# Third Rail

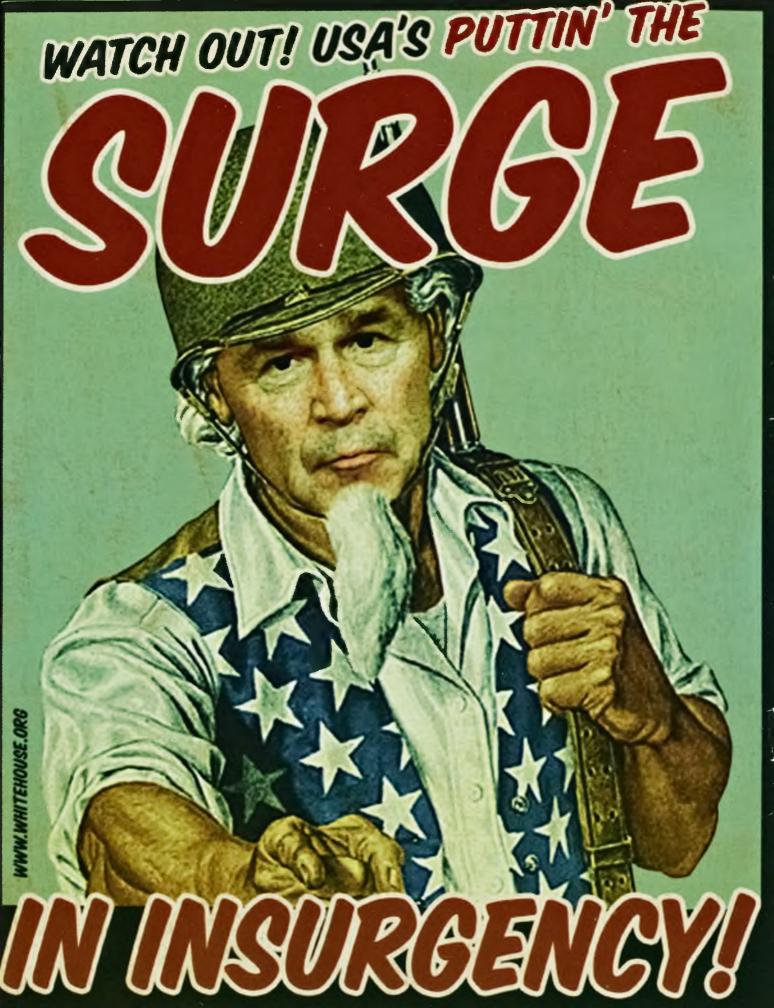
The Award-Winning Political Arts Magazine of the College of Staten Island/CUNY

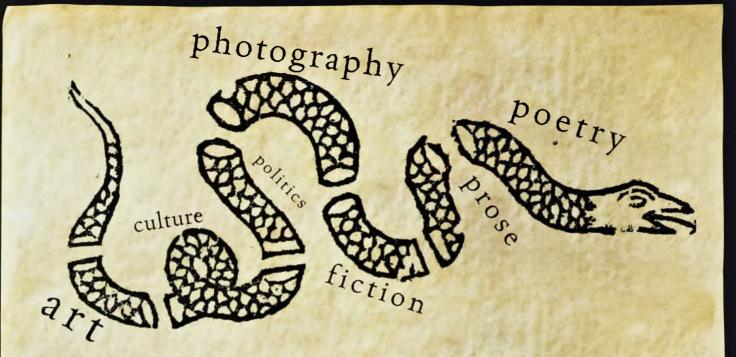
Summer 2008 www.ThirdRailMag.com

# The College of Staten Island Overworked & Underpaid Faculty



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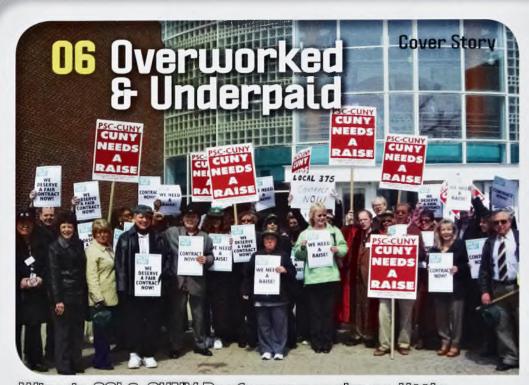
#### **★Third Rail**

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Why do CSI & CUNY Projessors make so little compared to their colleagues at other Universities?



#### Gasless Future

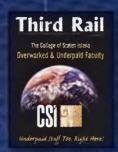
Nikki Saint Bautista explores the global race to fuel the cars of the future



Film Review

Son of Rambow

### CSI's *only* award-winning student publication



#### AThird Rail

#### THE COLLECTIVE

(in revolving order)

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Your trees have grown bald to every whisper of winter wind.

Your empty branches wave more life than your campus.

Your trash plays hide and seek with worms when it drizzles.

Your students are acquainted. That's nice.

Your lawn is great but filled only with grass like a soldier's crew cut washed with desert dust.

You exhibit boards flashing with strokes. Framed photographs are free peep shows of moments.

They hang in a room filled only with watching walls. Your movie plays in front of an auditorium. Chairs clap until the movie reel snaps to the finish line.

Your cafeteria got me hooked on grease, like it's all that I want.

But your cash register denies my debit card, as if I don't have three bucks to spend,

Your students pay 60 dollars for a parking pass. I guarantee they might find a spot.

Your mini-cars squeak "Excuse me." don't mind being nudged.

But will you feed me to the cheese bus if they broke my legs?

In winter, Waiting for your loop bus freezes me to my

It leaves me flaming with anger. That keeps me warm.

My Saturday is filled with waiting for my ride I pave up the hills faster in a half hour walk.

Your basket ball court is deafened by the dribble of the Coach's plays.

Am I constantly winking, or is your side of the bleacher always empty?

You don't have enough money to buy shoes for your runners.

At least have enough condoms in your health center. It's for protection, in case the Third Rail magazine comes

But you have 50,000 dollars for a non-existing publication. Where is the College Voice?

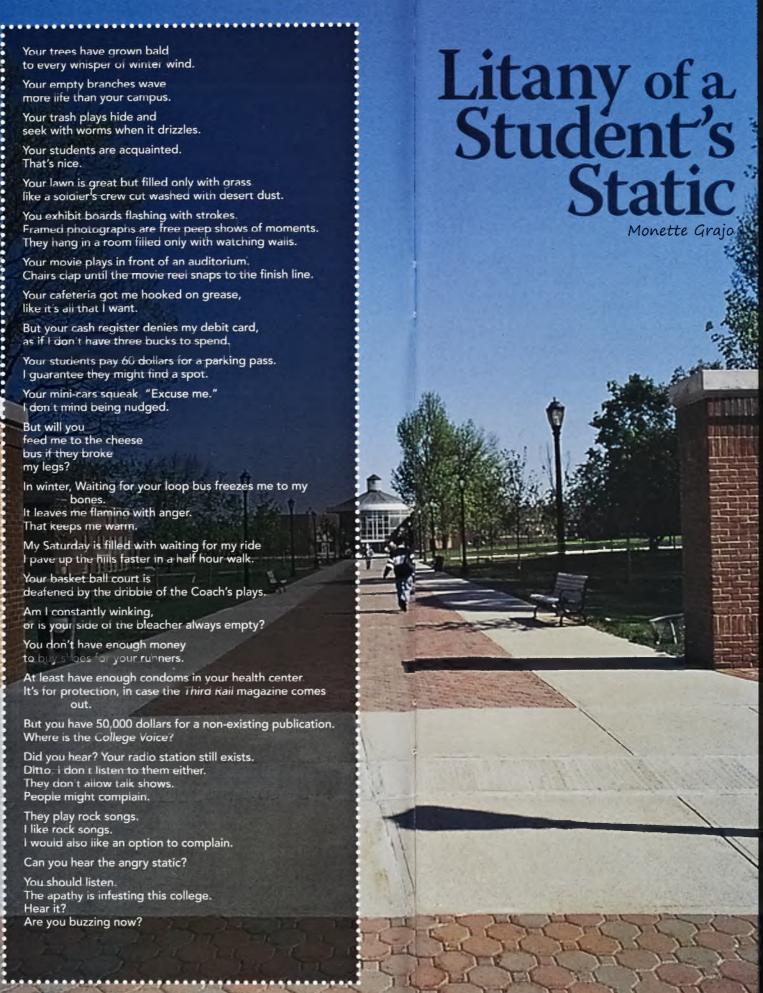
Did you hear? Your radio station still exists. Ditto, I don't listen to them either.

