

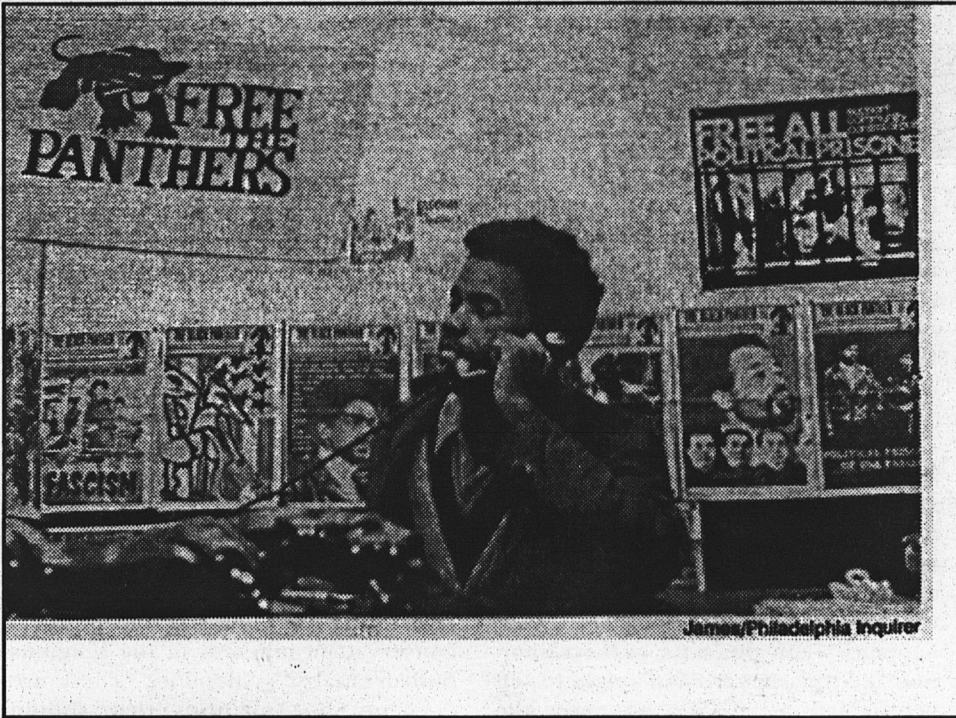


the college voice

Free Tuition and Open Admissions

Volume XIX • Issue No. III • November/December 1998

Free Mumia... Stop The Execution



James/Philadelphia Inquirer

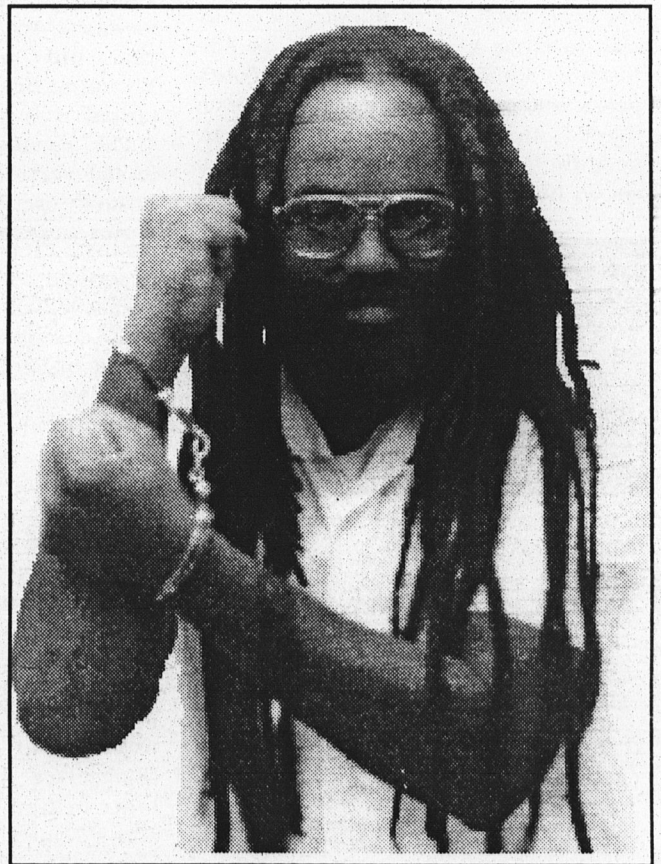
several times he acquired a gun to protect himself. The prosecutor claims this gun was the murder weapon. Mumia's gun was a .33 caliber. Ballistics experts have proved conclusively that the bullet which killed officer Faulkner was shot from a .44 caliber gun.

- Several witness in Mumia's first trial which resulted in conviction, most importantly William Singletary and Veronica Jones, have since recanted their testimony and claimed it was given under extreme harassment by the police. Singletary was detained at the precinct house for several hours. Each testimony he gave which maintained Mumia's innocence, was torn up by the police. Singletary claimed that he had witnessed an unknown armed man flee the scene after shooting Faulkner. After constant harassment Singletary finally signed a statement written by the police themselves! Jones was a prostitute working the corner the night of the shooting. Initially implicating Mumia in the crime, she has since recanted and claimed that the police explicitly told her she would be put out of business if she did not cooperate.

- The original trial which resulted in a conviction was presided over by Philadelphia judge Nicholas Sabo. Known as "the hanging judge" for his large amount of death penalty convictions, Sabo had Mumia removed from the court room on a number of occasions and told his legal team over and over again that they were "wasting his time." Sabo went so far as to delay his own retirement so that he could preside over Mumia's appeals.

- Many other witness's claimed they were coerced and harassed by the cops to lie on the stand, that is why their testimonies were different every time. Sometimes they claimed that Mumia and his brother did the killing and other times they say they never saw him next to the bodies.

- Police reports filed immediately after the incident reported that "the black male made no comment." Gary Bell, a police officer who was at the scene, returned from two



LIVE FROM DEATH ROW- MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

BY IMAN EI-SAYED


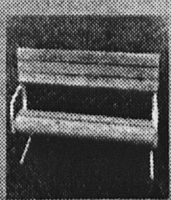




Beginning with his earliest days as a teenage member of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense in the 70's, Mumia Abu-Jamal has been a powerful voice against racism, police brutality and social inequity. As a journalist speaking out against the systematic racism and brutality of the Philadelphia police department, Mumia's message affected many African Americans and other groups who were being victimized by the criminal "justice" system.

In 1981, he was accused of killing a Philadelphia cop, Daniel Faulkner. Unable to move as a result of a bullet wound, Mumia once again became the target of police abuse. He was rushed to the hospital, beaten on the way and handcuffed while he was dying. As he lay on his hospital bed, a cop stood on a tube inserted into his penis which produced excruciating pain. Despite these torturous conditions, Mumia maintained his innocence. The mainpoints that prove Mumia's innocence are as follows:

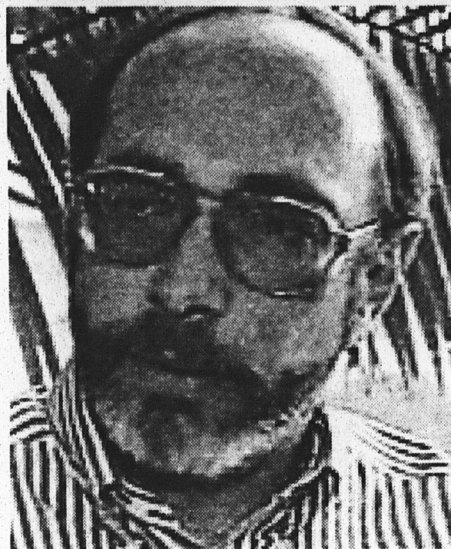
The government wants him locked up and killed because he is what they call the "voice of the voiceless" and the system wants to silence every voice of dissent.

- After his popular radio show was canceled under pressure from the Philadelphia police department and the conservative political establishment, Mumia was forced to take a job as a cab driver. After being robbed

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Philosophy Professor Speaks Out Against Gay Alliance and Abortion Rights



Dr. Barnett Slepian - Another victim of the hatefilled anti-abortion movement

A COLLEGE VOICE EDITORIAL

Over the last 25 years, a wave of conservative ideology has swept over the City University of New York (CUNY). The College of Staten Island (CSI) has served as the epicenter of this movement to link the curriculum of CUNY to the corporate market. Instead of encouraging poor and working class students to pursue societally transforming knowledge such as Philosophy, Sociology, History and Political Science, the emphasis has been placed on "enhancing student marketability." This translates to an emphasis on business, computer science and

the natural sciences. The other segment of this movement has come in the form of emasculating the "dangerous" subjects by hiring and funding right wing professors within the liberal arts programs.

As the Voice has demonstrated through its coverage of the dismissal of Prof. Jemie in the English Department, any signs

of dissent from the faculty are handled quickly. Despite this environment, many professors are beginning to come forward to defend the university. A concerned member of the CSI faculty sent the Voice copies of the following e-mails which were penned by Philosophy Professor Peter Simpson following a candlelight vigil held on campus. Simpson attempted to justify his absence from the vigil through what he felt was the orientation of the homosexual community generally and the Gay Lesbian and Bi-Sexual Alliance specifically in relation to the issue of abortion. The vigil was held as a memorial to Matthew Shepard, the 20-year old man killed in Laramie, Wyoming because of his sexual orientation.

The e-mails express Simpson's distorted version of what hate and hate crimes are, his hierarchy of hate

crimes. As with the majority of the anti-abortion arguments, the professor leaves out the centerpiece of the action—the woman. In his eyes, the woman who seeks an abortion exists only in relation to the act of the abortion. The woman's economic, social,

cultural and political positions are then collapsed into the term "severe pressures" and the

author can move along to the "inherent hatefulness" of the act of abortion. Locating abortion outside of the sociological framework in which it exists, is a true act of hate. It is fundamentally demeaning to woman and the special form of oppression they face in society.

An analysis which argues against abortion is one that de facto argues against woman's right to self-determination. Simpson, as a matter of course, doesn't even attempt to hide this notion and outwardly states that abortion is hate "regardless of what individual women may or may not feel." What happens when the state outlaws abortion and squashes women's right to self-determination? We already know the answer because our society has lived through it. Without safe, legal abortions women will be forced to turn to underground sources which produced

the horror stories of abortions in alleys, self induced abortions and the use of unsterilized instruments which lead to infection and death for the woman. In a society such as this which favors the rich, the dangers of covert abortions will most certainly be reserved for working class and poor women. These possibilities should not concern people like Simpson who, as stated earlier, only view women in their relation to the act of abortion.

Finally, the relationship between the anti-abortion movement and violent expressions of hate grows each day. As Bob Herbert stated in his New York Times editorial of November 8, "The anti-abortion terrorists get much aid and comfort—sometimes openly, sometimes covertly—from various right wing political elements, including members of the Christian right, the militia movement and the white supremacy movement. The moral fervor of the right, so loudly proclaimed, is selective indeed."

Simpson's selectivity screams out loud and clear. The e-mails provide a looking glass into the perspectives that are being expressed inside the classrooms of CSI. From Simpson's perspective, hate crimes which target homosexuals occupy a different moral space than the act of abortion. Simpson's exposition delivers a vivid insight into the moral blindness and political conservatism inherent in the religious fundamentalist community. These are certainly not qualities that should make up the foundations of public higher education.

E-MAIL

#1

> From: "Peter Simpson" <CSIMAIL/SIMPSON>
> To: "GREG SEALS" <CSIMAIL/SEALS>, #everyone
> Date: Tue, 3 Nov 1998 10:36:41 -04
> Re: what necessary connection between abortion and hate
>> From: "GREG SEALS" <CSIMAIL/SEALS>
>> Prof. Simpson,
>>

(Greg Seals)>> By what right do you presume to impute an attitude of hatred to anyone who has an abortion?

(Peter Simpson)>By the right of the facts. When babies are aborted the methods used are simply horrendous—ripping the baby apart limb by limb, burning it to death with a toxic saline solution, plunging scissors into the back of its skull and sucking out its

brains, etc. Such acts cannot be described as other than acts of hate, and at least those performing the abortion (doctors and nurses) know what is going on and they do it nevertheless. Ex-abortionists (of whom there are many) also speak of the attitude of contempt and callousness that prevails in abortion clinics both towards the babies and towards the women, especially those women who come back for repeat abortions.

I admit that some of the women who abort their babies do not know what is happening—either about how developed the baby is or about what the procedure of abortion does. They are usually told lies by the abortionists themselves. But they have a responsibility to find out what they are doing, and when they realize afterwards many of them sink into a deep depression, known now as a serious and widespread problem called "post-abortion syndrome". About which syndrome, by the way pro-abortionists care nothing and which they generally seek to deny. It is only certain pro-lifers who take the problem seriously and try, with selfless love, to help the women suffering from it.

On the other hand I have met women

wanting an abortion who, even after learning all about the development of the baby and the horrendous nature of the abortion procedure, still want to go ahead with it—which never ceases to amaze me. Others, on the contrary, whose sensibilities have not been so dulled, are at once repelled by the horror and change their minds. I know, of course, that women are often under severe pressures on such occasions (I have spoken to many of them and their

home situations are sometimes heart-rending), but these cannot justify brutally murdering the child, especially when there are so many alternatives available fully sponsored and supported by charitable individuals and organizations. Given all this, one cannot but conclude that abortion is an act of hate, regardless of what individual women may or may not feel. For hate is

not a feeling only; it is also an act and an intention so to act, which all those involved in the procedure necessarily do and have if they are acting by choice—which they manifestly are.

(Greg Seals)>> your own increasingly evident hatred of any person who has an abortion for any reason.

(Peter Simpson)>You fail to distinguish between hatred of a certain kind

of act and hatred of the persons doing that act. The two are not the same nor does the first entail the second.

When I meet women who have had or are planning abortions, my reaction is not to blame them but to do what I can to help them to a truly humane and charitable frame of mind so that they not to do it again or at all.

>Peter Simpson

Another Department Another

E-MAIL #2

>From: "Peter Simpson"
<CSIMAIL/SIMPSON>
>To: "Phillippe MariusCOLLEGE"
<CSIMAIL/MARIUS>, #everyone
>Date: Thu, 29 Oct 1998 15:30:22 -0400
>Subject: Re: your response to my note to McPherson

(Phillippe Marius)>> Professor, In my message to McPherson I was not yet taking exception with what still seems to me the manifest homophobia, if not misanthropy, that transpires in your 10/27 e-mail about the vigil. My concern was rather that a member of the Academy had subscribed to the TV-talk show facility so pervasive in contemporary dialectics. I must nevertheless tell you that I read your subsequent objection to me that your "message was not an attack on homosexuals qua homosexuals" as dispiriting intellectual cowardice.

My concern was rather that a member of the Academy had subscribed to the TV-talk show facility so pervasive in contemporary dialectics

(Peter Simpson)>> A homosexual qua homosexual is someone who is defined

by reference to certain sorts of sexual act. My attack was not directed at the sexual acts or preferences of homosexuals but at their selectivity when it comes to victims of hate. Therefore I was not attacking homosexuals qua homosexuals but qua selective in the way meant.

(Phillippe Marius)>> Your detection of "not a little hypocrisy in the [CSI] Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual alliance" as one of the reasons for the absence from the vigil might be quite reasonable. If I knew of specific positions of that specific alliance, I might conceivably find them hypocritical, too. I would be very

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of hate. I could very much understand an anti-abortion militant [a militant shoots his intellectual antagonists; an activist does not] boycotting the CSI alliance for supporting abortion. However, you "can see that HOMOSEXUALS [...] not standing up for all victims of hate", "HOMOSEXUALS [...] support this hate crime", and "until HOMOSEXUALS are consistent in opposing hate" you should view their actions and opinions as hypocritical. When exactly

do you launch an attack on homosexuals qua homosexuals?

(Peter Simpson)>> In the way just explained. You must be aware that, in the

(Phillippe Marius)>> past half-millennium, when so-called western thought ascribed collective attributes to some perceived human sub-groups the results have too often been cataclysmic.

(Peter Simpson)>> There is nothing wrong with noticing collective features or tendencies if they exist. Cataclysmic results come not from that but from a failure to understand justice and act on it.

There is, by the way, no necessary connection between being homosexual and being selective in one's opposition to hate. Some homosexuals are not so selective and I am proud to know of them.

There is, however, such a general connection in fact, and that was the focus of my complaint on this occasion. There is also, by the way, a general connection in fact between being a supporter of the Democratic party and being indifferent to or a supporter of abortion.

>But that Party was not sponsoring the vigil. You must further be aware that the

(Phillippe Marius)>> object of the polemic at hand, which you very conveniently left unmentioned, is the murder of a human being by hatemongers. Considering that you are vested with

the intellectual authority of an Academician over impressionable minds, your position is incendiary, and, I venture, willfully so.

(Peter Simpson)>> I was very much aware of the object of the polemic and it was precisely what excited my ire. Of course murder is wrong and it is worse when it is the result of hate. That is why not only the murder in question is evil but abortion too. Both should be opposed but the latter far more so because it is so pervasive (thousands a day in this country alone) and, by its nature, so appalling.

(Phillippe Marius)>> Joining or praising the CSI alliance's vigil would be raising a voice against the degradation of one very specific humanity, not indulging the alliance's failings. A humanist does not shed his tears selectively over deliberately destroyed lives. He cries for them all.

(Peter Simpson)>> And that was precisely my point, and my complaint. A

(Phillippe Marius)>> misanthrop will attempt to justify the exclusion of certain lost lives from his sympathies, occasionally via intellectual contortions that you do not seem to be particularly adept at.

Being neither a misanthrope nor selective in my opposition to murder

(Peter Simpson)>> I do not need such contortions nor the skill to perform them.

>Peter Simpson

E-MAIL #3

>From: "Peter Simpson"
<CSIMAIL/SIMPSON>
>To: "Phillippe MariusCOLLEGE"
<CSIMAIL/MARIUS>, #everyone
>Date: Thu, 29 Oct 1998 15:56:00 -0400
>Subject: Re: what exactly you meant
>> Copies to: #everyone

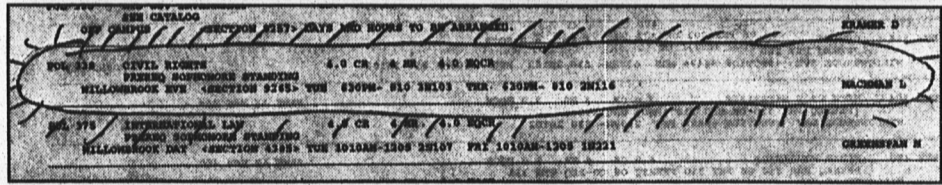
...if it was directed at his homosexuality, was all the worse for being a hate crime in addition. Still, abortion is a far worse hate crime...

(Phillippe Marius)>> Professor, My sincere apology - you are better at intellectual contortions than I initially thought. I am nevertheless happy to

know that you were after all opposed to the murder of a young man, albeit only a little bit since he happened to have been homosexual.

Peter Simpson>> Now you do me a grave injustice. The sexual orientation of the young man who was killed was not any part of what I said, nor did it does it make me less opposed to his murder. I said we should oppose abortion more because it is far more prevalent and appalling. I did not say that we should oppose this young man's murder less because he happened to have been homosexual. On the contrary his homosexuality did nothing to mitigate the evil of his murder which, if it was directed at his homosexuality, was all the worse for being a hate crime in addition. Still, abortion is a far worse hate crime, and that was my point.

ONLY AT CSI



CSI is a bright, friendly place for just about any right wing professor. This semester the school has outdone itself as right wing, racist Political Science professor Larry Nachman is teaching Civil Rights class. In the current historical period it is sickeningly laughable that Nachman has received this teaching assignment. Almost every gain that was made during the Civil Rights movement has either been rolled back or is under harsh attack. Affirmative Action, Open Admissions and many other policies of social equality have been severely damaged.

Among students of color, Nachman's reputation is one of racial bias and harsh criticism of anything remotely resembling left wing. Nachman's scholarly work has been dedicated to attacking policies of Affirmative Action in journals like the

right wing Salmagundi.

Indeed, a stream of students of color have come to the offices of the College Voice to complain about the discriminatory practices of Nachman. One Caribbean student was infuriated after being marked down on her final paper because she "didn't write like she spoke." This along with a litany of other complaints prompted Voice activists to enter Nachman's classroom last semester and declare war on racist teachers. This was followed by a series of attempts initiated by Nachman to have us suspended.

Only at CSI could we face such a disgusting distortion of the most progressive chapter in the history of American politics.

ENGLISH CHAIR RESPONDS TO THE VOICE

MEMO TO: Editorial Board
FROM: David Falk,
Chairperson,
Department of English,
Speech and World Literature
DATE: October 16, 1998
SUBJECT: Charges of Racism

It is impossible to tell whether your attempt to brand me a racist is the result of malice or your paper's typical inability to get a story right or even do the journalistic work that might give you some hope of getting it remotely correct. But it is obvious that you care neither for the facts nor even the simple rules for quoting someone accurately and in context.

The most inexperienced journalist knows not to accept anyone's version of events without checking. But you chose to swallow Professor Jemie's account of his nonreappointment whole. Had you exhibited even a shred of reporterly skepticism and investigated, you would have discovered that Professor Jemie left out of his version a major piece.

