgetting the Homeless after 9/11

By Marcela Putnam

The sense of security has been jarred for most New Yorkers, and for those of us whose security has never been an option, the future looks grim.

Cynthia Stewart, Communications Director at Project Renewal, a non-profit organization that provides services geared to the rehabilitation of homeless men and women considers herself a little more lucky than others in the field when it comes to government cutbacks and private donations that are sure to come in the future. Although Project Renewal relies on city, state and federal funding, it will not be as hard hit as other non-profit organizations that depend heavily on private donors.

"We are a little more protected than our brothers and sisters in the field," Stewart said, knocking on her wooden desk, at her office in lower Manhattan.

Stewart said that she knows of two homeless people who were killed in the attacks. Both of them were working at a Recycling Outreach Project in the World Trade Center. With the pandemonium that followed the attacks, it made it much more difficult for homeless organizations to seek out those in the community who were feared lost.

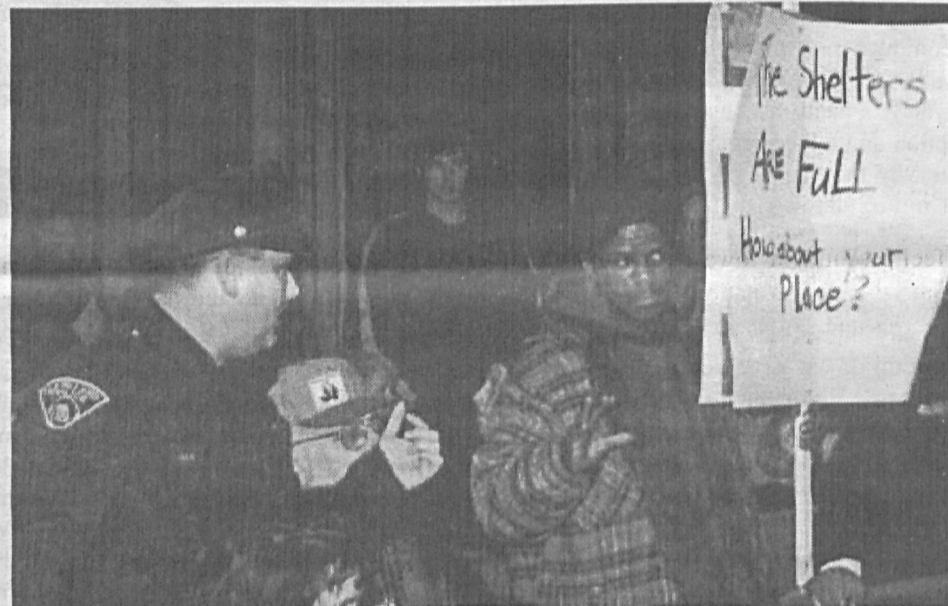
"There are networks and homeless organizations that talk to each other and ask, 'have you seen, have you seen?'" Stewart said.

### Numbers Keep Rising

Within a month of the attack, Stewart said that outreach programs have noticed an increase in visible street homelessness, and that places that were once used as a refuge were now overrun by heightened security.

"They can't go into their hiding places, they can't go into the tunnels," Stewart said.

Clyde Kuemmerle, program coordinator for the soup kitchen at The Holy Apostles Church in Chelsea, serves hot meals every weekday. Kuemmerle said that the



number of people that show up to the soup kitchen has been steadily rising over the years.

"To some degree, there has been a greater number of people showing up, but they were showing up before the attacks as well... it is the tenure of the times," Kuemmerle said. "There are a lot of people out there who are very, very hungry," he added.

Kuemmerle said that although the soup kitchen relies on small donations he is certain that the services will manage despite the cutbacks and general decline in government funding.

"We are not thinking of closing our doors," Kuemmerle said.

William Johnson, who considers himself a "lucky one," stands in the courtyard of the Holy Apostles Church sipping a cup of hot coffee. The soup kitchen is about to close, and groups of men and women are starting to disperse. Johnson said that he has been homeless on and off for close to seventeen years. He said that although he now lives in Brooklyn and holds a job, he still comes by the church once a week.

"I don't see a future for the homeless," Johnson said as he looks around. "I think it is going to get worse before it gets better."

A little further up, Mike, a stout Black

man wearing a light green skullcap, makes his way slowly up 23rd Street. He is weighed down with six blankets, pillows, clothes and a tarp that he pushes around in a shopping cart.

### Donations Down

Mike, who witnessed one of the planes strike the towers said that since September 11th, passersby are giving less, and that being a Muslim has made his already difficult situation even worse.

"Why don't you go to a mosque?" one passerby once asked him. Mike said that he would rather sleep outside than in a shelter. He said that he relies on his religious beliefs and basic survival skills he had once learned in a summer camp that he used to go to as a child. His skills have helped him survive nine winters.

"If you give a man a piece of fish, you fed him for a day, but if you give him a rod and teach him how to fish for himself you feed him for life," Mike said.

It is still too early to know the true impact of shortages in both government cutbacks and private donations to organizations and programs that serve the homeless community. But it is safe to guess that the needs of the homeless community will be put on the bottom rung of the list of priorities as they have been in the past. **M**

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# Uptown against the War

A special section of **THE MESSENGER**

## Why Do They Hate Us?

**A Summary of United States Interventions in the Middle East**

By Sara Tretter

In his public address to the nation the week after the September 11 attacks, President Bush asked rhetorically, "Why do they hate us?" To whom this "they" refers is unclear: whether he meant the men who hijacked the airplanes that day, Osama bin Laden and the Al Qaeda network, the Afghan people or quite simply anyone who lives anywhere other than an advanced capitalist industrialized nation, Bush did not specify. His proposed explanation for why "they" hate us, whoever they are, left a great deal unexplained.

Bush claimed that they hate us—Americans—because we have what so many in the world lack: a free and democratic society. While this may be true to some degree, it is an extremely superficial explanation. What Bush should have said is that oppressed people throughout the world feel resentment toward advanced industrialized capitalist nations because it is the policies and actions of these nations that deprive so many of the basic human necessities and human rights that Americans enjoy. Over the past fifty years or so, the United States has intervened many times in the affairs of Middle Eastern countries and governments in order to exploit these countries for their rich natural resources and to expand the United States' sphere of influence and control.

Generally speaking, oppressed people in other countries do not hate the American people. In fact, well-traveled Americans such as Dr. Andrew Grieg, a member of the State Department who spoke at a forum at City College last week, often tell us that citizens of developing nations "admire us." What many people in all countries throughout the world resent are the policies created and enforced by the United States and other industrialized, capitalist nations that serve to maximize the profits of the enforcing countries while exploiting and oppressing citizens of less economically advanced nations. While the United States implements such policies in all areas of the world, it is extremely important at this juncture to examine some examples of these policies that have affected the Middle East.

### Coups 'R' Us

In 1949, the CIA backed a military coup deposing the elected government of Syria. Our country has an unfortunately long record of disposing with democratically elected governments that came into being without US approval (consider the assassinations of Allende in Chile and Lumumba in the Congo as further evidence). Five years after the coup in Syria, the CIA helped to overthrow the democratically elected Mossadeq government in Iran.

Subsequently, the Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi came into power and began 25 years of dictatorial rule. When Iranians began demonstrating against the Shah in 1978, the US told him that it supported him "without reservation" and urged him to act forcefully.

From 1979 to 1988, the United States sent covert aid to the Mujahideen in Afghanistan, who would eventually set up the Taliban government. Over the course of these years, the Mujahideen received over \$3 billion in arms and aid from the US. It is interesting that Bush's administration now claims to care so deeply about the atrocities committed by the Taliban against Afghan citizens, most egregiously against women, when it was in fact the US that put the Taliban into power. Today we hear constantly that this war is a humanitarian effort because it is overthrowing the Taliban government. While the routing of the Taliban is certainly overdue and could be very beneficial to the people of Afghanistan, its beneficence is undermined by the "collateral damage" of civilian death and the strong possibility of another government's taking its place which treats its citizens with equal contempt.

### Iraq: Our Enemy/Friend/Enemy

From 1980 to 1988, Iran and Iraq were at

war with each other. The US refused to take sides—or, more accurately, chose to take both sides. The United States government removed Iraq from its list of nations supporting terrorism and allowed US arms to be transferred there. The US also allowed Israel to supply Iran with arms and in 1985 provided Iran with arms itself (though this was kept secret at the time). The United States provided Iraq with technology about chemical weapons, and Iraq went on to use chemical warfare against Iran. Finally in 1987 the US openly took Iraq's side and sent its Navy into the Persian Gulf. A US ship stationed there shot down an Iranian civilian airliner, killing 290 innocent people.

Despite its previous support of Iraq, when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, the US rejected proposed diplomatic settlements of this conflict, and diplomatic relations between the US and Iraq broke down. The US led an international coalition in war against Iraq. In 1991, with the war over quickly and apparently without sufficient fanfare or bloodshed for George Bush, Sr., devastating sanctions were imposed upon Iraq.

These sanctions are perhaps the most outstanding example of calculated murder and oppression carried out by the United States in the Middle East. Since the sanctions were imposed in 1991, approximately 5,000 Iraqis die every month as a result.

