

The Paper

So we stand here
On the edge of hell
In Harlem
And look out on the world
And wonder
What we're gonna do
In the face of
What we remember

Langston Hughes

Volume 58 No. 4

A Medium For People of African Descent

April 25, 2002

CITY COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Mideast Conflict Hits CCNY

By Ernesto Johnson

On April 12, 2002, members of *The Paper* discovered a defaced wall in NAC room 1/209, with inscription of SWASTIKA next the word Israel. This incident prompted Harry Mars, Assistant Director of Co-Curricular Life to file a report and notify campus security, who then notified the police. CCNY's President, Gregory H. Williams drafted a memo to the college community expressing his dismay, and implored that this incident does not re-occur. He warned that "the use of hate slogans or symbols against any individual or group is repugnant to me, and I will do everything within my power to stop it."

Another message located by the eastern elevator between the third and fourth floor read "Kill All Terrorists." Messages of this type are dangerous because they create division.

Promoting messages in this manner violates another's property, its offensive, and divisive, it alarms people, and lastly it's counterproductive. In the worst-case scenario, vandalism may advance a retaliated act, which can escalate matters, and that's the last thing needed now.

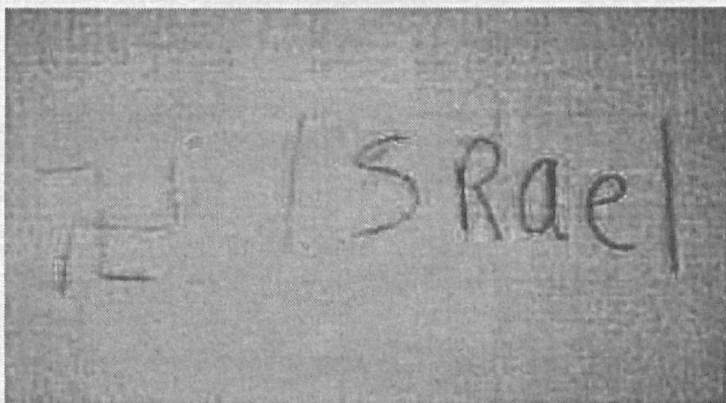
Just like the hot ninety-degree temperature last Thursday, things got hot on

CCNY's campus. On April 18, 2002, pro-Palestinian/Israeli students assembled in the blazing heat at Lewisohn Plaza located in front of the NAC to protest violent actions taking place in what each group considers to be their homeland. The two events began in separate locations, and unexpectedly merged outdoors at Lewisohn Plaza. The pro-Palestinian organizers of the rally included, Amnesty International, CCNY Coalition Against the War, International Socialist Organization, The Messenger, and Women In Islam. The opposing group consisted of supporters of Israel.

The two groups were positioned opposite one another against the walls in Lewishon Plaza with their tables full of leaflets, hand-made posters, banners and other handouts. Signs of protest and support adorned the walls of both pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli groups. Students congregated between the opponents to collect facts and fiction about the events affecting the Middle East, or they rendered their support to whichever side they favored. Proponents for and detractors from both sides argued vehemently in an attempt to convince listeners that each are victims of the conflict in the Middle East. Emphatic chants of "We Want

Justice" resonated from Palestinian supporters as Israeli supporters responded with rivaling chants of "We Want Peace." These and many other chants came from the two groups.

The following are anonymous accounts taken from students who were Pro-



Vandalism in Rm. 1/209, 4/12/02

Israel

"Peace will come when Palestinians mothers care about their own kids, rather than having them blowing up others."

"The Palestinians people will have to stand up against their leaders who use terrorism to gain support."

"Banish both Sharon and Arafat to a deserted island."

"Both sides are partially responsible for what happened."

"There are no moderates on either side."

"The Palestinian and Arab world needs to realize that their leaders are corrupt."

The following are anonymous accounts taken from students

who were Pro-Palestinian

"The news is manipulating the minds of the public with their one sided reporting which favors Israel."

"Israel should not be recognized as a state because of the way they were conceived. They took Palestinian land."

"The only way to end the violence is to free Palestine."

"Palestinians are always depicted as terrorist while Israeli's are said to be only r e t a l i a t o r s ."

"Arafat is not the voice to all Palestinian people. He's also

not as powerful as the media makes him out to be."

"Sharon doesn't really want peace in the Middle East."

"Israelis have denied medical care and cut off water and electricity to Palestinians...how wrong is that?"

