



POST ATTACKS CCNY ★ CUNY BOARD ATTACKS CCNY  
 ★ HOSTOS FREE SPEECH CRISIS ★ VP MORALES OUT  
 ★ PRESIDENT WILLIAMS INTERVIEWED ★ POETRY

# THE MESSENGER

THE ROAST THE POST ISSUE VOL. 4 NO. 1 OCT-NOV 2001 UNIVERSITY OF HARLEM  
 2000 WINNER, BEST CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATION, CAJP AWARDS

## Anti-war Movement Gains Support at City College Campus

By Derek Townley

Students at City College are organizing to voice their concerns over the massive military retaliation in Afghanistan that began October 7th. Many students are seeing anti-war protests for the first time in their lives, while others remember the Vietnam protests of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

One of the organizers of the City College Coalition for Peace is Nulfian Alvarez, an engineering student who felt compelled to act out in the name of peace and diplomacy. Mr. Alvarez is pleased with the support he has seen on campus and sees this as a beginning of larger gatherings. "Student activism movements like this go on to spark bigger things in society," Mr. Alvarez also said, "It's good to get people to turn off the TV and start finding out what's really going on."

A senior member of the coalition is Psychology Professor Bill Crain. Crain was a graduate student during the Vietnam-era protests and believes that the American State Department is making some of the same mistakes. "Right now our diplomacy is horrible," says Crain, adding, "We thought that massive bombing would win, and all it did was



Students spontaneously debate the attacks in the NAC rotunda.

increase people's resistance." His solution for stopping the cycle of violence is to capture Osama bin Laden and bring him to the World Court, but he claims,

"Violence is not the answer."

Many other professors are speaking out as well. Black History professor Margarita Samad-Mallias adds, "Islam is the new Red Scare," and felt that the strong anti-Arab sentiment was "necessary for the suppression of the working class." CUNY physics professor Michio Kaku supports the anti-war movement and the Global Network Against Weapons in Space.

Teach-ins have been held on Tuesdays in the NAC ballroom and Thursdays in NAC 3/201. Attendance has been strong among students and faculty with groups like Women in Islam showing up to speak out against anti-Arab racism and scapegoating.

Among those in attendance at the October 2nd teach-in were two reporters from the *New York Post*, Carl Campanile and Andrea Peyser, who saw things in a much different light. The *Post* ran articles the next day under the headlines "CCNY bashes America" and "Once proud campus a breeding ground for idiots." With a brushiness that comes with small minds, Ms. Peyser goes on in her article to claim that CCNY professors are "either blind, stupid or intellectually dishonest." Professor Crain later commented that it was "a horrible case of inaccurate slanderous journalism," and said it appeared as though the *Post* was just "waiting for the chance to jump

on City College."

The two most common themes that reverberate in these meetings are: enforcing a proactive diplomatic effort as opposed to blindly bombing what is already a war-ravaged region and curtailing the growing anti-Arab incidents, the most despicable so far being the killing of a Sikh man in Mesa, Arizona. Nationally, there have been over 600 anti-Arab incidents, including attacks on Mosques and Muslim-owned businesses.

The growth of the anti-war movement at City College is just a small part of what has been going on at colleges and universities across the United States and Europe. As the U.S. military response grows, many Americans, including war veterans, are joining peace movements as a sign of intelligence and diplomacy opposed to ignorance and jingoism.

Aside from the organized meetings there are numerous web sites and ad hoc groups promoting peace and diplomacy. The Council on American Islamic Relations is encouraging mosques to hold open houses to educate the public about Islamic customs. War Resisters (warresisters.org) meets Saturday afternoons in Union Square Park. A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) and the International Action Center (iacenter.org) founded by former U.S.

## NYC Students Protest for Freedom of Speech in CUNY



On Monday, October 22, CUNY students and their supporters demonstrated outside the CUNY Board of Trustees meeting to speak out against attacks on our freedom of speech by the CUNY administration. See article on page 5.

continued on page 12

# The Heart, a Weight in our Chests

How heavy can a human heart be? How long do we walk around with the screams of the innocent echoing in our heads?

All of us, of various backgrounds and political opinions, are contending with the myriad emotional traumas of September 11. Anger, sorrow, and, yes, terror are all appropriate reactions to planes driven into skyscrapers.

City College has responded in a variety of ways. The administration made counseling services available to students and held a commemoration for those who died, including two of City College's own—a firefighter and a recent CCNY graduate. Students and faculty have organized teach-ins about the events and their sociopolitical circumstances. Hundreds have attended these, trying to make sense of the attacks, what they mean and why they came about.

Such teach-ins have been taking place at other college campuses around the city, including at Columbia and NYU. But the *New York Post* chose to attack City College alone, accusing it of "Bashing America," lambasting its students and faculty as "idiots." CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, depending only on the *Post*'s account of the teach-in, responded by attacking City College, one of his own campuses. Members of CUNY's Board of Trustees threatened to cut City College's funding.

The *Messenger* commends the CCNY Coalition For Peace, the Professional Staff Congress (the faculty and staff union), and new CCNY president Gregory Williams for doing what the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees refused—defending the campus against the *Post*. CCNY has long been a favorite Giuliani/Badillo/*Post* punching bag. For many years CCNY administrators did nothing save hold the punching bag in place, often joining the attacks on their own campus. So kudos to the current administration.

On the other hand, we must point out what the *Post* chose *not* to denounce. Soon after September 11, the administration hung banners around the campus: "United We Stand," echoing a now ubiquitous slogan. We suppose the administration aimed to comfort, but such slogans are often attempts to plaster over real political differences, an action that serves the interests of those whose policies helped bring about the disaster in the first place.

Yes, united we stand in the shock and condemnation of the events of September 11. Yes, united we stand in the sorrow we feel for the victims and their families. But

united we stand behind Bush's war? No, not true. United we stand behind Ashcroft's defiling of our most basic civil rights? No. United we stand behind the militarization of a political problem? Again, no.

"United We Stand" transubstantiates our sympathy for the victims into support for whatever the Bush administration chooses to do, much in the way during the Persian Gulf War "Support the Troops" euphemized "Support the War." We should avoid confounding sorrow and anger over the attacks—absolutely appropriate reactions—with support for more mass murder.

Avoiding the pitfalls of such sloganeering is a marker of an independent mind. The *Post* chose to attack City College instead of Columbia and NYU because it's threatened by the prospect of so many working-class students of color developing mental independence. And it appears their fears are being realized, no matter how many rounds of budget cuts the newspaper champions. One student overheard at the CCNY Writing Center greeted her Sikh friend with "A'salam alaikum," the traditional Muslim greeting. Hilarious on its surface, the greeting spelled a brilliant bitter indictment of stupid American racism. Many Sikhs, mistaken for Muslim, have been harassed, beaten up and murdered since the attacks. In other words, some of our fellow-Americans are so ignorant they can't even get their racism right.

The racist attacks Sikhs, Muslims and City College have suffered since September 11 remind us that the very questions with which we began this editorial were being asked by millions around the world on September 10, before the attacks. They are pleas we would not hear or understand if places like City College didn't exist or if we depended on the *Post* for our news. A Colombian village is liquidated by U.S.-supplied paramilitaries. A Palestin-

## Get Your War On



ian neighborhood is bulldozed. Twenty-four Jamaicans are shot to death protesting IMF-imposed austerity. A million Iraqis are killed by the U.S.-led embargo, a pile of bodies equivalent to blowing up the World Trade Center once every two

weeks for ten years, the duration of the embargo.

How heavy can a human heart be? How long do we walk around with the screams of the innocent echoing in our heads?

# Neither Kabul nor Washington!

Rudolph Giuliani recently addressed the UN General Assembly. His city in part smoking ruins, the platform seemed to provide the mayor, who has already earned a British knighthood and comparisons with Churchill, appropriate gravitas. But Giuliani botched it, the Dr. Strangelove within bursting out, the cloth of statesman draped on him like velvet across a ratty armchair. Not surprising for a mayor who'll show terrorists what democracy's about by canceling the election. Says Jimmy Breslin, Giuliani is "a little man looking for a balcony."

At the UN, damning the WTC attack and demanding action, Giuliani condemned "appeasement" and "moral relativism." Interesting choice of words from a man whose moral compass is firmly anchored at the North Pole, rotating wildly.

Giuliani was Ronald Reagan's number-three man at Justice. Justice championed Cuban refugees while Giuliani spearheaded the administration's efforts at staunching the refugee flow from "Baby Doc" Duvalier's brutal Haiti. "At my request," said Giuliani after sight-seeing in Haiti by limo, "[Duvalier] gave me his personal assurance that Haitians returned to Haiti are not, and will not be, persecuted." Moral relativism and appeasement at its vilest.

"You're either with civilization or with terrorists... We're right and they're wrong," the mayor continued at the UN. Giuliani, of course, like W.'s father, was with the terrorists. Presidents Carter and Reagan supported the mujahedeen "freedom fighters" with arms and the training they used on the World Trade Center.

Giuliani's 'with us or against us' is exemplary of the establishment's efforts to wash its hands of any blame while consolidating trembly liberals behind the pro-war agenda. Funny the agenda has so much in common with that of the Saudi-financed Taliban: a religious, militaristic oligarchy clamping down on civil rights. As in the Cold War, the opponents, so alike, need each other. The people of the world are held hostage in between. We can decide otherwise by demanding accountability for all mass murderers: Osama bin Ladin and Henry Kissinger.



Kissing Kissinger: Giuliani embraces America's own mass murderer

# THE MESSENGER

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## CCNY'S SEMI-INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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

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

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## Who's the Real bin Laden Fan?

The *New York Post*, that vanguard of gutter journalism, is reviving its years-long campaign against CUNY. Under the headline "CCNY Bashes America," the *Post* on October 3 depicted the PSC-sponsored teach-in, and City College as a whole, as a "breeding ground for idiots" who trivialize or apologize for the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

The *Post's* most incendiary charge was produced by columnist Andrea Peyser: "The terrorists were fondly described as 'freedom fighters'." That was the quote the Chancellor and some trustees used to condemn "those who seek to justify or make lame excuses for the attacks." But in fact no one said anything of the sort, as the PSC's review of the videotape showed. It was an outright lie.

The label "freedom fighters" would be monstrously grotesque applied to the thugs led by Osama bin Laden or the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan. These are people who enslave women and forbid them from getting education, health care or jobs, who torture and kill Afghans who oppose them or interpret Islam differently. "Freedom" fighters indeed!

Since the *Post* brought up the term, let me point out that in the 1980s when the Afghan mujahedin (including bin Laden) were fighting against the Soviet-backed nationalist government and the Russian army, Ronald Reagan often called them "freedom fighters." The *Post* is certain to have done so too-fondly, of course. If the *Post's* writers genuinely wish to unmask bin Laden-lovers, they might start by checking their own editorial archives.

"Freedom fighters" was only one of the *Post's* distortions. In summing up my comments, its Oct. 4 editorial noted that "a math professor blames 'American imperialism' and the 'capitalist ruling class of this country.'" That was me. I said that the "ultimate responsibility" lies with U.S. imperialism, but the *Post* left out that I also denounced the reactionary terrorists and all who conspired with them as criminals and mass murderers. I also summarized the history of U.S. imperialism in creating the mass hatred of America's role that the bin Ladens of the world feed on. (I don't have space for that here, but some of it is in the League for the Revolutionary Party statement, "Stop the Imperialist War on Afghanistan!" at [www.lrp-cofi.org](http://www.lrp-cofi.org).)

One purpose of the *Post's* sensationalism is, of course, to sell newspapers and cash in on the current superpatriotic fervor. Another is to join Bush and the Republicans and Democrats in whipping up this fervor. This false unity is being used by the capitalists to attack the working class, its rights and its living standards.

The attack will accelerate as the recession worsens. In particular, this one-sided and concealed class war is being waged against workers of color and immigrant labor. The attack on CUNY is part of an attack on the working class as a whole.

This is the scene in which the *Post* has revived its racist crusade against CUNY and its working-class student body. As the chief media weapon of Wall Street and the political rulers of New York, the *Post* aims to denigrate and weaken the only colleges that most working-class people can afford.

The CUNY schools were won through struggles demanding education as a right.



It was standing room only at the teach-in organized by the Professional Staff Congress on October 2.

They were greatly expanded and opened widely to people of color as a result of the Black liberation movement of the 1960s. (Open admissions was won specifically by the fight at City College waged by Black and Latino students in 1969.)

Students and staff of City College and CUNY need to fight back. The *Post* contrasts a "once-proud campus" to the "breeding ground for idiots" it portrays today. This praise for the past is hypocrisy. Reactionaries like the *Post* always attacked City College as a hotbed of "reds"; it was not only the "proletarian Harvard" but also a prime generator of radicalism in America. City College students were known for fighting against fascism in the '30s, anti-semitism in the '40s, racism in the '60s, the war on Vietnam in the '70s, and cutbacks and other political assaults in the '80s and '90s.

It is indeed a source of pride that City College still produces fighters against inequality, injustice and imperialist wars who won't stand for attacks by liars and hacks posturing as journalists.

—Walter Daum  
Dept. of Mathematics

## Post Paints with Broad Brush

I am pursuing a doctorate in genetics and I am an adjunct associate professor at the City College of New York (CCNY), and I want to take issue with two recent articles published in the *New York Post*: "CCNY bashes America" (C. Campanile and T. Venezia), and "Once-proud campus a breeding ground for idiots" (A. Peyser).

First, it is incorrect to extrapolate the opinions of a small sample of individuals to being representative of a much larger body. Even if you assumed that all of the "about 200 people" that attended the teach-in have opinions that are highly critical of United States policy, the attendees represent less than two percent of the CCNY population. CCNY comprises over 12,000 students, faculty, and staff, all of whom, I will wager, have many different opinions about the World Trade Center tragedy. Sweeping statements like those made by Campanile, Venezia, and Peyser are irresponsible, as they ignore the variety of opinion and response that is intrinsic to any large group of human beings.

Second, I question why only CCNY has been depicted in a negative manner simply for being a forum for activism.

There are other college campuses in New York City, as well as elsewhere in the United States, that also allow and promote political activism. Yet New York University and Columbia University, to name two, were not held up as "breeding grounds" for "blind, stupid, intellectually dishonest academics." Campanile, Venezia, and Peyser again acted irresponsibly by failing to illustrate the background of political activism against which CCNY is contrived to be a significant negative standout.

If we are to leave a better world for the next generation, then we Americans need to look beyond the immediate causes of our grief and intelligently analyze all of the events and conditions that led to the World Trade Center tragedy. The statement of opinions, even those one may not agree with, is part of that analytical process. Campanile, Venezia, and Peyser reject this approach and instead offer their readers a chance to indulge in mindless finger-pointing disguised as patriotism. Perhaps such a lack of critical thinking is all that can be expected of writers from the *New York Post*, and writers in general, and Americans with Italian or Jewish surnames. As these conclusions are based on an impressive sample of three individuals, I am sure that the Campanile-Venezia-Peyser School of Rational Thought would agree.

—Richard Paul Sorrentino

## The Need for Open Dialogue

Responding to reports on last week's teach-in at City College, City University of New York Chancellor Matthew Goldstein stated, "I have no sympathy for the voices of those who make lame excuses for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon based on ideological or historical circumstances" (NY Times, Oct. 4).

The Chancellor confused excusing with understanding. I participated in the teach-in, and I don't know anyone who excused the killings of September 11. But academic institutions have an obligation to seek understanding, which was the purpose of the teach-in.

In today's emotionally charged atmosphere, it's important that people be able to speak freely, without fear that their intentions will be mischaracterized. Open dialogue is a basic democratic right and pro-

vides knowledge and perspectives that are vital in a time of international crisis.

—William Crain  
Professor, Department of Psychology

## Patriot Froths at Mouth

I am offended by Walter Daum's statement, "American imperialism is responsible for this terrorist attack." This statement along with CCNY's other mindless educators are trying to "brainwash" young impressionable minds to believe in such misguided beliefs that by its very context denigrates the lives of those who bravely died to ensure freedom and of those who innocently died living the American dream when their lives were so heinously snuffed out by monsters. Monsters who must pay with their own blood.