That makes one World Trade Center tragedy every single month, for ten years. When confronted with these numbers on national television, then-secretary of state Madeline Albright said, "We think it's worth it."

In 1993, the US launched a missile attack against Iraq, in supposed self-defense against an alleged assassination attempt on former president Bush two months earlier. And in 1998, the US destroyed a factory that produced half of the pharmaceutical supplies for the country of Sudan. This was supposed to be a retaliatory move, for attacks on United States embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, and the US claimed that the factory was involved in chemical warfare. This was later found to be untrue.

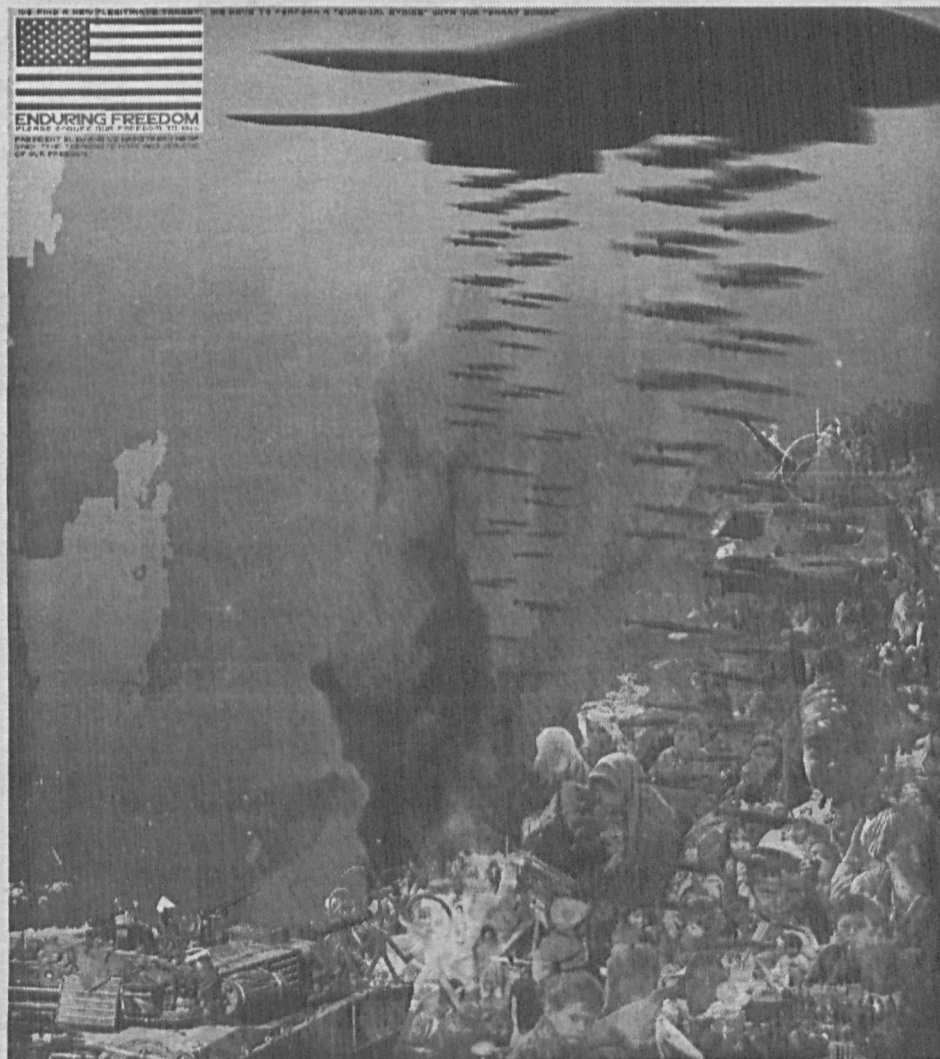
### US vs. the Rest of the World

The United States has often come into conflict with the Security Council of the United Nations over these actions. The Security Council is an extremely important and powerful group in the UN, and each of the four member countries has veto power on any proposed measure. So in 1967, when the Security Council wanted to enforce SC Resolution 244, calling for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in the 1967 war, the United States blocked any effort to this end. During the Iran-Iraq war, the Security Council wanted to take action to condemn the invasion of Iran by Iraq. The US opposed this.

The Security Council stated that the sanctions against Iraq were to be lifted as soon as Saddam Hussein's programs to develop weapons of mass destruction were ended. However, Washington has made it known that the sanctions will continue as long as Hussein is in power. Finally, while the Security Council is meeting to discuss weapons inspections in Iraq, the United States and the United Kingdom went ahead and bombed Iraq without waiting for any official decision to be made. This was in 1998.

### The CIA Calls It "Blowback"

Hopefully, this short summary will help to explain why there is resentment in the Middle East toward the United States. This resentment is not focused upon civilians; however, given that the United States has killed literally millions of civilians throughout the world with their policies and actions, it is unsurprising that when blowback finally happened, it was aimed mostly at civilians. "Blowback" is a CIA term used to describe retaliatory attacks or attacks provoked by harmful



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# OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

**KEEPING AMERICA  
SAFE  
FROM:**



**Afghan  
children**

*The bodies of two brothers, killed along with two other brothers, their mother and three other family members during air strikes on the residential area of Khair Khana to the north of Kabul. (Reuters photo)*



**international  
relief efforts**

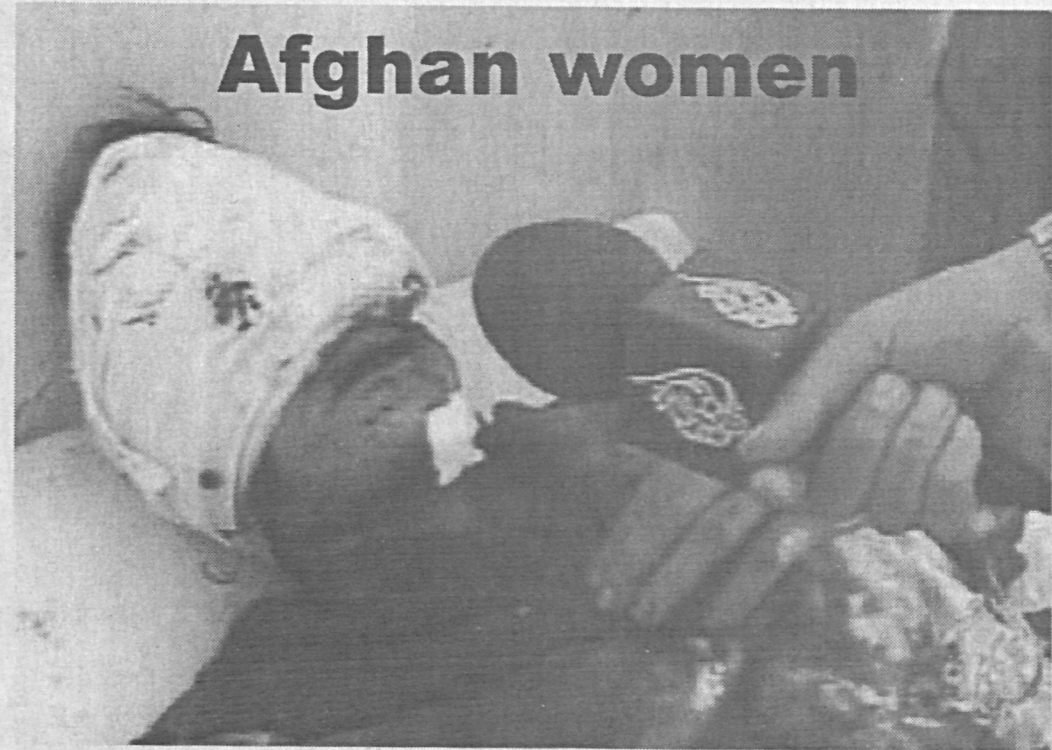
*Two warehouses of the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) burning in the Wazir Abad area of Kabul on October 26 after they were hit by bombs dropped from a US plane. [AFP/ClariNet photo]*





**prisoners of war**

One of hundreds of Taliban fighters slaughtered by Northern Alliance troops after they were captured and disarmed.



**Afghan women**

A woman civilian wounded in Kabul. (al-Jazeera photo)

**Number of innocent civilians killed in the WTC attacks: 3045**

**Number of innocent civilians killed by the US in Afghanistan: 3700 and rising**

**THIS IS WHAT THE US CALLS VICTORY**

*WTC figure is the most recent official NYC government estimate. Afghanistan figure is a conservative estimate based on the most exhaustive study to date, by Marc Herold, Professor of Economics, International Relations, and Women's Studies at the University of New Hampshire, released December 10.*

**A public service message brought to you by the Messenger**



# Civil Liberties Challenged by New Laws

## Immigrants and Arab-Americans Most at Risk

By Alexis Logsdon

Since September 11, the US Government has assumed powers that it has never been allowed before. With last month's passing of the USA PATRIOT Bill, Americans lost much of their freedom. A Republican administration is expected to be in favor of minimal government. However, with the passing of this bill, they shed all pretense of favoring personal freedom. They have shown clearly that they mean to use the current crisis to limit the freedoms of Americans.

### USA PATRIOT BILL

On October 26, the PATRIOT Bill was made law. Many of the articles in this law

whenever they choose.