They don't allow talk shows. People might complain.

They play rock songs. I like rock songs. I would also like an option to complain.

Can you hear the angry static?

You should listen. The apathy is infesting this college. Hear it? Are you buzzing now?













# "WE WANT A CONTRACT!" chants protesters outside of CSI's Campus Center one sunny afternoon in late spring.

"When do we want it?" shouts Barbara Bowen, president of the professional staff of Congress (PSC), the union that represents CUNY faculty and staff.

"NOW!" replies the rally.

DESERVE

A FAIR

CONTRACT

NOW!

A variety of union workers from CSI's campus – professors, college assistance, administration workers – attended the demonstration in front of the campus center and rallied to expose the fact that they have been working without a contract since September. One of the primary concerns of the protesters is that professors and other workers do not get fair raises and adequate healthcare benefits. The PSC argues that CUNY does not want to negotiate a fair contract that would ameliorate these problems.

Bowen and her PSC colleagues claim that college professors at nearby public institutions make 20 percent more than CUNY professors: "Since 1971, the salary steps for CUNY faculty and staff have lost between 27 percent and 51 percent of their value when adjusting for inflation. CUNY salaries are now thousands of dollars behind salaries at other public universities in the region, such as the University of Connecticut and Rutgers, and totally uncompetitive nationally."

Bowen believes that "it is an abuse of [the workers'] loyalty to expect [them] to continue giving [their] all to CUNY without even discussion of a raise."

Another problem outlined by the union members is that 60%, of teachers in CUNY are adjuncts, which is well above the national average. This is because CUNY does not offer competitive enough salaries and therefore have difficulty recruiting faculty. When CUNY schools are looking

for a new professor, they typically pick six out of 400 applicants to be interviewed. According to the PSC, often all six people interviewed get taken away by other colleges because they offer better salaries and benefits.

What's at stake for the students? Advisement can only be done by full-time professors. Also, adjuncts have a difficult time developing strong working relationships with students due to the transitory and unstable nature of their contracts.

The system is also unfair to adjuncts: highly educated adjuncts get treated worse than many workers whose jobs only require a high school diploma. There is no job protection, and salaries are only about \$25k a year.

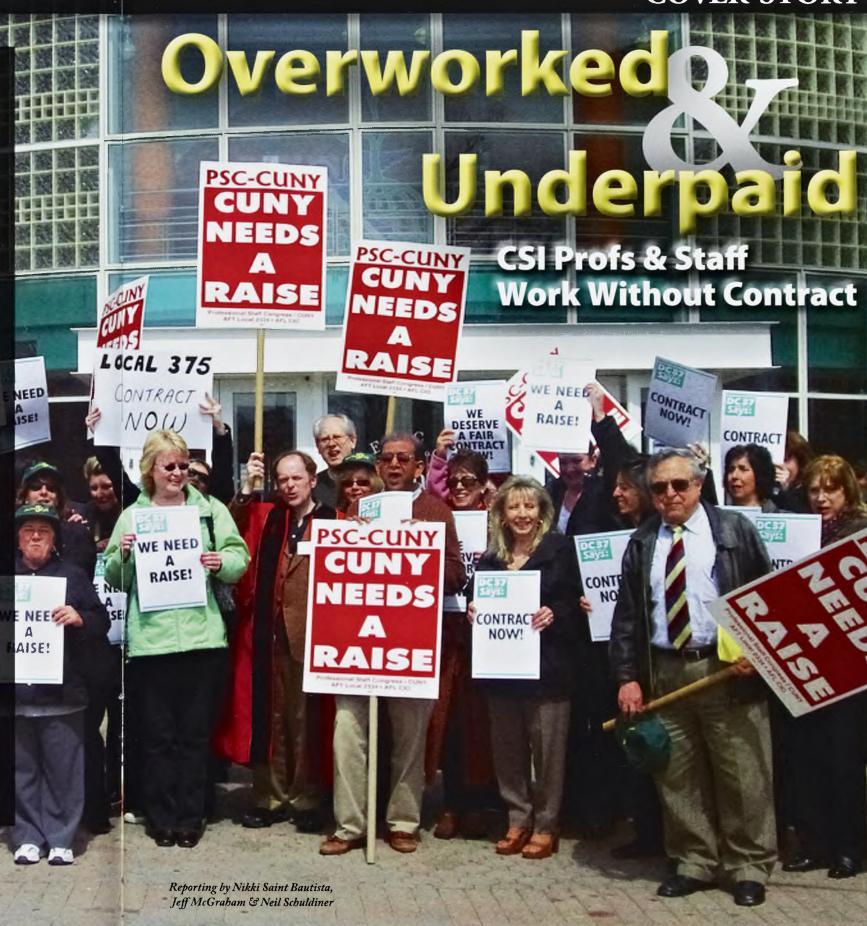
After the rally, an adjunct professor, who wished to remain anonymous, explained the reason for these low-salaries:

"We have to wait forever to get an offer. Then, we get half a percentage increase, which is well below inflation."

"There's health care, but only if we don't get sick. They can fire you from being sick and not going to class. In America, when it comes to work, you don't really have any rights."

"In Germany and France, education is free and you are covered if you are not employed. There's no such thing as economic rights here."

One rally chant really hits home for many students, "Our work conditions end up being our students' conditions. Our working conditions are your learning conditions.





#### An Open Letter On The Contract To Matthew Goldstein, CUNY Chancellor From Barbara Bowen, PSC President

Dear Chancellor Goldstein:

The PSC-CUNY contract expired on September 19, 2007. It is now nearly six months later, and your representatives have still made no financial offer to the faculty and professional staff. We understand that CUNY must gain authorization from both New York City and New York State for any financial settlement with the PSC, but it is an abuse of our loyalty to expect us to continue giving our all to CUNY without even discussion of a raise. The City and State have now settled or are close to settling contracts with other public employee unions. CUNY needs to come to the table with an offer.

I am writing this open letter to give voice to the needs of CUNY faculty and staff and to advance the process of settling a contract that addresses those needs. The best way to transform the students' learning conditions is to transform our working conditions.

CUNY's salaries have reached the point of crisis. The "pattern bargaining" system adhered to by the City and State-and never contested by CUNY management—has been ruinous for CUNY salaries. Years of below-inflation contracts, especially in the 1980s and early 1990s, have chipped away at the value of our salaries, until some are 40% lower in real-dollar value than in the mid-1970s. CUNY salaries are now thousands of dollars behind salaries at other public universities in the region, such as the University of Connecticut and Rutgers, and totally uncompetitive nationally. Now, at precisely the moment CUNY must replenish the ranks of full-time faculty and hire a new generation to replace those nearing retirement, our salaries have become, as one department chair put it, "a joke." In conversations with faculty and staff across the University, I hear again and again that CUNY cannot compete with peer institutions. In one department, four tenure-track lines went unfilled because no one could be found to take them. In another, the chair struggles to get people to serve on a search committee because no one believes the searches will result in a hire. In yet another, half of the current full-time faculty are actively and openly seeking other jobs.