I can not express more emphatically that such anti-American rhetoric from "so called" educators must stop! If my child was in Mr. Daum's class I would demand that he be removed and lose tenure. I believe that if professors such as Walter Daum continue to practice their socialist beliefs to their student audience, they are not shaping minds but are practicing a dangerous game that is a threat to the sovereignty of this great nation. Please do not misunderstand, this nation provides dullards like Walter Daum the right to preach from their left-leaning pulpits, but not at the expense of our children and tax dollars.

The students' parents deserve an apology. And I deserve an apology since my tax dollars fund such tripe!

—Steve Zanone

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

## Strong Arm of the Law

A belligerent white male wearing an NYPD baseball cap entered the office of the *College Voice*, a College of Staten Island student newspaper. He screamed that the *College Voice* had no right to put up signs commemorating victims of police brutality or supporting Mumia Abu-Jamal. After leaving the office he returned, screaming at the editors, and tore down an American flag that was hanging upside down in the office with the slogan "smash capitalism" on it. In the presence of a CUNY Peace Officer he repeatedly threatened to hit a Lebanese student editor and refused to return the flag he had ripped down.

The editors said that the Peace Officer appeared to sympathize with the belligerent student. The Peace Officer refused to return the flag to the students and said he would bring the flag to the CSI Vice President for Student Affairs.

*College Voice* editors have published articles and engaged in campaigns oppos-

ing American sanctions in Iraq and police brutality, and in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal and Palestinian self-determination. *College Voice* editors and staff have also actively supported open admissions and opposed cuts in remediation. The editors believe that the attacker is a CSI student and are interested in seeing how the administration responds.

## CSI Prohibits Muslim Students' Prayers

An officer of the Muslim Student Association at the College of Staten Island (CSI) reports that a college administrator told the students that they would be prohibited from praying on a CSI library balcony where they have been praying for at least five years.

On October 10, a college employee interrupted students during prayers and ordered them to leave. The next day, Muslim students complained to Carol Brower, an administrator who supervises student affairs. Brower reportedly told them that they would be prohibited from public prayer because of security concerns.

The students were also told that they would have to pray in a tiny room in the student center that is kept locked by security. The room is too small for men and women to pray separately, as Islamic law requires, and too small to accommodate the large numbers of students who pray during Ramadan. The students' greatest concern is that the room is locked and Muslims who are not members of the Muslim Student Association can't enter the room unless Association members are present.

The CSI library balcony is a rarely used public space. Students report that the five-year tradition of praying on the balcony has never disrupted library activities or drawn complaints. It was convenient because Muslim students could go there to satisfy their religious obligations whenever they were on campus. The students believe that the college does not appreciate that the prayers are a religious obligation and not a student club's extra-curricular activity.

Several CSI students say that Evangelical Christians pray and proselytize freely

in public areas on the campus. Ron McGuire, a long time students' rights attorney and Director of the CUNY Emergency Legal Defense Fund, says that students or citizens have as much legal right to pray in a public place as they do to distribute leaflets in public. Considering recent CUNY history, however, it appears that high administrators at CUNY don't think much of either right.

## Money for the Finest and Bravest

In gratitude to rescue workers who died in the World Trade Center attack, the non-profit National Notary Foundation has launched a scholarship program for children of past and present New York City firefighters and police officers. The scholarships are available now.

The foundation represents America's notaries public, and will fund at least ten scholarships for CCNY students. They are seeking donations to offer more tuition assistance, including a perpetual scholarship program. For information, contact the foundation at 818-739-4093. **M**

## the city and beyond

### The Fish Rots from the Head

The Pacifica Campaign reports that the embattled leadership of the national Pacifica Radio network continue to pay a bevy of high priced lawyers, public relations firms, and security companies to maintain their tenuous grip on power, while basic bills crucial for operations at the five-station network are not being paid.

Pacifica is the owner of New York's WBAI (99.5 FM), and had gained a reputation for cutting-edge progressive journalism and alternative programming. WBAI has consistently covered topics ignored by mainstream press such as police brutality, US imperialism, criticism of the prison industry, and the struggle to preserve open admissions in CUNY.

In recent years, however, the Board of Directors has been taken over by members with stronger ties to corporate America who have tried to steer local stations toward coverage of less controversial issues and music programs in an effort to create a more upscale listenership while suppressing threatening voices on the left. Pacifica and its stations are supported primarily by listener donations, but receive some funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Dissident board members estimate this year's legal bills have already topped one million dollars, including hundreds of thousands paid to the anti-union law firm of Pacifica Board Secretary John Murdoch—Epstein, Becker & Green.

The network's IRS tax records show that Pacifica executives' pay climbed an average of 30 percent from 1999 to 2000.

But while the law firms, the growing Pacifica bureaucracy, and the Pacifica execs are being handsomely rewarded, Pacifica's stations are suffering.

"Why should listeners donate more money to KPFA, or any Pacifica station, if the money goes directly to Pacifica national executives who then misuse it?"



asked Bernard White, the former WBAI program director and now a Pacifica Campaign staffer.

In December 2000, Pacifica executives launched the "Christmas Coup" at WBAI, changing all the locks overnight, bringing in security guards, and firing and banning more than 24 long-time progressive producers and volunteers. As a result, WBAI's audience ratings and on-air fundraising have dropped dramatically.

### Un-Patriotic Legislation

The political fallout of 9-11 continues alongside the clean-up effort. A flurry of legislation has been quietly proposed that will severely weaken civil rights. Two anti-terrorism bills are the Senate's "Uniting and Strengthening America (USA) Act" (S.1510) and the "Provide Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act (PATRIOT). The legislation may be rushed through congress without any committee review.

Among the most troubling provisions are measures that would:

- Allow for indefinite detention of non-citizens, even if they have successfully challenged a government effort to deport them.
- Minimize judicial supervision of federal telephone and Internet surveillance by law enforcement authorities.
- Expand the ability of the government to conduct secret searches.
- Give the Attorney General and the Sec-

retary of State the power to designate domestic groups as terrorist organizations and block non-citizens who belonging to them from entering the country. Paying membership dues to such an organization would become a deportable offense.

- Lead to large-scale investigations of American citizens for "intelligence" purposes.

In past times of tragedy and fear, the US government has harassed, investigated and arrested people solely because of their race, religion, national origin, speech or political beliefs. In the 1950s, the Cold War prompted the Red Scare, and many people were harassed and detained because of suspected communist activity. The 1960s and early '70s saw COINTELPRO and the destruction of organizations like the Black Panthers and Young Lords. All done in the name of "national security." Security for whom?

### Big Bro' is Watching

The *LA Times* reports that the Immigration and Naturalization Service is considering a controversial plan to more closely monitor foreign students in the United States, and Congressional opposition is dissolving in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

The project will establish a computerized system for tracking the 500,000 foreign students in the US. Congressional concerns about privacy rights and discrimination have apparently lost out to hysteria and xenophobia. The plan will be implemented by the end of 2002 if the INS can surmount the technical challenges.

The Bush administration plans to charge a new \$95 fee to foreign students to finance the \$43 million effort, known as the Student and Exchange Visitor Program.

As part of the government's sweeping investigation of the terrorist attacks, federal agents asked colleges across the country for lists of foreign students and confidential student records that are normally protected by privacy laws. Members of Congress, meanwhile, sought to clamp down on student visas, which are one of

the ways terrorists have entered the United States, and demanded more thorough background checks on foreign students.

Many colleges have complied, saying the exceptional nature of the terrorism investigation and the need to prevent further attacks warrant a waiver of privacy rules.

But the broad scope of some of the requests—several schools have been asked to produce lists of all foreign or Middle Eastern students—raises concerns about students' civil rights. The requests began after investigators learned that some of the hijackers and their associates entered the country on student visas.

Under the federal privacy law that governs student files, investigators are required to present a subpoena or to receive either student or parental consent to obtain records. A loophole in privacy laws allows colleges to release confidential records to investigators in emergency situations.

### With Liberty and Justice for Some

*The Chronicle for Higher Education* reports that a student physically attacked a nineteen-year-old Indian student at a bar near the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign after calling the victim a "terrorist." So far, two students have been arrested.

The assault—which escalated into a 40-person melee—is another in a series of racially motivated assaults on Middle Eastern and Asian college students following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Paras Mehta, president of the university's Indian Student Association, said the recent assault contributes to an "atmosphere of anxiety" among Arab and Indian students. Mehta says that there have been other attempts at intimidation on campus, including a death threat left in a Muslim student's mailbox.

"My fear is that if this is what is happening on college campuses, which are supposed to be some of the most diverse and tolerant places, what is going on in cities and towns and rural areas?" Mehta said. **M**

# Faculty Threatened After Post Article Attacks CCNY

By Hank Williams

One result of the *New York Post* articles bashing City College and the teach-in has been threats and intimidation of some of the professors named in the article. Margarita Samad-Matias, Bill Crain, and Walter Daum are among those who have been singled out for abuse. All had their photos published in the *Post*.

Prof. Samad-Matias reported that some of the mail she had received—aside from being racist—was full of sexually explicit derogatory remarks. She also pointed out that her picture was more widely circulated in reprints than the others were. Her Muslim clothing is clearly visible.

Walter Daum, a lecturer in the Mathematics Department, reports receiving a variety of calls and letters. "Some of the letters aren't threatening," he says, and there has been some support from friends and colleagues.

But there has been plenty of hate mail and some death threats. Psychology Professor Bill Crain reports that the threats and hate mail have died down now, although he says, "The first days we [faculty] were kind of shaken." Crain reports that many of his letters and calls consisted of "furious, foul-mouthed, name-calling." Most callers aren't interested in intellectual debate: "They never get me [on the phone] or leave their [telephone] num-

ber," he says, adding that he thinks most are just as happy not to talk to him.

There has been support for the faculty from both inside and outside the university. CCNY President Gregory Williams supported the faculty attacked after the *Post* article and said that it contained distortions.

The Professional Staff Congress (faculty union) issued a statement defending the right of free speech and, after reviewing a tape of the October 2 teach-in concluded—not surprisingly—that the *Post* had grossly distorted the event.

The CUNY Board of Trustees has been conspicuous in its lack of support. Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and Trustees Jeffrey

Weisenfeld and John Calandra withdrew a proposed resolution denouncing the teach-in, but endorsed a statement by Goldstein that was widely reported in the media.

Goldstein seemingly denounced the teach-in, stating that he has "no sympathy for the voices of those who seek to justify or make lame excuses for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon with arguments based on ideological or historical circumstances."

The statement, however, didn't address inaccuracies in the *Post* article or defend free speech.

In a press conference for CUNY media, Goldstein said that he was "deeply disturbed by some of the very limited comments that I thought were repugnant." He did not specify exactly which comments he was referring to or if he had actually reviewed a tape of the event

ness to accept the *Post's* account [of the teach-in] may have helped generate the hate mail response that so many of us got." Daum says that CCNY Security Director Timothy Hubbard has asked him about the hate mail and placed extra security near the offices of threatened faculty members. *Messenger* staff observing the offices of Daum and Bill Crain during office hours



WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR SORRY ASS AND GET OUT OF THIS COUNTRY AND GO LIVE IN AFGHANISTAN IF YOU ARE SO CRITICAL.

HURRY.....THE KLAN IS COMING FOR YOU!!!

The message on a postcard sent anonymously to one faculty member.

before reacting to the *Post* article.

Goldstein did state that people on campuses should "be able to speak freely without fear of retribution," and that there would be no reprisals against faculty involved. His defense of free speech came at a CUNY press event, and has not been posted on the CUNY website yet, so it hasn't been picked up by major media.

Walter Daum feels that the lack of support from the trustees and their "willing-

ness to accept the *Post's* account [of the teach-in] may have helped generate the hate mail response that so many of us got." Daum says that CCNY Security Director Timothy Hubbard has asked him about the hate mail and placed extra security near the offices of threatened faculty members. *Messenger* staff observing the offices of Daum and Bill Crain during office hours

did not notice any additional security presence. Goldstein said that he is authorizing a thorough review of CUNY safety procedures, but a more important question is whether CUNY security is even qualified to deal with death threats. Daum isn't sure how serious the threats are. When asked if he felt confident in CUNY security's ability to handle the situation, he replied: "I have no idea." **M**

## adjunct grooves

### Classroom Work Takes Back Seat to the Mid-semester Testing Machine

By Tim McCormack

Laila Alkhayer, a good student with perfect attendance in my English 210 course, recently missed a full week of my class, including a museum visit. I suspected one of the usual causes: a family emergency, a health crisis, a child-care disruption, a change in work schedule.

Near the end of the week, I saw her flash by my office in Wingate Hall. She turned sharply and went through the open doorway of the Writing Center. Intrigued, I followed.

Assuring her that I was not acting in the role of the truant officer, I asked Laila what was up, or what had gone down. She waved a pile of handwritten pages close to my face. "I have to take both the writing tests," she said, "or else they're going to throw me out of school."

The convoluted, brain-taxing story went something like this. She was a transfer student who came to the U.S. from Syria in the fall of 2000 after racking up close to 100 credits in a degree program in a foreign university. She passed the reading and math entrance exams, but failed the writing exam. Her advisor said she was admitted, and told her not to worry.

After two semesters of "A" and "B" grades both inside and outside her architecture major, and no additional communication from the admissions or testing offices, her registration was blocked this fall. She was given an ultimatum: enroll in an ACT writing test workshop, and take and pass the ACT writing exam, or else you can not register for fall classes. In addition, she was told that if she didn't pass the exam at the end of the non-credit workshop on October 25, she would not be able to attend classes at CCNY in the spring.

Though she was taking 17 credits,

Laila agreed to add the workshop into her schedule. The non-credit class with required attendance met from 6 to 9 p.m. three days per week, and so her long class days became longer. She often did not return home after the workshop until 11 p.m.

The semester moved along, however haltingly, and in early October, along with close to 600 other CCNY students, she received a letter from the Office of Testing telling her that she was required to take the CUNY Proficiency Exam (CPE) on Friday, October 19. Worded less harshly, but still enough to flutter an already nervous heart, the letter suggested that if a student fails to pass the CPE after the maximum number of tries, he or she would be asked to leave the college. A polite way of saying you're out of here, Jack, or in this case Jill.

Laila, rightfully, felt like she was up against the testing guillotine, and so she had to prioritize; she blew off most of her course work—including mine—in order to prepare for the tests. There was not enough time in each day, she told me in the Writing Center, as she worried about an important presentation she had to do for her design class in architecture. Instead of working on that, she took two CPE two-hour workshops offered by the CCNY Writing Center, and she practiced for the ACT obsessively. "I am going to write nine practice exams for the ACT tonight," she said. She looked possessed.

Later in the week I ran into Laila at the Writing Center again. She had stayed up all night before the architecture presentation, a segmented, visual analysis of the stretch of campus from the Science building to the Y-building, and her voice filled with energy as she described her professor's response. "He liked it so much he wants me to extend it to the entire campus," she said. She then described the pro-

ject in such technical detail that I felt like I needed to take an Architecture course to keep up.

At that moment in the hallway, as my student explained the visual considerations involved in campus building construction, I understood that, in this case, the administration of our mid-semester writing tests was not raising student standards but providing unnecessary obstacles to college level work.

So what does all this have to do with adjunct life? As a teacher, I care about my students, but that is an issue where there is no difference between full-timer and part-timer status; there is an equal amount of caring in both groups. However, unlike a full-timer, all I can do is feel a bit of sympathy for Laila and move on. As an adjunct I do not sit on the committees that formulate the testing policies. Nor do I have a voice in my department's official channels or in university-wide bodies like the Faculty Senate. Nor can I do some of the work that would enable students like Laila to receive the readings for her CPE exam more than one week in advance of the test, as the university is supposed to do.

I should stress that it is not that adjunct participation in full-time faculty work is forbidden. I am invited to department meetings, and, I presume, I would be allowed to serve on faculty committees department-wide and school-wide. In fact, my participation may very well be welcomed, since there is work to be done but no one to do it. Full-time faculty at CUNY have been reduced from 11,268 in 1975 to 5,594 in 2000, even though the number of full-time-equivalent students has steadily increased, from 136,000 in 1981 to 146,000 in 1998.

But while they might welcome me, they would not be able to pay me, and though I have worked as a CUNY volun-

teer in the past, I long ago decided not to work for free, even if I felt compelled to defend students' rights or challenge wayward school policies.