Nowhere does Professor Jemie ever reveal that he was, in fact, turned down

for reappointment two years ago by P & B because he had not published a word. I argued before the appeals committee at that time that he be given the extra year to get his act together, and President Springer agreed to grant him the time. Professor Jemie never mentions this episode because it destroys the credibility of his attack on the president and myself. Why, if we were such racists, would we be willing to keep him around when P & B had already shown him the door? The answer is that we are not racists. We wished Pro-

fessor Jemie would succeed and gave him every opportunity to do so. That he did not is his fault, not anybody else's.

All of this would have been easy enough for your staff to find out, had you cared to look. But denouncing people is so much simpler and so much more fun than the hard work of uncovering the truth.

So, according to you—whoever you are, since you hide behind anonymity—I am a racist because...well, because you say so.

Your "proof" is a passage from a letter I wrote to my department that you mangle DELIBERATELY.

This college is an Equal Opportunity Employer, committed to eradicating discrimination in hiring. So every time a department conducts a search for a new faculty member, it receives from the Affirmative Action office the statistics on the number of qualified minority candidates and the extent to which the composition of the department reflects the diversity of the potential hiring pool.

Your "proof" of my "deeply imbedded racism" is that I had the nerve to point out that the governmental agency whose goal is to end discrimination in hiring says my department has behaved as it ought to.

So, according to you, I am a racist because the people responsible for fighting racism say that I am not one. Amazing!

It is not surprising that baby demagogues like yourselves

should have been taken in by more experienced one like Professor Jemie. It is sad however, that people who have taken upon themselves the power of the press should know so little about and care so little about honesty and fairness. You have demonstrated over and over your utter incapacity to behave in a manner befitting responsible journalists. The result is that you have made yourselves laughingstocks on campus and a source of embarrassment to people who truly believe in building a more just society.

It is not surprising that baby demagogues like yourselves should have been taken in by more experienced one like Professor Jemie.

WAITING FOR A REAL RESPONSE...

A COLLEGE VOICE EDITORIAL

Typical is the only word that can be used to properly describe the response that was delivered to the Voice by English Department Head David Falk. Instead of seriously engaging the faculty and student community on the issue of minority hiring practices, Falk responds with a litany of insults hurled at the editorial board of the College Voice. These insults ultimately miss their target and are therefore aimed at the hearts and minds of a CSI student and faculty community which continues to demand answers.

What is not so typical of Falk's response is that it wasn't accompanied by an equally ridiculous statement by the CSI administration. As CSI President Marlene Springer stated in her September 19, 1996 address, "If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who

are headed the same way we are." Look's like Falk's goose may be cooked because mother goose isn't coming to the rescue.

Falk begins by deriding our "lack of

Instead of dealing with the structural issues of racial bias and exclusion in minority hirings, he focus's on his individual racial bias's or, in his view, his lack of bias.

reporterly skepticism." This seems quite odd because reporterly skepticism is precisely what lead Voice Editor Tara Martin and I to Falk's office last May to question him about the Jemie situation. We expected to find a Department head prepared to

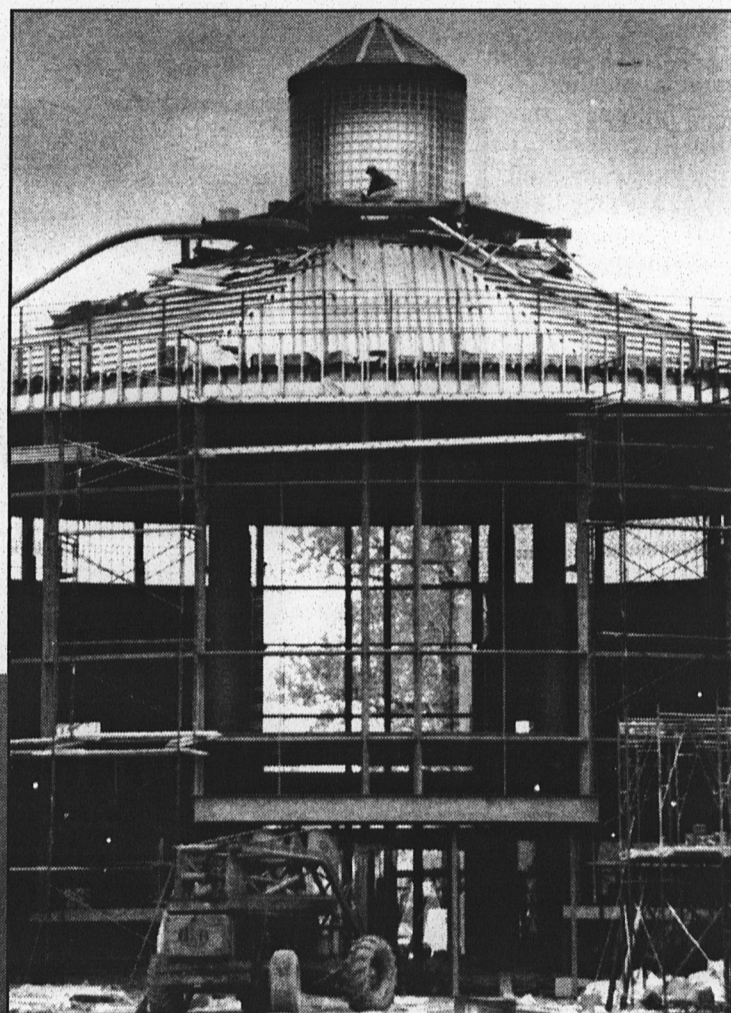
defend a colleague who had been wronged by the Administration. Instead, we found an appendage of the administration who was openly hostile to Jemie, consistently derided the intellectual work Jemie had produced and saw no potential benefits in having such a scholar at our university.

Throughout his letter Falk delivers full testimony as to how the issue of Prof. Jemie's tenure application has gotten to this point. Instead of dealing with the structural issues of racial bias and exclusion in minority hirings, he focus's on his individual racial bias's or, in his view, his lack of bias.

Falk's individual proof that he is not a racist lies in the fact that he defended Jemie at the Appeals Com-

mittee two years ago, (congratulations for doing your job). How then can he rationalize not defending Jemie against Springer's dismissal after the Appeals Committee decided to uphold his appeal and recommend tenure? Strange indeed!

Falk follows this peculiar point by attacking the supposed anonymity of the article in the October edition. Another strange point considering the title of the article was "No Tolerance for Racism-College Voice Editorial." Any reader with even the slightest bit of sense understood that the article was written by the editors of the paper. A quick turn to page 6 of the October edition and the reader will find the names of the Editorial Collective of the College Voice. We are not underground and we do not seek anonymity. In fact, the editors of the paper felt so strongly about the issue that we felt a collective statement was necessary.



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Open Admissions: Human Right, Not Social Privilege

BY TARA MARTIN

For many people of color in this city, higher education is very hard to come by. Open Admissions is a policy that guarantees that everyone who holds a high school diploma or its equivalent, is given access to the City University of New York. Thanks to this policy, over 450,000 students have attained a college degree. Open Admissions was fought for and won by students from the Black and Latino community who took part in the occupation of City College from April 22nd to May 5th, 1969. Far from being an exclusionary policy, Open Admissions has served the poor, disenfranchised and working class of New York City, regardless of race. Black, Latino, Asian and poor White students have all taken advantage of this essential social plan.

In recent months, the Board of Trustees of CUNY, led by the Interim Chancellor Christopher Kimmich, have waged war on the Open Admissions and remediation policies that have helped many students of color achieve college degrees. Their mentally conditioned thoughts about raising standards

at CUNY, grade inflation, and usage of assessment tests as entrance and graduation exams are nothing more than politically based jargon made to bring about the downsizing of CUNY and privatization of many CUNY services. These actions punish students who were not given excellent preparation in either NYC public schools or are from non-English speaking countries

Open Admissions means access to

some branches of CUNY to all New Yorkers with a high school diploma or GED. Giuliani's attacks on CUNY standards do not take into account that CUNY students are as successful as other college students in the United States. CUNY requires 30% more course work than Harvard, N Y U , Columbia, and nearly every other college, public or private in the country. The B.A. at CUNY requires 42 courses, at other schools only 32 courses are required. Giuliani also does not take into account that CUNY students take

longer to graduate due to work and family commitments. He feels that graduation rates are low and tests will raise standards. The truth of the matter is that a CUNY degree is not a four-year degree. It is a 5 1/2 year degree. Graduation rates are measured on the basis of the standard four-year programs of other schools and tests mainly eliminate students. Education raises standards. Smaller classes raise standards. Financial support and child care for student's help raise academic commitment and standards. Funding is necessary to raise standards. Giuliani and Pataki are afraid to face the hard facts

The fact is the mayor wants to lower enrollment at CUNY, 60 he can spend fewer tax dollars on education, and more money on turning New York City into a Giuliani-grown police state. Ending Open Admissions will decrease opportunities for New Yorkers to improve their lives. Open Admissions was one of the battles won in the struggle of the Civil Rights Movement and must be retained by the people of New York.



Hostos students speak out in favor of open admissions

The Pump Don't Work, Cause The Vandals Took The Handle

Why You Can't Find A place To Sit On Campus

BY ROBERT LAURO

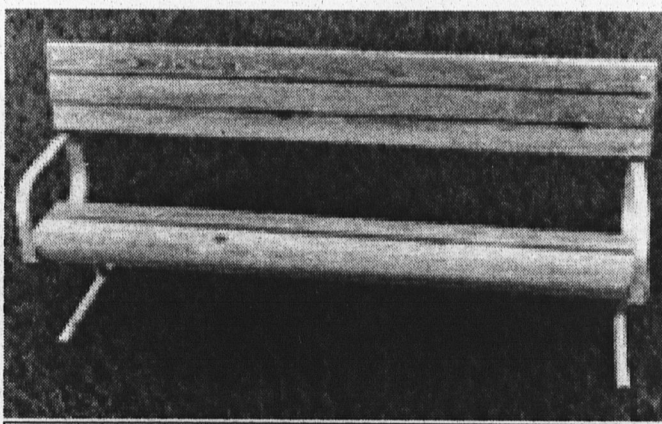
Those of us who had enrolled at CSI during the past two semesters probably think that there is nothing unusual about the following tale. However, those who have been here since 1993- 94-95-96, will notice the difference as soon as I mention what has taken place and then take the time to think back a few semesters.

The next time that you walk between the Campus Center and the Library try to count the benches that are between these two buildings. When I first came to CSI in the fall of '95 I noticed that there were at least six benches, three on each side, within each section of the sidewalk. A section being between each cross sidewalk. There are four sections which means there were at least twenty four benches. Students could use them to sit in the sun and read or have a conversation with a friend. Someone you met in class and wanted to continue a conversation could sit at these benches and discuss whatever came to mind.

Jump to the present, and what did I see? THREE benches are all that are left of the Twenty four! Did they grow feet and walk away? Is it a case of Alien abduction with aliens mistaking the benches for a native life form? No, I'm afraid that there are only three logical answers to the mysterious disappearances of said benches.

1- eighteen benches got broken and B & G (Building and Grounds) have

removed them to be repaired. 2- Persons who work in that department decided the benches would look nicer in their own backyards. 3- The persons responsible for security at CSI decided that the benches might look even better in their backyards. There is a fourth possibility which I'm afraid also points the finger of suspicion at security. That is that either persons in administration, faculty and / or maintenance had security turned their backs while the benches were



Need a place to sit? Check the internet, because we couldn't find one on campus.

removed. You may be

asking how I came to the above theories. It's really not involved if you know anything at all about how this college is operated. Security had to be involved simply because the only time the benches could be removed without any embarrassing questions was during the late hours when the campus is

closed and security keeps tabs on how many cars come and go, whose here and who had left.

Maintenance comes under scrutiny because they are also here late and have access to trucks on campus. These would be needed to move or rather remove anything as large as a bench from campus. The administrative branch of CSI, at least those with some clout on campus could easily have

requested that they "borrow" a bench. It would quickly snowball from that point. One person gets one bench. Another figures what the hell one more won't matter and so we end

up with three benches for 11,000 students!

What gets me so irate about this issue is that #1 Students are denied use of these benches so that certain people who feel they should somehow have private use of things purchased with public funds simply take them. #2

Some personnel security, who have to have some knowledge of this, or they aren't doing their jobs, are so very quick to treat students as one step above criminals while persons who steal are allowed to take our benches. and #3, the cost to replace these benches, if they are ever replaced, will come from the taxpayers. That means each and every one of us here at CSI, our families and every other working overburdened taxpayer.

Perhaps I'm completely wrong, Maybe not. I hope that when I call B & G they tell me that the benches are still on campus etc. However I want to see the benches and if they aren't here, then where are they? If there isn't a way to track these benches, then the only logical conclusion is that they were taken. Someone is responsible for this. These benches aren't cheap. Each one cost at least a few hundred dollars. The value is over \$5,000 and that is grand larceny, which is a felony in this state.

Personally, I would like nothing more than to see twenty four benches for students to use and find the benches at 1-M in storage, however, I've been around far to long to believe anything I can't see or touch. The next time you walk the campus count the benches. Lastly look around the campus and ask yourself, what else is missing..

Protesters, Police and Paolucci

CUNY Students Protest at 80th Street

BY TARA L. MARTIN &
WILLIAM WHARTON

Students from Hunter College, City College, Hostos Community College and the College of Staten Island gathered outside East 80th Street, CUNY Central, on Monday November 23, to protest the CUNY Board of Trustees (BOT) continued attempts to privatize many

CUNY services, end remediation at upper-division colleges and obliterate Open Admissions at all CUNY schools. Open Admissions, one of the many struggles won by students of color during the Civil Rights Movement, allows all New Yorkers the right to higher education, as long as you hold a high school diploma and/or General Equivalency Diploma (GED). As police barricades prevented the students from attending the meeting, protesters chanted Preventing students from entering is the latest in a long line of BOT violations of the New York State Open Meetings law.

Students shouted "1,2,3,4, - CUNY needs an open door", and "Education is a right... FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT" in solidarity with five students that were able to enter the building. S.A.F.E. Team Security guards barred the remaining students from entering the meeting, stating that the Conference Room was filled to capacity. Students began to crowd the sidewalk and doorway of CUNY Central, waiting impatiently to enter the conference room. At this point, the NYPD and the CUNY SAFE team attempted to incite arrests, if the students didn't leave the area. Eventually, the students began to disperse and gather a march toward Hunter College.

A Possible Split On The Board

Anne Paolucci, Pataki appointee and Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of CUNY engaged in a shouting match with fellow Trustee Edith Everett during the Board meeting at CUNY Central. The argument erupted during a heated discus-

sion about the fate of New York City Technical College's Interim President, Emile A. Cozzi. According to Trustee Ronald Marino, "... the search process for a permanent

president is long overdue. For two years, we have waited to replace Cozzi a long time ago, but, it has been delayed. Now's

the time to discuss it". Trustee Everett reiterated this point to Paolucci, who systematically dismissed her saying, "I can't discuss a situation that I have no control

completely undemocratic. She just wants him in as permanent [president]".

University Proficiency Examination gets Second Pilot

During the meeting, Trustee Nilda Soto Ruiz, chair of the Board's Committee on Academic Policy, Program, and Research, gave her recommendation for the expansion and eventually internal replacement of the CUNY Writing Assessment Tests and Reading Test, as a n exit requirement, with the New University Proficiency Examination (NPE). The CWAT will be used as the

assessment tool but the NPE is being presented as a kinder, gentler resurrection of the failed Academic Certification Exam (ACE). "On September 29, 1997, the Board of Trustees directed that the Freshman Skills Assessment

Test should cease to be used for the purposes of assessing efficiency and that a new examination specifically designed for assessing proficiency be directed," stated Ruiz during her recommendation speech. "The examination was developed, and is designed, to assess skills that are expected to be required by every student before reaching his/her junior year. The adoption of this resolu-

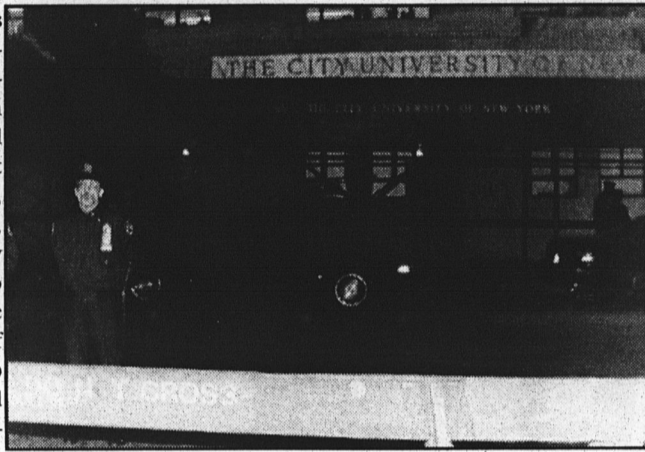
tion will establish University policy effective Fall 1999 and thereafter, all first-time freshman accepted into a degree program be required to pass the University Proficiency Exam."

Also, effective Fall 2000, all transfer stu-

dents seeking admission to upper-division undergraduate baccalaureate degree programs are to pass the NPE. Several Board members expressed the need to create a second pilot program, along with another

Preparing for the Time Bomb

The petty bickering between Everett and Paolucci may be little more than a sparring match as the board prepares to receive the report of Mayor Rudy Giuliani's task force. Led by Benno Schimdt, who has participated in several privatization schemes in the past, the task force



Up to 60% of all incoming freshmen and more than 65% of Black and Latino freshmen will be excluded from senior colleges. Students such as Leslie Ann Alvaradous of CSI picked up the spirit of the movement and told the Voice, "Basically if they ended open admissions, I wouldn't be here and I'm willing to fight, protest and strike to keep this university open to all."

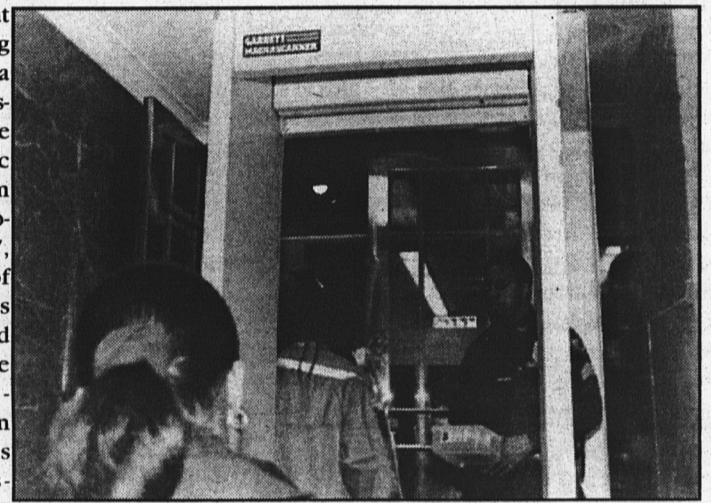
over". Later, Everett and other members of the Board asked that she, at least, agree to present a date where the issue can be extensively discussed. Paolucci wouldn't even agree to present the issue at a later date, sighting that, "... even if I gave City Tech a certain time limit, they would probably take four to six weeks to respond. I can't set a definitive date". During the heated exchange, mayoral appointee Trustee Alfred Curtis, Jr. interjected by making the participants aware that "... internal bickering should not take place at this table." After the meeting's adjournment, Everett stated that she was "...tired of this. She [Paolucci] is so undemocratic. This has gotta stop". As other Trustees, who wanted to remain anonymous, shook their heads in agreement, Trustee Everett continued to state that Paolucci may have a political agenda in not addressing the issue of the interim president. "[She] wants Cozzi to skate through as president of City Tech. This is

dents seeking admission to upper-division undergraduate baccalaureate degree programs are to pass the NPE. Several Board members expressed the need to create a second pilot program, along with another

has been presented with the mission of exploring the possibilities of privatizing remediation at CUNY. The sentiment among many CUNY activists is that "the report is already written they are just waiting for the data to fill in the blanks." Indeed with task force such as Heather McDonald of the Manhattan Institute, an ultra-right wing think tank, and Giuliani lapdog Herman Badillo there is little question that the report will recommend privatizing remediation.

The question of when the time bomb will go off is another matter. The report is officially due out in mid-January but sources inside the Board are pointing towards an earlier date. Board member Alfred Curtis indicated his hope that the report would be released by late December so that changes could be implemented in time for the new City budget. The January meeting also happens to occur, not coincidentally, as the student population if away for winter break.

Outside of the Board protesters highlighted the potentially damaging effect of the move to end remediation at senior colleges and move it to private facilities. Up to 60% of all incoming freshmen and more than 65% of Black and Latino freshmen will be excluded from senior colleges. Students such as Leslie Ann Alvaradous of CSI picked up the spirit of the movement and told the Voice, "Basically if they ended open admissions, I wouldn't be here and I'm willing to fight, protest and strike to keep this university open to all." The only hope to stem the tide of destruction at CUNY is for more voices like this to emerge.