The PSC finds this situation unacceptable. CUNY's expensive advertising campaign urging New Yorkers to "study with the best" may have succeeded in cramming more students into our classrooms, but it cannot disguise the lack of competitive salaries and working conditions. The faculty and staff want more than the appearance of a great university; we want the

real thing. And that takes decent salaries—across the board. Your salary proposal in this round of bargaining is to take away our negotiated salary steps—which represent the only financial incentive many programs can offer—and instead force us to compete over scraps of "merit pay." Your proposal would do nothing to alleviate the crisis; for all but the chosen few, it would make the crisis worse. The faculty and staff are not interested in illusory answers to the salary problem. Many of us, especially the newly hired, the part-time, those with families and those at the lower end of the salary scale, are having trouble simply making ends meet. All of us, whether we are at the top or the bottom of the salary scale, are frustrated because our salaries are below those for comparable positions elsewhere. The only way to advance toward nationally competitive salaries at CUNY is to provide across-the board salary increases above the level of inflation.

Having waited this long for a financial offer, the faculty and staff expect the offer you bring to the table to be large enough to begin the restoration of our salaries and address other urgent needs. As the general economic outlook worsens, it becomes increasingly important that CUNY allow the economic portion of contract discussions to begin. While we appreciate CUNY's legal requirement to gain approval from the City and the State, the University's financial offer is ultimately a statement of the University's priorities. Is restoration of our salaries a priority or not?

As chancellor, you have shown that you can be an outspoken advocate before the City and State for your priorities for CUNY, lobbying successfully for such items as a new science center or tuition increases or a larger capital budget. You have also made extensive use of media coverage and spent millions of dollars on advertising to advance your agenda for the University. If nationally competitive salaries are really a priority, we expect the same level of public advocacy for investment in the faculty and staff. The infrastructure of a university is not buildings; it is the people who do the teaching, the research and the support of students. There can be no renaissance at CUNY without the ability to recruit and retain the best of the next generation of scholars, teachers and professional staff.

The PSC negotiating team is prepared to work with you, and with the City and the State, to address the CUNY salary crisis. You and I have worked together in previous contracts to solve problems many thought intractable—such as raising sabbatical pay to 80%, providing research time for junior faculty, improving Welfare Fund benefits, and ensuring fair

# CS AND W NEWS

pay for adjuncts to hold office hours with students. The union's primary goal in this round of bargaining—to make a substantial start on restoring salaries that have lost 40% of their value—is ambitious. The faculty and staff realize that we may not fully restore CUNY salaries in a single contract. But the restoration must begin. The union bargaining team believes that there are creative ways to achieve higher salaries while enhancing our ability to conduct research and work closely with students.

This is the year to tackle CUNY salaries. The preliminary report of the New York State Commission on Higher Education, issued in December 2007, called for major re-investment in CUNY and SUNY—"not just for one or two years, but for the foreseeable future." The Commission's report marks the first time in a generation that New York has officially recognized the extent of its disinvestment in CUNY and the importance of higher education to the future of the state. But any future investment is put at risk if CUNY continues to offer substandard salaries. You cannot build a first-rate university by paying third-rate salaries.

The faculty and staff represented by the PSC choose to work at CUNY because we are committed to offering a first-rate college education to the public in New York—"the children of the whole people," as CUNY's founding documents expressed it. Creating the university our students deserve means taking steps to end the salary crisis now, before it is too late to recruit the

next generation of CUNY faculty and staff. It means reducing the teaching load so faculty have time to sustain their research careers and give students individual attention.

It means providing health insurance to CUNY's lowest-paid instructors—adjuncts and graduate employees—so they do not have to worry about whether they can afford a doctor when they want to be working with students. It means not forcing the next generation of faculty and staff to choose between having a family and having a career. It means refusing to tolerate intolerable wages and working conditions for the thousands of adjuncts without whose work CUNY would not have survived. And it means lifting salaries at every level so that CUNY can define for this century, as it did for the last, what greatness in an urban public university means.

Your financial offer to the union will represent your choices about CUNY's future. Without a commitment to raising our salaries and addressing other serious economic needs, CUNY's claims about "studying with the best" will be hollow. The PSC believes that the students of CUNY are entitled to a first-rate public university; we call for a financial offer that makes such a university possible.

Sincerely,
Barbara Bowen
President



#### **COVER STORY**

#### In response to PSC-CUNY President Barbara Bowen's Public Letter, CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein Responded With the Following Letter

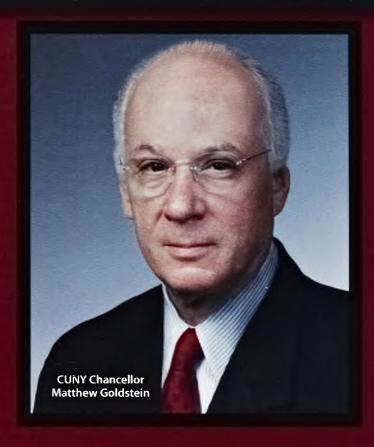
Dear Dr. Bowen:

I received your March 17, 2008, letter, which you sent to me while I was attending the swearing-in of Governor David Paterson. Many of us at CUNY have long respected, admired, and worked with our new governor, and we will count on his continued support as the University meets the economic and educational challenges ahead.

It is important to be factual and accurate in all of our work, including our crucial collective bargaining process. Especially in difficult economic times, this is fundamental to achieving a genuine partnership that maximizes state and city support for CUNY's dedicated faculty and staff. Your letter has a significant distance to go in helping to achieve that vital need, though I am hopeful that corrections in the record thus far will help all of us get the negotiations on track and focused on the best interests of the CUNY community.

As you know, the University recently established the position of vice chancellor for labor relations to ensure that the collective bargaining process is given high priority and that a University representative is always available to faculty and staff representatives. Vice Chancellor Pamela Silverblatt assumed her position in January and has made several overtures to you in the last couple of months. Since the commencement of negotiations, there have been 18 formal bargaining sessions as well as several smaller, more technical "sidebar" meetings. These represent our ongoing commitment to a fair and timely negotiating process.

On the subject of pattern bargaining, the current system creates parameters that provide for stable and orderly labor relations not only with CUNY employees but also among the hundreds of thousands of state and city employees. The implication that the University can ignore the constraints of pattern bargaining is simply untrue. When your sister union, SUNY's UUP, settles



its contract negotiations, that settlement has an impact on the state's position regarding our contract negotiations. When the public employee unions settle their contracts, those settlements impact the state's view of our contract. Because the University is also funded by New York City, a similar scenario holds true for city contract negotiations, as well. CUNY is bookended by these settlements. A more advantageous position could be secured were the PSC to work collaboratively with the UUP before the SUNY settlement is reached. We have done our part by forging the closest working relationship with the SUNY administration in the history of our respective universities. Only when CUNY and SUNY can work together and speak as a unified voice will we be able to break out of outdated approaches to funding and garner the necessary resources.

While you continue to assert the position that an economic offer is a prerequisite to advancing negotiations, I must reiterate that CUNY believes that with state and city settlements in place, it is not difficult to envision the likely economic parameters within which we will be working. We will, of course, continue to bring to the attention of state and city officials the vitally important role that CUNY's faculty and staff play in the quality of life in our city and state.

I share with CUNY faculty and staff a recognition of the need for a fair and equitable contract that recognizes the essential contributions that they make to the University every day. Nonetheless, collective bargaining occurs within very real

# CSI AND RY NEWS

economic constraints. The need for a fair contract is not exclusive of the University's other needs for modern facilities on its campuses, a rational tuition policy, a strong program of science research, and active communications and fund-raising campaigns. These and many other components are necessary to a vibrant university-and all of them support the work of our faculty and staff. It is a mistake for anyone to pit compensation for faculty and staff against CUNY's many needs; we advocate extensively and persuasively on behalf of the entire University for our highest priority: enhancing the education of our students.

