



the
college

Voice

FOR FREE TUITION AND OPEN ADMISSIONS

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PUBLIC UNIVERSITY?

BOOKSTORE PRICES

CAFETERIA PRICES

STUDENT EXPULSIONS

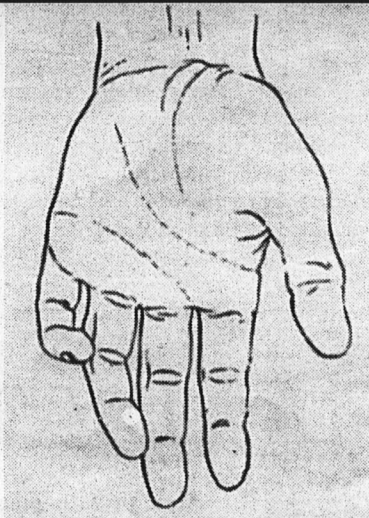
PARKING SCAMS

FOREIGN
STUDENTS
FORCED TO PAY
3X TUITION

INSUFFICIENT
TRANSPORTATION

REGISTRATION LINES

CLUB/STUDENT SPACE
RESTRICTED



REMEDICATION SLASHED

VICIOUS ADMINISTRATORS

HARASSMENT OF WORKERS

FINANCIAL AID CUTS

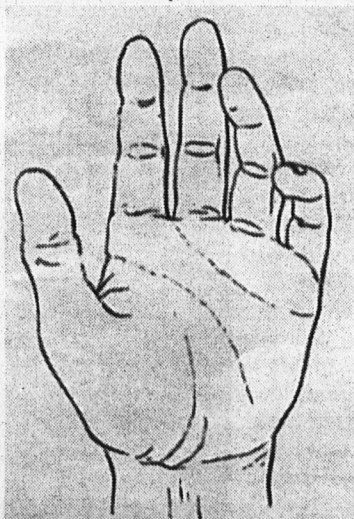


FACULTY
CONTROL OVER
CURRICULUM
UNDERMINED

RACIST STANDARDIZED
TESTING

LIMITED DAYCARE ACCESS

UNION BUSTING



PRIVATE BUSINESS?

STOP ROBBING CSI STUDENTS!!!

The CSI President's Convocation An Exercise in Stupidity and Brutality

This semester's Presidents Convocation, where CSI head bureaucrat Marlene Springer gives her trademark psychotic view of things relating to CSI and CUNY, turned out to be extremely revealing. And not just because of Springer's twisted logic. In an auditorium packed with CSI Administrators, their lackeys and a few students, President Springer poured forth a steady stream of lies about how happy students, faculty and workers are at CSI. She affirmed her belief in the CUNY Board of Trustees' (BoT) racist, sexist and anti-poor policies for CUNY. Using a metaphor that revealed more than just her feelings about the Board of Trustees policies, she said "the myth of separate but equal is dead". She was referring to the fact that CUNY's four year colleges while being on different boroughs and having different student compositions were all officially equal in quality. The BoT wants to get rid of "separate but equal" and replace it with official inequality. Colleges such as

Hunter are now officially first tier colleges and colleges like CSI are now officially second tier. She followed up this gem of a metaphor by using the 60's anti-war slogan "hell no we won't go". "We can't say Hell No We Won't Go" to the BoT policies, she ranted. Her cynical usage of this anti-war slogan shows her right-wing credentials.

This so-called convocation allowed for no discussion by members of the college community. President Springer matter of factly rattled off the statistics of how many students were "deregistered" over the past few semesters. "Deregistered", like the term "collateral damage" used to describe the killing of civilians during the war against Iraq, is a cynical euphemism. Its Springers way of talking about kicking students out of school. When student editors of the College Voice objected to this vile contempt being shown to students and raised questions about the poor treatment of students at CSI they were attacked physically by CSI Head of Security -

Gene Martinez.