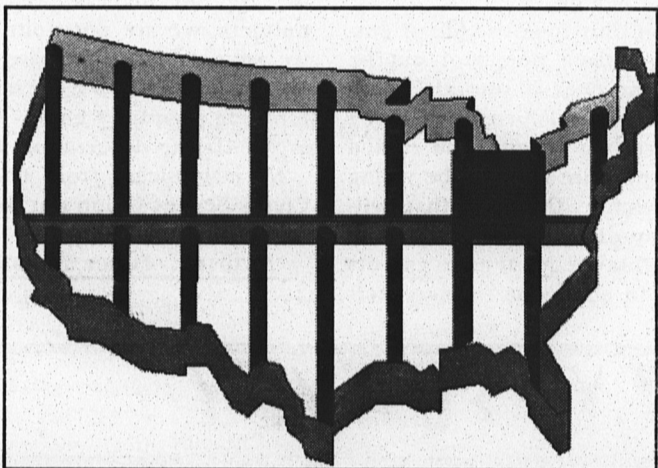
ON THE DEGRADATION OF YOUTH

BY EUROPA GRONINTHAL

With the end of open admissions at CUNY and a cutoff of 1100 on the SATs to attend a four year college, the fate of many New York high school students will soon be uncertain. For many of us, college (especially a CUNY school) is our only hope, because obviously a GED or even a high school diploma won't get us through life in any way that will allow us to pay our bills or survive in the real world.

I want to talk about the situation in high schools today, where students are criminalized and discouraged instead of being inspired to learn and have respect for themselves, while elite "public" schools like Stuyvesant High School coddle their brainiacs and hog funding that should be used to help students who need it.

We will use Curtis High School as an example of an average high school. Fortunately the use of metal detectors has not been instituted there (yet) as it has in



other schools, but the school still operates more like a prison or a juvenile delinquent facility than a "nurturing community..." a bullshit phrase pasted on the wall there, meant to inspire those of us stupid enough to believe it.

How can we be inspired or even stand up for ourselves when a large body of police officers and school security guards are hired for the sole purpose of harassing "criminal" youth? Every day one can plainly see several police cars cruising the area in the

vicinity of the school looking for any students cutting school, so they can immediately herd them into their vans and write them down as truants. Many of these police cars are unmarked, and they'll come out of nowhere to hunt us down and seize us.

As cops cruise the neighborhood, uniformed security guards patrol the hallways. If you happen to be late for class they'll be on your ass in a second. If you try to use the public pay phones within the school, you'd better have a phone pass from a teacher or you're screwed. What if you have to call your parents, make calls for your job, or even call a sick friend? I guess you'll just be forced to go outside, where the cops are waiting to pounce on you!

What goes on in the classrooms is equally disturbing. Most teachers don't seem to give a damn about enlightening us. They are more concerned with

sticking to their set mode of teaching and following the pitiful curriculum faithfully. We're taught a ridiculous and bigoted history of the

world, which the Voice's new Youth section will attempt to counteract.

Yet another issue is that of the percentage of minorities in top honors classes. Although the school consists of about 50% minorities, not many faces other than white are to be seen in these classes. I'm not saying that the school is deliberately doing this, but by not recognizing these inequalities they are contributing to their continuance.

It is extremely unfortunate that so many children who grow up in "low

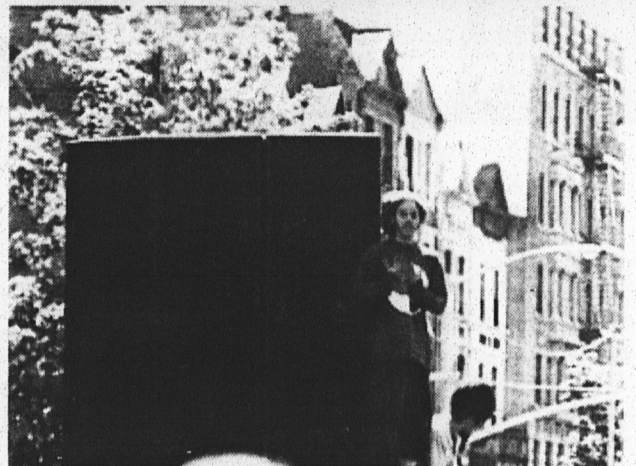
income" or "bad" neighborhoods (in other words "minority") never even get a chance at a decent education. In the extremely racist ways of our system, these local elementary and junior high schools are underfunded, therefore never allowing any except the extremely motivated to move on to an elite education at such schools as Stuyvesant

Just to get things straight, let us compare Stuyvesant High School with Curtis. Stuyvesant is a public school which requires an admissions test to get in. This test really is intended for those junior high school students who were prepared for it by taking freshman level courses in eighth grade. Remember that schools in poor neighborhoods usually don't offer these advanced classes, so ultimately the entire setup is extremely racist and selective.

Stuyvesant is located on Chambers Street in Manhattan, at a beautiful waterfront location. The school is housed in a brand new ten story building, which is only a few years old. There, students are to be seen comfortably sitting in the hallways, chatting and playing cards or their guitar in the corners and freely entering and leaving the lunchroom. The students are allowed to leave the building for lunch and go where they please. Every student in the school has on-line access and a free E mail account. The school specializes in math and science, so there are literally dozens of course offerings in each, as well as an extensive English department covering everything from metaphysics to Asian studies (keep in mind that in Curtis, little more than the bare minimum needed to graduate is offered).

Stuyvesant consists of about fifty percent Asians, but still disturbingly the presence of African American and other minorities is less than ten percent. Why is this? Many of the students that attend the school come from or have illusions of "high class" lifestyles, with dreams of becoming doctors, lawyers and stockbrokers, and with parents who of course reinforce these enterprising and greedy ideals.

It's not fair that these select few students are educated in the lap of luxury in a "public"



YOUTH REPRESSION REACHED NEW HEIGHTS AT THE MILLION YOUTH MARCH

school while so many others are forced to endure such utter crap in comparison.

For those of us not "smart" enough, not rich enough, or not privileged enough to attend an elite institution like Stuyvesant or others like it, high school is merely a holding pen to lock us up—the youth, who historically have been at the front of all radical social movements. They try to instill superficial corporate values into our minds to numb our impulses, so we will not recognize the injustices in the world we live in and therefore strive for change.

And so youth today are released from high school never having been educated or encouraged. No wonder why some, though not all, youth resort to criminal behavior! Rightfully resentful of authority, there is seemingly nowhere to channel this resentment and so they may turn to pointless violence or vandalism as an outlet. Of course this is not because they are essentially bad, but because of the environment in which they live and are educated in. If no one expects any better of you, it's easy to fall prey and let yourself be sacrificed. It takes extreme motivation or inner strength to rise above these discouraging standards, and sadly many never get a chance.

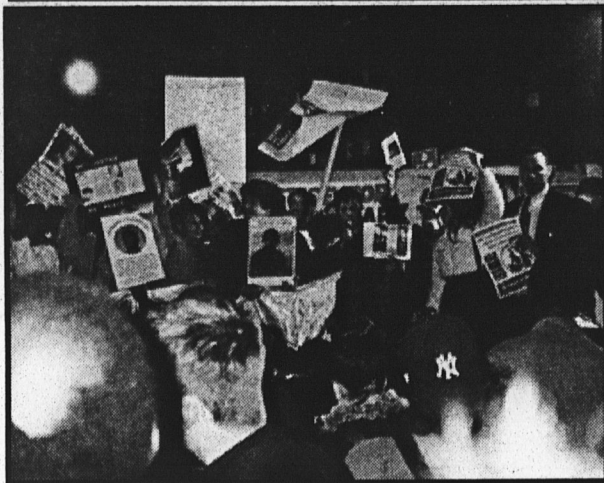
I want to say to my fellow youth—if you feel that anger boiling inside of you at your parents, teachers, cops, or the system in general, don't resort to blind violence (as unfortunately I've seen my friends do too many times!) ...resist. Try to understand why you feel this way. Educate yourself, so no one can ever make you feel inferior. When you lash out that way, it will only reinforce the excuses with which your oppressors have power over you, and so they will tighten their choke hold round your throat.

YOUTH have a VOICE

An Honest View of History

The purpose of the *College Voice Youth Section* will be to factually dissect prominent historical figures who have been overly glorified and abstracted by the extremely patriotic and pro-imperialist version of history we are forced to learn in the United States. We will attempt to provide a more objective point of view, based on fact, not fiction. Commonly known figures dealing with the abuses of Native Americans, the "freeing" of the slaves, anti-Communist propaganda, and the Black Panther movement will be featured.

October 22 Coalition Delivers Knockout Blow to Repressive Rudy



BY DIONNE MCLAUGHLIN

On October 21, the October 22nd Coalition went into court to protest the denying of their request for a permit to march to City Hall. They won the right to march. On October 22, the day of the march, Giuliani took them back to court to appeal the judge's decision and once again the coalition was victorious. Giuliani was upset because of the subject matter of the march-police brutality. He did not want anyone speaking against his precious boys in blue.

"Racist, sexist, anti-gay. NYPD go away." This was one of the many chants that could be heard from the crowd of protesters that numbered over 3000. Similar protests were taking place across the nation. The crowd came out to show their disdain towards the manner in which the police were treating members of their community, both black and white. The main goal of the march could be summed up by what Sarah Husain, a representative of the October 22nd Coalition, had to say, "We will not tolerate the repression and the victimization of a generation."

Upon arriving at City Hall Park, after a long march from Union Square, family members of police brutality victims, mostly their parents, appeared on stage

as guest speakers. They spoke of their children's harrowing ordeals at the hands of the police. As relative after relative came up to the podium to tell their story, the audience showed empathy to every word.

Margarita Rosario, mother of Anthony Rosario, came up to the podium and told the story of how her son was shot and killed by a cop who worked in the same precinct as the men who sexually assaulted Abner Louima. Ms. Rosario went on to relate how the mayor, Robert Johnson, the Bronx DA, the prosecutor, and the judge all attempted to get the two cops off free of any charges.

Another mother came up and told the story of her child who was in jail. He was also mistreated by the police, this time in the uniform of prison guards. The police shoved fifteen yards of toilet paper up his nose and down his throat, then dragged him through the courtyard, stripped him and put him into the shower. They did not feed him for three days. Then they tied his hands and legs down. To add insult to injury, they kept changing his room. This person became not only physically disabled, but mentally disabled. When he asked for his medication they would beat him. When he asked for his mother they shoved the toilet paper up his nose and down his

throat. They did not even tell his mother that her son had passed away. Through it all they denied that they had killed him.

Among the mothers was also a father, Nicholas Heyward Sr., the father of a thirteen year old boy that was shot by a NYC housing cop in the Gowanus houses in 1996. The cop stated that he thought the gun Heyward Jr. had was real and that he heard a clicking

noise. This was despite the fact that the kids told the that officer they were just playing with toy guns.

The cop not only took the life of possibly the first Black president but he also scarred the lives of the other children that had the misfortune of being there. In just two seconds, he ruined the lives of an entire family. The young life of the victim, the kids that witnessed this murder and the parents of the boy. Imagine the money the parents would need to shell out to give their

children much needed therapy. These people live in the housing projects; they probably don't have the resources to get the children the necessary treatment.

Nicholas Heyward Sr. also gave a short speech in which he said, "We are not slaves, we are not targets of police brutality, we are not sex objects, we are



prisoners, we are not scapegoats, we are not guinea pigs, we are not sex objects, we are not niggers, we are not egg builders, we are not political flunkies, we are not bitches, we are not yours to do as you please. We are human beings, meaning people of color. Humans who are of African descent and Latinos."

Norman Siegel from The New York Civil Liberties Union put three myths to rest during his speech:

"Myth #1: Police Brutality is an iso-

Continued on page 7

POLICE BRUTALITY SURVEY

Gender
Males 6
Females 19

Ethnicity:
White 6
Person of Color 14

Where Do You Live:
Brooklyn 5

Staten Island 2

Are the Police Involved in Your Community?
Yes 9
No 15

Are the Police Considered to Be:

Support to the Community 12

Threat to the Community 4

Other 9

Are they Well Respected by:

Adults	19 yes	6 no
Youth	8 yes	17 no
Friends	12 yes	13 no
You	14 yes	11 no

Is Being A police Officer Considered a Good Job?

Yes 12
No 13

Are There Positive Police-Sponsored Programs such as Outreach Programs, in Your Area?

Yes 8
No 17

Are There Organizations Aimed at Preventing Police Brutality, Such as COP-WATCH, in your area?

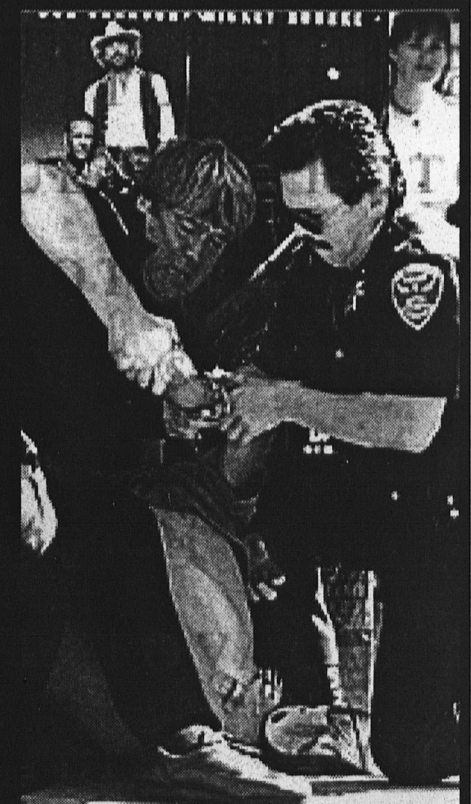
Yes 5
No 20

Have You Ever Had An Encounter with the Police?

Yes 17
No 8

If So Were They:

Negative	10
Hostile	5
Violent	2
Pleasant	3
Supportive	3
Helpful	3



A Few Rotten Apples or Systematic Abuse???

BY ONICA JACKSON

Over the past few years the number of civilian abuse and deaths by police (NYPD) has increased tremendously as seen on the news and in the media. That is bad, but in all fairness there is no need to blame the whole police department for a few rotten apples. Growing up in New York, I surely haven't experienced any sort of police brutality, or any of my family and friends. The men and women in blue are here to protect our streets and keep us safe and I believe that most of them do a wonderful job. For the few men/women in blue who think that having a gun and a badge gives them the ultimate power to take another

IS THAT WHAT A PERSONS LIFE IS WORTH AND WHAT IS LEFT, A GRIEVING FAMILY WITH LITTLE OR NO ANSWERS.

persons life)that is wrong. These people are sworn to protect us not to harm us.

The worst part of all is that the officers who commit these horrific crimes such as murder face no real punishment. Most of the times, which is about ninety per cent of the times, these wrong doing officers get no jail time, they sometimes get suspended with or without pay or fired. Is that what a person life is worth and what is left, a grieving family with no or little answers. Such as in the Anthony's case, this guy was held in an illegal chock hold by a police officer, unfortunately he died. His family ended up suing the city for a big amount of money and gladly they

won. That does not bring back Anthony, by the family doing that it tells the officers that they cannot hurt our people and get away with it. Or that Haitian man Abner Louima who was arrested and beaten severely and left unconscience lying in a hospital bed. Another case involved a teenage boy being shot by police who apparently mistook his toy gun for the real thing. Or the cook who did not speak English. The police officers came into his restaurant to search it under some condition and the cook was in the back cooking and he had a knife in his hand and when the police came

in. The officers ordered him to drop the knife and since the cook did not understand or speak English, he had no idea what they were saying. In other words he did not put down the knife so he was shot to death. Even before it gets to this point where innocent lives are lost something needs to be done and done immediately.



A ROTTEN APPLE DISHES OUT SYSTEMATIC ABUSE

For the majority that do their job correctly, I commend you and have the ultimate respect for you and hope you keep on doing a great job. For the others punish them severely. Remember there will always be a few rotten apples in the tree.

October 22nd Coalition Delivers Knockout Blow to Repressive Rudy *Continued from pg. 6*

lated incident. Since 1994 when Giuliani took office there has been over 12,000 allegations of excessive force at the Civilian Complaint Review Board. This was an astonishing 71% jump from years previous.

Myth #2: There are only a few bad apples in the bunch. Not true, the NYPD has a systemic problem, they have a legacy of violence, sexism and homophobia.

Myth #3: There are no racial overtones. Not true, over 53% of the complaints received are filed by citizens of African American descent and 80% of all the complaints are placed by African Americans and Latinos.

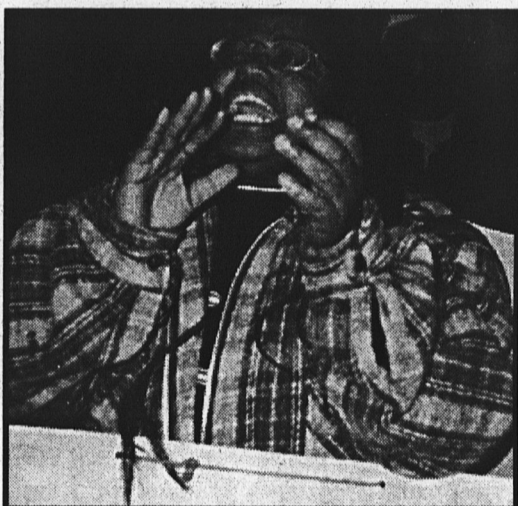
Anitas Caritas Junior's mother said it best when she said "You people better wake up." This phrase rings true especially for people of color. They are the majority that are being targeted by police brutality. However, they seem to be the most dormant. It is as if they do not care or do not realize what is going on

A gay rights activist also came out to show his disgust for the police and support for the message of the march. He was an instrumental figure in the march down Fifth Avenue for Matthew Shepherd. Matthew Speared was slaughtered in Wyoming simply because of his sexual orientation. The

speaker gave an account of how the police swooped in on him and the other members of the march. How the "pigs" (police) beat up on them and took countless others to jail. The most poignant moment of his speech occurred when he declared that he would not allow anyone to be victimized because of their color, age, or sexual preference

Iris Baez, mother of Anthony Baez, who was killed in a chokehold by former Police Officer Anthony Livoti also spoke. She has been a

very vocal supporter of the October 22 Coalition, and said, "Giuliani has allowed it to become an epidemic but we are also to blame [because] every time we see one of our own get arrested, we turn away." The problem is simply this, we must look out for each other if the problem of police brutality is ever to be eliminated. We must organize, educate, and fight.



October 22nd protester screams out against injustice



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GIULIANI'S POLICE STATE

by The Mystery Man

Since he was elected in 1993, Mayor "Scum" Giuliani has become the dictator with the iron fist in order to impress his fellow conservatives by pushing people around with idiot laws. He likes to use his police officers to bully the citizens of New York with intimidation tactics carried out by his puppet, Howard "Bull Connor" Safir. Since he became mayor, police brutality has been on the rise while cops use the 48-hour rule to protect murderers. Enough is enough because the police department is nothing more than the state funded bullies of New York. Somehow we have to fight back and win our battles in the streets. Who else can we trust to make change? The New York City Police Department.

Giuliani is an anti-constitutional mayor who routinely denies permits to march for political reasons, but the courts caught him violating the first amendment and the marches were permitted. Last week's peaceful march against police brutality is testament to the mayor's hypocrisy. At the Million Youth March in Harlem, Giuliani's police thugs intimidated the marchers and residents who were merely trying to get across the street to their houses. They also used choppers to distract the crowd so that the police could come in and break it up. Last Monday a march of gay and lesbians, who were in the street protesting the death of Matthew Shepard, got out of control as riot cops came in and broke up the demonstration and beat up the group with nightsticks and pepper spray. I say, "Fuck the Police."

Giuliani began the onslaught of stupid laws that were totally outrageous by picking on the taxi drivers, CUNY students, outdoor vendors and many other issues he would like to crush to

create a "nice city." Nice for his conservative masters and the rich that is. Many others of us are not happy with the laws he makes and boo Giuliani when he makes appearances around the city. The way he makes up these restrictions, you would think that this is not a free country. His big fucking ego makes him a greedy mayor who wants to take credit for everything and his administration is a bunch of arrogant, rude people if you have ever actually met these jackasses. We can't let Giuliani run our lives.

Taxi drivers are targets of the Giuliani administration by putting the strictest regulations in the country that will be potentially devastating to taxi drivers and companies who will lose a lot of money. His Taxi and Limousine Commission voted without giving the taxi drivers a chance during the voting process. The taxi drivers then gave the commission an earful and they voted against a few of the strict regulations. Giuliani lost this round big time and the taxi drivers union won.

CUNY students were also not safe from the tyrannical mayor. The flap began during last years Hostos Community College graduation. Giuliani told his fellow rich Board of Trustees members to end remediation and open admissions for good. He was trying to rob students of higher education. Many students and faculty members did not

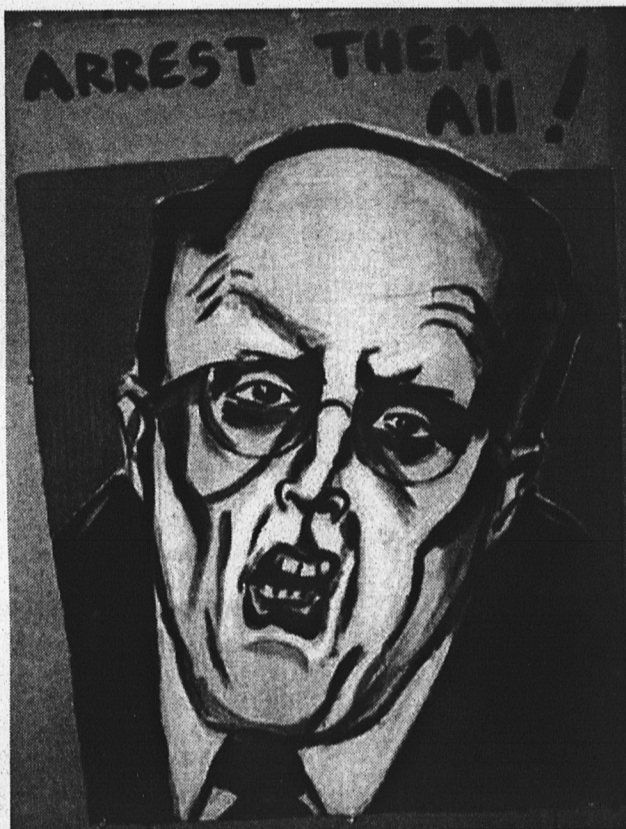
like it at all. On May 28th, Anne Paolucci and Herman Badillo (a main Giuliani ally) removed all the people who were at the meeting voicing their displeasure. Knucklehead Paolucci violated the protesters first amendment rights and the board preceded to vote with the doors closed, violating the open meetings law. Giuliani's police then arrested the protesters outside of the board for disorderly conduct. However, the courts told the BOT that they violated the law and threw out the vote entirely. In the future they will still try and close the doors to education so we must be aware.