Your e-mail can be monitored if you are considered a trespasser, which you can become by simply missing a payment on your Internet bill and continuing to use the service.

One of the most frightening components of the bill for students: Law enforcement officials can easily access confidential student files.

If you go to a protest and throw a rock at McDonalds, you are no longer a vandal, you're a terrorist.

### INS Detainees

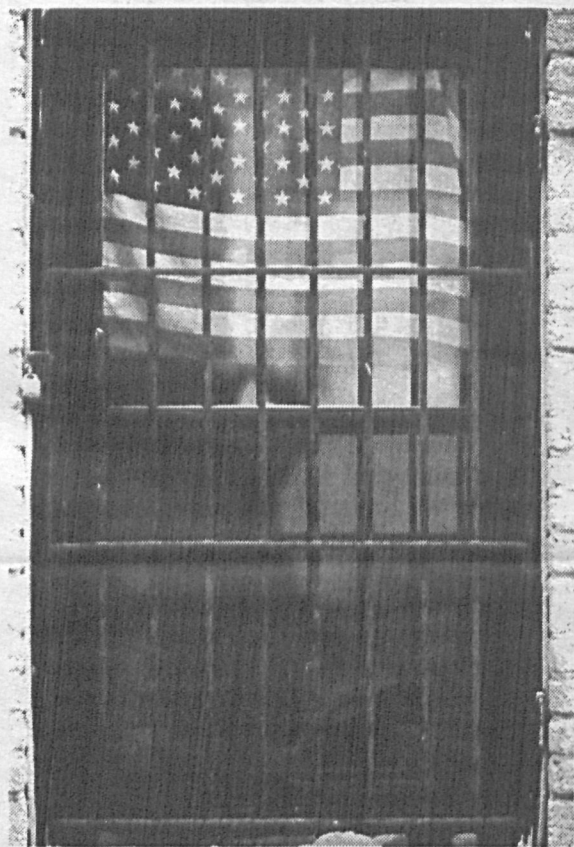
Since September 11, the INS has held over 1,000 people without charges. Of that number, 400 were cleared of all terrorism-related charges, but stayed in detention on minor violations and immigration issues.

Much comparison has been made between the September 11 attacks and the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The Muslim and Arab-Americans being detained are indeed a lot like the Japanese-Americans that were kept in internment camps during World War II. In both cases Americans were deemed suspicious merely because of the way they looked.

### Racism Against Muslims and Arabs

Accounts of anti-Arab and Anti-Muslim racism have been abundant. According to the Council on American Islamic Relations, more than 700 hate crimes have been reported to their agency since September 11. Six of those instances have ended in death.

These racist attacks haven't been reserved for Muslims. For example, in Mesa, Arizona a Sikh gas station owner was killed, likely because he wore a turban. A man in Minnesota was questioned by the FBI as a result of a tip called in reporting an Arab man working at the neighborhood restaurant. The man in question is half Egyptian, speaks only English, and was born and raised in the US. These are but two of the countless stories of frightening racial profiling. **M**



do not only pertain to acts of terrorism, but to most political demonstrating as well. The following are just some of the many points of the bill that could be harmful to a wide range of people:

If police can prove that obtaining a warrant would compromise an investigation, they can search your home when you aren't even there. This means they could plant evidence, look in areas outside the parameters of their warrant, and show up

toward the US to grow and ferment throughout the world, sometimes giving birth to such atrocious expressions of hatred as the 9/11 attacks.

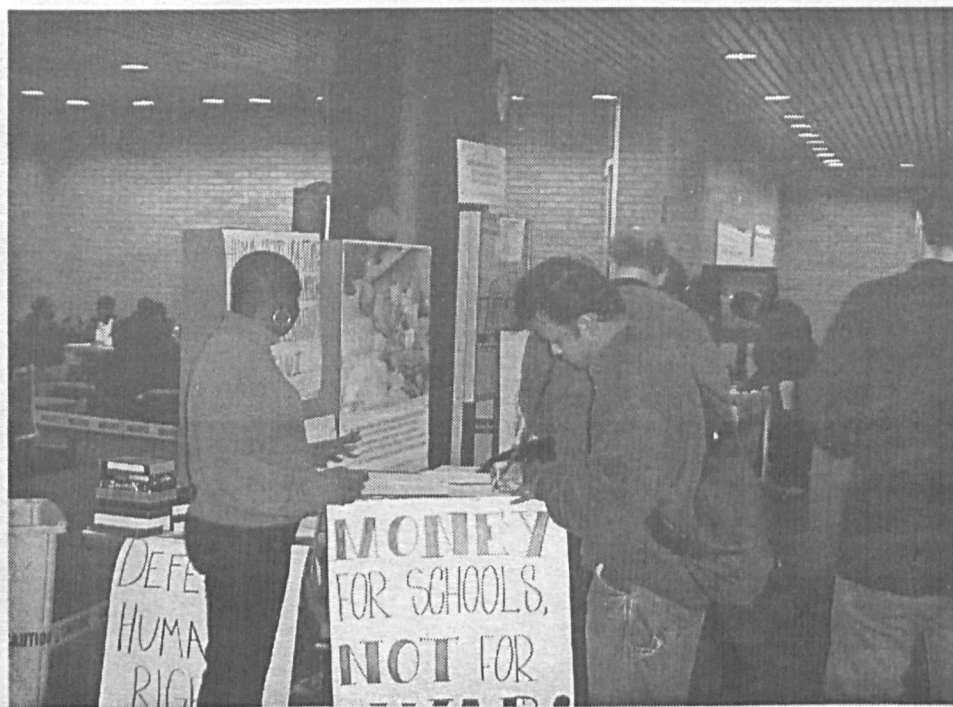
Sept. 11 was not the provocation, it was the response. We need to figure out not how to retaliate, but how to ensure that no more response is deemed necessary or justified by anyone, anywhere in the world. The question we should be asking right now is not "What should we do?" but "What have we done?" **M**

### Intervention

*continued from page 7*

actions or policies. It is hard to see how the civilian deaths that have already occurred in Afghanistan due to the bombing, or the civilian deaths expected to occur over this winter due to starvation (caused by the departure of foreign aid agencies at the first sign of US military retaliation) will assuage this feeling of resentment or safeguard against further blowback.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of public sentiment since September 11 is the notion that something must be done in response to the terrorist attacks. Many people say things like, "I don't agree with the bombing... but we have to do something, don't we?" Clearly, we've already done plenty, and it's precisely the things we've done that have caused resentment



## CCNY Strong Presence in Anti-War Movement

By Alexis Logsdon

City College is keeping a high profile in the anti-war movement.

After an October 2nd teach-in entitled, "Threats of War, Challenges to Peace," Andrea Peyser of the *New York Post* wrote an article that denounced CCNY as a "breeding ground for idiots." Though there were several glaring inaccuracies in the story, members of the CUNY Board of Trustees, taking the *Post* piece as their only source of information, drafted a statement condemning the professors involved in the teach-in as seditious.

On October 22nd, the newly formed CCNY Coalition Against the War (CAW) took action by staging a protest at the monthly meeting of the CUNY Board of Trustees. Three days later, on October 25th, CAW organized a speakout on campus. At this speakout students, faculty and staff came to express their outrage at CUNY's determination to silence free speech on campus. Many students also voiced concerns about Arab and Muslim students' safety.

CCNY's Coalition is a small but forceful part of a growing movement on campuses nationwide. In October, CAW became a part of a citywide network of anti-war activists called New York Schools Against the War (NYSAW).

NYSAW meets every three to four

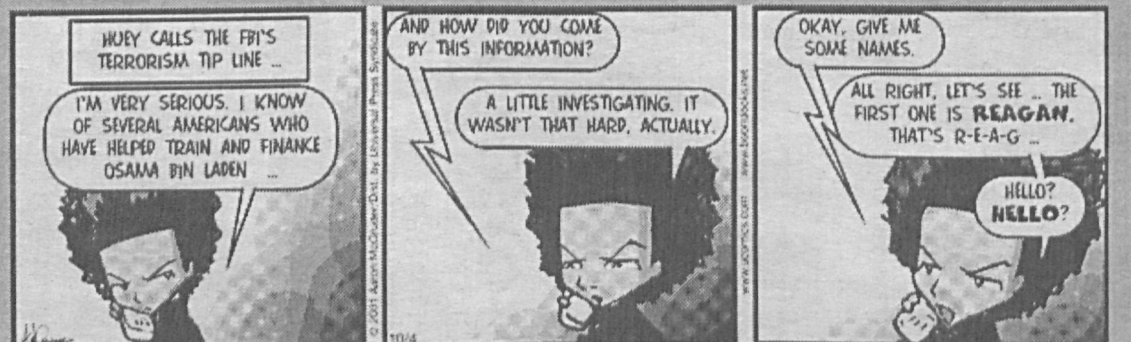
weeks to plan and organizes various anti-war actions. In October they helped to organize the demonstrations to support City College. In November, they helped to organize a regional conference of students against the war, sent students to protest at the School of the Americas, and organized a demonstration in front of the *New York Post*.