The position of this Springer's administration is clear. She was hired after the forced retirement of former CSI



I'm a dictator Ya'll

President Volpe to be a loyal stooge of the Giuliani/Pataki gang on the BoT. Her primary concern is to maintain her salary and perks while kicking out students, making us pay more and contracting out services to enrich the business community. To call her an educator is a joke.

Indeed to sanction a physical assault on student editors of the college paper in broad daylight in front of the assembled

luminaries of the college shows the moral depths in which this Administration operates. But why should these Lords and Ladies care when they receive six figure salaries and perks paid out of the public coffers? Why should these pirates disguised as educators care about the lives of the students, workers and part time faculty that they are making ever more difficult through their policies when they are being paid to do just that? Stupidity and brutality seem to go hand in hand. Springer and her cronies who are busy fattening themselves on destroying higher education at CSI will not think twice before unleashing violence and intimidation against any who dare question them. However whatever delusions Springer's gang have that they are actually educators will be corrected in the long run when history records them as nothing else but paid hacks, hired to destroy a once proud institution.

Head of Security Gene Martinez Goes Berserk Attacks Voice Editor

Head of CSI Security Gene Martinez went berserk at the Presidents Convocation and physically assaulted Voice Editor Manjula Wijerama who was peacefully protesting the treatment of students, workers and faculty on campus. Wijerama asked President Springer during the meeting for a question and answer period to discuss the high bookstore prices and other problems that members of the CSI community face. Springer refused the students request whereupon the student continued to plead with the President for answers to the pressing problems students face on this campus. President Springer ordered the lights to be turned on at which point Martinez in a rabid fury grabbed Wijerama and dragged him out of the meeting. Once outside Martinez once again broke with professional conduct and unleashed profanity at the student. Voice editor Ayman El Sayed who was also present and witnessed the incident said that Martinez's face looked beet red, the blood vessels on his head looking like they would burst. Martinez once he calmed down asked the Voice editors not to take any action against him since he is retiring next year. When he realized that he had gone too far he promptly changed his story and said that he didn't touch Wijerama, but only escorted him

out. His faithful lapdogs in "Public Safety" including number two in security Rob Yurman threw their consciences out the window and decided the incident never happened.

Gene Martinez cut his teeth in the law enforcement racket ratting out Puerto Rican radicals in the 60's. Like most macho idiots any seeming challenge to his supposed authority is immediately dealt with by the use of force. It is after all not his intellectual powers that brought him to such a grand station in life. Indeed every time where this pathetic man was faced with a "crisis" such as when students attempted to take over a building at the old Sunnyside campus to protest tuition hikes he has responded by going berserk. In that instance he was seen red faced running around campus with a chainsaw looking to cut through doors students had locked.

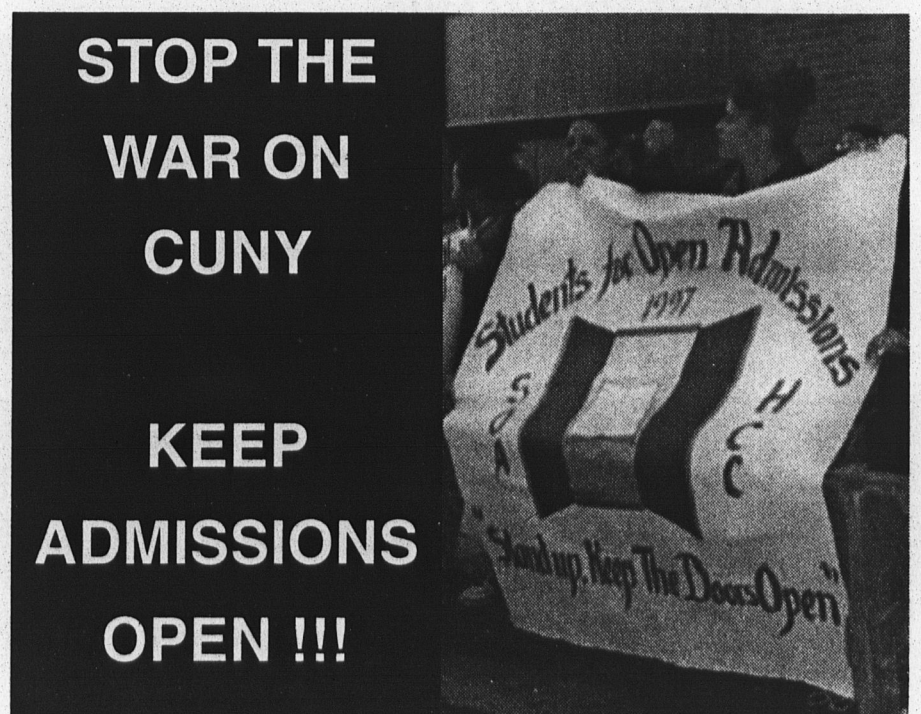
It is a sad day in CSI when students are attacked by security thugs with the blessings of the assembled Administration who witnessed and were actually amused at the incident. Once student dissent was beaten down, these "educators" ended their self affirmation ceremony and proceeded outside to calmly enjoy their wine and cheese (paid for by students of course).