"This is like the Holocaust part two."

With the Middle East conflict, the officials elected to represent the interest of the people have done a lackluster job in resolving this matter. Many lives were lost, and things appear to be worsening. I hope our generation can be more accepting of our differences and learn to live with them without disputing in the same manner as our elders are doing now. One way we can start to understand one another is by listening. It is important for all parties to have their voices heard, but there are more resourceful ways of having this done. In the near future, *The Paper* will moderate a RESPECTFUL speak out to promote better relations between Palestinian and Israeli students. We will allow everyone's perspective to be heard. Look out for bulletins with more information.

CCNY, united we stand y'all!

A Call to Action:

Suggestions for the Incoming Student Government

A message from The Paper

1. Advocate for Black Studies department.

City College, located in the heart of Harlem, has a large Black student population and NO FULL-FLEDGED BLACK STUDIES DEPARTMENT. Since African history is an undeniable, and often-forgotten part of world history, a Black Studies Department would give students a complete understanding of themselves and the world.

2. Insist on regular bi-monthly meetings with administration.

To most students at City College, the administration is NOT ACCESSIBLE; almost invisible. We want Student Government to make sure that students have opportunities for open dialogue with all levels of administration.

3. Defend students against budget cuts and tuition increases.

Most City College

students juggle the responsibilities of being a student, a parent, and a full-time/part-time worker. Student Government must not also leave them the burden of fighting fiscal penny-pinchers.

4. Advocate for an increase in full-time faculty.

Students feel many adjunct professors are difficult to find and lack loyalty to both them and City College. More full-time faculty will give students the

quality education they deserve.

5. Force administration to address student needs.

Student space is supposed to be for students. Student Government must ensure that the administration caters to the needs of currently enrolled students as opposed to the needs of some future-specialized City College.

6. Address student apathy.

Most students think

of City College as just a commuter school, but this campus offers a far more holistic educational experience than what simply goes on in the classroom. To address student apathy, the Student Government must create, and implement a plan that allows students to completely benefit from their college experience.

"Lost" Malcolm X Papers Found



Photo courtesy hogrockcafe.com

By Kelechi Onwuchekwa

Several key materials of the late Malcolm X, including drafts of his famous "The Ballot or The Bullet" speech, recently appeared in an auction. Recent negotiations have yielded a deal in which these materials are to be returned to the Shabazz family.

These materials, which also include photos of the slain activist - speaker, drafts of speeches, and manuscripts, were found in a storage facility in Florida recently, as reported by Artelia Covington of the National News Publishers Association. They were supposed to be put up for sale by eBay's Butterfield auction house, but the family,

upon hearing of the situation, forced the ceasing of the action due to "irregularities in the sale." Later, through the efforts of the Shabazz family attorney, all of the materials were acquired from James Calhoun, the man who initially had the materials in storage.

Upon announcement of the settlement, it was revealed that the materials would be given to the Schomburg Library for Research in Black Culture for future viewing. The Schomburg Library, it should be noted, sits on the avenue that bears the name of Malcolm X. According to the article, this revelation by the family's attorney ended a dispute over who else would attempt to claim the materials. The dispute not only included the man who held the materials, but also several key scholars, including Professor Manning Marable of Columbia University.

Professor Marable, upon hearing of the intended use of these materials, approved of the actions. According to Ms. Covington's article, Professor Marable stated that: "I think that Malcolm's memorabilia must be in New York City and there

must be a special relationship between those papers and Harlem." In addition, Howard Dodson, director of the library, stated in the article that, "Malcolm did deliver some of his most famous work right here in Harlem and was quite knowledgeable about the center...It is one of the most successful locations for the papers and this is the best place geographically."

It is important to note that the agreement between the counsels for the Shabazz family and Mr. Calhoun are tentative, and that further negotiations need to be made regarding the hand-over. Moreover, initial contacts with the Schomburg Library have yielded that there are no plans for an exhibit in the near future as well as anything ancillary to such an exhibit, even if the materials are handed over in the near future. In addition, neither Mr. Dodson nor Ms. Diana Lachatanere, head of the archives division that oversees the maintenance and availability of such historic materials, were available for contact with *The Paper* at press time.