City College students took on leading roles in these actions. The regional conference, which brought five CCNY students and a few faculty and staff members to Boston for two days of workshops, debates and organizing meetings, drew over 350 people. Students from Columbia, Harvard, Yale, Brown, City College, Hunter and countless other campuses made plans for a national, student-run anti-war conference to take place sometime early next year.

As CCNY-CAW continues to build a broader anti-war movement outside the college, they have not forgotten about activism on their own campus. Teach-ins continue to occur on a frequent basis, sometimes as often as once a week. Plans are also in the works for a film series, more teach-ins, and demonstrations. **M**

*If you are interested in learning more about CCNY-CAW activities, please contact our mailing list at: ccny\_coalition\_for\_peace\_subscribe@yahoo.com*

### The Boondocks



**Editor's Note**  
"The Boondocks" is being replaced this week with "The Adventures of Flagee and Ribbon," a hilariously patriotic new offering.

**Editor's Note (Cont.)**  
Those of you who have written demanding the return of "The Boondocks," your names have been forwarded to the FBI.



## Storm Trooper

continued from page 1

before releasing the information (86 did, 129 did not).

The majority by far released the records, according to the survey (159 registrars did, 8 did not). The great majority of colleges were never ordered to refrain from informing students of the release of their information (21 were asked to refrain, 181 were not). Yet, amazingly, the great majority of colleges surveyed did not inform students of the release as mandated by the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act or FERPA (10 informed students, 176 did not).

### The Ashcroft Raids

The information the colleges released to the FBI and the INS served as the basis for questioning hundreds of students nationwide. Those questioned found to have visa violations have been arrested on the spot.

Unnamed federal agencies told the *Times* they would continue to investigate foreign students to make good President Bush's promise to account for the half-million foreign students studying in the United States.

But the scope of students questioned so far appears to be origin-specific, indicative of ethnic profiling.

Attorney General John Ashcroft has ordered interviews of 5,000 men 18 to 33 years of age from countries with so-called "terrorist links" that are here in the US on student, tourist and business visas issued the past two years. The men are to be asked about their activities in the US, familiarity with "terrorist" groups, and their experience with weapons. *Newsday* reports those interviewed are also to be asked to provide all the telephone numbers they, their families and their friends have called.

The interviews are to be written up and compiled.

At the University of Colorado in Denver, at least 50 students from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and other Arab countries were questioned by federal agents.

According to the *Times*, one Saudi student at Colorado was questioned by two FBI agents and an INS agent. The student questioned was asked about his classes, his extra-curricular activities and his politics.

"I was afraid. I know they can do anything they want to you," the student told the *Times*.

The agents had obtained the student's name from two other Saudi students who were themselves questioned when they were observed photographing the university's sports arena. The photographs were for a project for a photography class.

Several state and local police, including Portland, Oregon's, have refused to take part in the interviews because such questioning would violate state racial profiling laws. The NYPD, on the other hand, has agreed to try interviewing 86 immigrants living in New York.

Several public universities have refused to help the US Department of Justice conduct interviews with students who may be on the list of 5000 young men Ashcroft wishes to have interviewed.

According to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and the University of Wisconsin have declared their campus police would not participate in the interviews. Administrators at these cam-

## The Buckley Amendment Buckles

The Buckley Amendment, or the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA), to which CCNY President Gregory Williams referred in his *Messenger* interview last month, did not protect many colleges' students post-September 11.

FERPA is designed to protect the privacy of education records. It also provides college students the right to inspect their records and demand corrections of inaccurate and misleading information in their records. Colleges cannot release directory information (name, address, etc.) to a third party if students request they do not. Colleges cannot release non-directory information (classes, grades, etc.) to a third party without student permission unless the colleges are ordered to do so by a court order or subpoena.

FERPA does make exceptions for the release of student information, including for the event of a "health or safety emergency" where the information is required to resolve an emergency. Campuses that released student information post-September 11 cited the "emergency" exception as grounds for doing so.

"In that instance, the release doesn't require a subpoena or [the student's] consent," Barmak Nassirian, an AACRAO official, told ChickClick.com.

Congress's USA-PATRIOT Act, signed by Bush October 26, dilutes FERPA further. PATRIOT (Section 507 and 508) permits the nonconsensual release of non-directory information to law-enforcement authorities. The release requires a subpoena or court order, but student records need only be shown to be "relevant" to an investigation of terrorism for the subpoena to be approved by a judge.

PATRIOT also permits law enforcement access to data collected solely for research purposes as stipulated by the National Education Statistics Act. NESA data were held in strictest confidence, without exception, but are now available to law enforcement, requiring a subpoena declaring relevance to an investigation only.

AACRAO's Nassirian points out that under the PATRIOT Act officials have the right to request "reports, records and information," university medical records or even a professor's notes on class participation and what students said in class.

The PATRIOT Act, an Ashcroft wish list largely written before September 11, also revokes *habeas corpus*, allowing the Attorney General to incarcerate or detain non-citizens on secret or no evidence indefinitely (Section 412). It revokes the Fourth Amendment, permit-

ting the search and seizure of property without presenting a warrant (Section 213). It permits wiretaps and surveillance without "probable cause" and permits unspecified warrants for police to fill in what they wish later (Section 216).

PATRIOT defines a new crime—"domestic terrorism"—that includes acts that "appear to be intended to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion" (Section 802). Peaceful demonstrations could satisfy such a definition. The PATRIOT Act also gets the CIA back into the business of spying on Americans, allowing domestic law enforcement to share information derived from criminal investigations with the CIA, NSA and the Secret Service.

For the full PATRIOT text, try [www.politechbot.com/docs/usa.act.final.102401.html](http://www.politechbot.com/docs/usa.act.final.102401.html).

Also in the Congressional pipeline is the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, a computerized database to track foreign students. SEVIS would permit the INS, the State Department and colleges to make entries into a database on the arrival of, college registration by, and the classes taken by foreign students. To add insult to injury, the tracking is to be paid for by foreign students with an additional \$95 fee.

—Rob Wallace

pus have declared Ashcroft's list overly broad. The list includes individuals not considered criminally suspect in any way and therefore, the administrators argue, these students cannot be interviewed.

### CCNY Administrators Deny Contact with Feds

Here at City College, administrators denied any contact with the FBI, INS, or any government agency requesting information about students post-September 11.

In early October, CCNY President Gregory Williams denied contact from any

CUNY Legal Affairs representative on campus, Dean of Faculty and Staff Relations John Synder. The *Messenger* could not reach Synder by press time.

At the December Faculty Council meeting, President Williams advised any faculty member contacted by an outside agency for information about students to inform their Division's Dean about the inquiry and to tell the agency to contact Dean Synder.

Senior Registrar Celia Lloyd told the *Messenger* the Registrar had no contact from any outside agency. Lloyd referred

student and member of the Muslim Student Organization.

"To be honest, I don't think the FBI should come here. What about our civil rights?" Sheikh told the *Messenger*.

Other students appeared to agree. "The records are something confidential. I think it's an attack on our civil liberties. One hijacker was here on a student visa and now they're scapegoating all immigrants," said one foreign student, a political science major who told the *Messenger* he was uncomfortable giving his name.

"American embassies interview [foreign] students before they are allowed here. The embassies didn't do their job right. Once students are here they should be left alone," continued the student.

Asked what the administration should do, Nathan Lively, a music major and vice president of the campus chapter of Amnesty International, told the *Messenger* the administration should not comply with FBI requests, just as other colleges around the country have refused. "I think those records should be kept private," said Lively.

"It's become a dragnet mentality," Marc Polite, a senior and political science major, told the *Messenger*.

"City College has a lot of foreign students. But even to allege is kind of like putting everyone into one box. I don't think it's right," said Polite.

### Plan for Town Hall Meeting

While CCNY administrators denied contact by government officials, it strikes the *Messenger* as incredible that the FBI would consider Columbia University necessary to contact but not CUNY. Not that the *Messenger* wishes the FBI to question CUNY students—on the contrary—but it seems hard to believe that CUNY and its nearly 200,000 students, many foreign-born, many living in New York City, the



governmental agency collecting lists of foreign students or confidential student information. "I am sure that I'd be informed about that if that was the case," Williams told the *Messenger*.

"We are not aware of any inquiries by government agencies for info about our students," administration spokesman Charlie DeCicco told the *Messenger* in late November.

"It's possible there may have been contacts with faculty on an individual basis that we don't know about," said DeCicco.

"There has been no request, at least to my knowledge," CCNY Security Director Timothy Hubbard told the *Messenger*.

"Absent a subpoena we never release such information. We don't really handle that. We have to be directed to give it up," said Hubbard. "I've never released information. In the past, Student Affairs and Legal Affairs have," said Hubbard.

Hubbard explained that a request to Security would have to go through the

all questions about whether upper administration had met with her to discuss what the Registrar should do in the event it was contacted by the FBI to DeCicco and Assistant VP for Communications Mary Beth Edmonson.

The *Messenger* called the FBI seeking confirmation whether CUNY student records have been requested by the FBI. The FBI's New York press office referred the *Messenger* to the US Attorney's office in the Southern District here in New York for questions. *Messenger* calls there were not returned by deadline. Nor were calls returned from CUNY Central about whether any CUNY campus had been contacted.