As a result, the majority of those who do the teaching do nothing but teach, and so the gap between classroom life and the administrative life of the college grows wider. Half of the instruction at CUNY senior colleges was done by adjuncts in 1999, and the figure for writing courses is even higher.

If the adjuncts who taught the writing courses were on the curriculum committees or the test development committees, we might be able to do a better job making the tests a meaningful and educational experience for the students, rather than the scatter-shot semester wrecker they have become. The answer, of course, is more full time lines!

I think Laila will pass both tests because she has taken the initiative, and she discovered the Writing Center. She will also probably rebound and pass my course because she is a diligent student. But, as long as the full-time faculty-student ratio remains outrageously high (27.8 to 1 in 1998) they'll be plenty of wonderfully smart Lailas who will be getting their degrees elsewhere. **M**

Data for this column comes from CUNY, CUNY 2001-2002 Budget Request, CUNY Student Data Book and the University Budget Office as provided in the PSC CUNY FY 2002 Budget Programmatic Priorities For the City University of New York, Jan. 31, 2001.

Adjunct Grooves is a news column written for and about CUNY adjunct life which will appear in each issue of the Messenger. Please send column ideas related to adjunct issues to Tim McCormack c/o Eng. Dept., NAC 6/219, City College.

# Another Moses Henchman Farmed Out

*Vice President Morales put to pasture at California agricultural college. Are other old-school administrators on the chopping block? Interim VP Hendricks praised.*

By Rob Wallace

This summer City College Vice President for Student Affairs Thomas Morales left for a similar position at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona), a technical and agricultural state college outside Los Angeles. He was also appointed a professor of education there.

At Pomona, Morales will lead a Division of Student Affairs that includes a much larger purview than he had at CCNY. Along with departments such as student services, housing, athletics, and health services, Morales will oversee the campus police, the registrar, admissions and financial aid.

The *Messenger* wishes Morales good luck. Given Morales' record, the *Messenger* also wishes Pomona luck.

## Morales at City College

The Vice President of Student Affairs is one of City College's most important positions, from the perspective of students. The VP oversees many of the campus institutions involved in extracurricular life. The position includes supervision of Finley Student Center, Career Services, Child Development Center, Athletics, and Student Health Services.

Student Affairs also has significant representation on the Student Services Corporation (SSC) and the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation (AEC), two major CCNY funding allocation bodies. Student Affairs is the administration's interface with student government and is responsible for conducting discipline proceedings against students.

What was Morales' "history of administrative accomplishments" as VP of Student Affairs at CCNY?

Morales told the *Campus* that history involved "rebuilding" City College's Division of Student Affairs. Morales declared he reformed Finley Student Center whose purpose is to help student clubs. He told the *Campus* that he hired a new director for Finley, Wendy Thorton; obtained two tax-levy lines for assistant director positions; and reduced Finley's deficit from \$435,000 to \$110,000.

But student life on campus was smashed to smithereens during his tenure. In May the *Messenger* reported that while City College's total enrollment dropped by 6% from 1997 to 1998, the number of student events declined at a rate far beyond what could be attributed to the decline in the student body. According to Finley Center figures obtained by the *Messenger*, the number of student events at City College declined from 164 in Spring 1998 to 87 in Fall 1999 and 30 in Spring 1999. That's a decline of 82% in student events held.

If Finley was so improved, why did student activities so suffer? As the May *Messenger* article detailed, Morales instituted a series of policies that made forming and running a student organization and holding student events frustrating.

For example, new clubs interested in receiving funding could only be registered at the beginning of the year. Club events could be held only with the approval of Finley's Events Application Screening Committee which required event applications be submitted a month in advance.

The Events Committee also required clubs provide a poster of their event a month in advance even as students did not know where and when their event was to be held. Finley red tape is legendary among students.

Morales also instituted retrograde posting, banner, and tabling policies that blocked student clubs from advertising their events and recruiting new members. The policies violated City College's governance charter that stipulates the student government has the power to regulate publicity. Meanwhile, corporate posters were (and are) allowed free, unregulated access to campus bulletin boards.

## Money Grabs

It's telling Morales viewed bringing down Finley's budget deficit a proud accomplishment. To do so, the SSC denied Finley a substantial part of its budget, as much as \$40,000 a semester, according to Interim Vice-President for Student Affairs June Hendricks. In other words, student activity fees went toward plugging Finley's debt rather than student services.



In a *Messenger* interview, VP Hendricks denied services suffered. "It was just tougher to do," she said. But Hendricks arrived only last year from Marymount Manhattan College to become an Associate Dean of Students at City. It's hard to see how she would know the state of student services before she arrived.

The decline in the student body, from some 15,000 to 10,000 students, was not without cumulative effect. With fewer students attending City College the pool of student activity fees available for student services and clubs shrank. Morales' solution to the declining funds wasn't to help make the college attractive enough for more students to enroll. Instead, in 1999 he pushed for raising student activity fees by \$12 for those students who managed to remain at CCNY.

Morales and Associate Dean Paul Bobb used students hired by Finley Student Center for office work to collect the one thousand student signatures needed to bring the proposed activity fee increase to a referendum. In other words, Morales and Bobb used student activity fees to try to raise the student activity fee. That's illegal.

Students overwhelmingly rejected the proposed increase. Defeated, Morales and Bobb went on to grab student activity fees accumulating in the defunct Evening Student Government and the *Nightwatch*, a student newspaper.

## Da Godfather

The *Campus*' profile, published even as Morales was applying for his Pomona

position, was headlined "[Morales] wants to bridge gap between students and administrators," a gap for which Morales was largely responsible.

Morales had a reputation among students, faculty and staff alike of being arrogant and bombastic. Former USG president Rafael Dominguez characterized Morales as "stubborn and pretentious."

When USG Vice President for University Affairs Terrence Podolsky asked Morales a pointed question about administrative policy at a 1997 Council of Organizations meeting of student groups, Morales answered by calling Podolsky "an asshole" in front of the room full of students.

Morales spearheaded the administration's efforts to clamp down on student activism. Along with blocking tabling and posting, Morales pursued disciplinary proceedings against student activists with a vengeance. In 1995, he helped throw 47 CUNY student activists in jail for hunger striking against budget cuts in the NAC Rotunda. He had former Graduate Student Council chair David Suker suspended

twice for activism, the second time from student activities for five semesters. Morales would regularly threaten other activists with suspension.

"I truly loved working with the student leadership at City," Morales e-mailed the *Messenger*.

But the *Messenger* is aware of two incidents during Morales' tenure in which the VP cornered USG officials who blocked his initiatives to whisper in their ears, "I'm going to get you."

## Job Woes

While Morales knew of his Pomona appointment since at least April of this year, few at City College knew of Morales' new position.

Morales may have learned from the predicaments of the administrator who hired him here at City, Yolanda Moses, former president of City College. In April 1999, while still CCNY President, Moses applied for the presidency at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

City College students faxed information about Moses' actions at City to counterparts at the University of New Mexico. At open meetings in Albuquerque, students and staff questioned Moses about her New York record.

The bad publicity that resulted both on the New Mexico campus and here at City forced Moses to withdraw her name from the presidential search. The CUNY Board of Trustees shortly thereafter forced Moses to resign from CCNY.

His patron gone, Morales spent the next two years searching for a new posi-

tion. According to City College insiders, Morales failed at bids for CUNY presidencies at Queensboro and LaGuardia. According to these sources, Morales also unsuccessfully applied for the deanship of City College's School of Education. Morales was forced to look outside of New York for a job.

Though Morales was able to keep his Pomona appointment quiet, Morales' California move is no career promotion. In essence, Morales had to move across the country for the same position he staffed at City College. California is a long way to go for a horizontal career move.

Was Morales indeed "privileged to be offered" his Pomona position? Bob Suzuki has been president of Cal Poly Pomona for ten years. He was president there while Yolanda Moses served in the CSU system at Pomona and Dominguez Hills.

Morales e-mailed the *Messenger* that Moses served as a reference for his Pomona application. Moses, now president of the American Association for Higher Education, e-mailed the *Messenger* that Suzuki called and told her Morales was a finalist for the position. "I, of course, was only happy to tell President Suzuki about the great job that Dr. Morales had done as VP for Student Affairs at City College," Moses e-mailed the *Messenger*.

## What (Who) Next?

Dean June Hendricks is serving as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs. In a *Messenger* interview, President Gregory Williams characterized Hendricks' performance so far as "a fantastic job."

"Student Affairs has been very helpful in working with USG as far as doing things on campus," USG President Kenneth Williams told the *Messenger*.

When asked for examples of new policies she had implemented Hendricks told the *Messenger* Student Affairs was developing a relationship between the Wellness and Counseling Center and nearby Harlem Hospital "to provide a broader scope of services," including dental work and expand services for women.

No timetable has been scheduled for selecting a new vice president, though, according to President Gregory Williams, a search will be engaged "in due course." Williams said he is looking for "someone that can do a good job in working with students and in delivering student services."

Asked about whether she will apply for the position on a permanent basis, VP Hendricks told the *Messenger* she would "play it by ear."

In his *Messenger* interview, President Gregory Williams also indicated other administrative positions are under review. "Obviously, I think the staff that 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 interests of the institution, who is to be in what position," he said.

Search committees include student representatives. Any student interested in providing input during the search for the important VP of Student Affairs position should contact the Undergraduate Student Government and the Graduate Student Council.

# Hostos Administration Roils Campus with Crackdown

By Linda Ocasio

On September 20 and 21, charges against three students and a faculty member arrested during protests at Hostos Community College were dismissed for lack of evidence. Charges against a fourth student were continued.

A dispute over curriculum issues at Hostos that arose last spring is still unresolved, and new controversies have emerged this semester. But no matter what Hostos students, faculty and staff think about these specific issues, there is overwhelming agreement that the arrests were a violation of both civil rights and academic freedom.

The first arrests came on August 15, when a small group of student activists began handing leaflets to those waiting on line during registration. The flyer charged that Spanish-language classes had been eliminated in more than eight subjects, protested special fees of up to \$300 for language and writing workshops and criticized the diversion of students to the non-credit CUNY Language Immersion Program.

## Campus Crackdown

Campus officials were nervous about rumors of a boycott of registration, and they were quick to crack down. Miguel Malo, Vice President of the Hostos Student Senate and head of the campus Ecuadorian club said that he was arrested after handing out the leaflets. An August 16 press release from the Hostos College administration stated that Malo was arrested because he was "blocking the entrance to the college and/or the registration area," and that he assaulted two campus security officers when they put him under arrest. Malo denies both charges, and says it was in fact campus security officers who assaulted him.

An August 19 letter by President Fernandez suggests that no form of protest at the site of registration would have been allowed: "Registration is a process that does not need any disruption," she wrote to Prof. Henry Lesnick. "Demonstrations could have been held in an identified area in front of the building.... That would have provided the demonstrators with an opportunity to hold up signs, hand out leaflets etc. without having this occur while students were on line filling out forms and waiting their appointed times to enter the gym." The court complaint against Malo states simply that he was arrested when he "began to hold up a sign and protest against the college administration."

Hostos student Pedro Rivera stated that he was arrested while holding a sign that said "Stop Arresting Our Students!"—which he had made after witnessing the arrest of Hunter student Christopher Day.

The next day, during a small demonstration against the arrests, City College psychology professor Bill Crain was arrested after he tried to enter Hostos Building C to observe registration. PSC President Barbara Bowen, present as an observer, tried to convince Hostos security chief Arnoldo Bernabe to let Crain go, but to no avail.

When contacted, Bernabe refused to discuss the incidents and referred all questions to the college's Office of Public Information. But Public Information Officer Carlos Hargraves also would not comment on the arrests.

The Professional Staff Congress (PSC) called on CUNY management to drop all charges. In an August 16 phone call to Fernandez, PSC President Barbara Bowen protested the conduct of campus security and stressed that the right to lawful protest must be safeguarded. The leadership of the Hostos PSC chapter also objected to the arrests and voiced support for students' First Amendment rights and academic freedom, said Sue Dicker of the chapter's executive committee.

Bowen also pressed Fernandez on who had ordered that CUNY faculty be banned from entering a CUNY building. Fernandez said she had issued no such specific order—but did not disavow Crain's arrest.

Hostos spokesperson Hargraves insisted that "no Spanish courses have been cut, no offerings have been cut." Malo stated that the problem was a reduction in the number of Spanish-language sections within a given course. This reduced selection, Malo said, "hurts night students the most."

Hostos PSC Chapter Chair Lucinda Hughey said it was true that the number of Spanish sections are "substantially down" in recent years, but that this was a consequence of the decline in enrollment at Hostos since 1997. Gerry Meyer, faculty advisor to the Hostos student government, said that while the students had sometimes been wrong about details, their overall point is accurate: "There's a general move away from bilingual education," Meyer

said.

The current conflict over language instruction at Hostos goes back to last spring, when Fernandez announced the elimination of the lowest-level

courses in ESL and Spanish. Faced with strong and united opposition from both students and faculty who were not consulted about the change, the Hostos administration agreed to retain the courses for at least the fall semester. A task force was appointed to consider the curriculum issues involved—but it never met over the summer, and when fall semester began the situation deteriorated quickly.

This time there was less unity among faculty, staff and students. Dicker said that students had not discussed their demands with the Hostos PSC chapter, nor invited it to support the student action. Lack of communication, plus disagreement and confusion over the Spanish-language sections, made joint action unlikely.

Fernandez has claimed that the arrests prevented a boycott of registration, which would have had disastrous consequences



Pedro Rivera, Christopher Day, and another student, before the arrests.

for the college. Although faculty did not support the arrests, they are worried about maintaining enrollment and many therefore took a negative view of the August 15 protest. "We are fragile," commented Hughey.

But student activists themselves were split over the boycott idea—and ironically, those who were arrested say they did not support it. "Our intent was to inform [students] about the issues," said Pedro Rivera. "We never planned a boycott. It would be damaging to the school." Rivera said that the boycott tactic was suggested in planning meetings but had been rejected, an account seconded by Day, Malo and others. There is no mention of a boycott in the August 15 leaflet.

Students and faculty at Hostos are now

continued on page 8

## BadilloWatch

### The End of the Line?

By Hank Williams

CUNY Board of Trustees Chair Herman Badillo resigned from the board last spring, but only after a *Village Voice* article revealed that he could not run for public office while holding his post and that he had already served on the board longer than he was allowed to.

Badillo put all of his effort into a quixotic run for mayor and received little support from the media, save for the sympathetic *New York Press*, who gave him a long interview and a formal endorsement. It didn't help: Michael Bloomberg still trounced him in the Republican primary.

Badillo has had a nasty habit of saying things he really shouldn't to the media. On one hand, it's somewhat refreshing to see a politician who actually says what he means. Badillo's style is not unlike the naked and unrepentant rancor of Giuliani. Bastards all, but at least you know where they stand. That's in sharp contrast to the carefully parsed words of the Democratic candidates, but it isn't enough of a saving grace to ameliorate his record.

He deserves credit, though. Lesser (or smarter) politicians would've learned to shut the hell up by now, but Badillo, unburdened by either humility or common sense, just careens on.

Badillo, much like Giuliani, is driven more by pride and vindictiveness than sense or ambition. Badillo's interviews

are typically filled with braggadocio; he sees himself as a voice of reason in a world that's against him. Badillo's failure to properly analyze either his own weaknesses or public policy is one reason he remains a poor candidate for any sort of public office or appointment.

Badillo's a political liability and a loose cannon, as his broadsides against the same CUNY students he was ostensibly supposed to be serving as board chair attest.

Badillo has referred to the current CUNY policy of open enrollment as social promotion (the *Spirit* 8/19/99) and took the lead in implementing Mayor Giuliani's agenda for CUNY, including the elimination of remedial classes in senior colleges, despite the fact that almost all public and private colleges in the country offer them.

Badillo also holds a permanent grudge against the Black political leadership of the city, who have never supported him in his numerous mayoral runs.

The Black-Latino political coalition in New York that current Democratic mayoral hopeful Fernando Ferrer was counting on as a base has always been a tenuous one.