Dictatorship CSI

At a private meeting arranged by Student Government with president Marlene Springer the few students lucky enough to know about this auspicious occasion were privy to a very frank admission by her Excellency. "CSI is not a democracy. What I say goes. If that's a dictatorship then that's what it is then." Her Worship is notorious for putting her Excellent foot in her mouth and for frequently resorting to southern slang in speaking to students. She scolded students who complained about CSI Parking policies by pointing out that we are getting a bargain. "There is no parking problem at CSI", she declared. "It has been looked into and the matter is closed." To this offering of calm, reasoned thinking, by our beloved leader Saddam Springer, we offered our

solemn amens but one excited starry eyed subject blurt out. "Well hallelujah, thank god we are not in some school where we have to like pay a million dollars for parking."

The Honorable president Springer is also known for her general distaste for interaction with lowly student types. Such interaction usually occurs via her vice president for student affairs, Carol Jackson. Together they make quite a pair, the small, rickety, sullen Maggie Thatcher wannabe, President Springer and the ever smiling, generously proportioned, completely vacuous Vice President Jackson. We ask our beloved vice president to please get some psychiatric help for our poor ailing president. She is a human being, please try to convince her of that.



PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION: UNFAIR REPRESENTATION & WANNABE ADMINISTRATORS

For the first time in CSI, all publications are not funded. They are not funded not because there is no students to work on the newspaper or because there is no money but the new publications commission and student government are incompetent and have personal issues with members of the publications. Lorianne Dephillips is an embarrassment as publication commission. She is hopping inside of a car while not knowing how to drive and crashing it. Lorianne is the new publication commission who does nothing but waste student time. Unfortunately she does not think for herself, everytime a member of publication asks her a question she does not and cannot reply. She looks at Joanne Gallo (student government senator) for a response. The publication commission is trying to defund the Third Rail magazine which printed out an article in their last issue criticizing members of student government for their irresponsible actions they performed last year not meeting and not getting any student work done concerning clubs and publications.

This year the publication commission wanted to give the year book \$35,000, Banner \$21,000, College Voice asked for \$16,250 and the Third Rail nothing. Morgan Healy is a member of the publication commission and the editor of the Banner. He wants to receive a \$3,300 stipend for nothing. If the Banner

was a well produced and bi monthly issue and he worked hard on it than he should get the stipend but if he does nothing and the paper does not come out and when it does come out it looks like garbage than he shouldn't get it.

The College Voice, Third Rail, Always a Woman, and the Yearbook do not have representation on the publication commission. The only publication which is represented on the commission is the Banner which is the publication getting the most funding.

Another procedure the publication commission and Lorianne dephillips practices unfair representation. The College Voice, Third Rail, Always a Woman, and the Yearbook do not have representation on the publication commission. The only publication which is represented on the commission is the Banner which is the publication getting the most funding.