Letter to the Editor

By Rodolfo Leyton and Candice Rivas

We were at the demonstration "Justice for Palestine" on Thursday April 18, in front of City College. A group of pro-Israel/Zionist students staged a counter-demonstration to support Israel's action and the occupation of Palestine. The US media and foreign policy defend Israel's side of the story. Pro-Palestine demonstrators are not against Jews, we are against Zionism, which is an idea that defends Israel's right to forcefully exclude Palestinians from their homeland. We are also against US's unconditional support for

Israel because it wants a powerful ally in the oil rich and volatile Middle East. Palestinians live in apartheid like conditions in their own country where Israel controls the water, electricity and food supplies. Just last week Israel launched the most savage offensive in 20 years on the refugee camp Jenin. They bulldozed the entire camp and up to 500 people have been murdered.

The truth that Israel is committing genocide on the Palestinians is hidden. Israel is backed by the United States with 6 billion dollars a year for tanks, F-16's, helicopters and bombs, yet they cut money for

CUNY and social programs. Palestinians only have rocks and home made explosives to combat this overwhelming offensive.

That's why it is important to support oppressed people right to defend themselves. We also marched along with 50,000 in Washington D.C. on April 20th against US foreign policy, even though US media won't talk about it there is growing support for the Palestinian people and we all have an interest in fighting for justice in Palestine.

The Paper

CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
NAC RM. 1/118
138TH ST AND CONVENT AVE
NEW YORK, NY 10031
TEL# (212) 650-5029
FAX# (212) 650-5022

EMAIL:
THEPAPERCCNY@LYCOS.COM

ISSUE EDITORS:
SHERIA MCFADDEN
KELECHI ONWUCHEKWA

MEMBERS OF *The Paper*:
VALDON TAU BATTICE
CLARE BROWN
ISEAR BROWN
BEVERLY GARRIDO
ERNESTO JOHNSON
RHONKAE PETERS
CHINONYEREM OMEOKWE
MARGARET TURNER

PRESIDENT:
KELECHI ONWUCHEKWA

VICE PRESIDENT:
KAHLIL ALMUSTAFA

TREASURER:
SHERIA MCFADDEN

SECRETARY:
KRISHAN TROTMAN

ADVERTISING MANAGER:
MALIK LEWIS

OFFICE MANAGER:
CECILY CANADY

EVENTS COORDINATOR:
ALECIA EDWARDS-SIBLEY

BOARD OF EDITORS
ANDRE AUSTIN
SANDRINE DIKAMBI
JAHMAL HARTLEY
SULAIMAN A. LABUDA
REGGIE MABRY
JEROME MONDESIRE
RICARDO PARKER
DESA PHILADELPHIA
CHARLES POWELL
LOUIS REYES RIVERA
JAMES SMALL

FACULTY ADVISOR:
HARRY P. MARS

Articles appearing in *The Paper* do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the staff unless otherwise noted. *The Paper* welcomes reader responses, letters to the editors and faculty editorials. Due to space restrictions, *The Paper* reserves the right to edit and condense all letters to the editors and articles. Any reprint of materials without the express written consent of the author or *The Paper* is prohibited.

A Primer on the Israeli Occupation

By Kahlil Almustafa

PART I OF II

The conflict between the Palestine Arabs and Jews began during the late 19th century. Although these two groups have religious differences, (Palestinians include Muslims, Christians and Druze) land is the reason for this struggle.

Until 1948, this controversial area was known internationally as Palestine. Following the war of 1948-49, this land was divided into three parts: Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River) and the Gaza Strip. This land area is approximately 10,000 square miles or about the size of Maryland.

Jewish claims to this land are religiously based. They believe this land was the historical site of the Jewish kingdom of Israel promised to Abraham and his descendants. Their claim to forming a Jewish state on this land intensified because of extensive European anti-Jewish practices.

Palestine Arabs' claims to this land are based on continuous residence in the country for hundreds of years. They neither believe the Jewish land claim is valid nor that they should forfeit their land to compensate Jews for Europe's crimes against them.

During worldwide nationalist movements of the 19th century, Jews and Palestinians began to identify themselves as their own nations. The Jewish national movement, Zionism, identified a place where Jews could come together from throughout the world through the process of immigration and settlement. Zionism's main belief was that all Jews constitute one nation and that the only way to stop discrimination and acts of violence against them was to be concentrated in their own state.

The Zionist movement began in 1882 with the first wave of European Jewish immigration to Palestine. The area was mostly Arab with

only a small percentage being Jewish.