Indeed, such advocacy is critical to the University's future. As a member of the New York State Commission on Higher Education, I was deeply involved in developing the recommendations in the commission's preliminary report, particularly the call for increased investment in both CUNY

and SUNY, focused on additional full-time faculty and support for research, which has been lacking for decades. The commission's strong support of CUNY indicates the value of the University's ongoing advocacy efforts.

We have asked the state and the city for economic parameters and have communicated to them our desire to move forward expeditiously with our bargaining. I stated months ago that the economic position of the state and city was likely to become more precarious. I urge the PSC to work out the non-economic issues so that as we work to get the state and city ready to authorize an economic offer, we are positioned to effectuate a quick resolution.

Sincerely,

Matthew Goldstein

After almost nine months without a contract, CUNY management finally delivered a financial offer to the members of the PSC-CUNY union in late May. Below, PSC President Barbara Bowen responds to CUNY's first economic offer.



#### Dear PSC Colleagues:

After contract protests on a dozen campuses and a PSC demonstration at the April Board of Trustees meeting, CUNY representatives came to the table with an economic offer on Monday, May 12. They were joined at the bargaining session by the New York City Labor Commissioner and other City representatives. CUNY's initial economic offer is for a 37-month contract with increases of 3.15%, 3% and 3%, plus an additional 2% to address other economic needs, and a \$50 per capita increase to Welfare Fund contributions.

In proposing the 2% for additional economic needs, CUNY's representatives acknowledged that the PSC has identified several additional needs for this round of bargaining. They also cited management demands for "performance pay" and for the introduction of a new full-time faculty position in certain fields—a "clinical professor." Management's representatives made no mention of their demands (still on the table) to eliminate salary steps, reduce job security for HEO employees, or remove department chairs from the bargaining unit.

#### **COVER STORY**

I want to stress that CUNY's offer—which is more than eight months overdue—represents the beginning of the economic discussion. Much more discussion will follow, and already in the week since the offer was made, an accelerated schedule of informal meetings has begun. Given the worsening economic climate, however, the PSC bargaining team is concerned about CUNY's long delay in coming to the table with money. But now that the economic discussion has begun, we are prepared to work around the clock to reach a settlement. Your pressure was essential in moving these negotiations forward and defining the major issues. It will continue to be important as we work to bring the talks to a close.

While CUNY's initial economic proposal is a serious offer, it falls dramatically short of the amount needed to lift salaries to an acceptable level and address other critical issues. CUNY cannot wait to address the growing salary crisis. The gap between our salaries and salaries at comparable institutions has been growing for thirty years; it has reached the point where it must be addressed now if CUNY is to remain at all competitive nationally. Increases near the level of inflation will not begin to close the 20% salary gap separating CUNY and other comparable public universities.

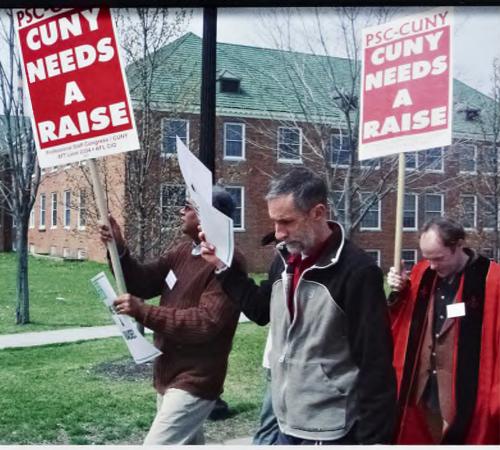
Speaking for the union negotiating team, I responded to management's offer by stressing the need to add value to the economic package. CUNY's failure to provide competitive salaries is tearing the University apart. Untenured faculty are leaving for better jobs, senior scholars are being recruited elsewhere, and top candidates for CUNY positions are turning CUNY down. The future of the University is at stake. The union is aware of current economic conditions, but a salary offer of this size signals a lack of commitment to that future. CUNY has made sure that Chancellor Goldstein's salary remains competitive, increasing it by 58% since 2003. Our salaries must also increase.

At the bargaining table, we engaged CUNY's representatives in a discussion of enhancing the value of the economic package and affirmed our willingness to work with management to rebuild CUNY salaries.

The union began this round of bargaining by identifying our collective priorities for this phase of contract negotiations and announcing them at our October 2007 mass meeting. We addressed those priorities—starting with salaries—at the May 12 session. CUNY management's offer suggested that



## CS AND W NEWS





they had heard our message about the importance of several issues beyond salary. Speaking for the union, I emphasized the urgency of raising the value of the top salary step in every title and every rank; of providing paid family leave; and of offering health insurance to the many instructional staff members at CUNY who are uninsured or underinsured. We discussed the need for stable health insurance for eligible adjuncts, and both sides acknowledged that progress is being made on health insurance for graduate employees through other avenues.

While the union challenged several economic features of the offer and raised a number of technical questions, we also called on management to respond to the demand for adjunct job security. It is not acceptable—either pedagogically or ethically—for CUNY to go on treating half the faculty as if they were disposable. An adjunct can teach at CUNY for fifteen years, contribute profoundly to students' CUNY experience, and then be told on a moment's notice that he or she is no longer needed. CUNY survived two decades of budget slashing by hiring a part-time labor force paid a fraction of full-time salaries. It is unfair and unbecoming of a university to turn its back on that labor force whenever the opportunity arises.

The union also objected to the concept of "performance pay." One-time awards of money, not added into base pay and given at the discretion of the college president, are no substitute for true salary increases. We need real salary increases, not fake ones. A similar provision, the "Performance Excellence Award," was

included in the 1996-2000 contract; it was roundly rejected by members and not continued in later contracts. The PSC urged management to concentrate on across-the-board increases and raises to the top steps of all ranks rather than illusory and divisive proposals for "performance pay."

In the week since the May 12 session, the two sides have met in several smaller, informal meetings with the goal of making real progress. The union remains open to hearing further details of management's proposals, but we are committed to the priorities our members have articulated.

It was clear even from this initial economic session that our priorities have been heard, but unless the economic offer is expanded, CUNY will put a whole generation of faculty, staff—and students—at risk. We may need to call on you in the coming days and weeks to support the work of the bargaining team. Do not underestimate the power we have when we speak and act together. Stay in touch with the union even if you are going away for all or part of the summer, by reading This Week in the PSC and checking the union website. Thank you for the support you have shown so far, and do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or comments.

In solidarity, Barbara Bowen President



## PAY RAISES FOR ELITE ADMINISTRATORS

While both CSI President Tomás Morales and CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein have not supported raising faculty salaries to national "market" standards, they both have no problem accepting or awarding other CUNY Administrators with huge salary raises and bonuses. No wonder these top level CSI & CUNY Administrators are all smiles!



#### CSI PRESIDENT TOMÁS MORALES

After only 2 months on the job, Morales accepted a \$10,000 raise, increasing his salary to \$230,000. In addition, Morales receives a housing allowance, a personal chauffeur and other amenities bringing his total compensation to well over \$300,000 per year.



#### CHANCELLOR MATT GOLDSTEIN

Since 2003, the CUNY Board of Trustees has increased the salary of CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein by a whopping 63%. In 2003, Goldstein was given a \$100,000 increase. Just three years later, the Board increased his base salary to \$395,000, prompting the Staten Island Advance to call the raise "insensitive to students" given that CSI tuition was raise to help offset the salary perk. Goldstein's total compensation is well over half a million dollars per year.