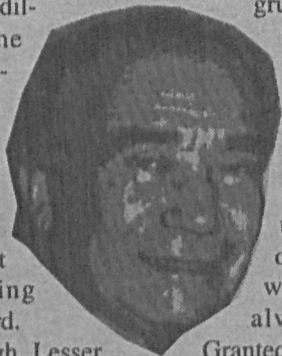
Granted, New York's Black political elite have been less interested in improving the lot of Black New Yorkers than cashing in on their status as power-brokers, but Badillo's arrogant transparency is too much for even them. At least they understand the need to appear that they have an interest in the plight of

the working class, whereas Badillo abandoned his meager efforts in this area long ago.

Badillo's fight against the wealthy media mogul Michael Bloomberg for the Republican mayoral nomination was further proof of his lack of political or tactical skill. Considering that neither of them have a real shot at winning the general election, the result of their primary was moot. Given that, common sense would've told the average candidate that fighting Bloomberg was senseless. Political Science 101 teaches you that you don't piss the media off. The sensible course of action—which most high profile Republicans followed—was to support Bloomberg to keep from antagonizing a powerful media owner while praising Badillo in the hope that Bloomberg would abandon his dalliance with politics and that Badillo would just go away.

Because Badillo's ego and myopia don't allow him to see this, he saw the lack of support from Giuliani, Pataki, and Bush as slights, not as a reflection that he's a washed-up political hack and would do best to concentrate on his law practice and the conservative think tanks that will pay him well for his services.

But the good news is that Herman Badillo is off the CUNY board and hopefully at the end of a long career leeching off of the city's taxpayers. The chances of Badillo receiving a city job from a Democratic mayor are about as slim as a Bloomberg win in the mayoral race. That's good, as this is one old nag that should've been put out to pasture long ago. **M**



# Science Building's Falling Down... What's the Price of Safety?



By Kondwani Kandawire

The renovation of the Robert Marshak Science building by the City College, the City University and DASNY raises a great deal more questions about the safety and future of CCNY's buildings than there are answers.

Why is it that such a young building requires such extensive renovation? What exactly is the nature of the Science building's problems? How is our administration dealing with these problems and—more importantly—how safe are CCNY's buildings?

Every week students enter CCNY's buildings with the intention of furthering their studies. It is only at times when very visible construction is taking place, like that in front of the NAC building, do we pay any attention to the quality of our buildings. One topic that needs to be discussed more by CCNY students is the present safety of our buildings and the price CCNY and CUNY are willing to pay for it.

## The Pride of CCNY?

The high-rise Robert Marshak Science building was the pride and joy of CCNY when it was opened in the mid-'70s. Today by the college's own admission, Marshak is in serious need of repair. Concerns rose about the building less than a decade after it opened. It was finally decided that a study of the building would have to take place.

The study took place in the summer of 1998. Tests were done to examine the compression strength of the concrete. The college administration wanted to know how many areas of the building fell below the desired load pressure. Conservative with the numbers they would use to determine the safety of the building, they added another 20 to 30 percent to the required pressure level. An area of the building with a pressure level of 50 to 70 percent was considered low capacity. The administration wanted all areas of the building to have at least 75% capacity. When the study came out the numbers were less than the desired level.

The college administration found out

that the building had "numerous areas of spalling concrete, cracks and corrosion on its facades." An architectural consultant and engineer were then hired to "develop drawings and specifications that identify the areas of the building where these problems exist as well as the construction necessary to repair them. The college also hired Flad and Associates, a consulting firm, "to provide the required architectural and engineering services." The analysis of the team that was involved in the study was that "the Marshak building lacks the proper infrastructure to support many of the academic and research activities."

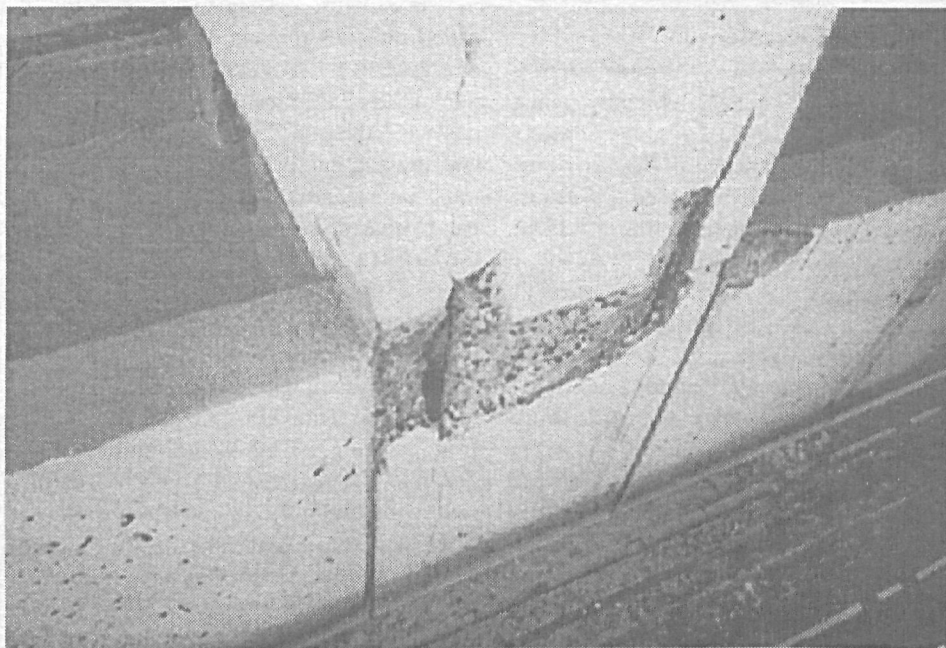
It was determined that Flad would design three schemes to deal with the problems at the Science building and "the costs associated with each one." The college determined that "The three schemes will be based on the program for the new facility developed from interviews with the various different task forces, comparisons with other similar institutions, trends in research, and projections of student enrollment. The next stage of the project is for CUNY to obtain funding for the approved scheme." Additional funding has not yet been approved for the repair work. The work that is being done right now is simply to buy time, though it must be pointed out that the building is not in imminent danger of falling.

The repair work that is taking place is expected to last some 28 weeks. There are three phases to the plan. The first phase involves preparing the windows and core drilling. In the second phase steel collars, beams and trusses will be erected and in the third phase plastic netting will take place. The team decided that "The construction of this project will take place only on the exterior of the building, beginning on the north side, then west, then south and lastly east."

## Lots of Problems, Little Money

The *Messenger* has been covering stories concerning the safety of CCNY buildings for quite some time. One consistent theme to emerge all the time is the lack of funding required to make all the buildings safe. In April 1999 our own Marcela Putnam wrote an article on the safety of the

NAC building. She wrote that, "on the south side part of the NAC Building's third floor, near the elevators, the false ceiling has been removed for more than three weeks now, with wires hanging down and an asbestos-like insulation exposed. Ms. Putnam pointed out that, "A May 1998 report commissioned by the student ombudsman showed the NAC Building an environmental dump. Since May some of the report's recommendations appear to be implemented, but staff cuts assure



trouble spots persist." Ms. Putnam also discussed the potential for bacterial infection at the NAC building and added that "Water still leaks through the ceiling in the NAC rotunda, requiring a tarpaulin. As a student it is easy to walk by many of the school's unfinished projects and not pay them much attention."

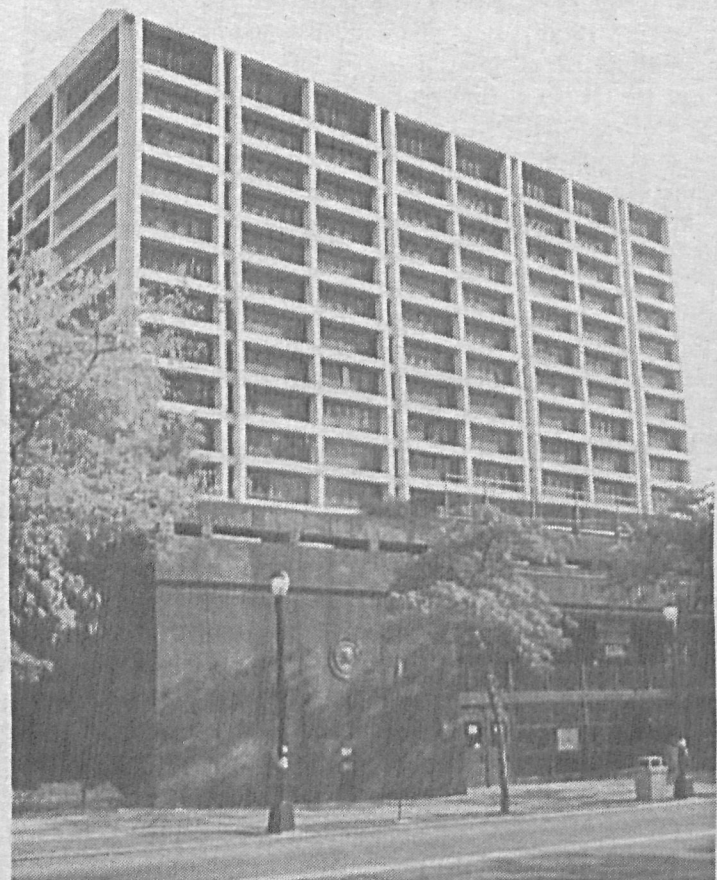
Ms. Putnam spoke with Mr. Shahir Erfan, Director of Campus Planning about the NAC building. Mr. Erfan explained that "The hole was made to build sprinkler lines for fire protection, and that it would be completed within a week." Ms. Putnam wrote on that "This hole is not the first environmental problem in the NAC building. A report commissioned by Keeanga Taylor, last year's student ombudsman, found numerous environmental hazards in the NAC. Olmstead concluded his report with recommendations. These included removing the moldy and water damaged walls, ceiling tiles and carpet, cleaning up the penthouse fan rooms, cleaning the fans themselves, and developing a pest control to control reported infestations of roaches and mice. In a June 17 memorandum back to Taylor, Vice President Dickmeyer acknowledged the problems and presented ten college actions that were to be completed by the end of 1998. Dickmeyer wrote his office has appealed for more money from CUNY central to finish the job." Ms. Putnam argued that "City College must find the funds to hire more workers and to keep the school in healthy condition."

When I sat down with Mr. Erfan he made the following statement in regard to his role in relation to the renovation of the Science Building, "My job was to interface with the college community, inform them of what we were doing." When I asked him why it had taken so long for the renovation to begin he explained that "They did not think the problem would be as big as it is now. The problems came

with the design of the building. The design of the building, the construction of the building was faulty."

Amongst the other questions I asked Mr. Erfan was whether activity had changed in the building since the study began. "The college is trying to shield students from the visible activity that is going on. They put the plastic to prevent the dust from coming inside. There is no need for activities to be cancelled. We are trying to work around the schedules. You cannot allow students or anyone else to be around when the construction is taking place. We have the schedule of classes. But it is dangerous to work nights, and if you do it on the weekends you are prolonging the job for two years. The situation is serious but there is no need to panic—otherwise we would have evacuated the building. When asked about whether the college had informed students about what was going on, Mr. Erfan replied by saying, "We have had two meetings. They took place during club hours." Mr. Erfan explained when asked to compare the Science Buildings to the NAC building that "The NAC building is relatively younger. As far as the Science building goes, we have put scaffolds around the building to protect people from falling debris—small pieces of concrete. We are going to remove the plastic; we are going to remove the plywood. I do not want to create a panic state."

Nearly every single building at CCNY is undergoing some kind of reconstruction. The college is being forced to do patch-up work and not complete the repairs at hand. The *Messenger* will continue to cover stories relating to the safety of our buildings, but the safety of all CCNY buildings is a problem that should concern all City College students. The price of safety should not be considered too high by anyone in our college community. M



## Hostos

continued from page 7

in a better position to work together than at the time of registration. There have been expressions of mutual support, and a registration boycott is now rarely mentioned. The task force named last Spring on the ESL and Spanish courses has met twice, and faculty and student representatives on the task force will be working closely together.

But if pronouncements of the Hostos administration are any guide, the school

may well be headed for another round of conflict. On September 6, Hostos security issued a "Public Safety Announcement," restricting all protest to a plaza outside college buildings. And in the wake of the attack on the World Trade Center, a high-ranking Hostos official stated that people should expect restrictions on First Amendment rights.

Miguel Malo is due back in court on November 19. The prosecution wants him to spend 15 days in jail. M

Reprinted from the Clarion.



# 'A Very Unfortunate Article'

The Messenger interviews CCNY's new president, Gregory Williams. Part 1 of 2.



The Messenger interviewed CCNY's new president Gregory Williams October 5 in his office in the Administration Building. The interview will be published in two parts. The first part, published this issue, addresses matters surrounding the New York Post articles on an October 2 teach-in on the attack on the World Trade Center sponsored by the City College chapter of the Professional Staff Congress, CUNY's faculty and staff union. For more on the Post articles, see the Messenger's letters section and articles on the student movement and on the media coverage of the attack and war.

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

**The Messenger (M):** The first thing we wanted to ask you about was the New York Post articles Wednesday that referred to "CCNY Bashes America" under their "America Under Attack" banner and, of course, Andrea Peyser's opinion piece. We were wondering what your take on that was.

**President Williams (PW):** That was a very unfortunate article and I don't think they accurately reported what in fact happened at the event. I have issued a statement on that... As a lawyer, obviously, I certainly believe in the Freedom of Speech and the ability of people to say what they want to say. And as an academic I think that's pretty important and that's certainly what I've tried to promote in the times I've been in an academic setting. I would have to say that, of course, I would disagree with anyone that would anyway justify that World Trade Center attack for any ideology whatsoever. But unfortu-

nately I think the report in the Post was really inaccurate description of what really happened there. I've talked with folks, and the panelists by and large are really trying to talk about some issues and background and providing information about [how] one's Islamic culture and another based on terrorism, and that type of thing.

**M:** Your wife was actually there [at the teach-in] and she seemed to find it fairly informative.

**PW:** She was likewise surprised at the report that we saw in the Post because she felt it was—She certainly did not agree with all the views that were expressed there, but in an academic setting you expect to have different views expressed. But I think what was very unfortunate about it was the view—That program, as you know, started out with a moment of silence for those who were lost in the World Trade Center bombing and there was no one there, no matter what they said, that condoned in anyway whatsoever the World Trade Center attack.

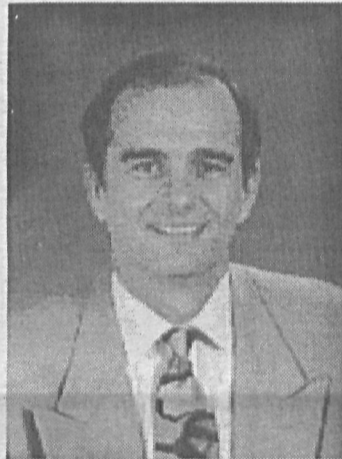
**M:** This kind of brings up the Chancellor's response to it. It seems as if he was just responding to what was in the newspaper. He is quoted as saying, "Let there be no doubt whatsoever I have no sympathy for the voices of those who make lame excuses for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon based on ideological or historical circumstances..." Did anyone from his office contact you or your—

**PW:** I spoke with the Chancellor and I told the Chancellor [the Post

article] was an inaccurate depiction of the event and the Chancellor and I both agreed that basically we both were committed to open forums and that's appropriate in terms of an academic type of setting. As we all know [Williams smiles] we can't guarantee what's going to be in a newspaper.

**M:** True. So following up on that, how do you steer the campus in an environment that seems to be becoming more and more hostile to freedom of expression? Because it seems the way things are progressing is anybody that is trying to actually elaborate on issues or keep it to anything other than a simple explanation is being labeled as "anti-American" or even worse.

**PW:** Well, I don't really see it as hostility developing that you're talking about. I think there continues to be a lot of discussion. Kenneth Williams [President of CCNY's Undergraduate Student Government] yesterday indicated at the Student Convocation that there will continue to be teach-ins. I assume that there will continue to be difference of opinion. The type of thing that happened at our teach-in is certainly happening around the country. There are teach-ins and discussions of this nature at the University of California, University of North Carolina, and a lot of other places as well. So I think this will continue. I think we have to understand that feelings are so strong on this that folks, if they take a point of view, people are going to very strongly disagree with it. But then again,



that's the academic setting, that's American life.