The Work Experience Program (WEP), another Giuliani brainstorm, is modern slave labor as recipients work for less than the minimum wage. There was a story about a woman who had a health problem that would prevent her from doing physical work. She told the

person in charge of the program that her condition made her unable to do strenuous work. The woman requested clerical work, but she was denied and a few months later she died of an apparently fatal heart condition. When the story broke I was outraged and I hold Mayor Giuliani responsible for her death. People who go to school and receive public assistance are now being forced into the WEP program which will prevent them from getting their diploma's. Giuliani should get life for this and should leave these working people alone.

Outdoor vendors were not as lucky as others. Giuliani's bully tactics have removed many of them from the streets of New York. Outdoor vendors make a living by selling food, clothes, books, toys and every other item you see on the streets of Manhattan. Many of these people will be forced to move elsewhere because new laws say that vendors can't sell on the streets from Downtown to Mid-Manhattan. Street artists were also denied the right to sell their goods because Giuliani felt that it was illegal. The talent expressed by these artists was stifled by this tyrant mayor who believes that artwork only belongs in the museums. Some of the street art are living masterpieces and anyone who appreciates art must stand up to the mayor. I encourage everyone in the city to go to the mayor's exhibit in a downtown art museum and vandalize it to send the mayor a message that we don't tolerate selections of tyrannical art. Art is an appreciation of life and the Mayor should butt out of ours.

One last thing, his policies are a bunch of bull and do not listen to him or his conservatives who want to be rich and take money away from us. Your education is being robbed by Giuliani and the jackass Pataki, who will use money to build jails instead of fixing schools around the city while the rich get richer because they go by tax free while we pay. It is time for us to make a stand and rage against the enemies of New York and overthrow them for good. This is a free country and we don't need Fascists and racists running this city.



FROM THE NEW WORLD TO THE NEW WORLD ORDER



Don't Mourn For Matthew Shepard

Hate Crime Should Be a Call for Action Not Vigilance

BY WILLIAM WHARTON

The recent murder of Matthew Shepard, a 21 year old college student, in Laramie, Wyoming has produced a myriad of responses throughout the nation. The sheer brutality of this act of hatred offers a bleak view into the cracks and contradictions that cut across American societal relations. As each different section of the American political landscape reacted to the incident, it became more apparent then ever that the solution to preventing further acts of violence lies far beyond mainstream politics.

Clearly Matthew Shepard was a victim of a society in which hatred of others is increasingly becoming a national pastime. The only thing Shepard was guilty of is idealism and naiveté. As friend Romaine Patterson told the media, "He (Matthew) went to meet anyone thinking, 'This is a good person. This is someone worth meeting.'" For a 21 year old student with such a humanistic outlook, each interaction began with curiosity instead of the suspicion and contempt that is ground into most of us by that age. This world outlook clashed with a society which is becoming increasing intolerant towards homosexuality.

America's homophobia is far from contained within town limits of Laramie. Instead it is splashed across the pages of the New York Times and other publications. Claims from the Christian right that the "sin" of homosexuality can be cured through a re-devotion to the bible can do nothing more than foster an environment in which homosexuals are sinners to be converted at best or demons to be cast out at worst. Indeed the need to convert or cast out is a strong historical tradition within Christianity. Let us not forget the manner in which "Biblical therapy" was used as part of the project to pacify Native American peoples from the Caribbean to California.

Along with thinking about how senseless the death of Matthew Shepard was, we should also ponder how senseless the lives of Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney also were. High school dropouts, both youths were forced to confront many of the

disintegrating forces that exist in our society. Henderson was the product of a broken home and left high school to begin work as a gas station attendant and part time roofer. One friend described him as, "about as American as a kid can get." McKinney developed a reputation as being bigoted with a hot temper. He had been in trouble with the law more than a dozen times and was involved in the robbery of a Kentucky Fried Chicken last December. Henderson and McKinney represent the failure of our society, young people whose interactions with three of the dominant institutions in society, the family, the school system and the state, produced nothing but ignorance and alienation.

The growing trend of violent homophobia became even more apparent from two events following Shepard's death. The first, his funeral, became yet another breeding ground for the hatred of the Christian right. "Protesters" carried placards with slogans such as "Fags Doom Nations", "Matt in Hell" and "God Hates Fags." Always willing to defend hatred, the protesters were roped off and protected by the police, but kept within eyeshot of the funeral. The second event which displayed the ruptures in our society was a spontaneous march by gay rights activists in Manhattan. Over 6,000 people assembled

that is being modeled into their monolithic images. The response from the liberal side of the political spectrum offers more than enough evidence for the increasing rise of right wing ideology in the mainstream of society and far right ideas on the fringes of society.

Liberals have responded with the usual mix of psychological therapy rooted in a firm belief in the idea that society is self correcting. Each of the emotional candlelight vigils serves to create a platform from which speakers can publicly declare their opposition to all that is hateful. After the ceremony is over, everyone can return to their usual lives confident that they have justly

mourned Matthew Shepard. Bill Clinton provided the other side of the liberal response by pushing for stern legislation against hate crimes involving sexual preference. The thinking is that if the punishment for such crimes is made higher it will make the criminal think twice before taking such actions. Strategies such as these fail to recognize the fact that the supposedly ultimate judicial deterrent, the death penalty, faced Henderson and McKinney and they still care out this heinous act. As with Clinton's Committee on Race Relations, they offer little more than window dressing resistance to the intolerant surge from the right.

The greatest way anyone can mourn for Matthew Shepard is to spend as little time mourning as possible. As Shepard told a friend a mere 24 hours before his murder, "My goal right now is to do what I can, in any way, shape or form, to better humanity." In this case we can all take up Matthew's call fighting ignorance. This translates into transforming our educational institutions from centers of restricted knowledge into workshops in the intricacies of modern society. Concretely this translates into fighting for greater inclusion of issues of sexual preference in high school and college curriculum. The money wasted on the Committee on Race Relations could have been better spent on community based educational programs to deal with issues of race, gender and sexual orientation. However, this tactic is too dangerous for liberals fearful of uniting poor and working people around issues which have historically been manipulated to divide

them.

Public universities, such as CSI, should be the centerpiece of this intellectual movement, a place in which our future high school teachers are given access to sections of knowledge - queer theory, history and literature - previously hidden away under the guise of being "inappropriate." Without these

tools, without the intellectual ability to deconstruct the idea of the homosexual as being the "other" we have abandoned any realistic hope to end hatred and bigotry.

In addition to this demand for intellectual freedom, we must also let our

voices be heard on the streets as the brave protesters in New York and other cities have already done. We must send a direct message to all potential gay bashers that their show of force will be met with an equal and if possible superior defense of everyone's right to sexual self determination. Candle light vigils and national legislation are merely paving the road for more attacks by removing the focus from the areas we should be working towards changing - the classroom and the streets.

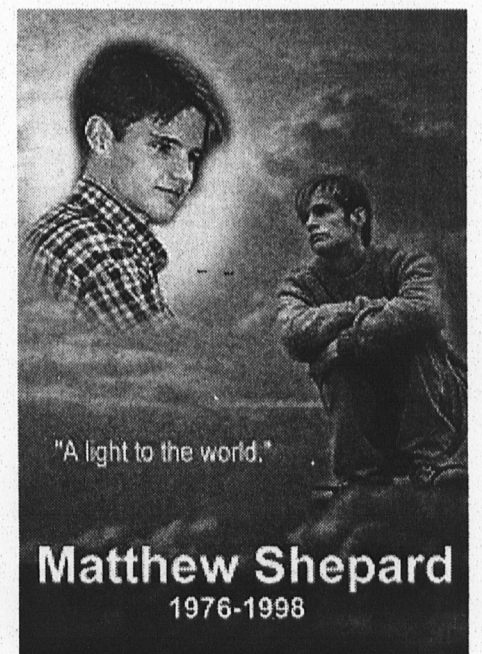


CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALIST OUTSIDE OF MATTHEW SHEPARD'S FUNERAL

Liberals have responded with the usual mix of psychological therapy rooted in a firm belief in the idea that society is self correcting. Each of the emotional candlelight vigils serves to create a platform from which speakers can publicly declare their opposition to all that is hateful...confident that they have justly mourned Matthew Shepard.

pared to embrace, respect and learn from them but by a violent display of state power. Under direct orders from bigoted Mayor Rudolph Giuliani the police force attacked the protesters with batons and horses arresting more than 100 and injuring many others.

The right wing has shown its unwillingness to loosen any part of their control of society no matter what the cost. To Trent Lott, Giuliani and Newt Gingrich, Shepard, Henderson and McKinney are the by products of a society



THE MURDER OF MATTHEW SHEPARD SHOULD BE A RALLYING POINT FOR A MOVEMENT TOWARDS A MORE JUST SOCIETY

No Justice... No Peace

The Civil Disobedience of Kweisi Mfume

BY TARA L. MARTIN

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [NAACP] President and CEO Kweisi Mfume, along with 18 protesters, were arrested and charged with civil disobedience by Washington police during a mass demonstration to protest the "shameful and hypocritical" hiring practices of people of color within the US Supreme Court. President Mfume attempted to deliver resumes of qualified minority law school students able to clerk within the country's highest courts. Mfume peacefully surrendered to officers for arrest after crossing police barricades to deliver the resumes.

"This clearly is history repeating itself. What has happened in Washington, needs to take place throughout the entire country."

A crowd of 1,000 spanning all backgrounds, minority lawyer organizations and a multi-ethnic coalition hailing from 10 states, along with other groups chanting "No justice, no peace". Members of various different social interest groups such as The National Bar Association, The Hispanic Native American Bar Association, National Asian Pacific American Bar, Native American Bar Association, United Auto Workers, National Organization for Women, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Native American Rights Fund participated in the demonstration. The protest lasted about two hours on the steps of the Supreme Court.

The rally coincided with the opening day of the court's 1998-1999 session. It makes two years in a row that African-Americans were not hired as clerks. The current justices have hired only seven Blacks out of 428 clerks. Also, only 1% hired were Latino, 4% Asian, and only 1/4th of the clerks hired were women. "In the 200 year history of the Supreme Court, no Native Americans have ever received a clerkship. Those arrested were charged with violating Title 40 of the US Code - unlawful entry on the grounds of the Supreme Court. They plead guilty before a judge at DC Superior Court who suspended sentencing, ordered no probation, but issued each a \$50 fine that was paid and goes to support the DC Victim's Rights Fund.

The NAACP is the oldest, largest and strongest civil rights organization in the United States. The major objective is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality for minority group citizens of the United States. It's focal commitment is the achievement through non-violence and relies upon the press, the petition, the ballot and the courts and

is persistent in the use of legal and moral persuasion even on the face of overt and violent racial hostility. For 87 years, the NAACP through political pressure, marches, demonstrations [like the one held in Washington] and effective lobbying, has served as the voice, as well as the shield of American people of color. It's prolonged agitation for peaceful change has been felt in every corner of American life.

"The clerks influence on both the cases heard and the opinions written by the court is tremendous and cannot be under-

estimated. We reviewed the recent decisions by this activist court that has narrowed opportunity for people of color, affirmative action, and the Voting Rights Act", said Mfume during the recent demonstration strategy meeting, just days before the protest. The fact that these nine justices who sit on the highest court in the land do not practice equal opportunity exposes a great deal of hypocrisy."

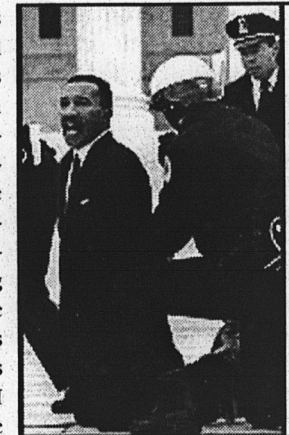
Many avid defenders of the NAACP conclude that the action taken on Monday will set a definite precedence in the new beginning of a progressive activist movement within the civil rights organization. "This clearly is history repeating itself. What has happened in Washington, needs to take place throughout the entire country," stated Alleyne, Executive Committee member of the Staten Island Branch of the NAACP. On a local and national level, things must move on and issues must be addressed." Staten Island Branch President Edward Josey, Jr. confirmed that he is in complete support of the action taken by Mfume. Racism is becoming a more subtle issue within this country and the sole purpose of the organization is to rally against injustice and preserve the focal prospect of affirmative action for minority groups."

As this progressive movement toward activism and seditious demonstration begins to unfold, history has taught us that young, intellectually educated and defiant people will be the leaders of this struggle. The ramifications of these racist hiring practices will be felt by every individual within the US judicial system and

outside of it, as well. College students who have aspirations to attend law school and eventually clerk in higher courts will find it difficult to find clerkships, if they do not appear to be the "right color". This is a good example of institutional racism in America. In the past, it was obvious of whom was racist and whom wasn't, but now it's become more subtle." William Wharton, National/ International Editor at the CSI College Voice [Progressive Political Journal at the College of Staten Island] feels that "... getting arrested is a good way to bring attention to an issue, but the more important work is building a mass movement to address issue such as racism, classism and sexism." Other CSI voices that have expressed concern are CSI Student Government Senator and political science/pre-law major Timothy Jenkins. "It's deplorable that the percentage of Supreme Court clerks that are African-American isn't at least representative of the percentage of law students that are black. By not having members of the African American community working for the Supreme Court, African-Americans lose out because it is less likely that the Justices will fully empathize with their community."

Staten Island members of the African-American community are up in arms

suggests that the organization should try to express more of an interest within the immediate community, rather than upper



NAACP President Kweisi Mfume is arrested during Washington protest

middle-class African American issues. "Why is [NAACP trying to get jobs for upper class minorities while they're ignoring the issues of grassroots, poor and uneducated minorities within our community [Their activities] are in favor of middle class African-American issues and it is traditional within the organization."

Nevertheless, this reformism action taken by the

NAACP can be absorbed a number of ways. This can be instituted as a New beginning" of a revolutionary progressivist movement that will affect the entire country, in the terms of economic development within minority communities, substantial education of youth of color, essential health care for all disenfranchised and

poor citizens and a better movement toward quality labor relations within this country and other countries that American businesses curtail to.

On the other hand, it can be construed as an eye-opening experience of the consistency of subtle racism with our US government and judicial system and how the "celebrated" President's Committee on Race Relations really has not done much to solidify our country's "colorful" foundation and bring to the table the true question of culture and ethno-

centricity in reach of the people of color in this country. Kweisi Mfume should be applauded for bringing back to life the unyielding spirit of demonstration and protest, but the struggle has yet to be won. There are many more battles to be won on this racially-barren land before we can truly reap the benefits of this capitalistically monopolized American society.

This can be the new beginnings of a revolutionary progressive movement that will affect the entire country, in the terms of economic development within minority communities, increasing the education of youth of color, and providing essential health care for all disenfranchised and poor citizens, along with a movement toward quality labor relations within this country and other countries that American businesses cater to.

about this most recent display of liberalism within the NAACP. However, many people are not as easily impressed with this action. Most people consider it a 'non-issue'. Law clerks have little influence making [legal] decisions, and regardless of the position, [law students] might not make a substantial amount of money prior to acquiring the clerkship." Local African-American attorney and Staten Island NAACP Legal Counsel Duane C. Felton

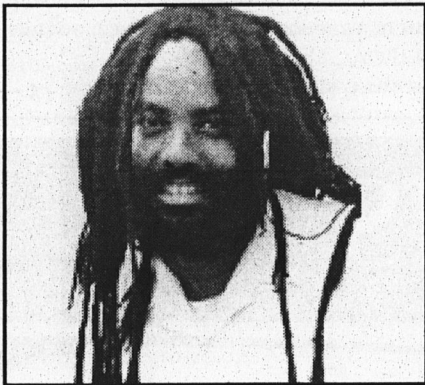
State Sponsored Repression and the Plight of Our Political Prisoners

BY IMAN EL-SAYED

It is amazing that we are supposed to be in a free and civilized country. It is free only compared to other countries, but hardly free in fact. The FBI is a branch of so called "Intelligence" agencies that play stupid and cruel games with normal peoples lives like us and never pay for it.

Leonard Peltier could be you, me, anyone who stands up for his family, friends, community and beliefs. For doing so he is serving a 2 consecutive life sentences in a federal penitentiary, but the crazy thing is there is no proof that he is guilty of anything.

The American Indian Movement (AIM) was born from the violence of police brutality and the unheard voices of the discriminated and the mistreated American Indians. They decided that enough is enough and they must get back their rights and bring back their culture and



keep their families out of jail. Even though they are respected by many, hated by some, they are never ignored.

FBI CRACK DOWN

Peltier was identified as an American Indian Movement (AIM) leader by the FBI, so they needed to find a way to put him away and keep him silent. When two FBI agents were killed, four men were initially accused, two were acquitted and proven innocent by an all white jury (reason of self-defense) and the govern-

ment dropped charges against the third (lack of evidence) so they could focus on Leonard Peltier because they would rather stop the leader. The government was determined to crush the AIM leadership so they had a trial in which he was convicted of the murders. Peltier's trial and other appeals were marked by FBI coercion of witnesses, perjury, fabrication of evidence and the suppression of explanatory evidence which could have proved this man's innocence. The court called the FBI misconduct "an abuse of the investigative process" but still ruled

against a new trial for Peltier. The most shocking thing that happened was the testimony of several witnesses particularly Norman Brown who was supposed to lie about the case but instead spoke the truth and said he was hired by the FBI and he never saw Peltier near the bodies. The government has said,

"We do not know who did it, we did not prove who did it, all we proved was that he participated". You cannot lock up a man for all his life and not have proof he did it but that he was in the territory with his family because all the people that live in that community participated. Because the people love Peltier and follow his beliefs they chose to pick him. They have nothing but hatred towards the native people and want to continue dominating them and their communities

like they have stepped on this l a n d .

HOOVER CREATES PROGRAM

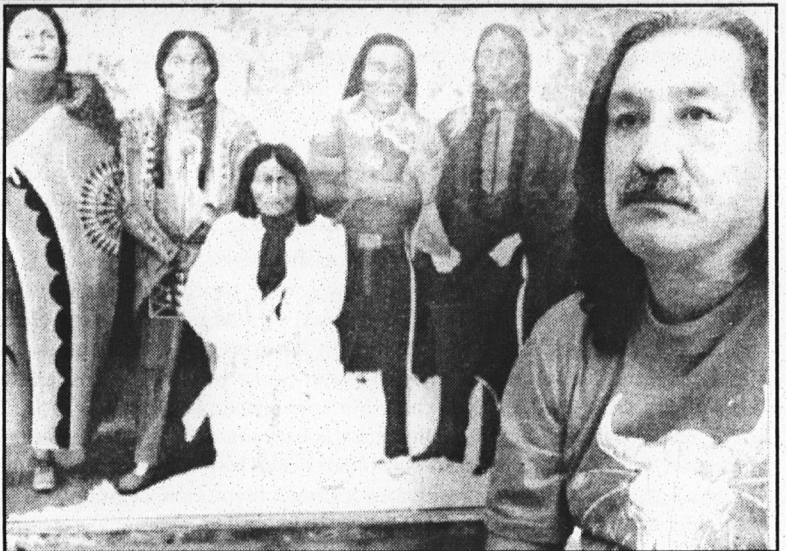
The FBI setup a secret Coin-telpro program, which was created by J.Edgar Hoover. This program was established to spy on other

politicians and also to spy on people the FBI consider a threat in unmasking their dirty games and fighting for their rights. This program has killed, attacked and arrested many people that have done nothing but try to protect their

property, families and lives. The people who run these programs play very ugly games with peoples lives. One day you could be lying down happy and the next your testifying against a man you've never seen in your life. Why? Because you are forced to, and if you choose not to, you might end up being prosecuted for something you never did just like the person you were supposed to testify against is. The way the COINTELPRO program works, they wiretap your phones or hire an informer to see what is going on and then report everything to the FBI.