Until the beginning of the 20th century, most Jewish people had a religious and not a nationalist attachment to the land. They observed traditional orthodox practices. Immigrants from Europe brought the Zionist movement to Palestine. Most of the Jewish immigrants lived secular lifestyles, committed to creating a Jewish state.

The increasing numbers of Jewish immigrants, land purchases, and settlement in Palestine generated increased resistance by Palestinian Arabs. They believed this stifled their national aspirations to be self-governing.

In 1920-21, clashes broke out between Arabs and Jews resulting in deaths on both sides and the displacement of Arab peasant tenants. In 1928, Muslims and Jews in Jerusalem clashed over their respective religious rights at the Wailing Wall, considered a holy site by both. This conflict resulted in a week of violence where 133 Jews and 115 Arabs were killed and many were wounded.

After Adolf Hitler's rise to power in Germany in 1933, Jewish land purchases and settlements in Palestine increased. At this point, most Jewish people did not support Zionism. Most orthodox Jews,

in fact, were anti-Zionists. They believed that only God should reunite them with their promised land. The Nazi genocide of European Jews during World War II, however,

1947, the UN General Assembly voted to partition Palestine into two states, 56 percent for the Jewish state and 43 percent for the Palestinian state. The land given for the Jewish state would be slightly larger in anticipation of large numbers of Jewish immigration. The area of Jerusalem and Bethlehem were to become international zones.

The Zionist leadership accepted the proposed plan, but secretly hoped to expand their territory. The Arab leaders considered this proposed plan an international betrayal. They believed that the proposed Jewish state was a settler colony only made possible by years of forced Zionist settlement.

Although Arab leaders opposed the plan, it was adopted. Fighting between Jews and Palestinian Arabs followed. The Arab military was defeated by the Jewish military, armed by its international supporters. By the spring of 1948, Zionist forces had control over most of the partitioned territory. By June of 1948, its military conquered territories beyond the UN partition.

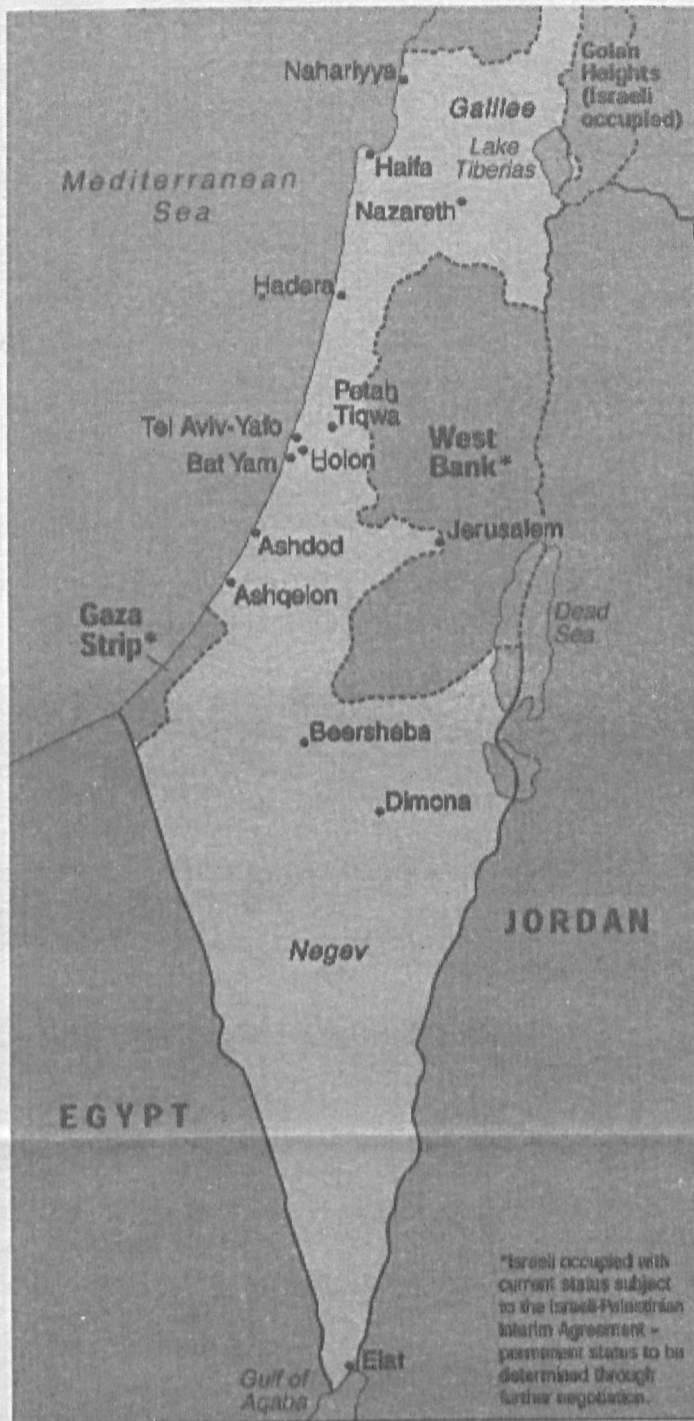
In 1949, the country once known internationally as Palestine was divided into three parts: The State of Israel, encompassing 77 percent, the West Bank occupied by Jordan, and the Gaza Strip occupied by Egypt. No Palestine Arab state was established. Between 1947 and 1949, over 700,000 Palestine Arabs became