**M:** One thing we were referring to is something you may not be aware of. We talked with some of the professors, specifically Walter Daum [Math Department] and Bill Crain [Psychology Department] and they've actually been threatened by way of both e-mail and—Walter Daum—by telephone. And they think the PSC is starting to get a lot of heat because of what was written up [about the teach-in].

**PW:** Well, I think that is very unfortunate if that in fact is the case. Obviously I don't have any control over that and all I can say, as I said before, is that I support open discussion, but I also support the right of people to say what they want to say and folks to disagree with it. And frankly, as I said before, I disagree with any ideology that in anyway condones the World Trade Center attack.

**M:** Newsday recently ran a Los Angeles Times story indicating that the federal government was beginning to collect lists of foreign students at various campuses and also has begun soliciting confidential campus records of the students without a subpoena. Has any governmental agency contacted City College asking for lists of students or—

**PW:** Not to my knowledge. No one has contacted us and I am sure that I'd be informed about that if that was the case.

**M:** That brings up: If a governmental agency asked for lists of foreign students and access to student records would you permit that?

**PW:** 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. We're a law-abiding agency. We'll comply with every legal order. **M**

## America's Attacked—but Who's Next?

By Rupu Gupta

With the destruction of the terrorist attacks on New York still vividly imprinted in the minds of residents, military action against the ones responsible is now reality. As civilians await the retaliatory measures, it is only inevitable that sentiments will take over their rational thinking as their lives move on.

But who is to be targeted in return? Osama bin Laden? Clearly out of reach for the immediate present. The mere name inciting raw hatred and passion in the heart of every American, and indeed every peace-lover on this planet, it is a bearded, turbaned face that will continue to haunt every one of them for a very long time now.

So it should come as no surprise when the first person encountered with the slightest trace of Middle-Eastern features is identified as one of "his" kind and made to pay for his descent. Anyone with brown skin is immediately associated with terrorists or with harboring terrorists. The normal lives led by Muslims, whether Arabs or South Asians, have now been fraught with fear and apprehension with every step they take.

Another segment of the diverse population of the US to be singled out is Sikhs, who are Indians and not even Muslims. Their turbaned, bearded images, ordained by the religion of Sikhism, are enough to qualify them as Taliban members, and thus their harassment follows.

Their shops have been vandalized, owners attacked—even killed—, hateful comments passed on streets and college campuses, and the list goes on. Of course, their lives have changed forever.

All this in a country they had considered home long enough to have accepted the American way of life—accepted the fact that they, too, are Americans.

Unfortunately, the layman is considerably ill-informed about the various cultures with which he or she shares the same office space or even the same living space. Misconceptions passed through the ages, fueled by misinformation by the media have, in the wake of the WTC incident, gone a long way in segregating the nation beyond the point race and color ever had.

Such a situation is likely to seep through into the international scenario as well, and it could well turn into a world where Muslims and Sikhs are nearly ostracized.

This is not an environment that we would wish for future generations to grow up in, who could gradually have racism rooted in them from birth.

One man's misdeeds being translated to that of an entire race is frightening, with the very tenets of world peace and integrity at stake. Muslims and Sikhs now have to grapple with the added emotional stress of mentally preparing themselves to brave the world away from the refuge of their homes. Such an eventuality in a free world is disgraceful.

Trauma, mistrust, hesitation is all they identify with now, but the future would be bleaker, when their perspectives of themselves could get radically altered in the aftermath of the present racial victimization.

At this point of time, helping the people overcome this tragedy is as important as dispelling myths about minority cultures, who, needless to say, have suffered equally because of this heinous terrorist act.

If bin Laden is to be blamed, let us not forget that he has been around for years before America was attacked, and so have Muslims and Sikhs. What sets this situation apart is the lack of concrete evidence pointing to him, and if these racial attacks are the result of the burning need for a scapegoat, it as shameful as it is terrifying. Whether it is blind fury, patriotism or the urgency to point an accusing finger, these attacks, if unchecked, will cost them their freedom and security in the land which



had promised them just that.

All that remains now of the heartless attacks are the candle-lit tributes and salutations on every pavement, to all those who paid the greatest price of all—they stand testimony to how this has touched all lives, irrespective of ethnicity.

If such discrimination continues, it will only corroborate the fact that the terrorists—spokesmen of hatred and war—are succeeding in fractioning the people into the ones who fear and the ones feared. Who falls into which category is the question that needs an answer. **M**

# Behind Green's Blue Drapes

*Citing CUNY policy, administration blocks student efforts to bring candidates to campus but permits Mark Green to speak sans proper authorization. Green campaign bamboozles City College students, faculty, administration.*

By Rob Wallace

Late last semester the City College administration blocked student efforts to bring City Council candidates to speak on campus. On the very day and time the City Council candidates were originally scheduled to appear, the administration permitted mayoral candidate Mark Green to speak at CCNY without proper authorization.

The Green campaign, meanwhile, played students, faculty and administrators against each other in securing Green's opportunity to speak at City.

## Student Event Blocked

The United Federation of Students, Students for Educational Rights, and the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) sponsored a May 10 forum on "the Road to City Council." Scheduled to appear were candidates running for City Council positions in Council Districts 1, 9, 10 and 38. Candidates scheduled to appear included former CUNY students Ydani Rodriguez and Miguel Martinez who were both vying for the District 10 seat in nearby Washington Heights.

According to Felipe Pichardo of the United Federation of Students, and, for the record, of the *Messenger* staff, the application for the event was approved by Finley Student Center's Events Applications Committee. Getting an event approved by the committee is an arduous process. The application requires multiple signatures and typically must be submitted a month in advance of the actual event.

The Vice President for Finance and Management has final approval on events applications. The VP's signature is usually pro forma, but Barbara Gliwa, VP for Finance and Management at that time, refused Pichardo's application. She cited a CUNY-wide policy requiring all candidates running for a political office must be offered an opportunity to speak at CUNY events. The sponsoring organizations of the "Road to City Council" event had not done so.

"I believe in free speech," Gliwa told the *Messenger*. But without inviting all the candidates, such events "implied an endorsement" by the campus.

"We have a responsibility to be an open campus," she said about her decision to block the students' event.

## Old Policy Newly Enforced?

The practice of denying candidates access to CUNY campuses began during the 1997 mayoral campaign. Democratic Party candidate Ruth Messinger was denied access to Kingsboro College by then-Kingsboro president Leon Goldstein. Messinger was also later blocked from speaking at Queens College.

Rudolph Giuliani, Messinger's elec-

toral opponent, declared he had "nothing to do" with blocking Messinger's speech. As mayor, Giuliani appoints five members of CUNY's Board of Trustees and controls funding to CUNY's community colleges.

Roy Moscovitz, an attorney for CUNY Central, sent a memo to Professor Susan O'Malley, who had sponsored Messinger's Kingsboro appearance, detailing the rationale for denying Messinger access. Moscovitz declared political candidates could not appear on CUNY campuses without their opponents because the tax code prohibits tax-exempt campuses from sponsoring political activities.

To a *Messenger* query about whether the Board of Trustees wrote the policy, Rita Rodin, CUNY spokesperson, replied that the University Office of Legal Affairs established the policy.

Student-rights attorney Ron McGuire, Director of the CUNY Emergency Legal Defense Project, told the *Messenger* the interpretation of the rule was too sweeping. He made a distinction between events funded by tax-levy funds and those paid for with student activity fees. "Activity fees can't be regulated to provide equal time for all candidates," the way tax-levy funds can, McGuire told the *Messenger*.

"Student-run events do not have to

face lots of bureaucracy" from the administration and had to postpone the event for two weeks because of it. Waldvogel did say the requirement to invite all candidates is "the right thing to do," as the Asian Studies program receives funds from the college. But he also wondered whether students should be required to do the same.

## Green Team Steams Through

How, then, did Mark Green appear at City College without other mayoral candidates being invited? The following is a reconstruction, as best as the *Messenger* understands it, of Green's appearance.

A Green staffer informed the *Messenger* Green wanted to present his plans for New York's public school system at a public university, rather than at a private college like Columbia or NYU. By doing so, the campaign worker noted, Green wanted to send a political message he supported public education at all levels.

According to former USG Executive VP Hanna Seifu-Teferra, the Green campaign told USG CUNY Central "approved" Green's appearance at City College. *Messenger* calls to CUNY Central seeking confirmation were not returned.

At some point the Office of Urban and Government Affairs at City College secured a room for Green to speak in. According to Wendy Thornton, Director of the Finley Student Center, Finley, which usually regulates room use for events, had nothing to do with obtaining Green a room. Contacted by the *Messenger*, Karen Witherpoon of Urban and Government Affairs stated she

could not remember whether the USG or the Green team contacted her to begin the process of getting Green a room.

Seifu-Teferra denied USG sponsored Green's event.

Photocopies of the poster announcing Green's appearance at City College did not list any City College group sponsoring the event, as is required. The posters did, however, have a fax ID printed on the top of the poster: "Urban and Governmental Aff. 1 212 650 6415."

Seifu-Teferra told the *Messenger* that Green's people approached USG solely for suggestions for a good room on campus and a professor willing to introduce Green at the event. According to Seifu-Teferra, USG showed the Green people several rooms and gave the campaign Professor Lily Hoffman's name. Hoffman runs a speakers series at the Rosenberg/Humphrey Program in Public Policy.

Seifu-Teferra learned only later that the Green people told Hoffman that Green's appearance was being "sponsored" by the USG and that's why Hoffman agreed to

introduce Green.

The *Messenger* obtained a copy of the Green campaign's CCNY event application. The application, filled out just three days before the scheduled event, listed "the Friends of Green" as the applying organization and was signed off by Horatio Gutierrez of the Green campaign. The application declared Green would "give a speech on education." No members of the Events Committee signed off the Green application, including VP Gliwa.

The Office of Urban and Government Affairs chairs the Events Committee.

Gliwa told the *Messenger* she never saw the application. She said that this would not transpire again and agreed to permit Pichardo to hold his event this fall. Gliwa has since resigned as VP of Finance and Management.

Gutierrez, Green's "advance man" who got Green onto campus, refused to speak with the *Messenger* when contacted. J. D. Plensker, spokesman for Green, told the *Messenger* the Green campaign favors access to CUNY for all candidates, including Michael Bloomberg, Green's opponent in the general election.

## Campaign Pit-Stop

The Green event took place in the presidential dining room in the NAC faculty dining hall on May 10, at the same time the United Federation of Students' City Council event was originally scheduled. Green spoke at a lectern fronted by a "Green for Mayor" poster.

Professor Hoffman introduced Green and Green gave his education address. After Green spoke, he took questions. A *Messenger* reporter said that while there was nothing fundamentally wrong with Green speaking at City—any candidate invited should be welcomed—there appeared to be a double standard in place: while Green was permitted to speak, candidates students invited were not.

Green replied that students would have to take it up with CUNY administrators. He had nothing to do with it, Green said.

"If elected Mark Green will be in a position of selecting new CUNY Trustees and of greatly influencing how the Trustees run CUNY," Felipe Pichardo of the United Federation of Students told the *Messenger* last week.

"He would also be in a position to help rectify the double standards CUNY students are confronted with. If he chooses to. And I hope he chooses to," said Pichardo, who, despite his beef with Green's appearance at City, voted for Green in the primaries.

During the event, Professor Hoffman denied the *Messenger* reporter's mistaken impression she helped sponsor Green's speech. After the event, the reporter overheard Green thanking Professor Hoffman for introducing him and wishing "good luck with him," pointing to the reporter. It was, in this reporter's estimate, a classic example of divide and conquer.

Green absconded from City for the next campaign pit stop. His campaign workers, meanwhile, took down and packed up a set of blue curtains that they had set up behind the lectern for Green's speech. The curtains were the same color as the drapes in the room at City Hall where the mayor traditionally meets the press. Faux drapes to make Green look mayoral. **M**



worry about [the equal-time policy]," McGuire said.

Rodin told *Newsday* in 1997 that the policy had been in place for twenty years. But until Messinger was blocked from speaking at Kingsboro, such a policy had never really been enforced. Mayoral candidate Giuliani spoke at the Graduate Center in 1993. During the 1997 campaign, mayoral candidates Messinger and Fernando Ferrer spoke at City College and Al Sharpton at Hunter College. This year Ferrer and Peter Vallone spoke at Queens College.

Just last week, the Asian Studies Program at City sponsored a forum for candidates for the Manhattan borough presidency and City Council seats in Districts 7 and 9. According to Peter Waldvogel of Asian Studies, the program invited all candidates for those positions to speak and most showed up. "We hesitated to go through with this because of the political nature of the event, but we wanted to do our part to improve the campus," Waldvogel told the *Messenger*.

Waldvogel said event organizers

# Islamic Extremists and Black Sambos: The *Post's* Affirmative Racism



By Hank Williams

The *Post's* articles attacking City College and the anti-war teach-in on October 3 were certainly shocking, but probably should not be surprising given both the *Post's* conservative, pro-war bias and their dislike of CUNY. But there's more behind their decision to focus on CCNY, not Hunter, Columbia, or any of the other colleges holding similar events.

While carefully distinguishing between "radical Islam" or "Islamic fundamentalists" and the religion of Islam in the text of articles, the *Post* consistently uses stereotyped images of Middle Eastern or Muslim people that draw the most attention.

On September 12, three photos of Middle Eastern people were featured. One was the ubiquitous photo of Osama bin Laden shown aiming an assault rifle, one was a shot of Palestinians cheering in the street, and one showed a masked fighter with an assault rifle in one arm and a copy of the Koran in the other.

On September 26, the *Post* had a total of seven photos of Middle Eastern or Muslim people: all of them unflattering.

Osama bin Laden was the cover boy. Page two featured a photo of a wild-eyed, bearded Middle Eastern man holding a picture with Arabic writing and a militiaman with a rocket launcher. The opposing page had a picture of an American soldier

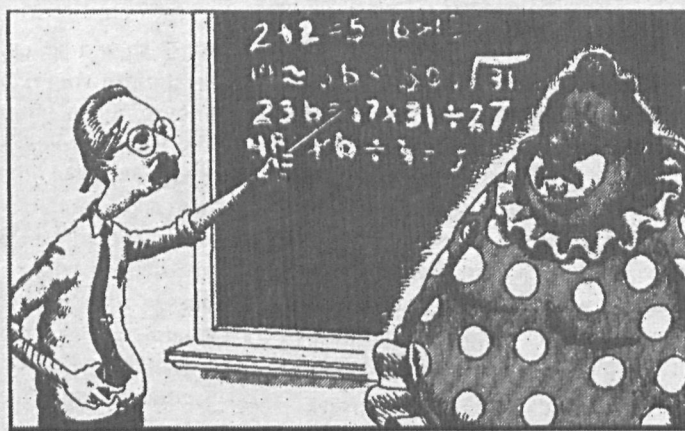
saluting the world's largest American flag. The contrast is obvious: evil vs. good and they're evil.

Page six had a wild-eyed Middle Eastern man with his head wrapped and the photo caption "Hatred wears a mask," explaining that the "Pakistani agitator [was leading] a crowd of Islamic extremists in chants against America." The headline below the photo is titled: "Hate spews from rat hole," and there is a photo of Arabic text of a statement bin Laden faxed to the press.

All of this is under the *Post's* "Attack on America" header, so the connection

Democratic mayoral runoff. Common themes were portraying Ferrer as Sharpton's puppet. Humor is fine and Sharpton is the butt of many jokes, but the *Post* cartoons crossed the line.

Sharpton is uniformly depicted as a dim-witted, bloated, farting buffoon. On October 3, Sharpton



was shown in a clown suit, being tutored by Ferrer in front of a blackboard with nonsensical math equations. The painted clown lips on Sharpton and his complete stupidity hark back to caricatures of blacks common in the US, especially the South, until about the 1960s.

"Sambo" caricatures, as they were called, portrayed blacks as dull and childlike. Twisted, exaggerated lips and bulging eyes—reminiscent of lynching photos—were also staples of the genre.

The *Post* and publications of its ilk update the images, but the intent is similar. Images are powerful tools in media and frame issues in a certain way. The *Post* and other publications know that not everyone reads the text of articles, but people will usually look at pictures or cartoons.