It is clearly a violation of student rights. You cannot defund a publication which has been producing a magazine for the student body for almost the last 10 years. When Lorianne was asked why the Third Rail was not funded she

said "there is not enough money". There is plenty of money, we never had a problem of money for the last ten years, now all of the sudden student activity fee is not enough to fund publications on campus. Lorianne said "just give me time and i'll get the money". It is almost November and no one has gotten funded. The College Voice suggest that the publication commission should be made up of members of publication, all with equal representation. It is the editors of these publication who know what is best for the paper or magazine to come out not some brainless people who sadly have no lives off of this campus.

Lorianne dephillips, Joanne Gallo and Morgan Healy are playing the role of administration by trying to defund any student publication. Usually in the past it is Marlene Spring and Carol Jackson who play these vicious roles of violating student rights by not allowing students to use their student space and money. Joanne Gallo might ramble about how Carol Jackson is bad but she helps out the administration in making students life on campus miserable. Joanne Gallo should be Carol Jackson's assistant since she loves to defund progressive and critical student newspapers.

As long as the Third Rail is not funded no publication will be funded because the association which approves these matters is not willing to risk a lawsuit for censorship. What the publication commission is doing is censoring the Third Rail and will eventually fail but screw over everyone else along the way. Lorianne Dephillips should just resign from publication commission and stop wasting our time. She does not answer any questions asked by publication members and when we ask a question she somehow mistakes it for harassment. She is the real harasser of students by not allowing students to use their money. Hopefully these wanna be administrators are checked by members of student government who actually are there for student need not for their personnel greed.

Theft of Student Property Unimportant for CSI Administration

The College Voice experienced the theft of its only new piece of computer equipment, the recently acquired Mac G4, at the end of the Spring semester. This is a blow to our production process which will now have to rely on ancient equipment and also a blow to our sense of safety and security on our campus. The CSI Administration has responded to this theft with negligence. While we have seen a marked increase in CSI Security presence over the years, with considerable sums that could be used for purchasing new books for our pathetic library, being used to create a high tech security force. Nothing has been said or done about this theft. There has been no investigation that we know of. However this careless, unprofessional behavior on the part of the CSI Administration comes as no surprise to us. We know that the millions spent on expanding the security apparatus at CUNY over the last 10 years has nothing to do with the safety or well being of students. The objective of this heightening of security has been for the purpose of restricting the rights of all students. The CUNY Administration in conjunction with their

bosses in City Hall and Albany decided that they need a force that can clampdown hard on student activism. The spate of tuition hikes, budget cuts, financial aid cuts and the overall assault on Open Admissions at CUNY by the

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capitalist politicians and their running dogs in CUNY Administration throughout the 90s provoked courageous mass, peaceful protest by CUNY students. Instead of listening to the cries of the students protesting the destruction of their education, the capitalist politicians responded with repression. While these same politicians cried "fiscal crisis", they had plenty of

funds to set up a new security force in CUNY with caches of guns and ammunition. But such hypocrisy and corruption is rife in the new Giuliani style CUNY. Indeed many parallels exist between the Giuliani regime and the CUNY regime. As with Giuliani, CUNY no longer gives a damn about students, but rather cares about how to steal our money, degrade our education and control our movements. As with Giuliani, CUNY cannot tolerate independent thought or action on the part of its administrators. College presidents have been appointed not for their abilities as educators but for their ability to throw all moral, philosophical, legal considerations aside and follow the diktats of their political overlords in the CUNY Board of Trustees, another Giuliani front-group. Under such leadership however the character of the whole institution suffers, becomes decrepit and intensely bureaucratic. It is in such an atmosphere that property used by students, particularly student activists, becomes unworthy of protection or investigation in the case of theft. We at the College Voice have

witnessed the retraction of 24 hour access to student facilities under the guise of safety considerations. We have seen student events restricted, even cancelled as with the invitation of Dr. Leonard Jeffries to speak on campus in 97, due to safety considerations, yet students are not one bit safer or more secure. We want our college administration to know that their contempt for us will not deter us from our tasks. We will never grow in your oppressive, lifeless shadow, rather, we will grow united and strong in opposition to your misdeeds. Where you show carelessness, we will show caring. Where you show greed we shall show equality and cooperation. In fact by some miracle if you don't show up to administer us anymore we will not miss you but since we don't believe in miracles we will work towards that day when CUNY will be run by its students, professors and workers and not by your bureaucratic dictatorship.