*Messenger* interviews with several CCNY students revealed no contact by federal authorities so far. "No one from the FBI or any agency has come here to City College, at least at our end of things. No one has interviewed us," said Mohammed Sheikh, a chemistry graduate

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## Storm Trooper

continued from page 11

site of the worst terrorist attack on American soil and an albeit overblown anthrax scare, would be left alone by federal authorities.

"People have jobs to protect," USG President Kenneth Williams told the *Messenger* when asked about administrator denials of contact with federal authorities. "The aftereffects of September 11 prove more and more to be the new McCarthyism," said Williams.

According to the *Columbia Daily Spectator*, Columbia's student newspaper, the FBI called the Columbia registrar for information on half a dozen international students. Columbia Director of Student Information Systems John Lenzi told the *Spectator* that the FBI asked whether specific international students were either enrolled or attending classes or had graduated.

Columbia spokesman Virgil Renzulli told the *Times* at least one foreign student was subsequently questioned.

Columbia's International Students and Scholars Office later e-mailed 3,600 students recommending students carry documentation proving their legal entry into the country. US law requires international students carry their I-94 cards, a document they receive upon entering the country. But in practice students were previously often advised to place the card in a safe

place at home.

In contrast, the CCNY administration has done little to publicly address students about the flurry of policy changes and governmental maneuvers.

When asked what he'd do if an agency asked for access to student records, CCNY President Williams replied early October, "We will comply with every law that exists. As I understand, there is a Buckley Amendment that certainly limits the right of distribution of student records.

### Why are so many Americans—and so many colleges—so willing to give up their rights so quickly?

We're a law-abiding agency. We'll comply with every legal order."

The *Messenger* could not reach Senior Registrar Celcia Lloyd by deadline to ask if anyone in upper administration had met with her to clarify CCNY's position on releasing student information. See sidebar for more on the Buckley Amendment.

The CCNY Coalition Against the War has written a letter to the school president asking the administration to join student groups in putting on a town hall meeting on issues surrounding civil rights and academic freedom at City College. The groups are proposing the event take place in mid-February during club hours in the

Aronow Theater. The letter is currently circulating among campus organizations and students for signatures and will be delivered to the president this week, according to coalition members.

"While the administration did respond to the *Post* attacks, we find the administration's response to the current crisis anemic at best," the letter reads. "We offer the proposed Town Hall Meeting as a chance to rectify the situation," the letter continues.

Mohammed Sheikh of the Muslim Student Organization called such a town hall meeting "a good thing."

"I think that's a great idea especially because we have so many non-residents and immigrants at this school. This school more than other schools would be interested in discussing this," said Nathan Lively of the Amnesty International chapter at City College.

For the record, this reporter is a member of the Coalition Against the War.

### Home of the Brave?

Only one hijacker entered the country under a student visa. INS Commissioner James Ziglar testified to Congress that ten of the suspected terrorists entered legally with different visas and remained legal during their stay.

That begs the question: Was it really

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too many "abused" civil rights that brought down the Twin Towers? As fewer rights do not make us safer, something even government officials have conceded, why then are so many Americans—and so many colleges—so willing to give up their rights so quickly?

Whether City College will give those rights away too or instead join other public universities in denying feds access is still an open question. **M**

## adjunct grooves

# What's a Hoya? What's an Adjunct?

By Tim McCormack

In what seems to me now like the days of yore, the middle '70s, I was a young lad on Long Island fixated on college basketball, and a big fan of the St. John's Redmen (now Red Storm). Each year St. John's would play the Georgetown Hoyas at Madison Square Garden. If St. John's was winning, the 15,000 fans would begin a sing-song chant to taunt the opposition: "What's a Hoya? What's a Hoya? WHAT-SaHOYA?"

Adjuncts face the same problem as the amorphous, hairy mascot of Georgetown: we have a name but no one knows what we are. What's an adjunct? What's an adjunct? WHAT'S an ADJUNCT?

It is a huge mistake to think of adjuncts as a group of part-time college instructors who are all in the same institutional position with the same wants and goals. Our identity is much more diverse.

### Rooted in Prestige

Originally, to be an adjunct professor was prestigious. The first adjuncts were actually medical doctors, who returned to faculty positions to teach high-level subjects at Harvard and Yale in the early 1800s, according to the Oxford English Dictionary. In 1826 John W. Webster, MD, was invited to be the Adjunct Erving Professor of Chemistry, for example. The verb "invited" is indicative. This arrangement was a benefit for both the college and the individual, and I imagine lucrative as well.

This process of "invited adjuncts" has continued forward to today, as high-powered names are invited to join faculty ranks for short stints in the front of the room. Usually, this kind of adjunct to the faculty has made a mark in the public sec-

tor and is invited to lecture or hold a small seminar. (Think Al Gore.) These hired voices often don't do much of the work of the classroom: designing course materials, evaluating student work or advising students. Nor do they do much of the work of the college: participating on committees, developing academic policy or administering departments.

However, in this scenario, the college gets the benefit of their name, the invited adjunct benefits from their association with the college and the paycheck they receive, and the students, it is presumed, benefit from the expertise of the invited star.

A similar kind of mutually beneficial arrangement for "invited" adjuncts resulted from the last retrenchment of full-time faculty at CUNY. Some professors retired and then were invited back as adjunct professors to teach their courses. The university was able to retain them as teachers and scholars for a lower price, but these adjuncts did not mind, as they could keep their status, earn an extra paycheck and not have to do the committee and department work of full-time faculty.

Historically, then, the adjunct position was of benefit to the adjunct, the administration and the college. However, today the number and kinds of adjuncts have changed.

### Adjuncts Today

The cadre of "invited" specialty adjunct professors stands as a small minority in contrast to the hoards of adjuncts who usually teach the crowded introductory classes at CCNY and throughout CUNY. These kinds of adjuncts are actually given a separate title, adjunct lecturer, instead of

adjunct professor, and their backgrounds as well as their duties at the college are varied.

Some adjunct lecturers are professionals who hold full-time or part-time work outside the university. Others are writers and artists, who use somewhat steady adjunct income for stability as they pursue various creative endeavors. Some are high-school teachers who teach college classes in the summer. Some are the primary caretakers for their household (either of the kids or aging parents), and so they only want to work part time.

*Often, the adjunct lecturer's assignment is not confirmed until the last minute, and the adjunct never knows for certain whether s/he will have an assignment from one semester to the next.*

There are graduate school adjuncts who use the adjunct route to begin teaching careers, while attending their own classes. There are also CUNY administrators who work for the university, hold advanced degrees and teach a course or two on the side. I have met adjuncts who are retired from long careers, and now use their teaching positions to supplement retirement incomes, and young adjuncts who have master's degrees and are teaching college while they try and figure out what they really want to do with their lives.

Some adjuncts come and go in a semester; others have contributed for twenty years. Some teach their classes and

go home; others teach nine credits and work on a full slate of administrative projects that in any rational system would add up to a full-time job.

Despite this diversity of background and service, all adjunct lecturers have a few things in common.

### Serving at Their Pleasure

We are not invited, but rather "assigned," to teach classes that full-time faculty cannot fill. Often, the adjunct lecturer's assignment is not confirmed until the last minute, and the adjunct never knows for certain whether s/he will have an assignment from one semester to the next.

Like the original invited adjunct, the university benefits from this arrangement. In addition to being able to react almost instantaneously to enrollment fluctuations, the university receives a financial windfall. For a three credit-hour class, a CUNY adjunct lecturer makes somewhere around \$2,400. If the class has 30 students who are New York State residents, the university takes in close to \$12,150 in tuition for the same course.

What all this suggests is that, unlike "professor," the adjunct title is not a useful term that indicates who we are professionally, or what role we play in the college. Adjunct lecturer is purely a payroll term for a college teacher who is paid by the hour. In the end that is our identity. We are all paid within the same small pay scale regardless of our expertise, our education level, or our contribution to the colleges where we work.

Shakespeare states in sonnet XCI, "Every humour hath his adjunct pleasure." The university certainly hath its share; we serve at their pleasure. **M**



# The '51 Basketball Scandal

By Josh Wollinsky

"The history of the world has told a common story. It is one of embryonic nations developing into mighty dynasties only to ultimately disintegrate through corruption. The sad tales which have been recorded concerning the empires of Rome, Egypt and France are strikingly similar to that of CCNY basketball power, one-time ruler of the hardwood world," wrote the editors of the 1952 *Microcosm*.

They were overly optimistic and hoped for a City College comeback, but in the further investigations, court proceedings, politics and future scandals finally ended CCNY's basketball glory and Nat Holman's "Cinderella team."

When I fell off the ladder in the college bookstore and fractured my pelvis in two places, Dr. Neil Roth, orthopedic surgeon at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, treated me. After we became friendly and Dr. Roth discovered I work at CCNY, he confided in me that he was the nephew of the famous City College basketball star, Al "Fats" Roth.

"My uncle was a major player for Nat Holman's "dream team" in the late forties and early fifties and was personally involved in the scandalous point shavings," declared Dr. Roth. Because of emotional attachments, Dr. Roth has volunteered to serve as physician for CCNY athletic teams. He is a renowned expert on sports medicine. He is not an alumnus, but

feels an affinity with the college.