PANTHERS TARGETED

This program has affected many peoples lives, all kinds of leaders and activists. The FBI planted an informant near Fred Hampton (who was a member of the Black Panthers) and had his mothers home wiretapped. He was killed at the age of 20 by Chicago cops and FBI agents. The informer who spied on the Black Panthers was a convicted felon whose charges were dropped for telling the FBI everything about the Panthers and their secret headquarters. COINTELPRO's objectives were to destroy the Panthers community programs like, free breakfast for children program and the distribution of it's national newspaper. The cops claimed that there was a gun battle. However, out of 70 bullets holes only one round was from the Panthers and it was from Mark Clark (also a member of the Black Panthers who shot into



Political Prisoner Leonard Peltier

the floor while being assassinated.) The police and the FBI engaged in a coverup, and nobody served a single day in jail for the attack. The police and FBI think they run the game and do what they want, whenever they want. There are many people who are suffering or have suffered because of this, Mumia Abu Jamal, Eldridge Cleaver, Booby Seale, Huey P. Newton, Fred Hampton Jr. and anyone they don't like and disagree with. For all we know, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X were killed by the FBI or someone hired by the FBI. This has to stop because I would hate to see myself or someone I know, end up in jail or dead for protecting their family or friends and then look like he's the murderer and the guilty one. This system works to keep us down with no culture or beliefs. They want us to have no rights but what they tell us is our rights. People should resist and keep on resisting because if they don't, it is going to get worse and more American Indians will be killed and arrested and more African Americans will be the victims of discrimination by the government. Many other immigrant groups are also being targeted and are victims of police brutality and FBI coverups. We are all victims and we should unite in a revolution as fellow humans to stop the deaths of our fathers and our youth. We must stop the style of living of the rich and powerful because they are living well while we are struggling to survive.

We are all victims and we should unite in a revolution as fellow humans to stop the deaths of our fathers and our youth. We must stop the style of living of the rich and powerful because they are living well while we are struggling to survive.

SUPPORT THE MINE WORKERS STRUGGLE

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA STRIKE HEADQUARTERS
508 Elevator- FARMERSVILLE, ILL. 62533
Phone (217)-227-3233 OR
(217)-227-3674 ~
Fax 1-(217)-227-4482
November 18, 1998
Dear

My name is Lou Ashby, Vice President of Local 1969 of the United Mine Workers of America, and the food coordinator

of the food pantry for the current strike between the United Mine Workers of America and Freeman United Coal Company. Freeman United Coal Company is a subsidiary of General Dynamics, Inc. There are three (3) mines currently out on strike at this time. The Freeman United Coal Company's Crown II Mine, located in Virden, Illinois which is Local Union 1969, which has a membership of approximately 186. The Crown III Mine

located in Farmersville, Illinois, Local Union 0012 and has a membership of approximately 132. The Industry Mine, located at Industry, Illinois and has approximately 44 in their membership. All three locals have been on strike since September 10, 1998.

Negotiations between the two parties as of Thursday, October 29, 1998, have broken off and there are no tentative meetings scheduled. The most paramount issue being discussed is Health Care.

We are asking you to consider helping our brothers and sisters during this difficult time. There are two (2) ways that you can help during this time. 1.) By having a food drive at individual work sites 2.) or by making a donation to the Relief Fund.

If donations are directed for the food pantry, please send donations to:

Food Pantry
United Mine
Workers of
America

Strike Headquarters
P.O. Box 107

Farmersville, Illinois 62533



COLLEGE VOICE WHO WE ARE

The College Voice (CV) is a publication committed to the interests of working people. The working class is composed of all those people who own nothing but their ability to perform manual or mental labor and are forced to sell it for a wage. As students at CUNY, we recognize that we are a part of the multi-racial, multi-national working class of New York City. The severe attacks that CUNY has undergone are mirrored by the endless assaults on the jobs, wages and living standards of working people, as well as by the attacks on trade union, democratic and civil rights.

We oppose the poisonous divisions fostered on the basis of race by the bosses, who make black and white workers fight each other for the crumbs off their table...even though it is the workers who produce all the wealth.

We oppose the systematic attempts to reduce women to a defined "feminine" status, that serves to legitimize the special oppression they face as women and the additional exploitation they undergo as workers.

We oppose the vicious attacks on immigrant workers, who are the most vulnerable victims of the bosses job market, and who are thus used to drive all workers wages down.

We oppose every form of bigotry, on principle, as unbefitting our species and recognize that the fight for human liberation will be achieved only in the course of combatting these divisions.

We oppose the use of the environment as a source of short-term profit and plunder by the ruling rich regardless of the consequences for the majority of the world's population.

The CV recognizes that it is the capitalist system, based upon the private ownership of the means of producing the wealth, that is fundamentally responsible for the fantastic hardship and misery that the vast majority of our species undergoes across the globe...in the midst of plenty.

The CV recognizes that this contradiction, far from being some "natural" condition, is one maintained by the armed power of the capitalist state (army, cops and courts) and ideological apparatus (media, church and schools) of the capitalist class that insures the domination of the few over the many; of the bosses, who produce nothing and appropriate everything over the workers, who produce everything but appropriate nothing.

The CV recognizes the possibility and the burning necessity for creating a society in which the productive forces are democratically organized through the cooperative association of workers and production is based on human needs instead of private profits in harmony with the environment.

The CV recognizes the necessity for creating a revolutionary party of the working class, based upon a program of militant mass action and class struggle politics, that will organize internationally against world capitalism and its multi- and transnational corporations and fight for a socialist revolution against them.

The CV seeks to engage all those who are committed to fighting exploitation and oppression in common action against the common enemy...capitalism.

CARTOONS



spot the
TERRORIST!



IN CASE OF FINANCIAL DISASTER BREAK GLASS

EDITORIAL

Waiting For a Real Response

continued from pg. 4

The issue of what the Affirmative Action office (AA) did or did not recommend regarding faculty hiring cuts

much closer to the heart of the issue. If AA recommends that zero African-Americans should be hired then does that mean that no representation in the department is acceptable. In other words is racial bias a mathematical equation calculated by an administrative office each year? "The people responsible for fighting racism" are not locked in an office in 1A. We, the students, faculty and staff of CSI, are responsible for fighting racism!

The greatest transgression that Prof. Jemie committed was challenging CSI's entrenched intellectual notions. Battling racism means that we fight for representation in the curriculum, among the student body and on the shelves of our library. We cannot settle for what is "warranted" as Falk stated in his memo. Using an administrative office which assists in assuring that minimum levels of minority representation are achieved as cover, is the definition of "deeply imbedded racism."

Your final point about our demagoguery, demands first a definition and then a comment. Webster's dictionary defines a demagogue as "1. a person, especially an orator or political leader, who gains power and popularity by arousing the emotions, passions and prejudices of the people. 2. (in ancient times) a leader of the people, popular leader." Racial discrimination, particularly within an American context, is a highly emotional subject. The words themselves conjure up images of master and slave, cross burnings and the violent repression of civil rights activists in the late 50's and 60's. However, modern racism has taken on a new and more sinister face. the face of the institution. The 21st century racists will not be wearing hoods, they will hold positions of power in institutions which carry out historical patterns of discrimination through exclusion of intellectual voices.

Thanks to the courageous work of the Civil Rights movement, access to lunch counters, bathrooms and voting booths is assured. However, access to other institutions of empowerment are still substantially blocked. In some sense, this blockage is co-facilitated by creating a society of calculated racial minimums. The other section is viewed most vividly in the case of Jemie - exclusion.

This exclusion of intellectual expression has ultimately resulted in the punishment of the students of CSI. This Spring will mark the second consecutive semester in which African-American and Afro-Caribbean literature is not offered. No other word can best describe this but racial exclusion. Students are living in this situation as a result of Springer's need to express her power and control over the college and Falk's need to protect his prestigious position and silence dissent in the department.

As students, conscious of the historical damage that has been done by intrinsic and extrinsic racial bias, we must stand up and fight for the creation of a "more just society." The challenge to create such a political, intellectual and social project will haunt America for decades to come unless it is dealt with swiftly by the next genera-

tion of activists.

In order to carry out this transition in a peaceful, productive manner the College Voice continues to present the following short and long term program for the Reconstruction of CSI and awaits a real response from the college community.

Short Term

.Professor David Falk should step down as Chair of the English department pending a public hearing as to his role and language concerning the hiring of minority faculty at CSI

.An immediate offer of full tenure and an apology should be issued to Prof. Jemie

.President Marlene Springer must give an explanation for both the Jemie tenure dismissal and the racial discrimination case involving the Computer Science Department

.Progressive faculty must stand up and publicly denounce the state of affairs at CSI and work towards change

.A Town Hall Meeting should be held in which the Chairs of each Department discuss proposals for integrating both the faculty and the curriculum

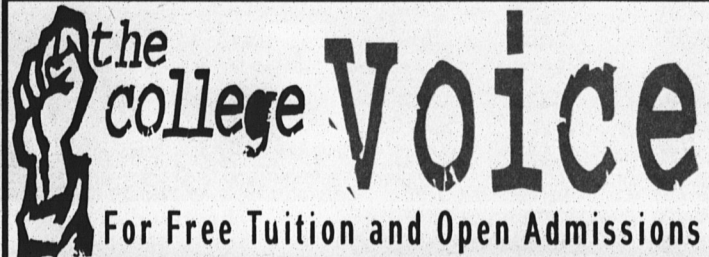
.An immediate infusion of \$250,000 to the CSI Library for the purchase of Third World History and Literature should be made by the CSI Administration

Long Term

.A Student-Faculty review committee should develop a report examining the personnel and intellectual state of affairs at CSI should be established

.A Student-Faculty review committee should develop a zero-tolerance policy for racial discrimination

.Departmental reports on faculty hiring and the the through integration of non-Western history and literature into CSI's course offerings should be implemented.



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We welcome readers' views and criticisms.

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French Student Explosion

BY WILLIAM WHARON

Hundreds of thousands of French high school students took to the streets in protest of deteriorating conditions within the school system. Claude Allegre, Education Minister of the nominally Socialist government of Lionel Jospin, came under sharp criticism by students and teachers alike over his inability to address issue of classroom overcrowding, degenerating facilities and a lack of resources. The mass nature of the movement, involving students in almost every city, along with the militancy of the Parisian protests connects the latest upsurge to events which marked the student uprising in May 1968. Student outrage is the latest in a long line of social protest throughout Europe as countries attempt to trim public spending prior to unification.

Showdown in the Streets of Paris

Bureaucratic and highly centralized the French education ministry has failed young people on many levels. Teachers are routinely misassigned with some teaching classrooms of two and three students while others are faced with conducting class in hallways as a result of inadequate facilities. Working class and poor students are particularly affected by what student protesters referred to as "the two-speed educational system." Student representative Olivia Jean of the Independent and Democratic High School Federation (FIDL) told the British Broadcasting Company that, "The protest goes deeper than that. We want all pupils to be able to graduate, we want an end to inequality in schools, (an end) to a two-speed system."

The two-speed system is one in which students are routinely faced with class sizes which have reached 45 pupils for each teacher. Magaly Gaudon, an 18 year old student demonstrator in Paris, told the London Times that, "Our lycee (high school) was designed for a maximum of 950 students and we now have 1,550." A New York Times article reported that French education experts stated "that some of the most neglected high schools are to

be found in the suburbs of large cities were the concentration immigrants is the heaviest."

Young people in France, particularly those in the impoverished suburbs have had to deal with the chronic unemployment levels of over 10%. In some particularly distressed Parisian suburbs youth unemployment is as high as 50%. The combination of narrowing life prospects antagonized by a filing educational system has fueled popular unrest among this generation.

Protest, which had begun two weeks earlier on a smaller scale, swelled to over 500,000 on October 15. Over 30,000 students in Paris prepared for a march on the Education ministry and were joined by scores of unemployed youth, known as "casseurs" (smashers), from the Parisian suburbs. Sporadic violence broke out and, as the London Times reported, "Riot police made several charges, spraying tear gas into the crowd." Over 100 people were arrested, four injured and one killed - a 15-year struck by a bus which drove into a group of protesters. Cars were overturned, cafes smashed and shops looted as the struggle continued throughout the day.

The next mass action by the students came on October 21 as 250,000 students participated in the demonstrations. This time they were joined by groups of parents and teachers who supported the high schoolers demands for educational equality. In Paris, 25,000 protesters were met by over 4,000 police in riot gear prepared to prevent the looting of the previous demonstration. Many suburban protesters were cut off by the police as they made their way into Paris via the Metro. This action didn't prevent continued clashes between protesters and place which resulted in 74 arrests in Paris and 85 injuries after tear gas attacks by French police.

Jospin Moves to Stifle Unrest

The outrage expressed by almost all sectors of French youth forced French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin into a precarious corner. While the right wing chastised his government for coddling the student protesters, his commitments to

The first section of his plan hinges on using the media to create divisions between the high school movement and the casseurs. Allegre, who is also being

set up as a potential fall guy, told the New York Times, after the demonstrations on the 15, that he was, "shocked that a peaceful demonstration has been distorted and disrupted by these acts of violence which have nothing to do with the young people's democratic protest." That said the issues of youth unemployment and the dismantling of the welfare state can be swept aside and the specific, limited, demands of the students take center stage. In addition to this, creating a division between the groups serves to dampen the young students urge to protest because it can apparently only result in violence. As Marius Turlet, an 18 year old protester stated, "I'm disgusted with the violence, disgusted and saddened. We're leaving." Mission accomplished. Instead of attempting to forge links with the most oppressed group of young people, pressure from above forges what seems to be an irreparable split.

The second part of the pacification plan involves the use of unionized labor to isolate the emerging young people's movement. Aware of the position of the working class as the most revolutionary sector of society, Jospin and his Stalinist compatriots in the CGT are attempting to drive a wedge between labor and students. While the privatization plans of French Communist Party member and Minister of Transport Jean-Paul Gayssot continue full steam, transport workers have been faced with escalating levels of violence on the worksite.

According to Gerard Naville of the World Socialist Website, SNCF staffing has been cut from 200,050 in 1991 to 175,000 in 1997. These cuts were initiated by the Conservative Juppe government and have continued unabated under Jospin and Gaysott. Government officials have dubbed their privatization plans "reformed reform" packages and offered them up to the labor bureaucracy who have come hat in hand.

The result of this state-labor collaboration is the launching of a "law and order" campaign among French transit workers. On October 26, transit work-



ers in several cities participated in strikes and called for increased police presence on trains, buses and subways. Media sources blamed, "the rising crime rate among youths from working class suburbs that have been hard hit by the double digit unemployment rate." The government responded quickly by ordering 200 more CRS riot police into the underground and on buses. IN addition to this Jospin recommended that transport companies recruit private security operatives to act as "agents of social mediation."

The final segment of the Jospin plan resulted in some nominal concessions being given to the students movement. After instructing Allegre to negotiate directly with students representatives, a package of limited educational reforms was introduced. Included in the agreement were a commitment of 700 million dollars to refurbish buildings and the creation of 14,000 new non-teaching assistant positions. Allegre told the National Assembly that the government was taking, "immediate measures regarding quantity and quality of education." The Jospin government is banking on the idea that these window dressing reforms combined with a lack of labour support and the fear of unemployed youth violence will temper the energy of the high school movement.

Historical Ghosts With Teeth

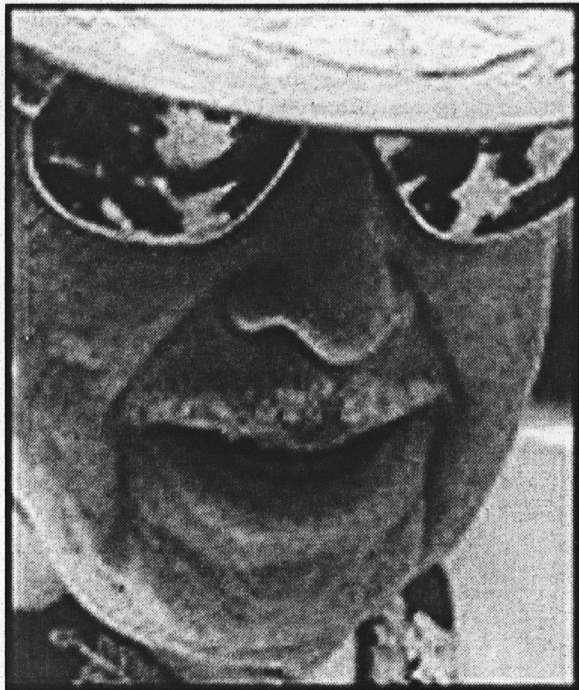
The response of the government is one rooted in the historical realities of the past. Disconnecting an emerging youth movement is the key to maintaining the links necessary to continue national privatization efforts. A new generation of radical students activists has begun the process of tapping into their historical legacy. A mere thirty years ago the French government teetered on the brink of disaster as students and workers took to the streets demanding revolutionary change.

The student movement of 1968 was ultimately pacified by the internal contradictions of the students themselves and the inability of forging links with trade union radicals. Student protest-

Continued on page 17



Chilean Dictator Arrested



CHILEAN DICTATOR, AUGUSTO PINOCHET

BY: OLSUI OLUWOLE

General /President Augusto Pinochet was arrested in London, England on October 16, 1998 in response to an application from Spanish judges investigating human rights abuses following the military coup in Chile in 1973. The High Court in Great Britain decided unanimously on October 28, 1998 that Pinochet cannot be held responsible under English law for acts he committed while Head of State because he has



"sovereign immunity and that therefore he cannot be extradited to Spain. The legal issues raised are of such importance than an appeal to the House of Lords was tabled immediately and is likely to be heard within the next week to 10 days. In the meantime, General Pinochet has been granted bail on condition he remains at Grovelandsd Prior Hospital, Southgate.

Although it may be traditionally correct in English law, the High Court ruling is so perverse in its effect that it is essential it be overturned in the House of Lords or, failing that, by new legislation. There are serious doubts as to whether Pinochet was Head of State at to whether Pinochet was ruled by a self-appointed four-man military Junta from September 11, 1973 to June 17, 1974 when a Decree by the Junta appointed Pinochet its President and rewrote and vested in all executive powers in him.

This legal argument could be traced back to a British abolitionist by the name of Granville Sharp. In 1772, spoke of freedom and the "laws of nations", and natural justice. He states that "These are the first and most fundamental principles of Government: so that statesmen and politicians, who thus venture to dispense with them, ought to be reminded, that such measures not only accumulate a national, but a personal guilt, which they must one day personally answer for, when they shall be, compelled to attend, with common robbers and murderers, expecting an eternal doom; for the nature of their crimes is essentially the same, and God is no respecter of persons."

The Chilean government felt obligated to defend the

General, it has done so quite half-heartedly with Socialist members of the governing coalition making clear their repudiation of the man who killed and imprisoned many of their own colleagues and friends. Right-wing supporters of Pinochet have been protesting on the streets of Santiago, delighted messages of gratitude and encouragement have reached London from Chilean grass-roots organizations.



ANTI PINOCHET MARCHERS TAKE TO THE STREETS OF CHILE TO EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT OF THE SPANISH COURTS ATTEMPT TO IMPRISON THE EX-DICTATOR

Continued from page 16

ers were heavily influenced by political ideas such as Guverrasim, Maoism and Anarchism. In addition to this, many of the university students were representative of the upper and middle classes. As a result of these influences, students began to view themselves as the center piece of the movement to transform society instead of the working class. As Marxist analyst Ted Grant outlined in his essay, *The French Revolution Has Begun*, "Without the discipline of Marxist ideas the students can inflict tremendous damage on themselves and the movement as a whole." Ultimately the combination of the severe repression by the state, the adventurism of the students and the Stalinists labor leaders spelled doom for the burgeoning movement.

While the movement was ultimately halted the spirit and lessons of the unrest still linger. Despite being initially held down by corrupt leadership, workers carried out massive general strikes, which vividly demonstrated the revolutionary potential of their class. As a highly industrialized nation, the ruling class was faced with the very real threat of a potential union between radical university students and young politicized trade unionists. The general strike of May 13, 1968 which was answered by 10 million workers sent shockwaves throughout global capitalism.

To prevent the current crisis from



reaching these epic proportions Jospin must work to maintain the divisions between workers and students. However the Socialist government will continue their campaign of privatization and downsizing which will inevitably bring them into conflict with the workers. For the students the goal of smashing the two-speed system is far from complete. The education ministry's changes should send the signal to the students that direct action will provide results. Establishing links with organized labor and unemployed youth is essential for tapping into a movement of serious social change.

LOCKED OUT!

Communication Workers Speak Out

The National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians-Communications Workers of America (NABET-CWA) and its 2700 union members have been illegally locked out by ABC. ABC, Inc., which is a subsidiary of the Walt Disney Company, operates the ABC Television Network, as well as TV and radio stations throughout America including New York's WABC-TV, WABC-AM, and WPLJ-FM.

The members of NABET-CWA work hard to help bring such shows as Monday Night Football. We are also the people behind the scenes on other sports shows like The 1998 World Figure Skating Championships, College Football, PGA Golf, The Triple Crown, The INDY 500, and Wide World of Sports. We also help bring Good Morning America, Live with Regis and Kathie Lee, The View, Port Charles, All My Children, One Life to Live, General Hospital, World News Tonight, 20/20, Eyewitness News, and Nightline to you and your family.

Despite the best efforts of NABET-CWA members in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. to negotiate a fair contract, ABC refuses to bargain in good faith or to abide by the law. Today, we are locked out because we were forced to take a stand.

During the negotiations, Disney/ABC has made a final and unconditional demand that we agree to replace our existing medical plan with the Disney Signature Plan. However, Disney/ABC refuses to provide us with the information necessary to understand or evaluate the benefits under its proposed Signature Plan. For months, we have repeatedly asked for this important information to no avail. We have even filed an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board.

On November 2, 1998 we engaged in a one-day strike to protest Disney/ABC's unfair labor practice. Now ABC continues to violate the National Labor Relations Act by illegally locking us out.