refugees, many because of Zionist or Israeli military actions.

In June 1967, Israel found itself involved in a diplomatic crisis resulting in war. The 1967 war, which lasted only six days showed Israel's military strength. They defeated the Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian armies, capturing the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights. Israel established a military administration to govern Palestinian residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestinians were still denied many basic political rights and freedoms. Even displaying the Palestinian national colors was forbidden.

Since 1967, Israeli policies in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have included curfews, house demolitions, and closure of roads, schools and community institutions. Hundreds of Palestinian political activists have been exiled to Jordan or Lebanon. Tens of thousands of acres of Palestinian land have been confiscated. Over 300,000 Palestinians have been imprisoned without trial and over 500,000 have been tried in Israeli military court systems. Prisoners have faced torture, deaths, and abuse while detained. Hundreds of thousands of Jewish citizens have violated International law by settling in the West Bank.

Today, there are about 3 million Palestinians living in this area, over 700,000 as Israeli citizens. Although they are considered citizens, they do not have the same rights as Jewish citizens. Most have been subject to a military government. All Arab people have suffered from discrimination with fewer resources for education, health care, public works, municipal governments and economic development to the Arab sector. Another 3 million live outside of the land they consider to be their homeland. Palestinians in other Arab states generally do not enjoy the same rights as the citizens of those states.



reduced Jewish opposition to the Zionist movement. It also gave rise to international support for the founding of a Jewish state.

Following World War II, a United Nations-appointed committee of representatives from various countries went to Palestine to investigate the growing conflict between the Arabs and the Jews. The plan was to divide the country to satisfy the demands of both groups. In 1946, 1,269,000 Arabs and 608,000 Jews resided within the borders of Palestine.

On November 29,

Review: TopDog Underdog

By Kahlil Almustafa

Everyone is talking about *Top Dog/Underdog*, the new drama/comedy written, directed and starring African-Americans. The play hit Broadway's Ambassador Theater April 7th, after a limited run at the Public Theater

off Broadway. Suzan-Lori Parks recently received a Pulitzer Prize for writing the play and more awards are sure to follow.

George C. Wolfe directed this Broadway hit, starring Jeffrey Wright and Mos Def. Wright continues to show his versatility with his

role as Lincoln, a former Three Card Monte hustler. Mos Def replaces Don Cheadle in the role of Booth, Lincoln's younger brother. He makes a flawless transition from rockin' mics to Broadway. The brothers attempt to survive together on what little they have always

trying to outdo one another.

Wright is most known for his wide-ranging roles, such as the drug lord in *Shaft 2000* and Martin Luther King Jr. in *Boycott*. Mos Def, known as one of a few positive hip-hop artists, has had previous Hollywood acting roles in *Bamboozled*, directed by Spike Lee and *Showtime*, starring Eddie Murphy and Robert De Niro.

The play will be showing at Ambassador Theater, 219 W. 49th Street, (212) 239-6200, until July 28th 2002. Tickets range from \$75 for the orchestra and \$15 for the rear mezzanine, but well worth the admission price.