STOP ROBBING CSI STUDENTS

THIS IS A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY NOT A PRIVATE BUSINESS

Students all over CUNY have been suffering from theft. Everywhere a student turns they shell out big bucks. In the beginning of every semester you can see the anger of students waiting on the bookstore line to pay \$80, \$90, and \$100 for a book made of paper. Another upsetting factor is that only chapters of these books are used. Barnes & Noble have monopolized the College of Staten Island's Bookstore along with a few other CUNY campuses. They have been charging outrageous prices for books that students desperately need and have no other place to get them. Another scam that the bookstore and CSI have been allowing is the updating of the edition of the books. This means students cannot buy used books or cannot use an old edition. The crazy thing is that the new edition is barely different, the only difference is the adding of a few pictures or switching around of pages. If a subject is on page 5 in an old edition, it is on 7 or 8 in the new one. Nothing important or special is added in these new editions, all students should investigate this by looking through an old edition, then a new one. Please tell me what the difference is? This bookstore issue needs to be resolved, we cannot spend \$300, or \$400 on books alone a semester, this is not what public education is supposed to be about. Public education and CUNY were created to provide accessible and free (or cheap) higher education. Marlene Springer and her administration have allowed this theft of students and justifies it. Marlene Springer has been known to keep her cracker mouth shut and allow this privatization of our education. When

asked about these high prices at her yearly convocation in front of hundreds of bureaucrats and administrators, she did the usual which was first panic, stay silent and hold her urine in. This was a huge embarrassment for her because a minute before the College Voice questioned her, she was lying about how students "are



happy". Happy about what? getting ripped off and hassled every semester. Who is she to speak on behalf of the students. Students should have a right to speak about how they feel with things happening on this campus not some spoiled emotionless redneck.

After we questioned her, Gene Martinez, another sad story, came up to our faces and told us to "shut up". We told him we have a right to be there to speak the truth on how us students feel. Gene Martinez grabbed College Voice editor Manjula Wijerama by the neck and shoulder and dragged him out of the

convocation. It reminded me of the 1960's when racist in the south use to drag out black students for eating at the lunch counters.

Bookstore prices are only a small part of the big problem CUNY students face. Cafeteria food and prices have been another problem. In CSI, the cafeteria has been charging high prices for bad quality food. The workers follow orders and work hard and do not make decisions on the quality and prices. The administration has signed a long-term contract with Coca-Cola which have taken over all the soda vending machines on our campus. The prices of these Coca-Cola products are more expensive on campus than off of it. Students at CSI are trapped and have no where else to eat between classes unless they have a car. The cafeteria should provide quality food for decent prices so students aren't forced to eat unhealthy high priced food.

Parking is another big problem. First there is not enough parking for students yet the college administration still sells decals for spaces that don't exist. This is a crime, they are selling an invisible product. The college should not be giving out tickets to students of this campus, this is a public university not a "no trespassing" private area. If a student who pays tuition and student activity fee, comes to this campus they should not be ticketed for not having a decal, what's the point of having a decal and wasting your money when there aren't enough spaces anyway.