Judging from their pictures, cartoons, and editorial content, the *Post's* view of people of color and Muslims is clear: the *Post* is racist. It is, as the media analysis organization FAIR called it, a militant white daily newspaper.

Their inarticulate attack on CCNY was simply another opportunity to beat up on the people they felt were least able to fight back: working class students of color. It wasn't fair, but for bullies like the *Post*, the words fair and balanced have no meaning. **M**



## Hate spews from rat hole

made is between Islam, hate, and the threat to America's security. Other photos show students at a Pakistani religious school, where the caption informs us that they "appear unanimous in their approval for a holy war against the United States."

The *Post* conspicuously went after Rev. Al Sharpton in the weeks before the

Statement of the League for the Revolutionary Party (LRP),  
October 8, 2001 (excerpts)

## Stop the Imperialist War on Afghanistan!

On October 7 the world's richest and most powerful country went to war against the poorest and most devastated. The U.S. ruling class and its British lapdog began bombing and missile attacks on Afghanistan — targeting, we are told, the military installations of the Taliban government and the hideouts of Osama bin Laden. All past history tells us that under the cover of supposedly selective bombing, Washington is now murdering untold numbers of innocent Afghans in cold blood.

The U.S. capitalist class bears the ultimate responsibility for the existence of both bin Laden and the Taliban. They were "Made in the USA." Both were trained, financed and armed by the CIA when their murderous character suited U.S. imperialist designs. More fundamentally, it is capitalist imperialism that enforces poverty, exploitation and oppression on billions of people around the world. The criminal terrorists exploit the masses' seething hatred of imperialism to win support and converts to their right-wing clerical-capitalist cause.

The imperialists are seeking again to install an Afghan government they can buy off to protect the pipelines they wish to build to carry oil and gas profitably from the ex-Soviet Central Asian countries. But far more importantly, their aim is what it always is when they wage war against small and weak countries: to intimidate the masses, to convince them that there is no alternative to passively accepting the domination of imperialism. The main enemy of the U.S. ruling class is not the Taliban or bin Laden, but the mass struggles of the workers and oppressed of the world. Bush's agenda is to use the WTC and Pentagon attacks as a cover for pushing back mass struggles everywhere. Workers in the U.S. are also the targets of Bush's war, as are workers abroad. Under the

cover of the superpatriotic campaign for "unity" now being whipped up by the politicians and the media, the capitalists are re-energizing their attack on the working class in the U.S. In particular, this one-sided and concealed class war is being waged against workers of color and immigrant labor.

After the World Trade Center was destroyed, workers heroically put in long days to dig out the rubble and rescue victims. In a bitterly ironic contrast, the clean-nailed, well-dressed capitalists rejoiced at the re-opening of the New York Stock Exchange by immediately devaluing industries across the board. Thereby they ensured that hundreds of thousands of workers would lose their jobs. Bush & Co. used the patriotic fervor to pour millions of tax dollars into bailing out the airline industry just when the airlines were laying off over 100,000 workers. Washington is throwing tax money into a ludicrous missile defense system which will protect nothing from terror except the capitalists in the armament business who feared a dip in profits.

Even more ironic is the ugly fact that while tax dollars are being funneled into the wallets of the rich bosses, when it comes to aid for the victims of the terror, rescue workers and the grieving families, the ruling class asks for charity appeals! And of course, most of the response comes from fellow workers.

As communists and internationalists, we disdain to hide our views. Knowing that imperialism is the greatest enemy of the working class, we stand for the defeat of American imperialism in its present war against the people of Afghanistan, the defense of the Middle Eastern and Central Asian masses from the onslaught. We will do everything we can to defend workers at home and abroad against the attack being waged upon them by the American ruling class, our

main enemy and the main enemy of working people everywhere. We fight the current patriotic hype now sweeping the United States and we will seek to turn the imperialist war into a working-class war. We are secure in the knowledge that, given the reality of the unceasing war that capital wages against labor, workers will soon see through the phony unity.

The only way to bring terrorism to an end is to eliminate the conditions that breed it over and over again. No capitalist power will of its own choice cease to exploit and enslave workers wherever it can; imperialism is not just a policy, it is the nature of the decaying capitalist system. The only way out of the nightmare of the growing crisis of imperialism and its economic decline is through socialist revolutions led by the working class. Capitalism in its own brutal way has built an international economy which is capable of producing abundance for all the world's people. The profit-grubbing system itself is the only barrier to actually producing all that people need to house, clothe and feed themselves well.

The struggle to overturn imperialism and build a new classless society of peace, abundance and freedom demands the leadership of an internationalist revolutionary party spearheaded by the most class-conscious workers of the world.

For the full statement and other LRP documents, see our website at [www.lrp-cofi.org](http://www.lrp-cofi.org), or stop by our literature table on the City College campus (NAC plaza or rotunda).

For further investigation of these issues, we are organizing a discussion group on campus Wednesday afternoons at 4:00. Call 212-330-9017 for information.

advertisement

# This Just in: We're at War!

## Media Distortion and the Crisis



By Hank Williams

American media coverage of the World Trade Center attack has ranged from the exceptional to the terrible, but has mostly been limited to debate not over whether or not there should be a war, but questions of what kind of war, if the U.S. can win, and whether or not the American public can withstand seeing our youth return home in body bags.

Experts quoted are usually either Department of Defense or other government officials: hardly objective sources. The press corps that worked together in the days after the attack to provide breaking commercial-free news coverage soon fell back into familiar habits of distortion, sensationalism, and jingoistic rhetoric.

### 'Simply kill these bastards!'

The *New York Post* has been one of the main cheerleaders for war and purveyors of hysteria. On September 12, the *Post's* columnists unanimously called for violent retaliation, led by the reactionary Steve Dunleavy, whose column was titled "Simply kill these bastards!" Dunleavy called for a war crime: "As for cities or countries that host these worms, bomb them into basketball courts," adding that the US should "start the process of urban renewal with high-altitude bombing" and if [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein objects, we should "do him too (9/12)."

*Post* columnist George Will presented a more articulate version of the party line, condemning the "false idea that extreme action must have justification (9/12)."

The *Post* is clear on what they think the

response should be, calling for a "random application of *American* (emphasis original) power" in an editorial (9/12).

The *Washington Times* ("Grief . . . and then resolve" 9/14) likened the attacks to Nazism and Communism: "Now again the civilized world has witnessed the true nature of barbarism... Civilization has witnessed it before: the Nazis stomping the unarmed, the communists pillaging the bourgeoisie, Middle Eastern terrorists slaughtering unarmed Jews and Christians... we are witnessing the true nature of the civilized; first grief, then resolve to extirpate the barbarians."

The *Times's* skewed analysis not only simplistically separates the world into two opposing camps—civilization and barbarism—but also paints Islam as the barbarians. The civilized response—according to the *Times*—involves having the necessary resolve to destroy evil. The article makes no mention of capitalist pillaging of Africa or any other area of the world, nor examples such as capitalist South Africa's Apartheid system or the killing of one-third of East Timor's population while under Indonesian occupation.

### Rallying Around the Flag

Major press outlets have banners festooned with flags and American military hardware. Nationalistic patriotism is packaged with images and graphics that coerce readers or viewers. The implicit message is that the correct patriotic response is not critical analysis, but falling in line behind the push to war.

After the attack, *ABC News's* website banners proclaimed that we are "A Nation Challenged," with photos of President

Bush looking confidently into the camera blended with pictures of flag-waving crowds.

FOX News Channel opted for "Terrorism Hits America" for their header, with Photoshopped images of F-16 fighter jets taking off from an aircraft carrier and victims embracing, while assuring us that the 'US Military Mobilizes for Possible Strikes.'

NBC's header was "Preparing For WAR" (emphasis original) with a photo of a concerned looking President Bush, courtesy of the White House press office. CNN's take was "America's New War," with the same photo as NBC.

The wording used is important: a challenge invites a response, and both CNN and NBC presumed all-out war—not just a military response—before the bombing even started. The question to the TV networks was not if, but when.

### Word Play

The *New York Times* (9/21) warned Americans about "the probability of an enemy within cells of bombers or hijackers, lurking unsuspected in dark or not-so-dark corners of American society." The *Times*, while avoiding the sensationalism of other media outlets, is contributing to the national hysteria nonetheless. The enemy isn't waiting—it's "lurking"—a sinister overtone. The use of the active verb "lurking" rather than the passive "waiting" heightens the tension.

The *Times* philosophized that "Americans expect quick or at least clear-cut victories. The lack thereof eventually doomed the Vietnam adventure..." (9/21) Their analysis forgets the determination of

the Vietnamese, who beat both the French and the US in a 25-year national liberation struggle. And families of the 50,000 Americans and over 2 million Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Laotians killed would probably refer to Vietnam as a war, rather than an "adventure," a word that connotes a fun, unexpected outing.

The *New York Post's* front page on September 12 declared that the "blitzkrieg" attack was an "Act of War," referring to the airliner as a "kamikaze," using adjectives that evoke images of World War II and Fascist terror.

President Bush's use (and misuse) of language is interesting also. Bush drew heat for referring to the military campaign as a "crusade to rid the world of evildoers" (9/17). Bush was soon reminded of the historical meaning of the Crusades by Muslims and Christians alike.

In the days after the attack, Bush promised the American public that "we're going to smoke them out of their caves and get them running." The headline on the front cover of the *Post* (9/25) was "Message From the Rat Hole:" a report on a statement bin Laden faxed to the press. In both cases bin Laden and, by extension, Afghans, are dehumanized. People live in homes; vermin live in caves and holes, and we're used to exterminating them.

The point is not necessarily to turn off the TV or radio, but the need to be critical analysts of media messages, not just passive consumers. Alternative sources of news provide different views: necessary in an age where information is power. It's a tough switch for the MTV generation that worships the Nike swoosh, but the effort is worth it. **M**

## 'Bubba' Goes to Harlem

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

News Item: Former U.S. President, Bill Clinton, stung by criticism stemming from the almost \$600,000 a year costs of his offices in mid-town Manhattan, has sought offices in the city's uptown Harlem district, where costs are expected to be half the mid-town rate.

Not since the slim, ascetic Muslim Minister, Malcolm X, strolled Harlem streets, has the chocolate colony seen such excitement. This time, an ex-President, one both loathed and loved, comes to Harlem to establish his base of operations, and by so doing, has demonstrated the twin, contradictory sides of his political persona.

Former president Clinton has, in his long eight years at the helm of the U.S.

Ship of State, presided over an explosion in the crippling prison industrial complex, the expansion of the U.S. death penalty, and the related contraction of the constitutional right to habeas corpus, all of which have had a demonstratively injurious effect on America's Black population. In order to obtain his office, he traded in Black death, by overseeing the state murder of brain-damaged death row captive, Ricky Ray Rector; in order to retain his office, he leapt to betray the Black bourgeoisie, by the abandonment of high Justice Department candidate, law professor Lani Guinier, and former Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders.

That said, Clinton remains a genuinely beloved figure in Black America, so much so that when he was attacked by his political adversaries on the right, Blacks felt almost as if they were attacked, and were,

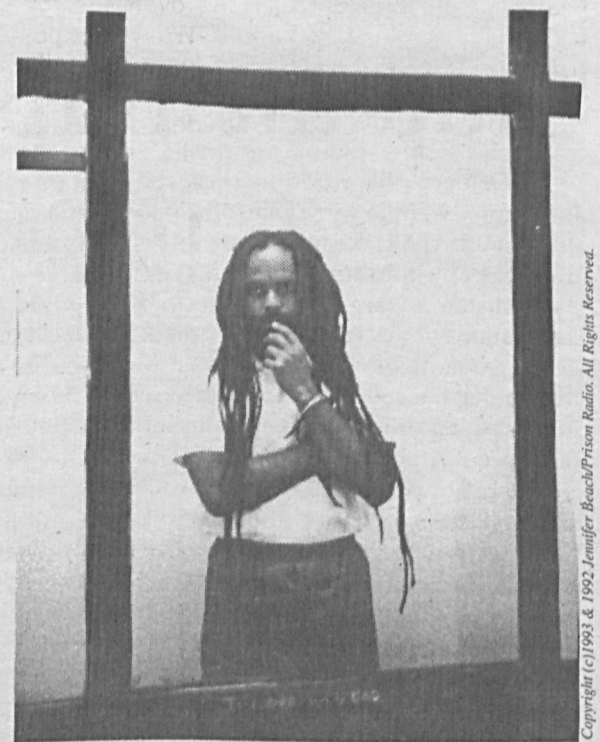
by far, the most vigorous in his defense among American constituencies. America's perhaps greatest living writer, Toni Morrison, went just a tad beyond hyperbole when she affectionately dubbed the Arkansan "America's first Black president."

Beyond his almost legendary political skills, there must be other reasons for this weird political courtship between African-Americans and Bill Clinton. It's not his much-vaunted upbringing in poverty, for despite the conventional wisdom, several U.S. presidents (for example, Garfield, Andrew Johnson, and Andrew Jackson) had an impoverished youth.

It seems like it's not so much **Abu-Jamal**.

Clinton, the man, as it is Clinton, the man who spent his youth on the periphery of the Civil Rights Movement and adulthood in the proximity of the largest generation of Black professionals in U.S. history. It is therefore a case of interaction, and as Clinton courted the Black bourgeois, he studiously ignored the wretched suffering, imprisonment, scapegoating, and cop repression against the Black poor in the urban centers.

And the black bourgeoisie, following their own class interests, joined him in either ignoring or damning the so-called "black underclass." For what else was that so-called Welfare Reform but more war



Author and death-row political prisoner Mumia

**Abu-Jamal**.

on the poor?

Now, as the nation's former chief executive takes up digs in Harlem, the bourgeois once again preen at their new neighbor, while for the poor, it just means more gentrification, and therefore a harder struggle to afford rapidly rising rents. It's about time millions of African-Americans learned who their real friends are. **M**

Written 2/13/2001. Reprinted courtesy of *MumiaBook.com*. Mumia Abu-Jamal is the author of several books, including *Live From Death Row*, and is the subject of *On a Move!* by Terry Bisson.

## CCNY Movement

continued from page 1

Attorney General Ramsey Clark are two more groups with added agendas on foreign policy and global racism.

These organizations basically march to the same drum and they encourage all people to join in support for a peaceful resolution and increased diplomacy with countries that comprise the rest of the Middle East, not just Israel, in the future.

A statement from the Council of Churches declared, "We must not, out of anger and vengeance, indiscriminately

retaliate in ways that bring on even more loss of innocent life." Again, these sentiments are being felt and reiterated across the entire planet. The people of the United States are slowly realizing that the modern world has changed forever and military strikes won't change it back.

If you want to get involved, go to a meeting of the City College Coalition for Peace or go to a teach-in in the NAC ballroom 12:00 pm on alternate Tuesdays. Of course, the Internet has many sources of information and Union Square Park (14th and Broadway) has become the unofficial headquarters for events and vigils. **M**

# Civil Society at WCAR Targets Globalization

By Frances M. Beal

Many of the delegates attending the NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) forum of the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa in September were met with a big surprise. Most had been informed of the big controversy over including the treatment of the Palestinians by the state of Israel or the demand for black reparations on the agenda. Most had expected these to be the main arenas of contention and to dominate the dialogue.

What they did not expect was an NGO forum that would unfold as a continuation of an ever more articulate and ever more vocal anti-globalization movement. This grassroots upsurge was first expressed in Seattle two years ago at the meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO); it was further articulated at the World Bank demonstrations in Washington, DC and reached its culmination at the G-7 meetings in Genoa.

Durban, South Africa must now be added to that list of mass gatherings to challenge the transnational financial and political institutions that have snared the world's peoples into its unipolar, globalization net. But Durban represents at least two major differences.

Young whites and Europeans dominat-

ed the Seattle, Washington and Genoa protests. The NGO Forum, on the other hand, has attracted a global cross-generational activist core that is composed predominantly of people of color from the Americas, from Africa and from Asia.

And while the U.S. and European protests concentrated on the economic institutions, Durban's unique contribution has been to place the fight against racism, xenophobia and other related intolerances at the center of its anti-globalization critique.