Nonsense at Election Debates

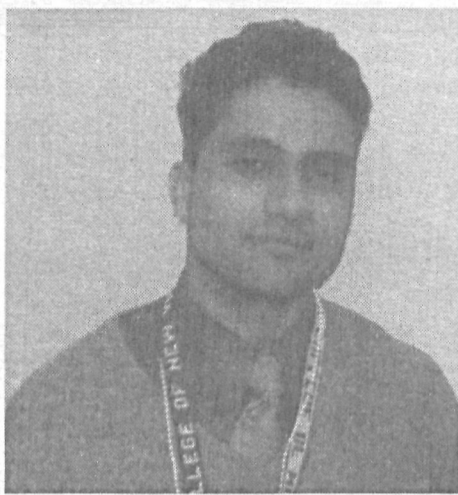
By Sheria McFadden & Cecily Canady

On Thursday, April 18th, in the student lounge, the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) hosted an undergraduate Student Government debate pitting candidates representing *All CCNY* against the *CCNY Renaissance* ticket. The student candidates running for USG president were Jonathan Rinaldi of *All CCNY*, and Edward Corcino of *CCNY Renaissance*. They discussed their goals to represent the concerns of City College students as USG candidates.

The students came eagerly, determined to get comprehensive answers about departmental, and administrative issues. Students asked direct questions and demanded immediate answers, but both candidates had wavering responses. Due to vagueness from candidates, many questions had to be asked two or three times. For student observers curious about this year's candidates, it was like pulling teeth getting clear, concise responses regarding plans of action and responsibilities if allowed in office.

Students were not impressed with the show Jonathan Rinaldi put on while answering questions. One student referred to the debate as "a comedy show" and felt that she was getting entertained rather than informed. It was a real concern to the students that these potential presidents were not taking the position sincerely.

All CCNY's pamphlets list Budget Cuts, Financial Aid, Education, Technology, Career Development, Tutoring, and Stress relief as their platforms. It became clear that their pamphlet was merely like a supermarket list when they failed to acknowledge and inform the



CCNY Renaissance Presidential Candidate Edward Corcino

Photo by Kelechi Onwuchekwa

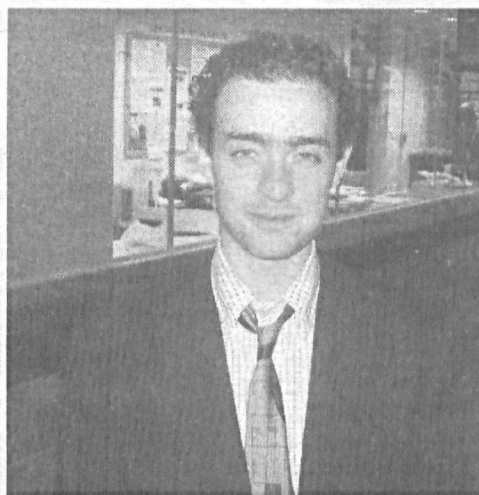
students of their concerns and interest in these matters.

Jonathan Rinaldi boosted about the diversity of his slate, but was not clear on what issues they would address if he became USG President. All CCNY didn't focus on any issues besides the size and cultural diversity of their slate. They used this as their argument for being the better team.

Since current student government president, and African-American, Kenneth Williams was elected into office there has been a sustained effort to racialize all discussion regarding his actions. The ALL CCNY platform of racial diversity is a clear response to that atmosphere. Cultural diversity has been proven not to be a key tool in student government. In the past, many student governments large in size, and numerous in cultures have fallen into difficulties because of it.

CCNY Renaissance addressed the issues of Faculty, media, and international students. They suggest that, if elected, they would work at the following:

They would petition the financial cuts that the students oppose.



All CCNY Presidential Candidate Johnathan Rinaldi

Photo by Kelechi Onwuchekwa

Team with Faculty and address CUNY for more tenured professors Build Newspaper stands for the media's voice to be upheld Adhere to international student concerns

Corcino seemed very annoyed with his opponent Rinaldi's comical approach to the debate and protracted argument of a multi-cultural body of 25 members. Edward used Jonathan's clown act to make his slate stronger in the debate.

Although he failed to answer directly, Edward seemed to understand the issues towards which he committed his slate. Jonathan Rinaldi's answers had a lot of ideas but very little research.

The students were very serious and concerned about the issues, but Jonathan Rinaldi and Dion Powell of All CCNY presented themselves like fraternity boys at a party school. Former USG President Rafael Dominques told them, "that the entertainment was cute but they should stick to the issues."

Like George Bush during his presidential campaign, Dion Powell, candidate for Executive Vice

President, was overheard on camera after the debate shouting obscenities. Powell has also been seen around campus proclaiming, "I will buy a vote if I have to."