You can help by sending a message to Disney/ABC by calling Jeffrey Ruthizer at 212-456-7059. Tell him that YOU are locking ABC-TV out of your home until he provides the information that the law requires. Tell ABC to stop their unfair practices and truly negotiate with union workers!

The working families of NABET-CWA thank you for your support.

Colombian Rebels Make Bid for Political Power

BY IMAN EL-SAYED

How many wars must be fought? How many movements must put into motion? How much blood must be shed to show the world that people are suffering under the capitalist system? All over the world, workers, peasants, and students fight and die to stop this unjustified way of living.

In Columbia, many workers, peasants and students are fed up with this harsh system and have decided to do

something about it. They have been fighting a civil war for almost 50 years which is now escalating and causing massive deaths. The Colombian people have been kicked off their land, live in bad conditions, are abused in the factories they work in, and receive bad wages. They want to overthrow the government and create their own government guided by the principles of communism.

Though President Andres Pastrana has

made promises, the situation remains as it has been for a year. Assassinations by death squads and the army, increased mass mobilization and growing threat of U.S. intervention are daily phenomenon's. Death squads, backed by the armed forces, have killed thousands of people in recent years. They have targeted

trade unionists, peasant leaders, communists

The Colombian people have been kicked off their land, live in bad conditions, are abused in the factories they work in, and receive bad wages. They want to overthrow the government and create their own government guided by the principles of communism.

activists and anyone they believe supports armed revolutionary movements like the Revolution Armed Forces of Columbia-Peoples Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN).

Despite 10 years of brutal military repression, Columbia's mass movement has grown increasingly assertive. There are enormous economic, social and political inequalities which are at the root of the war in Columbia. The people refuse to kneel down and suffer the mis-

ery of the ruling class without a struggle for their fundamental rights. The bourgeoisie or the ruling upper class has been taking advantage of people all over the world. The Colombian people are no exception. Capitalists have opened factories on land that they bought from the government even though it's not the governments land. The land truly belongs to the farmers and peasants who live close to subsistence. Now they are being forced off their land into large farms and cities to work for foreigners. They are paid horrible wages, have farmers work in bad conditions and do not allow them to form unions. If you are caught forming a union you will lose your job at best or your life at worst.

Pastrana took office nearly three months ago promising he would find peace in Columbia's long-running civil conflict, but like the Colombian fighters in FARC are fond of saying, "Elections have nothing to do with democracy. They are a festival of corruption and impunity. There are no possibilities for any sectors other than the oligarchy. We can't forget that historically, in the debates leading up to the elections, many promises are made that are not carried out when the president takes

power".

On November 2, 1,000 Marxist rebels pounded a police base in Bogota (capital of Columbia) and took over a city named Mitu. An estimated 150 soldiers and police officers were killed. The rebels blew up a communications tower, seized the airport and leveled the police base, which was defended by 125 officers and cadets. Unfortunately the government troops re-established control ending this powerful siege three days later.

Despite all this, the President still planned on having peace talks with the rebels and pledged to end the war. He has agreed to begin talks without a cease-fire. The rebels are a serious force and this war will proceed until the people get their rights and take over the government.



A GENERAL CRISIS OF THE SYSTEM

A Labor Militant Statement

All the contradictions of the neo-liberal adventures are manifest in the current economic downturn. It is a deeply rooted crisis of capital accumulation, now expressing itself as a crisis of production.

Over-production

There is a classical crisis of over-production. This is associated with the contraction of production and trade, and a general fall in prices-all coming together in a deflationary spiral. Even last year it was already clear that in Asia there was serious overcapacity (of probably 30% or more), especially in computers, electrical consumer goods, and motor vehicles. The Asia slump almost immediately caused a sharp fall in the prices of oil and other commodities (down 30% this year to a twenty-year low), transmitting the crisis to mainly commodity-exporting economies.

East Asia is, in any case, part of the US, Japanese and European multinationals' global production complex. As the crisis deepens and spreads, rising unemployment, reduced income levels, mounting business and consumer debt defaults, and government cuts, will further erode demand and accentuate over-production on a worldwide basis. Over-production will hit the advanced capitalist economy too. This must lead, according to the logic of capitalism, to a massive destruction of productive capacity and even higher levels of mass

unemployment.

Financial instability

The acute instability of globalized financial markets is accelerating and will, at a certain stage, provoke a major crash. There has been continuous volatility the 1987 crash. But in the last three or four years the volume and volatility of world capital flows has increased enormously. The recent flight from 'emerging markets' in Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America has dramatically increased volatility. The flight to 'quality' (i.e. 'safe' investments in the US and Europe) has temporarily postponed a crash on US and European stock exchanges. In fact, for a time some of the capital returning from 'emerging markets' went into US and European shares, leading to further rises. In the last few weeks, however, there has been a series of sharp falls. The traders now acknowledge that, after sixteen years, the (rising) 'bull' market has given way to a (falling) 'bear' market. Nevertheless, leading shares, especially in the US, are substantially overvalued in relation to companies profit performance. It is only a matter of time before the US slowdown (which will be followed by Europe) will precipitate a much bigger 'stack-market' correction'-i.e. an almighty crash.

At the moment, exchange rates between the US dollar and major European currencies are relatively stable (though there are some signs that the

dollar is beginning to slide). But a marked decline in the dollar, which is likely in the next few months, will once again provoke world currency turmoil.

Excessive debt

Neo-liberal policies, despite their emphasis on sound money and balanced budgets, have not overcome the problem of excessive debt which first emerged after the 1974-75 slump. The world debt mountain (both private and government) is rising rapidly and will sooner or later collapse under its own weight.

Credit is essential for capitalist production and trade. The relative decline of production and the turn towards financial speculation, however, has produced a disproportionate burden of debt. Much of the investment in emerging markets-in shares, company bond, privatization, etc.-has been financed on the basis of loans (i.e. debt). Consumer spending has relied heavily on credit cards and consumer finance. All's well when business is booming. But a downturn inevitably produces a chain of bankruptcies, a so-called credit-crunch.

The sharp fall in prices of commodities (raw materials, oil, etc.), the main exports of many Third World countries, is drastically undermining their ability to repay debt and interest. At the same time, increased unemployment and reduced incomes will make it impossible for many consumers, especially the new middle class which enjoy a short

burst of prosperity, to repay consumer debt.

"Bad debt" is a worldwide problem, but the Japanese banks excel all the others with bad loans of at least \$1,000 billion. An implosion of Japanese banking system and/or cumulative defaults around the world will have a devastating effect on the US and European Banks and finance houses.

These are the interlocking elements of a critical chain reaction. The sequence and timing of events cannot be accurately predicted. The leaders of the major capitalist states are powerless to reverse this process and, on the basis of their current policies, are unlikely to slow it down or mitigate the effects of a major slump. Japanese capitalism, as its leaders now admit, is sliding into a deep slump. And it is only a matter of time before the US, which is already experiencing a marked slow-down, also enters a serious downturn. Given the importance of the US as a world market and the pivotal role of the dollar internationally, a slump in the US may well open the door to the deepest economic depression since the end of World War II.

NIGERIAN ACTIVISTS DECLARE WAR ON MULTINATIONAL GIANT CHEVRON

BY RENNIE MARHONG

Chevron is a US based oil company, the second largest internationally and one of three oil companies which occupy Nigeria (Shell and Mobile are the others). Nigeria is one out of 90 host countries that Chevron operates in. On May 28, 1998, Chevron transferred Nigerian soldiers into their Parable oil platform in the Niger Delta. The Delta was held by dozens of unarmed protesters who demanded that Chevron contribute more to the development of the impoverished oil region where they live. A Chevron official Solomon Omoile acknowledged that the protesters allegations were true.

Chevron, is one of the main contributors of revenue to a series of Nigerian military dictatorships. In return, government soldiers have killed two protesters and wound several others. Another eleven activists were detained for three weeks. While imprisoned, Amy Goodman of WBAI, reported that one activist said he was handcuffed and hung from the ceiling fan for hours because he refused to sign a statement written by the Nigerian federal authorities.

Nigerian activists declared that Chevron's oil drilling and operations pol-

lute their land because of the gas flares and that their fishing and farming is gravely limited by constant oil spills. As a result of diminished access to these natural resources, these impoverished people have lost their livelihood. Protesters contend that they were in the midst of negotiations with Chevron's representative over reparations for environmental dam-



NIGERIAN CITIZEN LOOKS ON AS YET ANOTHER CORPORATE OIL FIRE POLLUTES THE ENVIRONMENT

age when the company abruptly called in the military and the police. They also reported that the military opened fire without provocation. Chevron admits that the activists were unarmed.

The biggest reason that the Nigerian government is not trying to halt the destructive behavior of Chevron, is because oil money provides 80 percent of the dictatorships profit. Dictators such as recently deceased Sani Abacha, have personally profited in the millions courtesy of generous corporations such as Chevron. The particularly brutal Abacha ignored the elections of 1993 and, according to Amnesty International, had a long

history of systematic human rights violations. Chevron has admitted to making payments to the military regime, which has amounted to little more than blood money as evidenced by their continued use of Nigerian soldiers to put down popular movements.

The shareholders of Chevron have requested the Board of Directors to develop guidelines for choosing countries to do business with. They asked Chevron to withdraw from countries that violate human rights, have illegitimate governments, those facing economic sanctions and countries where Chevron's activities may threaten long-term financial performance. Soon after this, the Board released a statement against the shareholders.

Shareholders and local protesters are not the only groups that have denounced Chevron's operations in Nigeria. South African President and longtime political activist Nelson Mandela, has called for a regional summit to discuss measures to be taken against the Nigerian military. Additionally, TransAfrica, the Washington based human rights organization, has called for economic and political sanctions against Nigeria. Chevron shareholders have even a greater interest because Nigeria is gaining negative press and public opposition concerning their business practices. This may in turn cause consumer and investment pressure and may have substantial negative effects on Chevron.

Chevron's response to all of these protests and proposals is to maintain claims that they do not get involved in the political problems of their host countries. In addition board members claim that they offer scholarships and donate money to the communities in which they work. But Chevron's record shows that they have worked directly with the Nigerian government during strikes, they have

coerced their employees and contractors to work against their wishes, and penalized anyone who participated in job actions such as strikes. Chevron has recently increased security in their factories to prevent any protests and uprisings in opposition to the maltreatment of workers and their communities. Chevron also claims that they assist in socio-economic development in the countries they operate in. However, after Chevron and dictators like the late Sani Abacha make their profits, there is barely enough to give to the areas they exploit.

Presently, lawyers for Nigerian human rights are preparing to file a lawsuit in the United States against the Chevron Oil Company. The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) is currently reviewing the case and plans to file lawsuits on behalf of the families affected by the deaths of two Nigerian human rights activists. The CCR won a landmark case last year involving another oil company, Unocal Corp. on human rights abuses in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) and hopes for a similar success story in Nigeria.

Following the death of Abacha and the ascension of Gen. Mohamed Abubakar new promises of democratic elections have come. For Chevron and other large multinationals the transition to a democratically elected government will be a smooth one. The real danger exists in the development of a mass movement from the bottom of Nigerian society which can provide a challenge to corporate exploitation. Hopefully the blood of human rights activists such as Ken Saro-wiwa has not been spilled in vain and Nigerians can look forward to future in which they can determine the destiny of their own economy, political system and environment.

Farmers March in Dublin

BY WILLIAM WHARTON

The growing global economic crisis has affected workers throughout the world. The last unrest has emerged in Ireland as farmers stormed onto the streets of Dublin to protest deteriorating economic conditions in the countryside. 40,000 members of the Irish Farming Association (IFA) marched on the Agricultural Ministry to protest the collapse of the beef, sheep and pig prices.

The price crisis for Irish farmers is predicated on the collapse of the Russian economy. Exports of beef to Russia accounted for 45% of the European Union's overall exports last year. Massive devaluation in the Russian ruble which were followed by a bailout by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have left the purchasing power of Russian markets in shambles.

Over the last 30 years the Irish farming industry has been in a cycle of

extreme duress and consolidation among a few large farm owners. Since 1960, the number of farmers has declined from 390,000 to 134,000 last year. Total employment in the agricultural industry has dropped from 37% to 10% over the same time period.

While large farms have greatly benefited from government subsidies in the past, small farmers are feeling the squeeze of highly depressed commodity markets. Average income among Irish farmers is a paltry 11,000 pounds and nearly 60% of them have been forced to take non-farm jobs.

Bernie Malone, Labour Party Member of Parliament, spoke out against the protests stating that, "Farmers have no right to disrupt my city." Centre Business Association Chairman Brian Gough agreed with Malone's assessment and added that, "While everyone has the right to protest it's a strange approach by the IFA to highlight undeniable hardship in one sector by inflicting hardship on

another."

The farmers march went forward on October 28, two weeks after a smaller group had taken over the Agricultural House for a short time. Niamh Cunningham, Industrial Relations Officer, implored the farmers not to take over the house again. Cunningham told the *Irish Independent* that farmers had previously released pigs and sheep in the building destroying the offices during their occupation.

As 40,000 farmers spilled onto the street, Dublin's roads were almost totally blocked off by the transportation used by the marchers to get into the city. Speakers challenged Irish politicians saying that, "We want no more Mickey Mouse excuses. We want solid results for our farmers." One angry farmer told the *Irish Times* that, "We vented our feelings here today, we're seeing real people power here today."

Irish farmers are the latest in a long line of groups that have suffered as a

result of the international deflationary crisis. Globalized financial markets have shown the ability to relate the currency crisis in Moscow to the release of sheep and pigs into the Agricultural house in Dublin. The fallacy of the efficient free market system has now been totally subsumed into a series of crisis and popular flareups. The struggle of the Irish farmers is far from complete. As one cattle farmer told *Reuters News Service*, be back in a month's time and there'll be more of us."



A Story of My Ancestors... Toni Morrison's... "Beloved"

BY TARA L. MARTIN

When I heard through the grapevine that there will be a film version of Toni Morrison amazing novel "Beloved", I wasn't very ecstatic about the news. The first idea that sprouted into my mind was how unfortunate it would be if this film rendition turned out to be just as bad as some of the other fantastic novel/horrendous film. Eventually I got up the courage along with a few friends, and made the pilgrimage to the Theatres at Travis to watch this film. Believe you me, I was grossly misinformed about this film. This film will not only change your life and the way you look at yourself, but it will inspire you to search for your true self.

It happened about eighteen years ago, at the Kentucky plantation from which the slave Sethe was trying to escape, and the white men did a lot more than lay down and take her milk. They had raped and beaten her several times and that very

night whipped her so viciously, that the scars formed a tree on her back. As horrific as these memories are, related by Sethe [Oprah Winfrey] to her old friend and new lover Paul D [Danny Glover], they pale in comparison to an unspeakable related secret that haunts

her all these years later. Literally haunts her, by the way of the angry spirit of her dead child, the one for whom the stolen milk was intended.

It's now 1873, in rural Ohio, where Sethe and her other daughter,

Denver [Kimberly Elise], have just been joined by the roguishly charming Paul D and a strange, almost feral woman-child who seems to attract both insects and butterflies and calls herself "Beloved" [Thandie Newton]. Who is this drool-

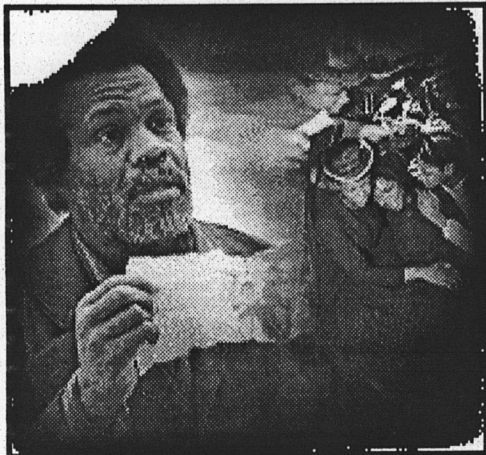
ing, babbling woman and why does she have such power over Sethe? Where did she come from and what does she want?

Beloved is a tough, provocative and graphic story about the damaged souls of freed slaves within the post-Civil War era. Morrison weaves such a rich tapestry of history, romance, adventure and metaphysical mystery that readers have to pause for moment and then absorb and reflect.

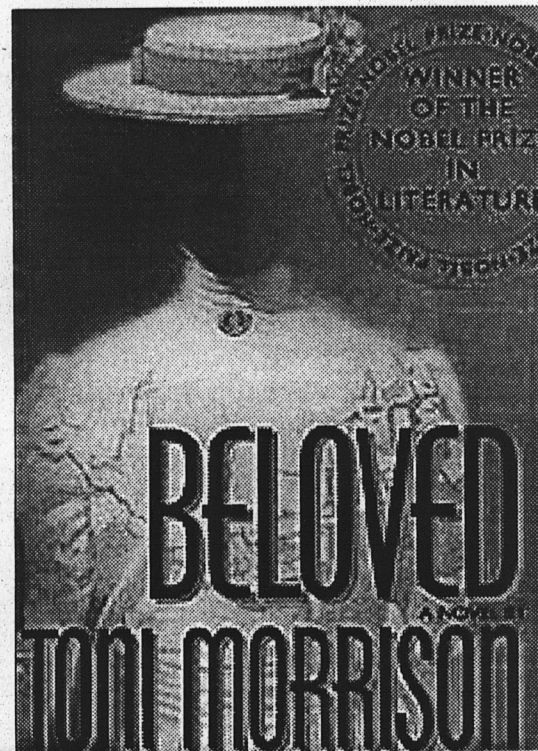
You can't really do that with the movie, and even under the direction of Jonathan Demme ["The Silence of The Lambs", "Philadelphia"] the movie invites a lot of confusion. There are a lot of characters and issues undercut from different time periods, and unless you know the story and read the book in advance, you'll be very confused.

The running time for this movie is about two hours and fifty-two minutes, so few can complain that it was too short. Though the fantasy elements are done sparingly in the movie, they give it the feel of a good horror-mystery. Other strong performances are given by Beah Richards, as Baby Suggs, the wise,

gentle ex-slave preacher and Lisa Gay Hamilton, who plays young Sethe in the most difficult parts, including the one where she's milked like a cow. It's an image that not to easily shaken.



Danny Glover in a Scene
From the Movie *Beloved*



Arresting Television

BY DEBRA BEHR

If one is sitting home bored, one may have nothing better to do except to switch on the television. After couple minutes of channel surfing, television viewers might notice the flood of fictional cop shows that are being syndicated on several channels. The fictional cop shows on television look at police on their day-to-day rounds. American Detective provides a glance of real police officers (with punched up narration and dramatic music). Top Cops and FBI: The Untold Stories use re-create to celebrate the exploits of law enforcers. These cop shows have been commented of their display of depicting the tough work that the police, nationwide, perform. The question, nevertheless, that needs to be and is; how realistic are these fictional cop shows and does money play a part?

Many police departments have welcomed this flood of attention from the media. The Los Angeles police department permits an average of ten camera ride-along a week.

Shows like Cops don't actually let the viewer see what the police are like in reality. In fact, these show are fictional police shows, with drama that satisfies the public's obsession with voyeurism. The presence of a TV camera on the scene of a "bust", evidently helps to the police on their "best" behavior. Police

officers, however, have nothing to loose because police departments will edit any inappropriate scene before airing. Due to arrangements between the cop shows and police departments, the networks never broadcast police brutality which

Fictional police shows have fooled the public into believing that they are receiving an honest depiction of work.

accrues more often than the media brings to the public's attention.

There are several police departments that are apprehensive to have the media rise with their officers. The Chicago police department and the San Diego's police refuses to allow camera crew in squad cars. These departments believe that the presence of the media during arrests and investigations has a negative impact on their ability to complete their police work; whatever they mean by "negative impact on their ability to work?" Cop shows, however, have succeeded by creating a positive impact on police egos. The Broward County sheriff,

Navarro, has become a celebrity from his on going, appearance on Cops and has influenced the show by promoting it. The lure of Hollywood money is hard for police departments to resist. In Florida, Aileen Wournos was accused of killing seven men. Three police investigators reportedly made an arrangements with Wuornas lesbian lover to share in a TV movie deal even before the case entered the courts.

Either before or after the cameras are turned on, during a police arrests, the producer tries to secure signed release from their subjects who agree to appear on screen. No matter how indecently the arrests are being exposed, so many comply in signing the release form. This procedure may be legal, but is it ethical? In the first episode of American Detective, the three year-old son of a cocaine dealer bursts into tears as police break into the accused drug dealer's home and handcuff him. The father agreed to telecast his arrest, however, to give the audience real emotion drama, the procedures' used producers' used the opportunity to benefit the show by broadcasting the boy's anguish nationwide.

Police shows draw in their audience with mix of graphic crime re-enactment's, interrogation and dramatic captures or shoot outs. The average cop show maintain a solid rating and cost very little to produce. A one-hour episode of the average American-filmed drama costs 1.3 million. The budgets for Secret Service, which began filming on June 29, 1992, is averaged at \$750,000. High rating blended low production costs means big salaries for producers. Sonny Grosso, a former narcotics detective who is the TV producers of Cops and American Detective earns of \$75,000 for each episode including large sum from syndication.

Fictional police shows have fooled the public in believing that they are receiving an honest depiction of work. These shows exploit the arrests in order to maintain high ratings salaries for producers who are eager to make a buck. In other word, when one is sitting home with nothing better do but to switch on their television, one should bring to mind that the media is never honest about what they depict in cop shows. Moreover, instead of watching the false images of police on TV; the public should step out of their homes and witness for themselves the actions of the police. Because the police are not as so sociable as they seem like on television.