The NGO forum, of course, is not a gathering that was called in reaction to a get-together of the imperial elite and its financial and political institutions. The WCAR is a meeting that has been several years in the making, but its flavor and orientation has been definitively seasoned with the worldwide anti-globalization protests that preceded it.

The theme linking the WCAR to the anti-globalization movement was first signaled by Merisha Andrews, President of SANGOCO, the South African group responsible for organizing the forum. "We will talk about the Palestinians," she proclaimed in her opening address to the conference delegates. "We will talk about the blockade of Cuba!" To a widely cheering crowd, she stated that all the questions of the struggle against racism and discrimi-



WCAR attendees and community members march through the streets of Durban to raise the demand that the real issues be discussed.

nation will not be resolved unless they are placed in "the context of economic and social justice." Amid thunderous applause she concluded that the youth and the NGOs must insist that we "not except any strategy, or program, or policy that does not touch on the profound causes of all the inequalities: economic and social injustices."

That theme was reinforced in the opening remarks of South African President Thabo Mbeki, who insisted that legacy of slavery must be recognized: "I would like to believe," he proclaimed, "that a common outcome we all seek is a measurable commitment within countries and among all nations that practical steps will be taken and resources allocated, actually to eradicate the legacy of slavery, colonialism and racism that condemns billions across the globe to poverty and despair." He also made specific reference to the "process of globalization" which "rewards some handsomely," but made reference to "unbearable suffering in the midst of plenty" that can threaten social peace.

Many South African NGOs, however, felt that Mbeki's remarks were merely for show since his economic policies—particularly the policy of privatization—is capitulation to IMF and World Bank directives, which have deepened the racial divide in post-apartheid South Africa between the white rich and the Black poor, although it has elevated a new Black elite at the fringe of the ruling centers of economic and political power.

That criticism was expressed in the daily street actions that have accompanied the NGO forum. Protest marches and work stay-aways have been organized by COSATU (Congress of South African Trade Unions) to protest the government's anti-worker policies. NGOs have sponsored street protests and rallies in support of the Palestinian peo-

ple and for reparations. Militant mass marches have also unfolded, protesting the status of those who remain landless six years after the defeat of apartheid. Tens of thousands of South Africans have been joined by NGO delegates in an impressive show of civil society strength. "We did not participate in the liberation struggle in order to elevate a Black elite," one banner proclaimed. "No to Privatization" said another.

Nevertheless, some NGO delegates, particularly among the North American groups, feel uncomfortable with the linkage of racial justice demands and the critique of imperial globalization. The mainstream civil rights organizations like the Black Leadership Forum, for example, remain strictly wedded to a narrow racial perspective of demanding equal racial opportunity within the framework of the current economic and political exigencies of the U.S. global empire.

Humberto Brown, International Secretary of the Black Radical Congress, is an example of U.S.-based racial justice activists who challenge this narrow view. He asserts that race alone cannot guarantee solidarity. "You cannot be a Black liberationist and be a sexist," he says. "Nor can you be homophobic or think your language is the only language." Most importantly, he continues, "You can't be a Black liberationist and support corporatism." Speaking in the Africa and African descendants caucus, Brown received enthusiastic applause when he referred to globalization and said the caucus should demand that the World Conference Against Racism "come out with a document that condemns the modern form of exploitation."

On the other hand, the government gathering that began this week falls far short of the broad vision projected by most of the NGO delegates and these standards for the struggle against racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerances. The U.S. and other former colonial powers chose not to pick up the racial justice gauntlet and engage in the debate, but it is one that cannot be put off forever. Thus, many of the NGOs see this gathering as only the opening salvo in a face-off between those who promote exploitative globalization schemes which perpetuate racial and xenophobic discrimination and those with a vision of a democratic world of economic and social justice with racial equity at its core. **M**

Frances M. Beal, <fmbeal@igc.org>, is National Secretary of the Black Radical Congress and a political columnist for the San Francisco Bay View newspaper. The views expressed here are her own.

## Socialist Worker

A weekly newspaper printed by the International Socialist Organization. With a socialist analysis not found in the mainstream press, *Socialist Worker* exposes the truth about the current war against Afghanistan. From the US governments attacks on innocent civilians overseas to the attacks on civil liberties at home, *Socialist Worker* exposes the reality about Bush's cry for freedom and justice for all. *Socialist Worker* reports on the growing movements against the war, racism, corporate greed, and the death penalty. Support media, independent of advertising dollars and corporate interests. Buy it, then read it, then sell it; *Socialist Worker* for \$1.



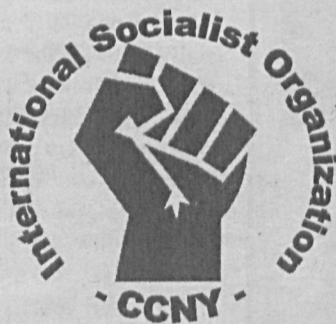
## International Socialist Organization

No War! No Racism!  
Defend Civil Liberties! Defend the PSC!



The International Socialist Organization (ISO) is a revolutionary socialist organization, building struggles that can change society. If you are against the war and the racist attacks on Arab Americans, if you want to get rid of corporate control over our lives, if you want to fight for a world free from needless suffering and poverty, then join the ISO and help build a fighting organization.

Without struggle there is no progress."  
Frederick Douglass



ISO meetings  
 ↓ Wednesdays, 7 PM,  
 Baskerville Hall room 103A  
 ↓ Thursdays, 12:15 PM,  
 NAC room 4/161 (club hours)  
 ↓ Saturdays, 5 PM, National  
 Black Theater (once a month)

For more anti-war resources go, to [internationalsocialist.org](http://internationalsocialist.org).  
 For an activist calendar of events, go to [socialistworker.org](http://socialistworker.org).  
 For more information call (212) 502-0707

# Comfort Zone

**CASTLE:** Hamilton Heights Playground

**LOCALE:** West Harlem on Hamilton Place between 140th and 141st.

**OCCUPANT:** Lee Neely, CCNY Finley Student Center Employee, kids, teenagers, old people and lots of other folk from the neighborhood.

**COMMUTE TO CITY:** Five Minutes on the Shoe Leather Express.

According to the people who decide these things, this area is just a block too far west to be included in the Harlem Heights Historic District. I was ready to get indignant on your behalf about this slight—after all, you have brownstones and yuppies over here too, why shouldn't you be a historic district! Then I noticed the banners announcing "Heritage Heights Village" along Amsterdam; should we hold our breaths for the tour buses?

I just saw that in the last week or two. I'm trying to figure that out too. What, they went and changed the area's name again?

**What makes this park your castle?**

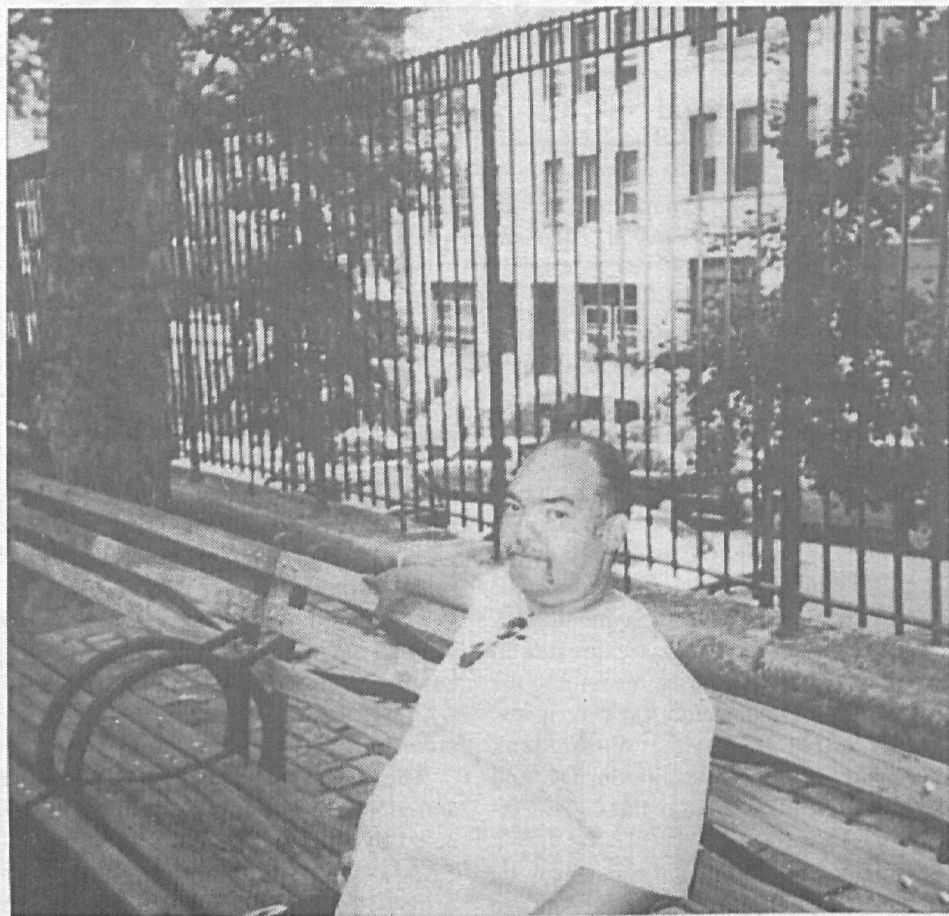
This is my park. I grew up in this park. It's always been our back yard. When we was younger we used to play cards in here all night long. We'd string lights up, we had picnic tables here too. In the summertime, we could sit out here all night long. Now they close the park up at nine o'clock. Us, we're not climbing over these gates. Our day is on Sunday. Old folks. We play ball. We drink our little beer. And then we go back in the house and die. Everybody's gotta get up on Monday

morning.

**Walking the one block from your place to the park, I clocked you saying hello to 3,500 people. I get the sense that this is not the part of town you come to for the anonymous big city life.**

My mother lived on this block for almost 50 years, someone in my family has been in that building for almost 70 years. If you live in a neighborhood as close knit as this, people are going to be in your business no matter what. People having been knowing you since you were a kid. The only way you can get rid of that is to move out of the neighborhood. You don't want to do that. I've lived in every borough and upstate and I always wind up coming back here.

**I notice that the sidewalk life big up here. Kids on scooters, bikes and the hips of other kids are making circles around the moms dispensing hot dog-laden paper plates and colored drinks. The teenagers seem to favor corners in single sex groups, the older people have their parade chairs set up in the middle, mostly in pairs. If they make a "Sounds of West Harlem" CD as a counterpart to the "Sounds of the Rain Forest"**



**recordings, they'd have to punctuate the steady buzz of traffic, kids, salsa and cross-street conversations with sirens, and real loud car radios. Do you think it'd sell?**

The noise? I'm used to it. (For) three years I lived up in Yorktown. I like the quiet and everything, but there's too much of it. And there, everything shuts early. And here, there's always something going on. I stayed out in Jersey too and commuted back. Her thing was trying to keep me out there as much as possible trying to get the city out of me. No, *excuse me*, trying to get the GHET-TO out of me. It'll never work. Even some people that may be flamboyant people or business people on Wall Street, they may act that way down there, but when they get here, the ghetto's still in 'em.

**Do you worry about rents with the gentrification?**

Oh yeah. My landlord, he wants me out badly. He knows he can get \$1,200 or \$1,400 for that place. A lot of people are in this situation. What people are doing is going co-op: tenant-controlled. The landlord defaulted, taxes, whatever. A lot of these buildings were taken over by a non-profit organization, which in this neighborhood is West Harlem. West Harlem started off as the management, but eventually relinquished the management to the tenants. It breeds income for people and helps keep the rent down. A lot of these buildings were taken over because there was a big drug problem—still is. But, actually, there has never been no dealing out of this park. Everybody hangs here. It would be an inconvenience for dealers to be running people in and out of here. Especially with all the kids. Customers would stand out in here. This is more a relaxing park. That park by the train (the 137th stop on the 1/9), that's a transient park. This park has always been our comfort zone. It's comfortable. This is the only park I know, we can come out and fall asleep, stay here all night and no one messes with you.

**What was CCNY like in the '60s and '70s?**

I remember City College when the NAC building wasn't there. We used to be able to walk from here to South Campus. Tunnels. We used to play football by

Shepard Hall. Now security is running people off campus at a certain time of night. And it's supposed to be an open campus and public space, but it's not publicly accessible no more. I stayed three days on South Campus when they took it over. As a matter of a fact, I was a high school senior when we did that. We all went through our little militant stage. I walked around with a big afro, you know, wanted to be militant. They took over it for a week and a half. They shut down South Campus! To me, to us, it was fun. To the older people, the people that wanted open admissions, it was really serious. But to us younger people, it was fun.

Back then the students were mostly Caucasians. Nobody live in the neighborhood. All you knew about them was from 145th Street to campus. They'd do their little thing and go home. What they're trying to do now is run it right back to the way it used to be in the 60s. I don't think it's going to work. I'm hoping it doesn't, because what it's going to breed, the young kids are going to see that and take the students as marks.

**How do you suppose people would react if they knew that nowadays campus buildings are being used as police surveillance posts?**

What, in Compton (Goethels)? Everybody in the neighborhood knows that. That's no secret. When I was younger, I had run into a guy in a restaurant on Amsterdam. He kept saying you're face looks familiar and we start talking about who we know and I find out he's my cousin. Then I find out he was a detective up at the precinct! He tells me, come to the precinct, I want to show you something. They have a picture of this whole block here blown up on the wall. He took me there and he said, "That's you, that's you and that's you." He said, "I've been looking at you for five years and now I find out I'm related to you." They had police in all these buildings here, they used to have a camera in the spotlight on the corner of 140th Street. I mean, it's not right; to me, it's illegal. That's the way things are around here. It's part of the regular ongoing of this neighborhood, that you are being surveyed no matter what. Both the police vans and the dealers are normal things around here. **M**

## Cinema Society: CCNY's Undergrad Film Club

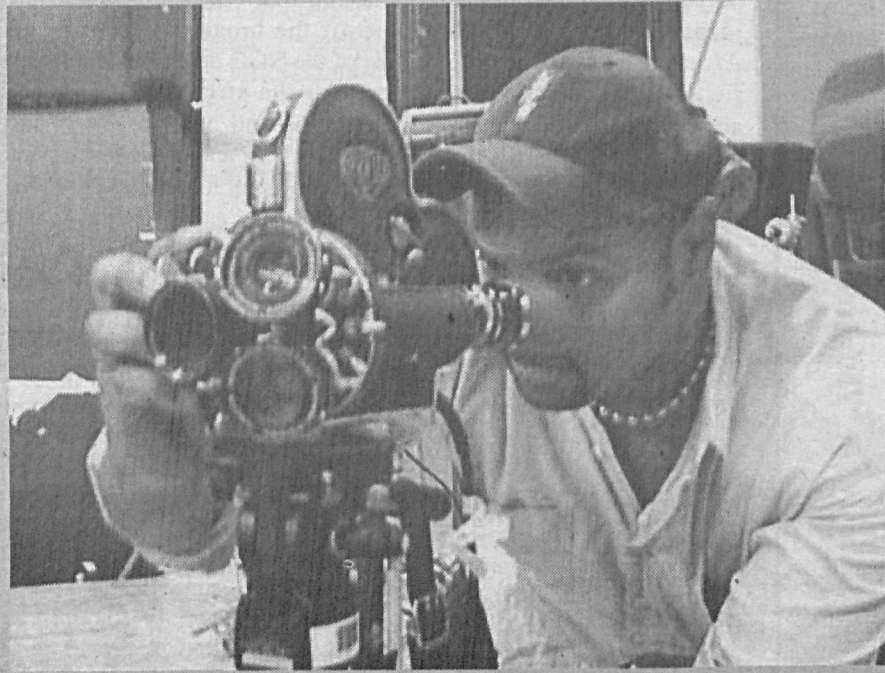
The urge to bring some attention to City College's film department has fueled the rebirth of the old Cinema Society club this semester, after it had faded from the club scene some years ago.

"It is like a brand new club all over again. I had heard about it before; nonetheless, nobody was doing anything, and we decided to start it over. In many ways this can be also a fresh start for our department as I am getting the feeling that not many people even knew that there was a film department at City," says Harold Martinez, who is the acting president. He also adds, "We have a very motivated board whose main goal is clear: not only are we going to get noticed, but this time we

are going to create a tradition."