CCNY Renaissance's presidential candidate Edward Corcino said that, "A slate does not have to have all ethnic groups on it to be diversified." He feels that addressing the issues of all ethnic groups is what is more important. Unlike the All CCNY representatives, CCNY Renaissance appearance was more subtle and sophisticated. However, when it came down to answering the questions, he too danced around the issues and gave no clear understanding to their platform. At times, Edward Corcino sounded very redundant.

When the questions came up regarding the increase in student activities fee full-time: \$49.35 to \$72.85 & Part-time: \$33.35 to \$ 56.85 and a technology fee of \$75.00 both candidates for USG president said, they support the new fees. Their reason being that the money would allow student clubs and organizations the opportunity to receive more funding for events and the technology fee would provide more money to upgrade City's computer technology.

USG is the body but the students play a large part in decision-making. Before the debate there were about 15-20 students in the student lounge engrossed in "Jerry Springer," when Lee from Finely Student Center turned off the television they rose in unison and headed for the door. The debate was ignored. I yelled out "Do you care about who's representing you?" and one student yelled, "Mind your business." With lack of student involvement and clueless candidates, our student body will echo the irresponsibility.

NYPIRGate

By Malik Lewis

Watching from the audience, the Spring 2002 Student Senate Election Debates, one realizes that politics is much more a knack than it is a calling; a knack of which none of this year's student government candidates possess.

The debate became intense when student government senator, and campus event organizer Ikponmwosa "IK" Edorisiagbon stood-up, and spoke-up regarding the alleged ties between the ALL CCNY student government slate, and the City College-based branch of NYPIRG presided over by Enrique Cepeda, who incidentally moderated the debate. Before Jonathan could respond to the question, Enquire Cepeda, Coordinator for NYPRIG and "moderator" defended his organization and Rinaldi's slate by saying, "NYPRIG is a student supported organization and students are allowed to join any organization or club supported by student funds."

Rinaldi, a member of NYPIRG, responded to the allegations

with index finger pointed in a manner reminiscent of President Clinton during his presidential sexual scandal, denied any official link between the two groups. Rinaldi advocated for NYPIRG by saying "Students should get to know Enrique and his organization because they are the only ones fighting for students" own account.

Strictly as a matter of public interest, there was a rumor floated on campus earlier this term that NYPIRG was trying to form a slate capable of pushing its way into student government. In support of this allegation, Folasayo Fadahunsi and another CCNY student with close ties to NYPIRG had tried to run for student government positions before being reprimanded by a member of the administration for violating certain "conflict of interest" clauses in the student government charter. That attempt was stifled, and the NYPIRG slate was not allowed to form.

Not soon after, Rinaldi emerged with serious ambitions to take control of the student government. With significant factionaliza

tion in the current student senate, given its cultural diversity, and inability to reach unanimity on several issues, the ALL CCNY slate began its fledgling mobilization drive only weeks ago. The rumor is that ALL CCNY, which was so named because it represents "true diversity" on campus, began as an Asian students coalition with Rinaldi as a Trojan horse for issues exclusively of interest to Asian students. This rumor has yet to be substantiated, but represents an undercurrent of distrust felt by observers of the political process on campus.

The tension between NYPIRG and the current USG body reached the boiling point last month when a petition was circulated in favor of cutting-off student activity fee funding of NYPIRG on campus by City College. The petition moved quickly through the halls of the NAC building collecting 500 signatures in two short days, but failed to be ratified as a referendum item for lack of roughly 150 student signatures. In response to the move to cut NYPIRG's purse strings, Mr. Cepeda, and a few NYPIRG interns attempted to disrupt the lobbying process of the petition writers, and engaged in actions that required the

notification of faculty administrators. NYPIRG currently receives \$4 dollars per student in activity fees; more than USG, "The Paper", and campus athletics. That \$4 per student is then sent to a central office, and dispersed based on need, and past performance to the many branches of NYPIRG across the city. We may or may not be getting what we pay for. If cuts are to be made at CCNY following the certification of a new budget in Albany, NYPIRG seems the most logical place to start fleecing. Their uneasiness regarding their status here on campus is justified.

Unfortunately, NYPIRG has sought to violate that most sacred of policies, impartiality, in its support of the ALL CCNY slate to ensure its own campus longevity. Certainly no one is arguing that NYPIRG does not provide a useful service to the CCNY community, but at a cost of \$4 per student, is it a service we can afford? While most of the allegations made by IK, and countless others seldom rise beyond the level of mere rumor, they do give one pause. What do our student government candidates really stand for, and who is pulling their strings?