The basketball scandals of the fifties were actually a microcosm of several of America's societal issues. Poverty, racism, racketeering, gambling and hypocrisy are all major factors in this story. CCNY was not the first or last University team to shave points. LIU, Manhattan, The Celtics and other more affluent teams participated in the lucrative pastime.

In 1950, CCNY's "Cinderella team" won both the National Invitation Tournament and the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championships. CCNY is the only team to do so. 1949 to 1951 were the team's golden years.

Racism reared its ugly head in both the convictions of Sherman White of LIU and Floyd Lane of CCNY. The judge at their trials defamed both players with stereotyped depictions while being more lenient to white participants. Al Roth volunteered military service and played on the sympathies of the court. "My father drives a soda truck and it finally dawned on me, that, I must become a man and help make my own way in the world," pleaded Al.

DA Frank Hogan defended one Manhattan College perpetrator whose father had been a police officer killed in the line of duty. "I am convinced said Hogan "that, this boy is absolutely innocent of any wrong doing." Hogan then professed that the glamour of the circumstances was one to which any boy of his age would



have been drawn because of the excitement and good times to be had.

The best passing chubby in the game was Alvin "Fats" Roth. Al measured six feet four and weighed two hundred and ten pounds. He was a poor runner and a deplorable shooter, but he was steady, heady, and an excellent passer. Al was the strong silent type and had been brought up in the Jewish tradition.

In 1948, Al led the Erasmus High basketball team to the City championship. Bombarded with numerous scholarship offers, seventeen year old, Alvin Roth decided to stay in the city and go up to NYU or CCNY.

Even though his academic average was only 70.4 somehow his transcript was altered and his high school average was boosted to 75.5. He then conveniently met CCNY's minimum entrance consideration requirements. Al scored an 89 on the entrance test and gained acceptance into CCNY. The temptation of building a championship basketball team was overwhelming. In the future controversies transcript tampering was laid at the doorstep of assistant coach, Bobby Sand.

Mr. Sand banned from teaching until 1962 continued doing paperwork for the college. "I was never involved," declared Sand over the phone. "I never bet on a game in my life. I tried to clean it up, but nobody would listen. I'm still in purgato-

ry. I've gone twenty-eight years without a promotion. There is no question that I was a scapegoat."

Al Roth served a two-year stint in the army. After Roth was honorably discharged he was readmitted to City and allowed to complete his degree. Al then went to business school and is now a wealthy insurance man.

Raymond, the Bagel man, a popular on-campus vendor of the forties and fifties, loved City College Basketball. He philosophically explained the tragic 51 scandals in a clear and concise way.

"In the year 1891, Dr. James Naismith, a physical ed. instructor at the YMCA, invented the game of basketball. He wanted his boys to play a game that was safe without body collisions and medical bills," stated Raymond.

"A player could not run with the ball," continued Raymond. "Passing the ball is the only way it could be legally advanced. There is no shouldering, holding, pushing, tripping or striking allowed." Raymond concluded, "A new and popular sport was born, imbued with the highest standards and ideals of sportsmanship. The only thing that was sadly forgotten was that its wide point spread attracted gambling and racketeering."

The CUNY administration finally decided to eliminate CCNY as an athletic power in the future. **M**

## Bookstore Dilemmas

By Linda Chang

"The modern college textbook, like the gasoline engine, is an outdated product perpetuated by greed and the desire for large profits. Cumbersome, heavy, oversized and overpriced, and bound by polished covers, they quickly lose value and become outdated. They could easily be reduced in size to affordable paperbacks," declares Taylor, former owner of Taylor's bookshop opposite Columbia University.

"College faculty have also been complicit with the book publishers to prolong student agony. The only recourse students have in this situation is to access the internet and shop around," states Prof Ari Salant, CCNY alumnus and former Brooklyn College professor. "The re-institutionalization of all our on-campus bookstores would serve us well. Under one CUNY administrative umbrella, they would have greater leverage to exercise greater wholesale and retail power. Under CUNY management they would be sensitive to our needs, economics and benefits," declares Prof Salant.

"Under such a system it would be wise to continue to carry Barnes and Noble and Follet as used-book vendors only," continues Ari Salant. "I would like to see our bookstore once again become an equal partner in education."

### Cutbacks in Barnes and Noble

States Mel Edelstein, CCNY alumnus, "Donald Jordan was forced into establishing an alumnus mail-order service because the alumni association continually met resistance to its needs from our current

Barnes and Noble bookstore," declares Mr. Edelstein sadly. Recently the City College store has had to cut back because of the economic situation and an unsure future.

Software and computer books have, for example, almost totally disappeared. Freshman Adrian Stone passionately says, "I fully understand the nature of business. Nobody wants to suffer loss or lose money but it's wrong for an entire generation of students to be penalized by its bookstore."

Adrian notified us that in the middle of the semester there are few exchanges and absolutely no refunds on college textbooks, whatsoever. Barnes and Noble is tightening its belt. Its competitors Collegiate and Wallace have gone bankrupt. Two other competitors, Follet and the "internet," remain.

When journalist Jeff Simons and his crew from Channel One exposed John Jay college store's overcharging on textbooks and documented the fact, Chancellor Mathew Goldstein ordered an auditing of all the CUNY bookstores. "I felt sorry for the many students who are locked into doing business with these stores. It is impossible for them to go elsewhere," says Prof Bill Atkins of La Guardia College.

### Contract Up for Renewal

According to Prof Carol Smith of the Bookstore committee, the contract to renew the Barnes and Noble leasing of the CCNY Bookstore is due for renewal in February 2002. "Students and faculty have been upset by burgeoning prices and the fact that there is a constant shortage of new and used books," concludes Professor Ari Salant. **M**

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## Williams

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success in that regard, as you may know. Ohio State University had a billion-dollar campaign that finished about a year ago and I was fortunate to raise around \$57 million for the College of Law [which included a] \$30 million cash gift, which is the largest gift that Ohio State University itself had ever received and probably one of the largest cash gifts that any law school in the country had ever received. So I have, I think, some ability to that and I certainly will try to do everything I can to find additional resources for the college

because I think they're sorely needed for a number of things—scholarships as well as other programs.

**M:** I guess the last thing is, Do you have anything you'd like to say to the City College community? We know sometimes it's very hard to communicate on campus.

**PW:** I guess the only thing I'd like to say is that I certainly have enjoyed my time here already, although it's been very difficult—obviously, the issues we had to deal with and had to confront. I see City College has incredible potential and I'm pleased to have the opportunity to be the leader, to help City College to become the best it can be. **M**



## I Love the Smell of Dead Afghans in the Morning

By Josh Sutter

It had only been a couple of weeks since September 11th when I saw Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now Redux* at UA Union Square, a theater just below 14th Street. It was just after they'd started letting people into that area again. *Redux* is an expanded version of the original *Apocalypse*, with over fifty minutes of additional footage in it.

Seeing the film was good therapy. Watching the twisted, violent, humorous and angry tale put me in a strange state. What I see the film as being about, unconsciously at least, is learning to embrace the chaotic evils of the world. It's about seeing this strange beauty in destruction



and the seemingly pointless loss of innocent lives. As we reach the end of the film, Willard (Sheen) finds the message left by Kurtz (Brando), telling him to bomb all of his followers, who have now been left godless—in the moment where he's standing in front of the radio not sure what to do, or perhaps too sure—what is it that we the audience want him to do? Of course we're all rooting for him to take a step back from the brink of insanity. Leave the radio. Let everyone live. Just go home. But in a sense I think we also want to see him order the bombing. Can there be a realistic ending to a tale like this without everyone dead?

Although I'm very familiar with the original *Apocalypse*, something about the wandering nature of the film combined

with my state of mind at the time made it difficult for me to pinpoint the new scenes added into *Redux*. When I read later about the four scenes which comprised all that additional footage, I could hardly believe I hadn't recognized them as new. I won't spoil the new scenes for those of you who haven't seen it by analyzing each of them. I will say that I think these new scenes add to the strength of the film's politically controversial nature.

In times such as these, where it has become extremely unpopular to question our government in any way, I don't believe a lot of new movies will be hitting theaters that attack our government's motives, methods, and lies, the way this film does. In places it almost seems to scream out with this maddeningly humorous yet very serious rage, at our war's exploitation of soldiers lives, young women's bodies, and the sheer insane and unnecessary violence everywhere. These extra scenes also spread more light as to how Kurtz was pushed over the edge, in part by the lies and hypocritical nature of the US government. In a portion of one of the new scenes Kurtz reads to Willard from *Time* magazine an intelligence officer's report to Nixon that the war is taking a turn for the better. "Things felt much better and smelled much better over there," it said. "How do they smell to you, soldier?" Kurtz asked of Willard.

I said before I thought in a way we all wanted Willard to just give the order and bomb the hell out of Kurtz's lost followers. It's not so much because we can't sympathize with them, but just that it seems like the natural order of things. Death isn't the worst thing toward the end of this story. It could be the ultimate and only escape from a cruel world. As Willard and company finally reach Kurtz's domain, there's a sign amongst his followers. "Our Motto: Apocalypse Now," it reads. The sign could be a plea to God. Stop teasing us and end it all already, it says.