Film Reviews:

MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE AND BRAZIL

BY DEBRA BEHR

The films *My Beautiful Laundrette* and *Brazil* portray two different perspectives on Thatcher's England. In Stephen Frears' *My Beautiful Laundrette*, Thatcher's England is given a critical look from different points of view: the working class, intellectuals, and capitalist immigrants. However, in Terry Gilliam's *Brazil*, there is no doubt that the system, in all respects, is looked at as a threat. The cinematic techniques and narrative style of Gilliam and Frears breaks away from Loach's realist style. Loach often works out of a documentary, naturalistic style. He uses very little camera movement and close-ups. The use of long takes and natural lighting are repeated elements. Loach will deliver political statements though he sometimes disrupt his films character's. Many examples of these techniques can be seen in such films as *Riff Raff* and *Raining Stones*.

My Beautiful Laundrette, directed by Stephen Frears, uses a naturalist style of shooting. The takes are neither short nor long. One can get a sense of the use of natural lighting. The camera sometimes wanders realistically and sometimes is used more formalistically. One example of the formalistic use of the camera is during the club scene where the main characters are selling drugs. The camera moves, in what appears to be a 360 degree pan, which follows the two youths actions. For the most part, the camera usage consists of medium shots and parallel editing, which can be seen at the end of the film. Frears uses location shooting but lacks the documentary style which is seen repeatedly in Loach's works.

Brazil, directed by Terry Gilliam, on the other hand, escapes any form of realism. Gilliam is known for his animation in *Monty Python*. In comparison to *My Beautiful Laundrette*, everything in the film is formalistically structured: the set design, costumes, characters, and the use of the camera. The film has a bizarre vertical quality. The camera always seems to be moving up and down but rarely horizontally. This use of the camera seems to be a violation of nature. The film operates out of an old forties genre combined with grotesque images of people as of well as the world. There is a constant use of extreme low-angles and birds-eye view. I enjoyed Gilliam's animations in *Monty Python*, yet this comic book style does not sustain the narrative for a two hour film.

My Beautiful Laundrette depicts the culture clash between the lower-class English youths and the Pakistani immigrants in South London. The basic irony of the film involves the financial success that some Pakistanis have in Britain, while most of the British are on the dole. At the center is one Nasser, played by Saced Jeffery, a small businessman who owns garages and other businesses. He worships Margaret Thatcher and the opportunities that

capitalism offers. At one point he declares in a Victorian tone, "I believe in England". One scene shows him evicting a poor leftist poet squatter from a tenement he owns. When told that it looks bad and might lead to hatred of other Eastern immigrants, he replies, "But I'm not a professional Pakistani. I'm a professional businessman."

Nasser is at odds not just with the English poor but with his own past which is represented by an ex-journalist and socialist brother played by Roshan Seth. The brother has hoped for a better world and not a piece of this one. He is broken and alcoholic and appeals for Nasser to help his son Omar, who is played by Gordon Warnecke, with a summer job. Ironically, the nephew takes such inspiration

for escape from the ghetto, or his homosexual attraction to Omar which the film makes explicit.

In addition, Omar's mother, whose picture is kept on a mantle, had committed suicide by jumping in front of a train one year prior. Her suicide is a result of her lack of conformity. Toward the end of the film, it is loosely suggested that Tanya has done the same. We are not given any further details to suggested she jumped. In fact, this is badly shot. We see her moving slowly toward the train track and away from the large suitcase. When she disappears, her suitcase is gone too. Unless Tanya has a very long reach, it is physically impossible to manage such a feat. The reason why the women in the film disappear is to make explicit that

about England. Nasser won't go home because his country is "sodomized by religion" and money can not be made there. Yet, Salim's wife can not feel that this "island off the coast of Europe" is their home. The English poor hate the "Pakis" for their property and the Pakistanis hate the poor for their lack of self-respect.

In *My Beautiful Laundrette*, there is no common enemy. Frears does not point a finger at just one group, but displays the faults of all sides. This is different from Loach who usually depicts a common enemy in his films, like the bosses in *Riff Raff*, Tully in *Raining Stones* or the social service in *Ladybird Ladybird*. However, the film *Brazil* narrative is based on the use of a common enemy, namely the Ministry of Information Retrieval.

Brazil is tragicomedy about the relationship between imagination and fantasy. The film is also about society "somewhere in the twentieth century" as the opening scene informs us. The film *Brazil* has nothing at all to do with the country Brazil but a mix of England and Nazi Germany where gadgets and totalitarianism are a major part of society. The gadgets are both primitive and upscale with computers hooked to rusty typewriters. The central heating and air conditioning



from Nasser's speeches, he decides to outdo him. After begging for management of Nasser's failing laundrettes, Omar steals some drugs and resells them with help of his friend from childhood, Johnny, who is play by Daniel Day Lewis. With the money, Omar refurbishes his business under the name "Powers" and outfits it not just with new washing machines but with a fish tank, video games and contemporary art.

Other characters in the film are poorly drawn; especially one of Nasser's associates, a thug named Salim. Salim is a drug smuggler and with a loose temper and exposes her breasts during family gatherings. Nasser's daughter Tania is reduced to a rebellious flirt who hates families. Then there is the portrayal of the English youth, principally a gang of punks, who are lead by Johnny. The English Youth are depicted as punks and squatters who have nothing better to do but to harass the Pakistanis. It is as though Frears did not know what else to do with these characters. The character Johnny is never fully drawn. One never knows what motivates him: old friendship, desire

through Nasser's success in Thatcher's England, he can not sustain his family's happiness.

Conflicts occur in every layer of the story which begins simply and then becomes complex. Tania, who wishes to marry Omar, gets nowhere with him. then she she tries for Johnny with out knowing the two youth have developed their own affectionate relationship. As a result of the rejection from the two youth, and concept for he own family, she leave home. Nasser's wife is fed up with the idea of her husband having a mistress, named Rachel, and brews a magic potion to give the mistress a horrible rash. As a result Rachel breaks up with Nassar who becomes distraught.

Yet, these are merely personal troubles that are caught up in the notions of what is essentially a political film about racism and different types of exile. Johnny is harassed by his former gang because he now works for "Pakis". This harassment leads to violence. The love affair between Omar and Johnny becomes a counterpoint to the antagonism between their races in their neighborhood, and in their city.

The Pakistanis have mixed feelings

are conducted through houses in elongated, reptilian tubing which seems to breathe with a life of its own. There are scenes in the film involving repairmen trying to master the tubing that seems to tie everyone up in knots. Officials, at the Orwellian Ministry of Information Retrieval move like robots and wear gray uniforms. The lower-class, like the Orwellian under-class live in horrid tenement flats. The film's production design alone stirs comic horror.

The music heard in the background of the film is meant to evoke the pop-escapism of the past. Old Brazil is what you want life to be and what can only be dreamed about in this dystopic society. Gilliam's vision come across as a stoned, slapstick version of 1984. However the film is not just a political cautionary tale. Instead the film is a melancholy, joke-ridden view of the horribleness of where we are now and where we may be heading. It's an anarchistic attack on all present and future states. At the same time it dissolves the boundaries between fantasy and reality

Gilliam's dehumanization metropolis

Continued on page 24

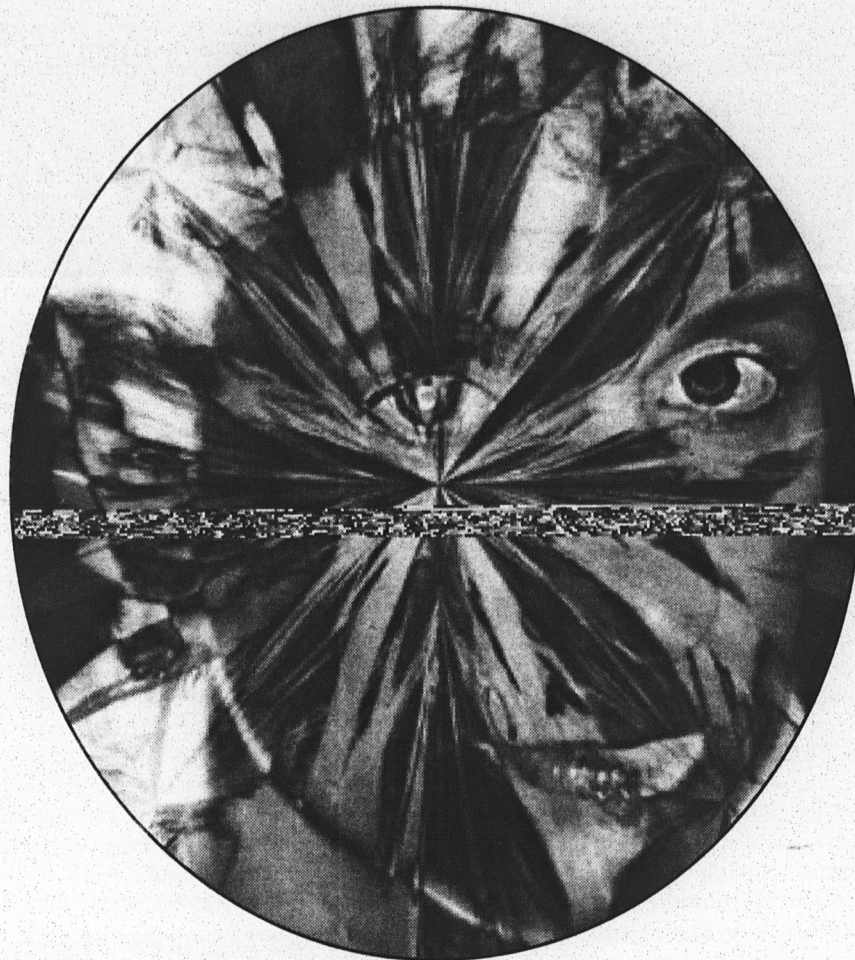
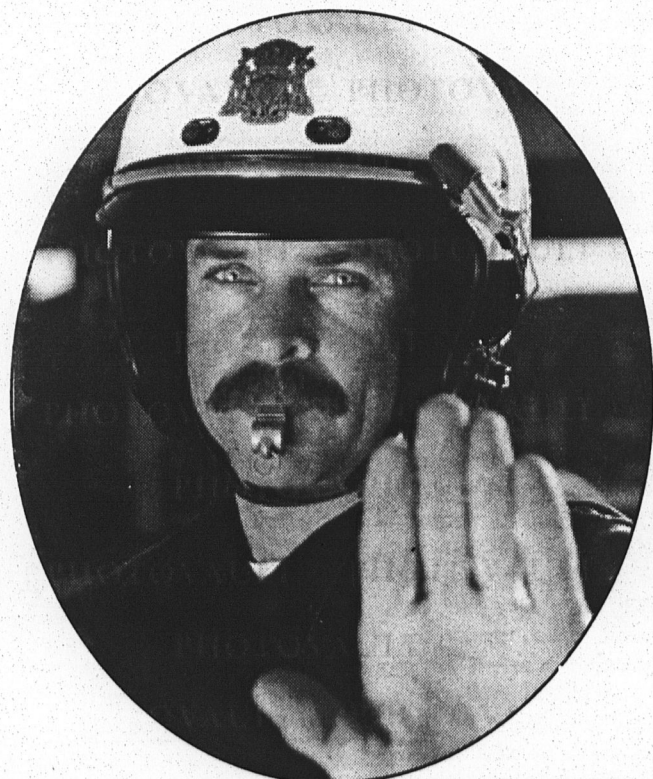
Between Girls

THE FIRST KISS ON THE LIPS
IS ALWAYS SOFT

IT'S DIFFERENT BETWEEN GIRLS
THE KISS IS SLOWER
THE BOUNDARIES THINNER
MORE CAREFULLY APPROACHED
NEVER AVOIDED
YOU KNOW
THERE'S NO NEED FOR WORDS
IT'S THE WAY THINGS ARE BETWEEN GIRLS
THE RULES MORE TWISTED
MORE DEFINED
NEVER BROKEN
NEVER BROKEN
FOR SAFETY
FOR THE BOYS THEY LOVE
FOR THE WOMEN THE WANT TO BE

MORE CAREFULLY APPROACHED
NEVER BROKEN
THEY WILL GROW INTO WOMEN
AND IT'LL BE DIFFERENT BETWEEN WOMEN
LIKE THE MEMORIES
THEY'LL NEVER FORGET
IT WAS DIFFERENT BETWEEN GIRLS
AND IT'LL BE DIFFERENT BETWEEN WOMEN

-- LAURA ZOE Dombrowski



SO NOW

something crumbles
like it was underwater
slow and expectant
it may have been anything
integral
or priceless
but not now
(its more suicide than murder)
she is so ashamed
fingers pushed to the very spot
she felt it give way
a maybe kind of pain
is it her?
is it him?
may or may not
it falls so slowly
that no one can tell
anyway.

-Amy Soppet

I CAN'T HEAR THE CONVERSATION

By Debra Behr

*I can't hear the conversation.
does it matter.
Floating between all I wish to know,
and the personal isolation.
Perhaps I'm just stoned.
I usually remember,
the embarrassing remarks fall from my mouth.
It must be a personal examination.
Does it matter.
I can't hear the conversation.*

*Waiting for the perfect statement.
waiting for the sun to rise
over the horizon.
Then all that was said
would be apart of something
or part of the conversation.*

*I could be complaining about,
about all the spoken words.
That would only repeating the apology,
over and over again.
Who sees you complaining,
when our floating between
the space in your head.
Maybe it's just the situation I'm in.
If only I could the conversation.
I was never the type to contribute.
Never the one to create the atmosphere.
Isolating within the ongoing
words never said.
Who's listening anyway,
when you can't hear the conversation.*

*I can't hear the conversation.
This could go on forever.
I can't hear the conversation.
Maybe I'm not paying attention.
I'm to entertained with the thoughts,
dancing in my head.*

*I would like to know the ideas
spoken from mouth to mouth.
Maybe I'm flying to fast.
This can go on forever.
It usually does.
when I can't hear the conversation.*

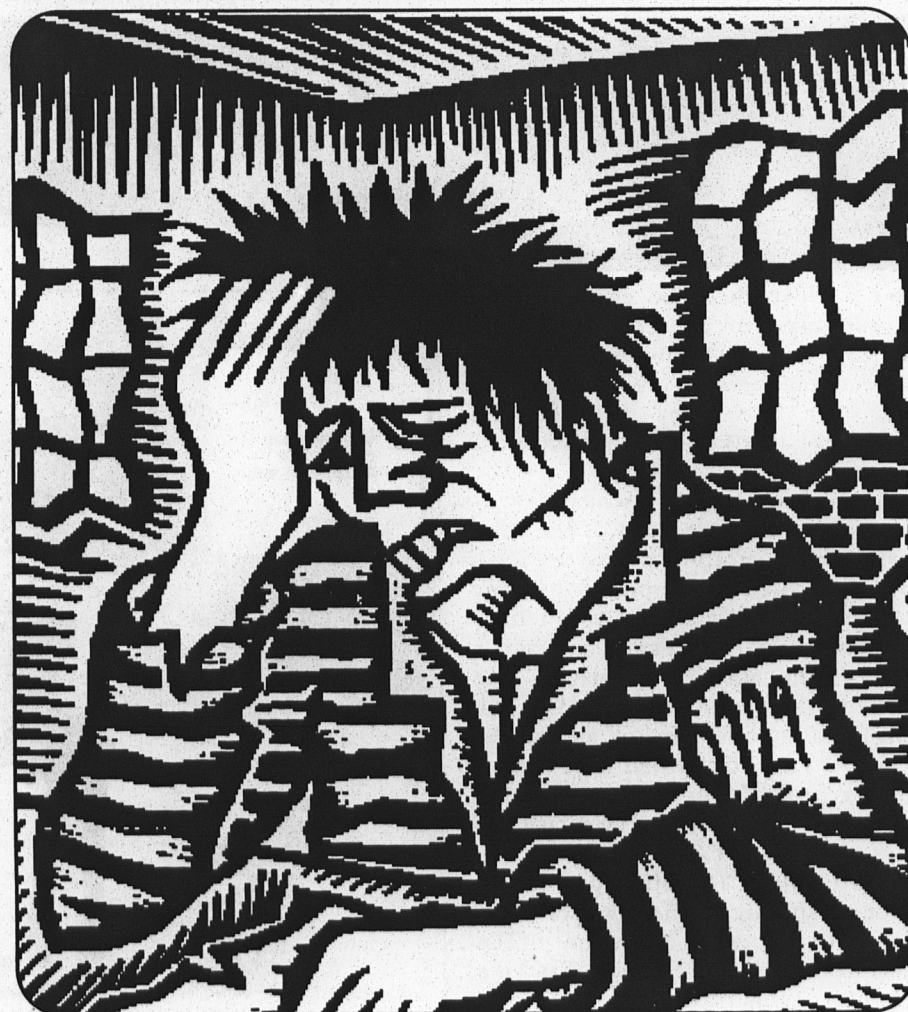
*I would like like to know,
what this was about.
I feel guilty for asking.
That's the way I am.
Trapped between the ideas,
and the words in the conversation.*

POETRY

WHAT HAPPENS
by Amy Soppet

**the solid clang of fact against heart
woke me up last night
although he didn't hear it
and kept on sleeping
such a leaded
mistakable sound
like the sweatwon pound of a railroad spike
in a black and white movie about men
and the livelong day**

**even though I woke
clear through
vaguely terrified
and my breathing a happy
surprise
I don't try to fool myself
into believing it was the
breadsticks and hummus
that did me in
I know it really was me
clanging out
thoughtsticks and knowhungry
bravestraved so badly
I make no excuse
and muffle myself to sleep
with no apology.**



: Continued from page 21

MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE AND BRAZIL

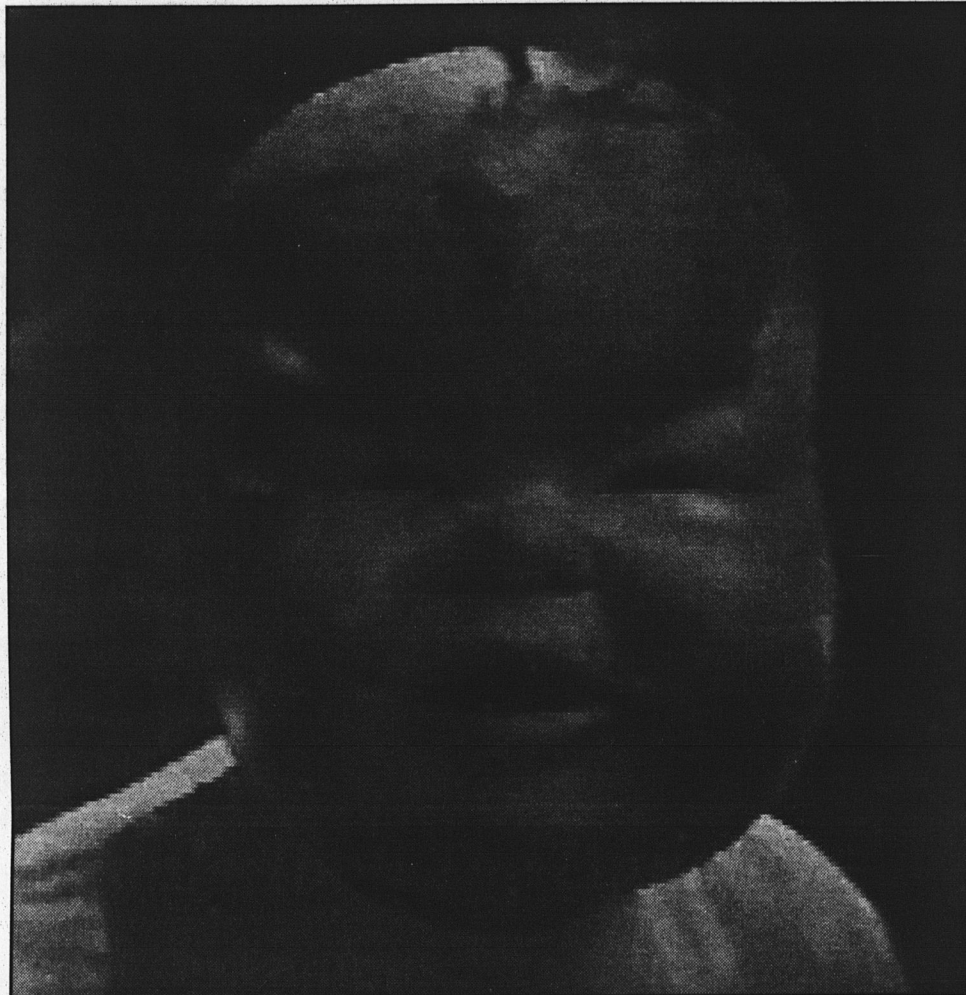
consists of the most medieval structures. The buildings are cold, oppressive stone structures. Their insides look cold, gray, and dark. The offices and apartments are so high-ceilinged. The bureaucrats wear wide-brimmed fedoras and suits that resemble prison worn uniforms. The women's freakish clothes are like ancient furnishings. The assorted gadgetry and customs suggest that nothing has been made manufactured since the forties. Gilliam presents this futurist world as a historical step into the past. Sam's mother, through surgical treatments regresses into a much younger version of herself. At the same time, her best friend, undergoing similar treatments with another doctor, keeps suffering "complications" which by the end of the film kill her.