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AB 0124

**B2** 

**B2** 

#### **FRED SCHAFFER**



CUNY Senior VP for Legal Affairs

2008 Raise: \$21,000 increase to \$241,000, plus \$5,000 bonus; 11.4% increase

#### **ERNESTO MALAVE**



CUNY VC for Budget & Finance 2008 Raise: \$21,671 increase

11.4% increase

to \$212,000

#### ALLAN DOBRIN



CUNY Chief Operating Officer

**2008 Raise:** \$20,329 increase to \$263,664

8.4% increase



#### IRIS WEINSHALL



CUNY VC for Facilities Planning 2008 Raise: \$20,000 increase

10.5% increase

to \$210,000

#### JAY HERSHENSON



CUNY VC for Univ. Relations

2008 Raise: 511,000 increase to \$231,000, plus \$5,000 bonus; 7.2% increase

#### **GARRIE MOORE**

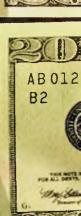


CUNY VC for Student Affairs 2008 Raise: 512,600 increase

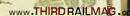
2008 Raise: \$12,600 increase to \$192,600, plus \$5,000 bonus; 9.7% increase











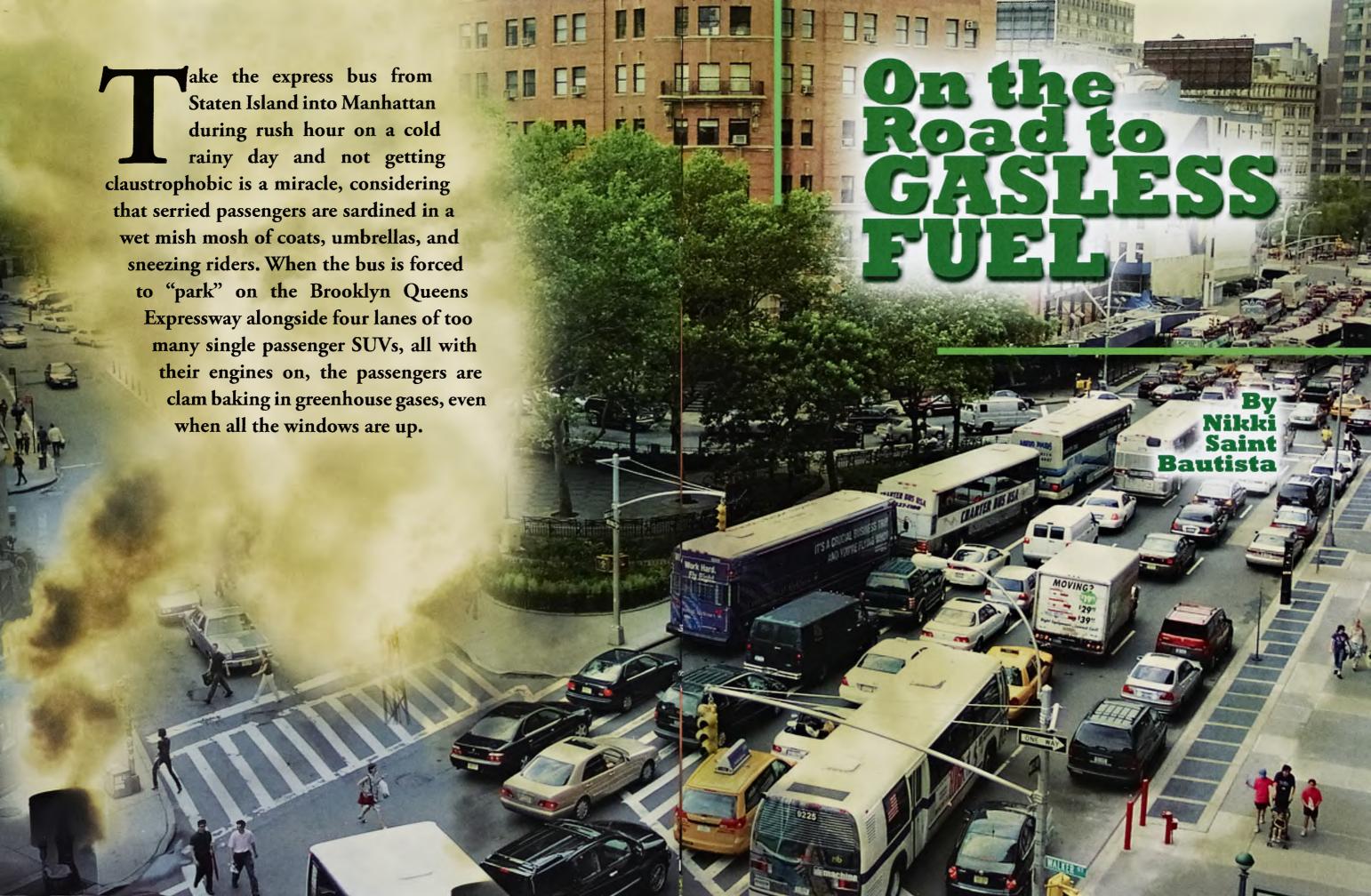
Literature.

Submit at magazine.serpentine@gmail.com

## Join Third Rail

OK. So maybe we lied when we said we can guarantee you'll get laid by joining *Third Rail*. But while we can't guarantee you that, we CAN guarantee that you'll have lots of fun writing, photographing, designing, poeticizing (that's our made up word for creating poetry), investigating, debating, drawing and, oh yeah—criticizing the CSI Administration (they don't get enough of that). And if you're really lucky, maybe you won't just write about the news—you'll be the news! So join *Third Rail*! Our meetings are in the Campus Center (1C) during Club Hours. To find out when our next meeting is visit our website at www.ThirdRailMag.com, or give us a call at 718-982-3105. And who knows, you just might get laid.





#### ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOURSE

#### On the Road to GASLESS FUEL

The Hidden Threat to Automobile Drivers." The report reveals that "the quality of air inside cars is often much worse... than air at the side of the road." A vehicle's exterior does not shield the passenger from carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and other hazardous pollutants, especially in "moderate to heavy traffic," because "Aerodynamic effects of the moving vehicles, combined with the tendency of auto exhaust pollutants dissipate quickly after emission, concentrate these chemicals... in the midst of the traffic flow

in the roadway." Therefore, the cars, buses, and SUVs on roads such as the BQE "drive through an invisible tunnel of concentrated pollutants."

Population density and the overabundance of SUVs are the easy targets for this problem. Instead, Iain Carson and Vijay V. Vaitheeswaran, authors of "Zoom: The Global Race to Fuel the Car of the Future)" (Twelve; \$27.99), declare: "Oil is the problem; cars are the solution." Both Carson and Vaitheeswaran are

correspondents for *The Economist* and their book chronicles the history, politics, and economics behind the most important piece of engineering—the car—and then some.

"We're here to talk about the future and the environment," Vaitheeswaran, who graduated from M.I.T. with an engineering degree, asseverates to the New York Academy of Sciences audiences back in January.

"Ghandi asked, 'How many planets will it take if India follows the same reckless path of industrialism that Britain has taken that has already consumed half the world's resources? How many planets will it take?"

"How many planets will it



Vijay V. Vaitheeswaran, co-author with lain Carson of Zoom: The Global Race to Fuel the Car of the Future, speaks at the New York Academy of Sciences.



take if every Chinese jumps into a Hummer just like the Americans like to do?"

"Zoom" emphasizes that the problems faced by seven billion people in the world economy are real, but so are the opportunities for change. Like Nietzche's Overman in "Thus Spake Zarathustra," humanity has the opportunity to transvaluate how we look at energy. Vaitheeswaran asks, "Will they leapfrog ahead to more sustainable resources?"

#### THE THREE SIGNIFICANT OTHERS OF ENERGY

There are three linkages and megatrends that we must first consider: 1) Energy and Poverty, 2) Energy and Environment, 3) Energy and Geopolitics.