Last June the same crew put together a mini film festival just for fun. "It was about like 10 short films, USG helped us out and we offered food and about thirty people showed up. It was on a Thursday at 6pm, the worst time possible. We had fun, and whoever went kept talking if we were going to do it again this semester," Says Harold.

The club's goals involve making it into a tradition to hold a film festival every term, which is something that will motivate film students to do even better work in order to be showcased. Cinema Society also stands for letting the school's community know that at City there is much more than Science and Engineering.



Feature Poet: Wanda Miroslava Peguero

## Yo My Man

Hey Yo, my man  
 let me tell ya about who I am  
 Yeah me  
 Latina  
 Taína  
 Afro-Caribbean  
 with a pint of European  
 Born on 125, but raised in the Heights  
 Second generation creation  
 A threat to the status quo  
 in a place where deporting your ass is the  
 fastest service you'll ever get  
 dissect me baby  
 yeah mix me up in your ethnic bowl  
 stir me slowly but with sabor  
 I don't wanna be your subordinate role  
 pregnant in front of your stove  
 while you smell the aromas of  
 my arroz con leche o habichuelas con dulce  
 as you drool over pictures of anorexic,  
 breasts implanted, peroxide  
 screaming FEED ME "beauties"  
 Yeah me  
 with the Village front  
 but with a Dominicana heart  
 Dominicana hips  
 Dominicana thighs  
 Add on baby, you've got my green light  
 that's me  
 yeah me the one with the 'fro  
 well 'fro this  
 word  
 You like the way I 'fro you  
 smoke you  
 follar you  
 My African 'fro roots you so envy  
 you so criticize  
 pelo malo  
 pelo duro  
 un alizado  
 que se vayan al diablo  
 mis rizos son mi orgullo  
 Each strand of my hair is a root  
 of my  
 Latina  
 Taína  
 Afro-Caribbean  
 European  
 well that, I don't know  
 Let me tell you  
 I ain't gonna be your pretty whore  
 Your leftover bread role  
 a dependent on your ego trips  
 It ain't about tolerating your silly drinkin'  
 habits or your flips  
 Apunta pa' otro la'o  
 This is me  
 BAM  
 Latina  
 lively, arrogant, tempting, independent,  
 no-nonsense, but approachable  
 sex fiend, 24/7, psychedelic nympho  
 Want some?  
 Fill out an application and don't forget to  
 sign on the dotted line  
 Yeah me  
 Jabá  
 Trastorná  
 but with a reputation  
 light the candles  
 préndeme un cigarro  
 invita a Yemayá  
 let those African drums run through my  
 blood  
 Yeah me  
 Confused, deranged, comunista, izquierdista  
 muchacha 'el diablo'  
 que me lleve quien me trajó  
 Eh, pa'l carajo, yo me voy sola....

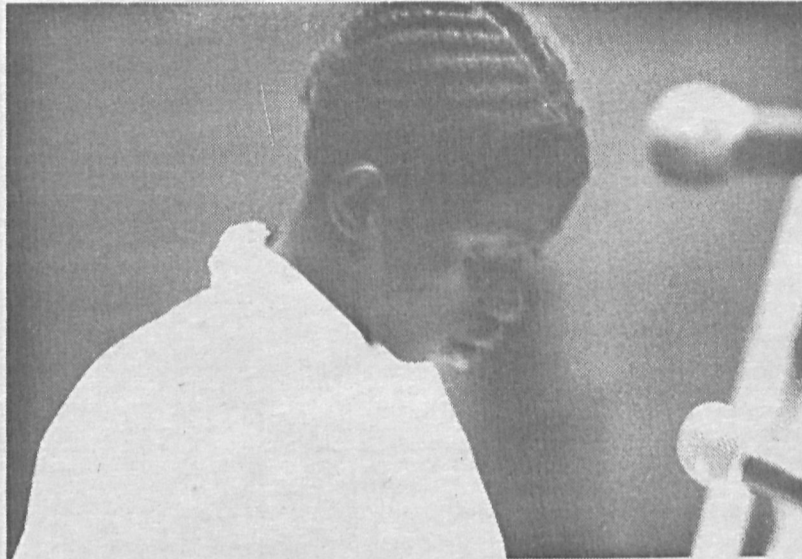
Courtesy of Eco Estudiantil, Hostos  
 Community College

## City College Spring Poetry Fest

Held each May since 1972, the Poetry Fest draws more than 3,000 entries to the day-long event. The winners, ranging from elementary to high school students, read their poems to a diverse audience in Aaron Davis Hall.

The event is the brainchild of CCNY English Professor

Barry Wallenstein. "The Poetry Festival celebrates the freed voices of the young people of New York City's public schools," says Wallenstein. "These students have natural creativity in expressive language." A selection of poems from the event follows.



### aks—anotha infamous freestyle

can you see what I see?  
 be what I be?  
 nuclear bomb chips  
 that power my sega  
 unknown rule of terror  
 like noriega  
 river flow through bloodstreams  
 like cats on her-on  
 black people together  
 about a million strong  
 severance packaged crackers  
 like on-line slackers  
 a global hacker  
 blowing out like a power stacker  
 unknown gods walkin' the street  
 accepted defeat  
 marchin'  
 to the slave drummer's beat  
 flows are gold  
 tend to be sold  
 w / known lyrics  
 equivalent to hieroglyphics  
 mental slaved t.v. stations  
 dead prez brought it to  
 a higher elevation  
 mindless saps  
 get sucked into the idiot box  
 bums shoot up these rocks  
 in dem dirty socks  
 new york corruption  
 that causin disruption  
 check the microphone surface  
 i'm known to put cats  
 temporarily outta service  
 so wait until you free your mind  
 you 85%  
 of the deaf dumb and blind...

—Kintu Johnso  
 Beach Channel High School  
 Honorable Mentic

### plowing down an arab (saeed)

more of a meat  
 than a man  
 this is  
 the soggy soldier

nebulous and moist,  
 this is  
 the unseen reminder  
 that stinks above ground

this is  
 the human splatter;  
 the blood, bile, and bone  
 that was saeed

and who would've spared him?  
 no, not his assassin  
 the bold man behind the gun,  
 not arafat,  
 barak,  
 or CNN,  
 our cable blood lust,  
 and certainly  
 not you

—Lisha Perez  
 Townsend Harris High School  
 Third Prize



### Suficientemente Latina...

Soy de dos razas.  
 Luchando para ser bilingüe  
 para demostrar mi identidad;  
 para conectar con "mi gente."

...trato de escuchar la música,  
 saber mi cultura,  
 memorizar la historia,  
 los noticias del Vieques me enoja...

Quisiera poner mi cultura en mi manga  
 para que todos vean  
 mi raza, latina.

Tengo el pelo violeta,  
 pantallas por todo el oído,  
 y escucho la música "Rock."  
 No soy latina?  
 Viviendo con los efectos de no parecer  
 Latina es difícil.  
 Voy a la escuela todo el día,  
 y estudio toda la noche.  
 Trato de desafiar el estereotipo  
 del "punk" ye el "latino vago."

Sin embargo,  
 espero el día  
 cuando no tenga que explicar  
 que soy puertorriqueña  
 (y ver la reacción de sorpresa en su cara).

...puedo añadir el apellido "figueroa"  
 al final de mi nombre,  
 puedo informarles a todos que vivo con  
 una madre boricua,  
 puedo fingir que mi piel no es  
 tan blanca como lo es,  
 y puedo sucumbir a la fe católica...

Tengo la sangre latina corriendo por mis venas  
 no puede negarlo—  
 y sin embargo |  
 nunca seré  
 suficientemente latina...

—Jennifer Weinberg  
 Hunter College High School  
 Foreign Language Award

# October–November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Studio Orchestra. Mike Holober, dir. Shepard, Rm 190, 3pm. West African Dance Class. 5-7pm. NAC Ballroom. Repeats every Mon.	<b>30</b> TEACH-IN: Threats of War, Challenges for Peace. Critical education on Bush's war on terrorism. 12-2pm NAC Ballroom (1st fl.). "Civil Rights in New York Conference." Weissman Visiting Professor, Clarence Taylor moderates. Baruch College - Newman Conference Center. 3:30pm. 212/802-2881: Free.	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Friends of Music, fall concert. Shepard Rm 95. 12:30pm. Lecture: Social Individual in Post Capitalist Society. 7:30pm. Brecht Forum. 122 W 27th 10fl. 212-242-4201 \$6-\$10.	<b>2</b> Application for Degree Filing Deadline for Feb. '02 Grads. West African Dance Class. 5-7pm. Wingate 104. Repeats every Thurs. Reparations Education and Mobilization Conference. Great Hall (Shepard, 2fl.) \$10-\$15. Info: 212-785-1027, www.nurchison-center.org/reparations	<b>3</b> Reparations Education and Mobilization Conference. See Fri 11/2.
<b>4</b> Reparations Education and Mobilization Conference. See Fri 11/2.	<b>5</b> West African Dance Class. 5-7pm. NAC Ballroom. Repeats every Mon.	<b>6</b> Italian Film Fest. 12-2pm. NAC Student lounge. Messenger Meeting: Join CCNY's Progressive student newspaper! New members welcome. 6-7:30pm. 3/201 NAC.	<b>7</b> Lecture: Literary Subversion in Race, Class, & Gender. 7:30pm. Brecht Forum. 122 W 27th 10fl. 212-242-4201 \$6-\$10.	<b>8</b> Piano Recital by Students of Alison Deane. Shepard. Rm 95. 12:30pm. Lecture: Student Movements Then and Now. 7:30pm. Brecht Forum. 122 W 27th 10fl. 212-242-4201 \$6-\$10. Lecture: Arquitectonica in NY w/Bernardo Fort. 6pm. Great Hall (Shepard, 2 fl.).	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> "Applying to Graduate and Professional School." Grad. Ctr - 365 5th Av @ 34th St. 11am. 212/817-8215: \$50.
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> West African Dance Class. 5-7pm. NAC Ballroom. Repeats every Mon.	<b>13</b> Last day for "W" grade. TEACH-IN: Threats of War, Challenges for Peace. Critical analysis on Bush's war on terrorism. 12-2pm NAC Ballroom. Messenger Meeting: Join CCNY's Progressive student newspaper! New members welcome. 6-7:30pm. 3/201 NAC.	<b>14</b> Lecture: Destruction of Jews of Kishinev. Grad. Ctr - 365 5th Av @ 34th St - 6:15pm. 212/817-8215.	<b>15</b> West African Dance Class. 5-7pm. Wingate 104. Repeats every Thurs. Forum: Public Education Under Fire. 7:30pm. Brecht Forum. 122 W 27th 10fl. 212-242-4201 \$6-\$10. Lecture: Listening in Architecture w/Will Bruder. 6pm. Great Hall (Shepard, 2fl.).	<b>16</b> Lecture: Academic Study in Italy. 12-2pm. Rm. 4/222. NAC. Lecture: The Influence of Linguistic Channels on Proto-African Identity w/Edwin Farrell, Professor of Ed. 12-2pm. Rifkind Room (NAC 6/316).	<b>17</b> Women's Fencing vs. Hunter/Bard. Holman Gym, 12 noon. No Charge. "Tellation," Storytelling swaps and concert by five nationally known tellers. Grad. Ctr - 365 5th Av @ 34th St. 1pm. 212/817-8215: Call for ticket info.
<b>18</b> Seminar: Finance, Production, and Empire: Socialist strategy and Globalization. 9am-4:30pm. Brecht Forum. 122 W 27th 10fl. 212-242-4201. \$25-\$45.	<b>19</b> West African Dance Class. 5-7pm. NAC Ballroom. Repeats every Mon.	<b>20</b> BFA Recital: Cynthia Soriano, jazz vocalist. Shepard Rm 95. 3pm. Messenger Meeting: Join CCNY's Progressive student newspaper! New members welcome. 6-7:30pm. 3/201 NAC. Women's Basketball vs. St. Joseph's Coll. Holman Gym. 6:00pm.	<b>21</b> Jazz Master Class. Shepard Rm 190. 2pm Film: "Translating Literature into Cinema." Jose Bolsnos (Mexico, 1987, 120', Color). Based on the novel by Juan Rulfo. Grad. Ctr., 365 5th Av @ 34th St. 6pm. 212/817-8215.	<b>22</b> No Classes/College Closed (Thanksgiving)	<b>23</b> No Classes/College Closed (Thanksgiving)	<b>24</b> No Classes/College Closed (Thanksgiving)

## questioning authorities

### What's Up with the War?

By Harold Martinez

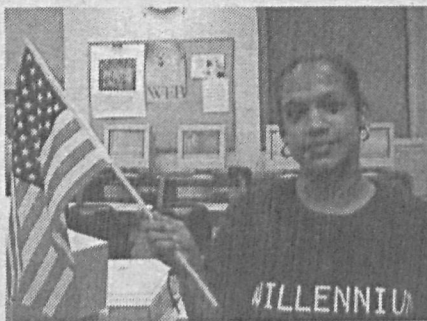
#### Questions:

1. Why do you think the US was attacked?
2. What do you think it should be the next step? why?

#### Carolina Silverio, Sophomore, Architecture, CCNY

1. Because US bombed them first in the past, and terrorists were just looking for the right chance to hit them hard.

2. US will fight back, they feel dishonored and want the world to see how powerful they are.



#### Clyde Kelly Jackson, Senior, Public Relations, CCNY



unethical way possible.

2. Our nation should now be more cautious and defensive when it comes to our liberties. The price for safety will be giving up some of the liberties, but it would be worth it in the long run.



#### Ethan Lubetkim, Senior, Film & Video, CCNY

1. Because those individuals have/had perverted views of religion and world politics.

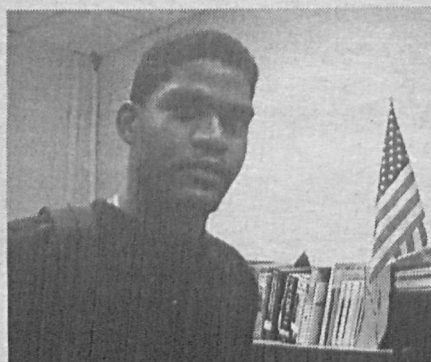
While the United States has not always conducted itself in the best fashion, none of its behaviors provided any justification for September 11th.

2. Hopefully we will strive to replace governments that support or harbor terrorists with democratic ones that are fundamentally opposed to terrorism. The US should not repeat its behavior in Iraq, when it set up a government friendly to US interests, but oppressive to its people.

#### Nelson Suero, Sophomore, Biology, Bronx Community College

1. US has been suppressing the middle east for quite sometime. They felt that it was about time that stopped and the WTC, and the pentagon were excellent spots to set up an example.

2. US will bomb them back, although it remains to be seen if they will catch Bin Laden.



### Globalization and Resistance

November 16-17, 2001  
The Graduate Center  
City University of New York  
365 5th Ave (b/w 34th & 35th)

This conference hopes to educate activists to the broad range of issues raised by globalization and to generate a dialogue among the various strands of the emerging global justice movement. In light of recent events surrounding the World Trade Center, the emphasis of the conference will also include broad ranging discussion and action plans on the effects and implications of this tragedy.

Confirmed Speakers: Stanley Aronowitz, Barbara Bowen, Peter Bratsis, Jeremy Brecher, Alex Callinicos, Mike Davis, Bill DiFazio, Silvia Federici, Barbara Garson, Srsan George, Michael Hardt, David Harvey, Howie Hawkins, Doug Henwood, Forrest Hylton, L.A. Kaufman, Joel Kovel, Manning Marable, Kim Moody, Robert Naiman, Michelle Robidoux, Andrew Ross, Bill Tabb, and Rob Weissman

Plus: ACT UP, Critical Resistance, Direct Action Network, Green Party, Indymedia, Justice Action Coalition, Professional Staff Congress AFT, Rainforest Action Network, UNITE!, United Students Against Sweatshops

Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Culture, Technology and Work; Continuing Education at the CUNY Grad Center; and Left Turn.

For more information: Contact Heather Gautney, CUNY Grad Center, at 212-817-2000 or email hgautney@gc.cuny.edu