The central character, Sam Lowry, is played by Jonathan Pryce. He is a lowly functionary drone that works as a clerk in the Ministry of Information. Sam lives in his fantasies of himself, a Knight in silver armor with great feathered wings. As he dreams of himself flying in the pillowy sky, he encounters a beautiful maiden. The story line is very simple. When he goes to deliver a refund check to a women whose husband, named Buttle, that has been "deleted" by bureaucratic error, he has a glimpse of a girl who resembles the girl from his dreams. Due to a computer error Buttle had been arrested instead of a man named Tuttle who is played by Robert Di Niro. Tuttle is a former Central Services worker who, due

to his disdain for paper work, is now a "freelance subversive" and being hunted by the Ministry of Information Retrieval,

In pursuit of his dream girl, Sam forgets his usual cautions and turns into a

criminal of the police state apparatus. His fantasies are an escape from his feeling of guilt and the oppressive hum-drum of his life. Sam's existence and his plight are continually interrupted by these fantasies of flight.



When Sam is finally arrested and about to be tortured, he once again fantasizes of being rescued by Tuttle and escaping with Jill. Yet the last scene reveals him alone in the torture chamber with a vast space of clouds filling his dreams.

Throughout the film, Sam's fantasies reveal the social realities that he refuses to face directly. Standing between him and his dream girl is a metallic samurai warrior. As soon as Sam charges in attack, the warrior disappears. One could suggest that the warrior is Sam's consciousness of his oppressive realities

My Beautiful Laundrette and Brazil may have similarities to Loach's films, but are very different from each other. Although Gilliam lacks Loach's political views and documentary realistic style of shooting, they both use the notion of a common enemy to antagonize the exploits of their characters. On the other hand, the Frears film does not center around this motif but shows faults in both camps of the working class as well as the Pakistanis. Although Frears uses elements of naturalism in his film, he lacks the documentary style seen in all of Loach's films.

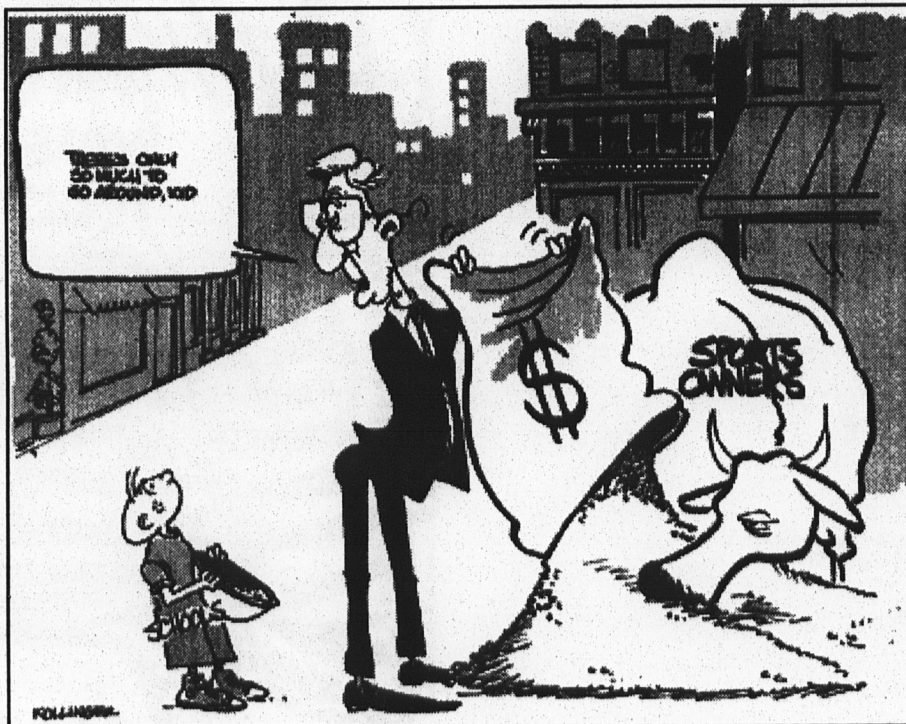
NBA BEHIND BARS

BY FRANCIS STUCHBURY

It is November. The month that is supposed to be the start of the NBA season. Meanwhile, the players and the owners are in a big dispute over the salaries of the players. This is not a strike it is a lockout. Here are both sides of the story.

The big problem the owners have is that they want to get rid of the "The Larry Bird Exception" where the team can sign their own player for any amount of money and it won't have any effect on the salary cap. Take a look at the salaries of players like Kevin Garnett who gets over \$20 million; a ridiculous sum for any sports player. Owners claim that they cannot make a profit if they are paying that much money to players. The salary cap does not really exist as long as the rule is in place. The other problem is revenue sharing. NBA owners want players to get less of an amount of the revenues generated. I feel that rule should no longer exist.

The players feel they should get big bucks. They feel they generate a lot of revenue for the league. Michael Jordan generates a lot of revenue for the league. Very few players have that



type of impact. They want the Larry Bird Exception, because it insures them of being able to make the most money they can. Without that rule they will make less money because

teams will be working with a salary cap and can't go over it.

It is funny when you see big pay players like Patrick Ewing say "we'll survive." That's easy for him to say

walking around with his \$5,000 suit. I don't here the players that are making small amounts of money saying that. The high paid players should have been able to save their money properly. Some retired athletes declare bankruptcy because they don't know how to handle their own finances.

The strike may not be resolved till January. In the big cities it won't have much of an effect. In smaller cities where college basketball is important NBA attendance figures will eventually be lower. This strike will really hurt and if Michael Jordan retires, basketball will lose considerable popularity.

One thing I do want to commend is the Gold Medal Team USA that won the tournament at the Goodwill Games. They were players playing their hearts out not for a paycheck but for a medal. I do hope that college basketball players will get the chance to play for the Olympic team. They really care about getting a medal. While the NBA looks at it as another way to promote itself.

Free Mumia... Stop The Execution

Continued from cover

months of "vacation" and internal police investigators that Mumia had confessed while he was in his hospital bed. Despite the fact that the report he filed contradicts the written report it was accepted by the court.

Justice, under the "hanging judge" Sabo and the Philadelphia Police Department was far from blind, it clearly saw the color of Mumia's skin and the danger of his ideas. This is not the first time justice has been distorted. Many political revolutionaries have ended up in jail or dead for setups such as the one that Mumia was forced into.

There are many reasons the government wants him locked up and killed. Mumia Abu-Jamal is what is known as a "voice of the voiceless" and the system wants to silence each of these voices of dissent. To them, it is all right if cops are brutalizing and killing people. When someone refuses to take their shit anymore and decides to speak for the community they end up dead or locked up.

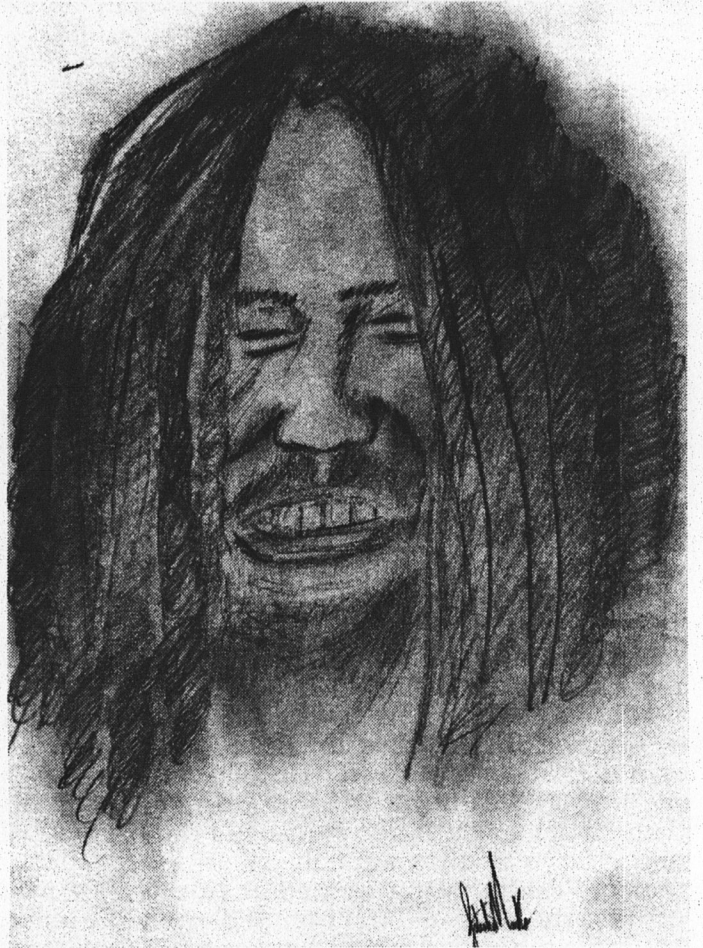
The FBI setup a program known as COINTELPRO. It has resulted in the death and imprisonment of many African American, Native American and Latino freedom fight-

ers. It targets all groups who speak out against oppression. COINTELPRO is the offspring of the McCarthy witch trials which persecuted and imprisoned thousands of Communist party members and suspected "sympathizers." Programs such as these are created to spy on people who the ruling class fears are affecting others and organizing for a fight back by joining and supporting groups like the Black Panthers and the American Indian Movement.

On October 30, Mumia's case took a turn for the worse. His appeal for a new trial was denied by the Pennsylvania courts. A new trial would have give the previously mentioned witness to speak the truth as well as enter key ballistics information into the proceedings. The ruling against a new trial comes after a intense media campaign run by the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police. Recently re-elected Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge has vowed to sign a new death warrant the second it is issued. These actions are a direct threat to Mumia's life. This should be a call to all people who oppose racism and oppression to organize a movement to prevent this state sponsored lynching. As CUNY stu-

dents, we must defend the rights and the message of Mumia Abu Jamal, we cannot and will not be a complicitus in our oppression. Remember power concedes nothing without a demand. We unconditionally demand the release of Mumia Abu Jamal and all political prisoners.

For further information on Mumia or how to help the fight-contact The College Voice @ (718) 982-3091 or e-mail us at col-



TEXAS STUDENTS STAGE SIT-IN TO PROTEST ELIMINATION OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

BY JARED LEVINE

On October 22, as a result of a court decision enforced by school administration at The University of Texas (UT) at Austin, which essentially eliminated affirmative action policies at the school, hundreds of student protesters staged a sit-in at the main tower of UT to fight against the decision. What started out as a group of students who belonged to a student organization called S.A.O. (Students for Access and Opportunity) quickly transformed into a rally of hundreds who joined in support.

The sit-in was created out of protest to the decision handed down by the Fifth Circuit Court, the decision to wipe out the affirmative action policies at UT, which in turn was enforced by the UT administration. The original court decision was brought about by a complaint in which a white student named Sheryl Hockwood did not gain admission into the school. Hockwood claimed that she was discriminated against and the Fifth Circuit Court agreed with her.

The Fifth Circuit Court decision adversely affected minority undergraduate admissions and virtually wiped out minority-based student and faculty recruitment,

retention, and scholarships. This is what triggered the takeover.

The Anti-Racist Organizing Committee (A.R.O.C.), formed during the takeover, was the group that demanded the university reinstate its affirmative action policies.

A.R.O.C. came into being when forty student organizations joined S.A.O. in the tower occupation. Not surprisingly, this committee is not recognized by the school administration.

Student organizers at UT feel that the university does not believe in affirmative action and cares little about expanding the minority student presence on campus. In an exclusive interview with the College Voice, Sean Weeler, a member of A.R.O.C., felt "the administration's position was that if the university had less minority students it would make the school look

good." According to Weeler, "UT President Larry Faulkner believes that affirmative action is a thing of the past." Weeler added, "In the past ten years there has been a steady, but small increase of minority students." However, these admissions

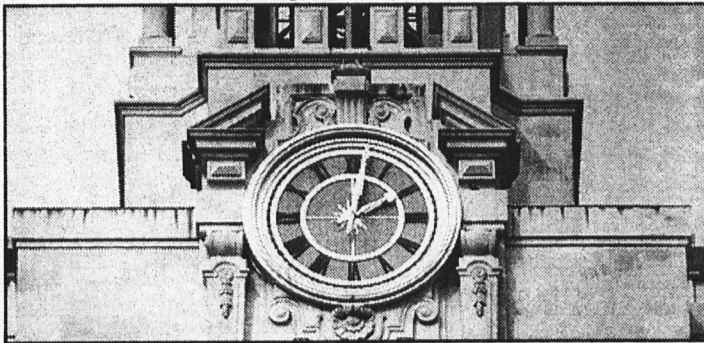


Photo of watchtower taken over by UT students

have declined sharply since the Fifth Circuit decision. On November 9, a town hall meeting with six members of A.R.O.C. and the UT President was held. Having direct communication with the administration was one of the goals they were trying to accomplish, said Weeler. The other was that they were trying to prove that university officials did not put a big fight against the court decision and that, according to Wheeler, the administration did not "have their hands tied" regarding affirmative action.

On November 16, there was a second town hall meeting which consisted of four

representatives from the administration, two faculty members, two NAACP representatives, Sean Weeler, and a graduate student, the majority of whom defended affirmative action. They talked about why affirmative action should be reinstated and why the Sheryl Hockwood decision should be appealed. It was later discovered that Hockwood would not have been accepted to UT anyway.

The campus itself consists of approximately 50,000 students, making it one of the largest schools in the country. Only 2.3% of the student population is African-American while 14% of the Texas state population is African-American. By eliminating UT's affirmative action policies, the Fifth Circuit Court has pushed back the gains that African-Americans have struggled and fought for a few decades back. They will never achieve equal representation. At first this author was against affirmative action because of his right-wing beliefs and the stereotypes perpetuated by the media; however, after the interview, I gained more insight into the struggles of African-Americans and their history in this country. All Americans must unite in this effort to achieve racial equality.



THE COMMUNIST CHEF

Letters to the Chef

To the so called Commy Chef-

At first I admit I was thrilled to see your new section you call the Communist Chef. Since I can't cook for shit, of course I would like to be able to eat a decent meal, after being inspired by singing the Internationale in anticipation of the great revolution that is soon to come. However, I was greatly disappointed to see how typically carnivorous and culturally biased your recipes were. I am a vegetarian, because I don't agree (for moral reasons) with the way that animals are mass produced in our society today. Besides being treated as purely a commodity to generate profits, the animals are pumped up with all sorts of chemicals and hormones to make them produce milk, eggs and other products unnaturally, making it extremely unhealthy to eat meat. So next time, please be considerate of your comrades who are vegetarians, and don't cater exclusively to the population who engages in eating the flesh of dead animals.

In hopes of a better and vegetarian future,

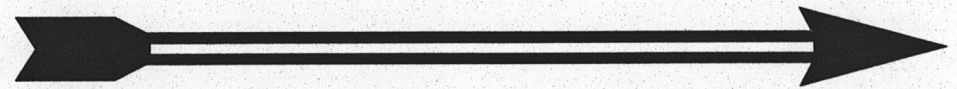
It's me Captain Vegetable!

SARO WIWA SALAD

- 1 can Chick Peas Drained
- 1 onion chopped
- 2 tomatoes seeded and chopped
- 2 teaspoons oregano
- 2 teaspoons parsley
- salt to taste
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- Balsamic Vinegar to taste
- 4 tablespoons Olive Oil

Combine Chick peas, tomatoes and onions in bowl. Add Spices and balsamic vinegar. Mix thoroughly add olive oil and serve. Serve salad with a loaf of Italian Bread.

Reminder to my Vegetarian comrades: While environmental issues are key, we should always understand the difference between existential change and the class struggle. As Socialists we should work to introduce ideas of vegetarianism and environmentalism within the structure of the class struggle. To change ones self is an accomplishment to change another is a revolution!



SQUID FOR THE MASSES!!!

- 3 tablespoons Olive Oil
- 5 Cloves of Garlic
- 3 Anchovies
- 2 teaspoons Basil
- 2 teaspoons Parsley
- 1 lb. Cleaned Squid - Cones and Tentacles
- 1 can of peeled Tomatoes
- 1/2 can Tomato Puree
- 2 teaspoons Salt
- 2 teaspoons Pepper
- Pinch Red Pepper

Saute garlic in the olive oil. Add the anchovies and saute until they dissolve. Add the dehydrated parsley and basil to re-hydrate it. Add Squid and cook for 3 minutes. Add the tomatoes, slicing them as they go into the pot and the puree. Add salt, pepper and red pepper. Bring the sauce to a boil and then cook over low heat until squid is tender. Pour sauce over 1 lb. of linguine and your meal is complete

This meal will serve up to five comrades and should be initiated with a few rounds of Solidarity Forever, the old American union song. Here's how it goes:

When the Union's inspiration through the workers blood shall run,

There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun.

Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one?

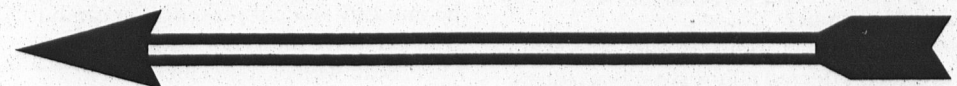
But the union makes us strong.

Solidarity Forever!

So solidarity Forever!

Solidarity Forever!

For the Union Makes Us Strong



People's Tribunal **on Corporate Crimes Against Humanity**

Public Arraignment:
December 4-5 1998
Union Theological Seminary
Broadway and 121 Street, New York



Disney • Kmart • Nike • Wal-Mart

These companies will be arraigned for their complicity in sweatshop abuse, union busting, consumer deception, unfair monopolistic practices and cultural manipulation.

Expert witnesses will testify to these charges. These witnesses will include workers who have been victimized by these companies and their subcontractors, labor representatives, consumer advocates, and representatives from human rights organizations.

A panel of distinguished jurists will hear the evidence, question the witnesses and make recommendations.

Friday, December 4, 1998:

Opening Ceremonies: 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Presentations, Videos, and Cultural Program

Saturday, December 5, 1998:

Coffee and Bagels: 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Testimony from Expert Witnesses:

Labor abuses: 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Lunch Break 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Domestic labor, consumer and cultural issues: 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Statements from Jury Panel and Recommendations 4:30 - 5:30 PM

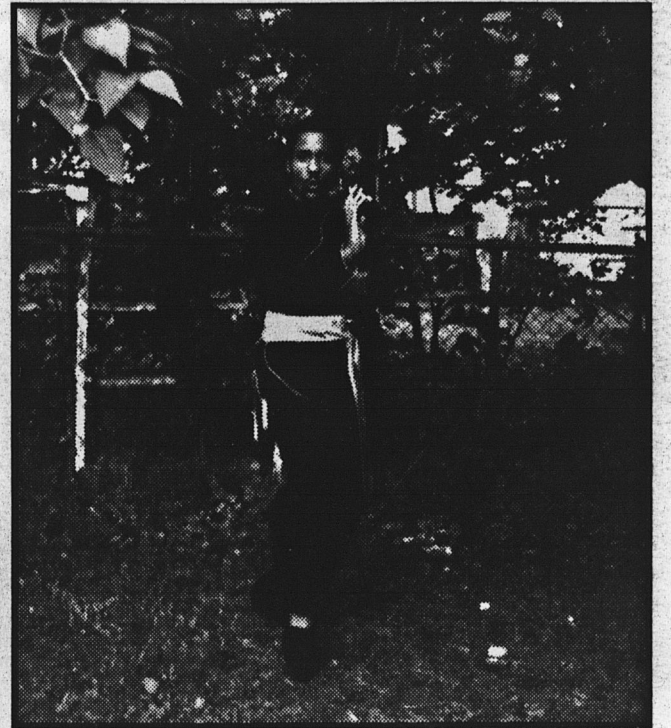
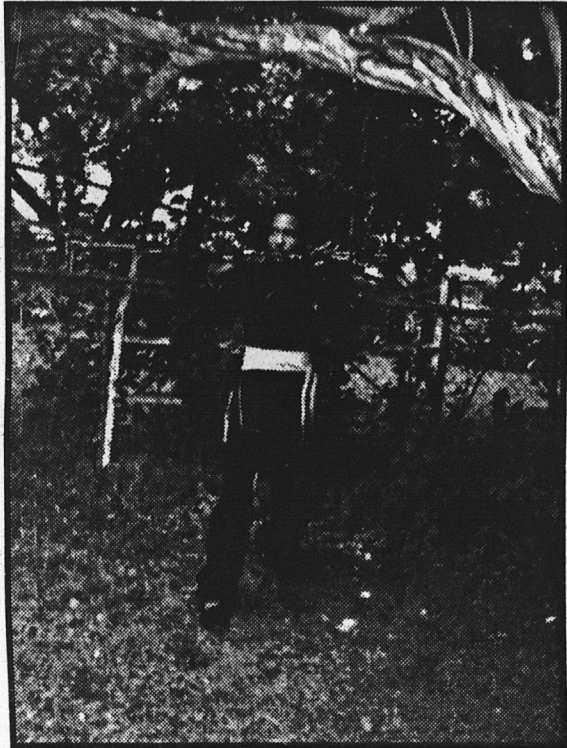


For more information, please contact CISPES at 212-645-5230

This People's Tribunal is organized by the Global Sweatshop Coalition (CISPES, Nicaragua Solidarity Network, Disney/Haiti Justice Campaign) in conjunction with the Center for Constitutional Rights (212-614-6464). nicadlw@earthlink.net

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