Our current means of energy via pulverizing coal plants are poor, dirty, and inefficient. Consider these facts. The London Fog in 1852 killed 10,000 people prematurely. Mexico used to be the dirtiest city, now it ranks as fifth in the world. Two to six billion people live without formal access to modern technology and fuel. Sub-Saharan African women and girls burn makeshift stoves and use dirty solid fuels, resulting in the leading cause of death.

"Even Angelina Jolie doesn't care," sarcastically jokes Vaitheeswaran, "Since when have you seen her in G8?" He urges that we must consider climate change in the long term and change the way we utilize the land. The water shortage, for example, is *not* a scientific problem, but the result of political will—desalinated water is expensive. We must first solve the



energy problem and not shuffle issues around, "Energy is key to sustainability," says Vaitheeswaran.

"Oil's geopolitical complications arise from America's bipartisan addiction to oil," the authors state in the book. Oil is the most energy dense fuel, but it comes from places with political issues. Twenty-five percent of Saudi Arabia's neighbors are part of the OPEC cartel. Foreign policy has been very much molded by the addiction to oil, "regardless of the party controlling the White House." The authors trace the dependence back to Franklin Delano Roosevelt's meeting with "King Ibn Sa 'ud, father of the new country of Saudi Arabia, home to the biggest reserves of oil on the planet, then as now."

Oil is the concentration of a geopolitical strangle. China's oil

interest plays a critical role because



#### ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOURSE

#### On the Road to GASLESS FUEL

having a blue water navy to protect their borders. This is why oil prices are up to 100 dollars per barrel, argues Vaitheeswaran in one of his talks. The more the Chinese invest in oil, the more they invest in the United States. The problem arises when producers under produce.

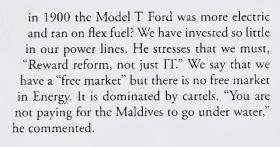
Saudi Arabia's first concession was not with the United States, but with China.

#### THREE THINGS THAT MAKE THE ENERGY PARADIGM

Vaitheeswaran conveys a lot of optimism in his book and in his talks.

A review of the book by the *New Yorker* labels Carson and Vaitheeswaran as, "techno-optimists,' as opposed to 'cco-pessimists' they sometimes deride." He believes there is more opportunity for change.

First, the real transformation to competition lies in the liberalization of the energy market. Competitive markets are successful enablers of innovation and over the past 25 years, free markets rewarded innovators. "Energy," however, "is the least innovative of the Big Business," comments Vaitheeswaran. After all, how did we get in the position we are in today when



Second, modern environmentalism is not how it used to be in the 1970s. Compared to the 70s, battery technology is now renewable; there is a different idea of venture capital that is directed to clean energy; and there are new business models—all of which is covered in the book.

Finally, we are entering a "Golden Age of Innovation" where an "energy intranet is backbone." Vaitheeswaran credits the British for investing three times as much as the United States in upgrading the electrical grid in the 1990s. Some electrical grid improvements include better monitoring of energy use, intelligent time metering (real time meters) to allow dynamic pricing, and that people should get a break if they get solar energy (people could sell their excess energy back into the grid).

#### **BACK TO GHANDI**

"We only have one planet," Vaitheeswaran reiterates a quote from Ghandi in his lecture. One thing we can know for sure is that, "we have an unlimited resource of ingenuity," and that we can use this to protect our planet.



# ₹ TO DESTROY

you and I am you. We live in the process of destruction, meandering. Soluteste out of destruction of the Deep Sea Angler fish—I build with rotted wood, spit, blood and bone. Splinters of the past are owith materials left from the rubble. A gaping eye of a dead fish left in the summer heat on a mossy woo the earth, I eat the bad flowers, and I wallow in my foolishness — I live and am destruction. 
Forest — suicidal; skimpy; bright eyed; and harbingering - no, yelling - the outcome of us all. I know it great decay — you know that your body will rot with maggats and bones will gnash under the gravity will still set and rise, whole civilizations will flourish and fall, the blinking universe will still be the reflection of the noticed you in the supermarket under the fluorescent lights, suffering, waiting, confused, wander.

experiment, with dead symbols of the past, evoking, conjuring up, spectral meanings. I force the dead to wall

X TJ RILEY X●





# FILMREVIEW RAMBOW

eeCarter(WillPoulter) is an academic truant and scamartist sprung from a wealthy, yet, neglectful family---parents are never in town, leaving the reins of responsibility to Lee's bullying older brother, Lawrence (Ed Westwick). As a result of the lack of attention and moral guidance, Lee Carter smokes, steals, and pirates current blockbusters onto VHS for his older brother, whom he desperately tries to impress.

Will Proudfoot's (Bill Milner) family belong to The Brethren puritanical religious sect that is phobic to media,



Starring: Bill Milner (Will Proudfoot),
Will Poulter (Lee Carter), Jessica
Stevenson (Mary Proudfoot), Neil
Dudgeon (Joshua), Jules Sitruk (Didier
Revol) and Ed Westwick (Lawrence
Carter)

Written and Directed by Garth Jennings Director of Photography, Jess Hall Edited by Dominic Leung Music by Joby Talbot Production Designer: Joel Collins Produced by Nick Goldsmith Released by Paramount Vantage Running time: 1 hour 36 minutes.

LEFT: Bill Milner as "Will Proudfoot" and Will Poulter as "Lee Carter" star in Son of Rambow.

entertainment, and "outside" thoughts and people. Although his family's religion runs a very controlling and tight ship, Will escapes into his wild and vivid imagination, anonymously drawing on anything he can get his hands on including books, notebooks, and even bathroom stalls.

Restrictions against media including educational films shown in class routinely lands Will in the hallway, while Lee Carter's routine delinquency gets him kicked out of class. One day, they end up in the hallway at the same time and what follows is the story of self-transcendence, social-transcendence, and male-bonding.

**RIGHT:** Director Garth Jennings with Bill Milner on the set of **Son of Rambow**.





**ABOVE:** Jules Sitruk stars as DIDIER REVOL in Garth Jennings' ad Nick Goldsmith's **Son of Rambow**.

When Will accidently watches a pirated copy of Rambo: First Blood at Lee Carter's house, he becomes electrified and inspired to make an action-adventure movie with Lee Carter about Rambo's son.

Watching these two boys it seems that male bonding can only be explained by some bizarre alchemy in which an alpha male antagonizes a feebler one until the situation reaches a cathartic climax of opposition resulting in the two diametrically opposed characters to become best of friends (a formula that would almost never work for two girls). Such a tight pairing, then, is of course trivialized by external forces such as family, a too-cool French foreign exchange student (Jules Sitruk), and the roughness of immaturity which must be overcome.



**ABOVE:** Ed Westwick (left) as "Lawrence" and Bill Milner as "Will Proudfoot" star in **Son of Rambow.** 



to a roundtable discussion with the Director & Producer of SON OF RAMBOW to discuss their casting choices as well as discover their inspiration for the film.

Garth Jennings and Nick Goldsmit met 18 or 19 years ago in a 1 year art foundation course in college and both ended up doing graphic design. Garth grew up in Essex. England and recalls having seen a pirated version of First Blood whe he was 12 and creating his own he adventure films with a camcorder. He shared his visions with Nick, who was working on music videos at the time. Together they formed Hamma & Tongs.

As for the up-and-coming stars, Will Poulter and Bill Milner, "They brought a kind of charm to it [and they did become great friends after this," remarks Garth. A happily costalgic Nick recalls, "Their [Will and Rill] "Best Day" was when we dragged them across the field..."