There's been a lot of death lately. A lot of people get together and wave flags and salute in response to it all. They say it's not a good time to ask too many questions. A country is being bombed over a quest for one man, Osama Bin Laden, protected by the Taliban, a group whom we armed and trained not many years ago. Now our allies are the Northern Alliance, fine upstanding gentleman, despite a few atrocities committed in the past. Reports are coming in: bombed UN workers in Afghanistan to disarm landmines... food drops landing in mined and dangerous areas... collateral damage such as reports of civilian casualties are being exaggerated, government reports say.

This film is one that will make you think and make you ask questions. If you're an avid reader of the *Post* and enjoy waving a small American flag around as you walk the streets of the city, you should probably keep your head stuck in the sand and not see it. After all, this isn't a good time to ask too many questions. **M**

## Cityvisions and Xpressions Our Film Department Is Alive

By Harold Martinez

This semester our Film department came out of the dark with two festivals on campus. The department of Media & Communication Arts put together a special version of this year's Cityvisions, the film festival from our graduate program, November 1st. And Cinema Society unveiled the first edition of Xpressions, the undergraduate film festival, on December 6.

Cityvisions was presented by our MFA director, Dave Davidson, who among other things recapitulated the admissions process to enter the graduate film program. A total of seven shorts were screened. Themes of love, struggle and emigration were explored on these films. The filmmakers' great amount of skill on the technical aspects of production was noticeable. Professor Davidson also introduced the program's faculty and the filmmakers themselves, although only a few of them were present special screening.

Xpressions was presented by the Cinema Society's board, which is formed by Harold Martinez, Marisol Rivera, Dwayne Alexander, Awilda Sanabria, Lashawn Mcauley, and Rudy Diaz. It was the first time in two years that an undergraduate event had been put together officially, and based on the audience's response to the works screened this is something that will

be expected every semester. The pieces were not as stylized or well crafted as the works of the graduates, but they had something special to them. That raw feeling that reflects the limitations that undergraduates have is what the audience enjoyed; most pieces resulted in humor as documentaries,

dramas, horror movies and experimental pieces were screened. Xpressions ended with the screening of Sylvester Lukasiwicz's *Tribute to WTC*, a musical montage of the events on September 11.

One of Cityvision's favorites was Javier Arano's *Moving On*, a film that describes the struggle that men undergo in expressing their emotions. Sean Keaton's *On My Own*, a visually signifying silent film, describes the life of an eleven-year old and his journey in growing up in the middle of a dysfunctional environment. Nonetheless, *Happy Anniversary Harry*, by Christopher Hefner, was perhaps the most stylized film of the night as the director chose to portray this post-war story with black-and-white film and a very complex use of lights that reminded one of those gangster films of the fifties.

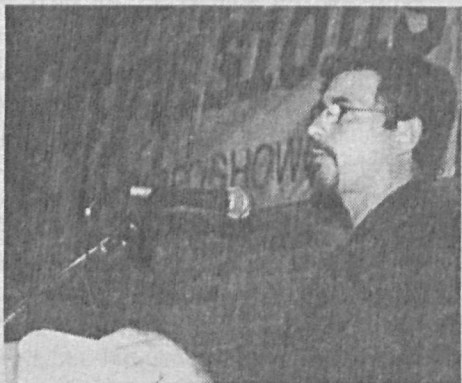
Cityvisions' keynote speaker was Nancy Savoca, independent filmmaker and artist-in-residence for our MFA program. Savoca's work been both showcased and awarded at festivals like Sundance like and has been the subject of subject of several retrospectives in various museums in New York City. Her speech for this event was a message for the graduating class to start considering themselves as filmmakers as they are now ready to start their journey in the motion



Cinema Society undergrad club.

picture industry.

At the end of both events filmmakers exchanged impressions with the audience, mainly formed by film students who congratulated each other's work. The next step is to attract student from other majors, something that will involve planning screening dates better since both events took place on Thursdays in the late afternoon. Regardless of the fact that attendance at both could have been better, Cityvisions confirmed the quality of our film department in terms of preparing our students to be competitive in the industry, and Xpressions gave birth to a tradition of undergraduate student films' being screened on campus every term. **M**



Professor David Davidson, MFA program director.



Nancy Savoca, keynote speaker at Cityvisions.



# Promethean Rises from the Ashes

City College has a comprehensive and rewarding Creative Writing curriculum, which over the years has produced some of the most talented writers on the literary scene. Now *Promethean*, City College's free literary magazine, is unearthing after two quiet years. Its mission is to provide an avenue by which both amateur and professional writers can publish their work. *Promethean* has made a transition in these past two years from being solely a graduate student publication, to include undergraduates, as well as faculty and staff. Now we need submissions of work from all facets of the CCNY community, in the attempt to create an eclectic and astute publication after such a long drought.

Under the direction of faculty advisor Prof. Lyn Di Iorio, the current staff of the *Promethean* formed earlier this year. Comprised of Creative Writing students who feel that it is of the utmost importance for our evolving writers to be offered expression by the academic institution which has nurtured them along the way. *Promethean* has received support from members of the English and Humanities departments of

CCNY, and thanks them for their efforts. *Promethean* would also like to thank Prof. Mark Mirsky, Editor-in-Chief of *Fiction* (a nationally recognized and lauded publication with offices at City College), who has provided valuable counseling on how to budget and produce a quality literary magazine. Due to all the support from the always-energetic CCNY community, *Promethean* has already received many fine submissions. On this page is a sample of some of the talented writing *Promethean* looks to publish.

We have received some terrific work already, but the call for submissions continues, as we hope to publish the widest range of writing possible. If you are interested in submitting, you can e-mail [acbascio@hotmail.com](mailto:acbascio@hotmail.com). Submissions can also be dropped off at the English Dept. mailroom (NAC 6/220). Please include name, address, phone number and e-mail. All work should be under 2,500 words, and double-spaced. *Promethean* publishes short fiction and poetry. Currently there is an open deadline.

—A.B. Cascio, Co-Editor  
Virginia Riker, Co-Editor

## Forty

Once I was pregnant for three minutes.  
Before I could read the directions,

the line bled purple from the little test window  
My knees buckled as I walked downstairs

into a prickly tunnel of: how will I finish school;  
how will I find time to write; how will we

ever buy a house. When I checked the window  
again, our baby had evaporated

like a bad dream and I realized  
I never wanted a child—I only wanted

the sweet relief of finding out  
I wasn't going to have one.

—Donna Reis

# Paper Napkins

By ?

Copper and Mary weaved through the remaining member of the congregation to her father's office where Mrs. Robinson was still asleep on the couch. Mary held the door open for Copper and then closed it behind her. She bent over Mrs. Robinson and turned her ear to the old lady's mouth.

"She looks dead," Copper said.

"No, she's only sleeping," said Mary.

On her father's desk was a cardboard box. Copper stepped over it and peered inside to find some loose grass pulled from the ground and a small ash-gray turtle trying to scale the side of the box.

"I found him outside the church this morning," Mary said.

Copper reached down and ran a finger from left to right over the turtle's shell.

"He's beautiful," he said.

As he drew his arm back Mary squeezed Copper's shoulder and pulled him into a kiss. The kiss took Copper by surprise and his eyes, the color his mother had named him after, widened as he could only manage to take in a deep breath while Mary's tongue rolled into his.

"My dad says I can't keep him though," Mary whispered,

With his eyes close copper leaned in and kissed her back.

"Maybe you can hide him," he said.

The parking lot beside the miniature golf course rolled past Copper's window while his mother collected herself from lecturing him on running round the church as if it was his own private playground. "Just because the sermon is over doesn't mean it's time for recess," She had said.

Copper knew by her silence that it was his turn to apologize. But he didn't, deciding to wait until they were further on down the road. He could still smell Mary on his Sunday clothes and wondered if he called her house would her father let him talk to her. Probably not, he thought to himself.

Copper and his mother ended up sitting across from one another in a booth at a diner on the edge of town. A waiter dropped off a pair of menus and told them to take their time. The diner was quiet, far enough from town not to disturb the Sunday rush after the churches let out for the day. Country music played from the inside the kitchen and the only other customer was a man sitting at the bar reading the newspaper with a half-eaten roast beef sandwich and a glass of iced tea. Copper's mother looked out the window to the highway while Copper studied the menu.

"What are grits?" he asked.

She didn't answer him.

When the waiter returned he asked them if they were ready to order.

"What do you want?" his mother said.

Copper decided to push his luck. "I want a strawberry float with walnuts and caramel."

He looked over to his mother for an instant disapproval. The waiter put his pen to his order pad but didn't write anything down. He asked Copper if he wanted cherries. It took a moment for Copper to answer him. He was still waiting for his mother to make him eat a real dinner.

"Yes, cherries, please. And a coke," he said.

"And you ma'am?" the waiter asked.

"Just water."

The waiter scribbled the order down, snatched up their menus and left. Copper had seen his mother this way before. He wished she had asked the waiter to leave his pen behind the way she would sometimes. Because then she'd draw little pictures on the paper napkins. Which meant she'd start talking again soon. The man sitting at the bar folded his newspaper as if he was finished with it. Copper looked out to the highway. Three weeks into September and there wasn't a cloud in the sky. He thought about something Mary had said to him once about the winters in Boston, how they weren't as bad as the ones she had seen in Maine. Copper had never been to those places. But sitting here in this Indiana diner, he could imagine them.