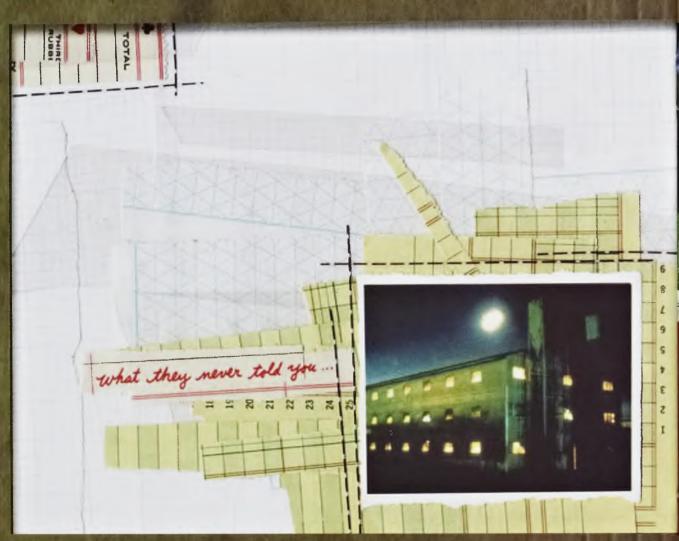
In regards to drawing a compariso between British humor and Amerihumor, "I don't have a preference says Garth after a long thought, "We've tried to make something everyone can enjoy."

The next Hammer & Tongs project an animated film.





# EGETARIAN STARTER GUIDE





"The animals are beings that have feelings like me. They are like my brothers and my sisters." -Ziggy Marley

YAHT

THEY

# : Animals Are Like Us

Pigs are smarter than dogs and 3-year-old children. They are affectionate and like to play video games.

Hens and chickens talk to each other ... even while the chick is still in the egg.

If you give an apple or a small ball to a group of turkeys, they'll play with it together, kind of like they're on a football or soccer team.

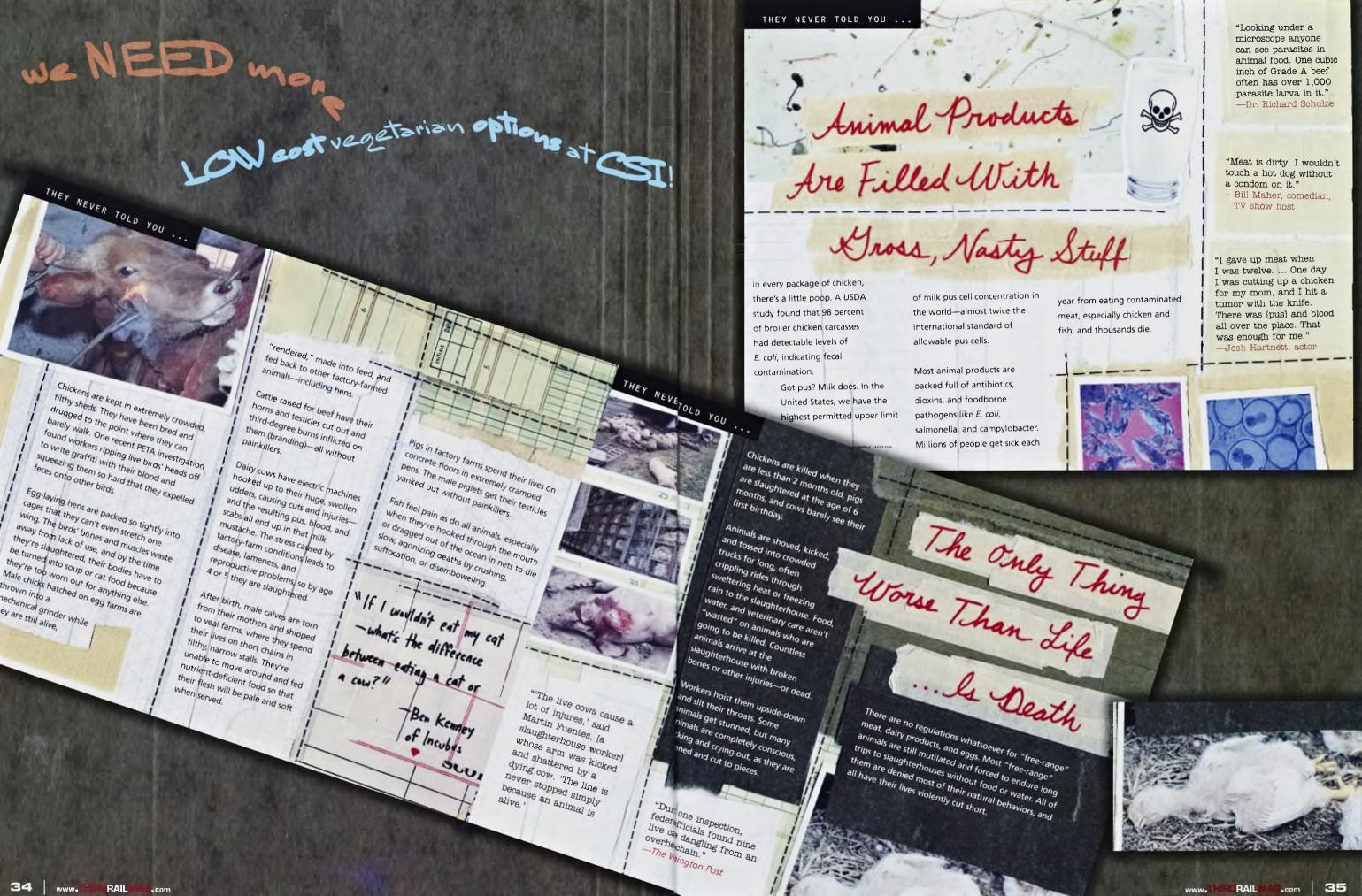
Cows are excellent mothers—they even take turns babysitting for each other!

Fish use their mouths and tongues in pretty much the same way that we use our hands. They use their mouths to build nests, to catch food, and to hide their babies!











CHECKOUX

CSI uses factory farmed chickens!

YUCK!

Water

More than half of all the water consumed in the U.S. is used to raise animals for food. A vegetarian

diet requires 300 gallons of water per day, while a meat-eating diet requires more than

"The way that we breed animals for food is a threat to the planet. It pollutes our environment while consuming huge amounts of water, grain, petroleum, pesticides and drugs. The results are disastrous."

-David Brubaker, Ph.D., Center for a Livable Future, Johns Hopkins University



Cattle-ranching is the number one cause of Amazonian deforestation In Central America, two-thirds of the rain forests have been cleared, primarily to raise cattle.

SAVE THE EARTH WHILE EAT!

THEY NEVER TOLD YOU ...

Alicia Silverstone told Self magazine that once she began living the vegan life. " My skin started glowing, my eyes get brighter and I lost weight."

According to the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, "Vegetarians are about 40 percent less likely to get cancer than nonvegetarians, regardless of other risks such as smoking, body size, and socioeconomic status."

Eating Meat Is Destroying

the Earth

Just to be clear, it's not the fat and cholesterol that cause cancer; it's the animal protein. The fat and cholesterol cause heart disease; the animal protein causes cancer. Dr. T. Colin Campbell, one of the world's foremost

this carcinogenic effect of animal protein, even at usual levels of consumption ... no chemical carcinogen is nearly so important in causing human cancer as animal protein. It's no secret that eating animal products-full of

epidemiologists and

professor at Cornell

University states that

"human studies also support

saturated fat, cholesterol, pesticides, dioxins, hormones, and antibiotics—is bad for your health and leads to many diseases and illnesses, including heart attacks, strokes, cancer, diabetes, and

Not worried about cancer and heart disease yet? Well, get this: Up to 33 percent of teens are obese and about

meat-eaters 50 percent higher thanmong vegetarians

STATS:

meat-eaters.

Vegetarians 1d vegans

live, on averge, six to

10 years lowr than

The risk of weloping

heart diseasamong

two-thirds of all nericans are

of vegans are obe.

overweight or obe. Only 2 percent

Keeping animal oducts out of your body will make auge difference in how you feel. Reace that hamburger with a veggie buer and that glass of cow's milk with y milk and you'll have clearer skinnore energy, and a longer, healthierfe. You'll wonder

why you didn't cit sooner.