# Nhojj: His Voice and Artistic Freedom

By seân

He has a truly beautiful voice—four octaves of rich, pure sound nurtured by over twenty years of singing. (He started when he was just a child.) He sings simply, effortlessly, but carefully. It is as if he's caressing each note, each break, each word, each slide, each curve passionately, deliberately, intensely, like his life depended upon it.

These are his words, his feelings, his melodies, and his emotions. This is how he vents; writing is a form of release for him, a way to get things off his chest. Sometimes it's sad, sometimes it's angry, and sometimes it's introspective, but it's always honest—his life in music. You can't resist being pulled in... touched.

A gifted singer, a talented songwriter, a sensitive poet, a creative producer (and can I say a damn phine male, but anyway...). With so many things going for him, can anyone tell me why he isn't signed to a major label?

Ask him and he will talk about free-

dom, independence, and control—the same things we all seem to crave from our jobs and careers. He will talk about not wanting to wait around for someone to discover him, not wanting to sit in some office somewhere haggling over contract points—negotiating bits of himself off to record companies, managers, lawyers, and agents (who may one day rip him off—think Toni Braxton, TLC, Billy Joel, Elton John and countless others you never hear about). He will discuss not wanting some record company exec who has never sung or written a song dictating to him the type of music he should do or the way he should do it (believe it or not, this really happens in the music industry).

Yes he wants his freedom—freedom to do what he wants to do: sing the music in his heart. And if that means not making it to Madison Square Garden then, he says calmly, that is fine.

Nhojj started singing in a small church in Guyana. His father was the pastor and his sister played the organ, and Nhojj was five. "There was always music in our home and at church, and I just started

singing along with everything," he explains. Soon after, he was performing on radio shows and giving concert performances.

At the age of fourteen, his family moved to Trinidad & Tobago, where he was promptly asked to join a gospel quartet. In the four years he lived there, the quartet performed throughout the island and even at the stadium during a program the President attended. It was in Trinidad that Nhojj started listening to artists like Take 6, Richard Smallwood, and Bobby McFerrin, musicians who would influence his present sound.

But even with all the singing that he was doing, music wasn't something to be taken seriously—schoolwork always came first. And it was only after completing a BA degree in economics at NYU (where he was an honor student) that he began focusing seriously on music. He knew he didn't want to work for someone else for the rest of his life, and opportunities for musicians were developing all over the Internet. So he grabbed the opportunity and recorded an album.



*I've Been Waiting for You*, his debut effort, will not make you jump up and dance. Instead, like a soothing massage—it will take your mind off a long crowded subway ride, allow you to relax after a hard day at school, and put you at ease with the world and with yourself. It is music for your soul; it is music that confronts you. And for this reason Nhojj will always be remembered, not because he is making his own way, but because whenever he opens his mouth, the most beautiful sound comes out: music. **M**

Free downloads are available at [mp3.com/nhojj](http://mp3.com/nhojj)



9.11.01 6:00pm

Nine one one  
We have been bombed  
It has come to pass  
Oops up side the head  
But wait a minute now  
This is what we do  
we bomb buildings  
we kill people  
we kill citizens...oops, I'm sorry  
it's collateral damage  
now we know how...it...feels...Lawdy Have Mercy.  
to have collateral damage.

Those buildings have crumbled to the ground.  
one hundred and ten floors each  
and then some  
With people from New York!  
With "We like to party" New York people,  
falling... dreams crushed. Making that last phone call.  
That's not a picture of a burning building  
in Iraq  
or Palestine  
That's down the block  
Near Century 21  
Where I go shopping sometimes.

Some of us want to retaliate  
What we gonna do?  
What can anyone do to top this?  
Go to war??  
That's government sanctioned terrorism  
In case you didn't know.

This was  
Precision surgery  
An operation to knock out the economic lifeline  
and military intelligence  
at the same time.  
You know that pilot who was headed for the White House  
Found out in midflight that Bush was in Florida?  
That state saved his ass again.

We are the good guys,  
We have been trumped  
Our ass has been kicked  
Like a virgin,  
fucked up for the very first time  
Virgin Mary, pathological liar and  
defender of the free world.  
Somebody was asleep at the wheel.

Somebody said we might want to look at the message  
I think they trying to tell us something.  
Apparently somebody  
is not pleased with our foreign policy  
or foreign policing  
This global racial profiling,  
they not having it.

Somebody said we need to start leaving those people alone  
Maybe stop bombing they ass  
maybe stop giving they land away  
For starters.

Somebody took  
Those men with their funny headwraps  
and funny looking outfits  
who pray 5 or 10 times a day  
to the East my brother  
to the East my sister  
Somebody took them for granted.  
They call 'em sand niggers, you know.  
Didn't think that when we sent them to our own military schools  
that little Mohammed and Hassan would try to outdo the teacher.  
Junior learned his lessons well.  
Did you see how surprised the newscasters were?  
"Some of those hijackers knew how to fly a plane."

Those men with their funny headwraps  
and funny looking outfits  
are light years ahead of our super pseudo intelligent  
three piece suit wearing  
government heads of state.

And they are really really mad,  
and full of venom,  
at us. All of us.

Holy shit.  
Somebody call nine one one.

—cynthia onetta tolover

## Maintaining Your Perspective

By Pereta Rodriguez

The destruction of the Twin Towers on September 11th has had a dramatic effect on our students. Several have cited that they have not been able to sleep, concentrate, do homework, read or see meaning to the struggles they are putting themselves through in taking tests and getting an education. I call this the temporary dashing of dreams and personal stability. The key question most students ask, either to someone else or to themselves, is: How do I reorder my life, or how do I bring stability when the ground under me is rocky? For some students their religion serves as bedrock, for others it is their family or a personal relationship with someone. Insight into what is going on within yourself is paramount, and strengthening yourself is the first step.

The catastrophe, and coming out of school and seeing masses of people running toward you and feeling the panic and then seeing yourself running, are the feelings one student shared with me. The student also became aware a few days later that she was crying at her desk. She saw in her mind's eye how she was spending her day, and it mostly revolved around solving her sister's, mother and niece's problems, being the strong one for her family, and being overwhelmed in nurturing everyone while forgetting herself. Schoolwork, classes, and studying were "too much."

Another student shared that his parents had sent him to America to study and to be safe. He said this cynically, although with some sadness. He had to be reminded that he was safe and that he did have a plan to continue his studies and that no

one was drafting him into the army. He eventually revealed that he was in a new country, had no friends, and did not know the neighborhood where he is living, and, finally, that he was traveling two hours to come to school. School had to have meaning for him.

Two other students were talking animatedly and joking with one another. I asked how they were doing in school and both "in chorus" stated they were doing fine. Then I asked if they had any reaction to the Twin Towers catastrophe and both admitted they had not been able to study for the last two weeks and were very behind in their studies, exams were coming up and they still had not been able to open their books. So we did an exercise in which they took all their books out and placed them on a table and just looked at the titles. Then they were told to visualize opening their books and looking at all the titles of the chapters. Each action step was broken down until they (the students) could see themselves scanning the chapter they had to read and then reading the chapter for meaning.

Another student shared that seeing the buildings collapsing, each floor into the next, made him recall the sense of loss and disorientation he felt when he experienced flooding in his home country involving tremendous loss of life, including family members. He felt stymied, wondering again why he was spared.

Not all students are experiencing such reactions—some merely discomfort. These experiences are shared so that each student can personalize their feelings and doubts, work through them to their comfort level. Feeling upset after a tragedy like this is natural—the way you're supposed to feel. It may help, as well, to real-

ize that good things can come from bad times, but that it may take a while to understand what you gained from the experience. Sometimes the gain is a different perspective and a sense of what really matters. Other times, a calamity encourages you to make decisions that have been languishing, or to get involved in your community and with others, which is a good way to counteract a feeling of helplessness.

What I recommended to each of these students is to look at their day and reorder it so that they put action steps into their day. They were encouraged to make

some part of their day fun and look for meaning in the time they spend in studying. These are simple but helpful ways of taking control of your life.

Students are welcome to come to the Wellness and Counseling Center to discuss any questions, fears or anxieties they may be experiencing. Discussion sessions are provided which are very different from therapy. To set up an appointment, call 650-8222.

Pereta Rodriguez, DSW, CSW is Director of the Wellness and Counseling Center.

## Amazonia

Negras piernas  
Abiertas  
Lanza en la tierra  
Vestida de un rojo fuego  
Achiote  
Que es el jugo de la piel del tiempo

Largos hilos negros  
Cubriendo hombros  
Ojos guerreros  
Olor a Diosas  
Y trabajadoras arrugas  
Surcos de verdor

("antes se pensaba que el hombre blanco era el hijo de la boa"...  
la visitas pálidas  
amarillas y secas  
invadieron el laberinto verde  
con una peste a muerte  
impregnada en sus pellejos)

Magia al alcance de las semillas  
Conocimiento  
Verdor candente de los palos  
En tierra pintada  
De energías

Pies plantados  
Debajo de árboles pájaros  
Escuchando hasta el silencio  
Entierran la lanza milenaria  
Chorreando de ellos  
La sangre de la vida

—Yarisa Colon