You'll Feel Healthier.

You'll Be Happier.

Energy

Raising animals for food requires more than one-third of all raw materials and fossil fuels used in the United States.



#### the Earth

Pollution The meat industry causes

more water pollution in the United States than all other industries combined. More than 10 billion animals are raised and killed for food every year in the U.S. alone; they have to eat, and their waste has to go somewhere.

WWW. PETA2.005

THEY NEVER TOLD YOU ...

Most grocery stores stock plenty of fake meats. The same goes for nondairy alternatives to cheese, ice cream, milk, and other dairy products. Most restaurants even Burger King, Taco Bell, Denny's, and Subwayhave meat-free dishes. If your cooking is halfway decent, vegetarian and vegan cookbooks line the shelves at bookstores and libraries—and you can find recipes online at peta2.com. With the list below, you can find substitutes for all your favorites in no time. It's easy to be vegan.



of Other Options

THEN

Butter

Cheese

Eggs

Jell-O

Snacks

Ice Cream

Cow's Milk

Cream Cheese

Sour Cream

own page! Fake chicken nuggets, veggie hot dogs, and vegan steak strips, "bacon," and even barbecued "ribs" are out there to make the transition easy. Most ethnic restaurants, from Chinese and Indian to Ethiopian and Italian, offer loads of cheap nonmeat dishes, too.

There are so many choices, they need their

Use vegetable oils or vegan margarine. Try Tofutti, Soy Delicious, or fruit sorbets.

Try chocolate, vanilla, or plain soy milk, rice milk, or almond milk. Use it any way you'd use cow's milk.

Use soy cheese for pizza, sandwiches, and sauces. You can also make a creamy "cheese" sauce using nutritional yeast flakes (available at health food stores).

Try Tofutti brand Better Than Cream Cheese.

How about Tofutti Sour Supreme?

For baking, use egg replacer. For breakfast, scramble up some tofu with onions, mushrooms, mustard, turmeric, and soy sauce.

Use Hain's Super Fruits, a vegan gelatin that comes in four fruit flavors. Check the ingredient lists of snacks like chips and cookies—you'll be surprised to find out that many are already totally vegan!

A vegetarian doesn't eat any animal beef, pork, or fish. A vegan doesn't eat animal flesh or any other animal products-like eggs

milk, or cheese.

such as fur or

Vegans also don't

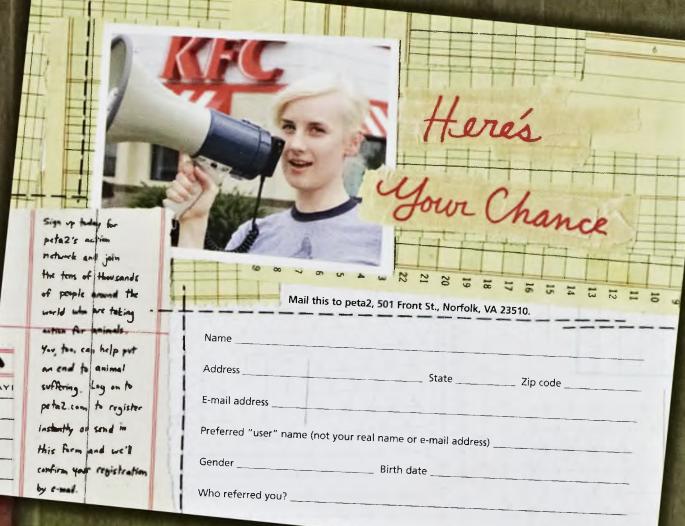
wear animal skins,

What Is a

Veretarian

or Vegan?



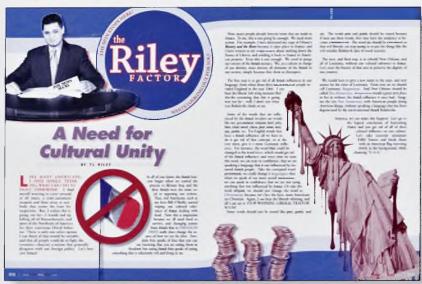


unhealthy mest options?

RAIL

#### LETTERS

#### RE: A NEED FOR CULTURAL UNITY



#### DEAR THIRD RAIL,

UR just crazy....I feel sad with people like U in my country trying to change the culture in some of the states. If the French decided what they decided, then it's OK. I mean, if we want something we have to fight no one else. So stop speaking about French people like that. I mean, just get a life man.

P ks1289 Student

#### TJ RILEY, AUTHOR OF A NEED FOR CULTURAL UNITY **RESPONDS**

#### DEAR P KS1289

Actually, I am crazy – just a little tad bit. But, I have to admit that I wasn't crazy when I wrote that superb article declaring my extreme hatred for the french and all french inspired things - I used to be sane, or I think I used to be sane in some sort of form or another. Naturally, my nature nurtures my nature - and today, and for a while now, my skin breathes out glitter and Gertrude Stein always thought Picasso was Napoleon. I have feet attached to legs - perfection!

Love always,

TI

#### **RE: HOPE FOR DESTINY'S MOTHER**



#### DEAR THIRD RAIL,

I loved this poem. It was great. Abortion should remain legal and safe! More poetry please!

Beth, CSI Student

COCOCO

#### **EDITORIAL RESPONSE**

#### DEAR BETH,

Most of our staff agrees with you that abortion SHOULD remain safe and legal. However, some on the bullpen would go one step further and say that abortion should be free for those who can't afford it; otherwise, reproductive rights would only be "safe and legal" for those who could take on such a financial burden. With some 47 million Americans without health insurance, and most Americans being under-insured, "safe and legal" abortion just won't cut it anymore!

#### RE: PEACE ACTIVISTS WITH A SECRET AGENDA?



#### DEAR THIRD RAIL,

Hey, I have a friend that's in the International Action Center. Gotta show him this article!. I don't think he knows that the IAC is a front group for Workers World.

Ultra Student

#### **RE: THIRD RAIL POLL**

#### DEAR THIRD RAIL,

RE: Should "under God" be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance? No, I don't think it should be removed.

Third Rail

RATS INVADE CSI

Anonymous

#### **RE: THIRD RAIL POLL**

#### DEAR THIRD RAIL,

This article is very interesting as I attended CSI back in 1993 when the CDC bubbled off a building and closed that area. Many students, faculty and staff fell

ill. Seems things haven't changed.

Susan Greenwood, Alumna

#### AIR MAIL Write to Third Rail! ON THE WEB: Third Rail Magazine www.ThirdRailMag.com c/o College of Staten Island In Person: 2800 Victory Blvd, 1C-207 Room 231 in the Campu Staten Island, NY 10314 E-MAIL: Center or in our mailbox

#### **RE: DATE RAPE**

#### DEAR THIRD RAIL,

Hey, I just want to say thanks for the advice and for everything. Your article was very informative and you just made me learn.

Lupita, Student



CULTURAL DISCOURSE



The opinions expressed in responses by Third Rail members are solely representing their own opinions and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Third Rail Magazine or its staff.

# CSI's MOST WANTED



Joseph Brush



Jeff WcGraham



Nikki S. Bautista



Mike Miley



Mike Gualtieri



TJ RIley



Tony Vivirito



Chun Hom



Neil & Lenin

If you see any of these outlaws, please report to the nearest CSI Administrator

# CSI's ONLY student publication website is





- Read the latest news on CSI & CUNY
- Send a Letter to the Editors
- Respond to any article, poem or photograph
- Request an Issue to be snail mailed for *FREE*
- Read select back issues online
- Stay informed about Third Rail events
- NO intrusive corporate ads
- Read CSI's only award-winning journalism from the comfort of your home!