Students all over CUNY and CSI have

been expelled from the college for very small unjustifiable reasons. One reason is remediation classes. If a student is good in all these subjects but fail the math remedial test or English remedial they are expelled from campus. You do not educate or benefit someone by kicking them out of school. This is the most backward American way of education. Students have problems in specific areas. If they fail the test 2, 3 or 100 times, if they are going to class and passing the rest of their classes, their status should not be determined by one subject. This effects a lot of foreign students who have problems with English. Most of the students are "A" students in every other topic, they only have problems in English. The CSI administration doesn't care about these other class they only focus on the student problems but not to solve them just to make them worse.

During his/her disgusting convocation, Marlene Springer was boasting about how hundreds of students have been expelled from the campus. These expulsions are racist attacks on foreign students and hurt every other student, because a lot of American born students are bad in Math and have been kicked out. This discriminates against all students and typical of Marlene Springer she supports the racist anti-student policies that have happened in the last few years. Now there is a new exam called the proficiency test. Any open minded person can see what is behind this test. This new policy requires every student to take the exam after they have reached 45-60 credits. If a student

CONTINUED ON PG 7

CUNY Is For the Working Class

Administrators and Politicians Keep Your Greedy Hands Off!!!

President Marlene Springer in her Convocation speech made it seem like students are so satisfied with the status quo on this campus. When student activists objected to this description she stood by as her head of security violently removed them from the auditorium. President Springer and her administration act as if students are a nuisance that they would rather do without. Any student who has tried to speak to her knows that she has no time or respect for us. When representatives of the Middlestates Review Board, a university accreditation organization, came this semester to evaluate the college and speak to students about problems on this campus, her administration arranged for students with embarrassingly overdone praise for the college to attend. The College Voice, an official publication on this campus for decades, was not even informed about the Middlestates visit. Why is President Springer so afraid of dissent, of students expressing their legitimate problems?

The Coalition for Student Rights, a grouping of student activists, polled literally hundreds of students on this campus about what their main problems were? Students were totally pissed off

about having to pay hundreds of dollars for books. Many of these textbooks will never be used again by students. The College Voice asked Vice President Hudacs why students are forced to pay so much. His answer was that it was basically student's fault for not participating in committee hearings to choose a bookstore company. (Who is told of these things?) We asked why couldn't a non-for profit public body run the bookstore. It was as if we spoke to him in Martian. "Public?, non-for profit?...impossible...it would never work." Of course the only thing according to this administration that will work is profit-making ventures such as Barnes and Noble that currently run the bookstore. The only problem is it does not work for students.

We tried to impress upon the Vice President some very simple concepts - CSI is a public college, students at CSI are not independently wealthy, vital services such as the college bookstore should be run not to make a profit but to provide a service, the money that Barnes and Nobles currently rakes in as a profit could instead be deducted from the prices of books. A former professor from Hostra University, a private university,

told us that the CSI Barnes and Noble is more expensive than the bookstore at his former college. Why are public college students who can't afford to go to private universities paying more for books than private university students? The answer is that is how capitalism works - the poorer you are, the more you pay, the richer you are, the more you get for next to nothing. As anecdotal example, the cafeteria of Wall Street law firm Sullivan and Cromwell, where new lawyers start out at \$135,000/year, have a cheaper cafeteria than the CSI cafeteria, where the average student makes less than \$20,000/year.

It is precisely in the political character of the university that the problem lies. CUNY, while it is part of the most capitalistic society on the planet, was not organized around purely market-oriented purposes. A combination of hard struggle by working class students in the 60's for open access to higher education and the realization on the part of some capitalists that working class youth will need to be college educated to function in an increasingly complex economy brought about Open Admissions at CUNY. However by 1976, when NYC entered a so-called financial

crisis, a board of capitalists, decided to impose tuition on CUNY for the first time in its history. This is another truism about capitalist society - when the bosses profit suffers, workers are forced to take the losses. However until 1989 tuition was kept at \$625/semester for full-time resident students. The Chancellor of CUNY at the time considered himself a socialist of sorts and was committed to keeping CUNY accessible. Democratic Governor Cuomo spearheaded a Wall Street inspired attack to oust Chancellor Murphy and plunder CUNY.

Thus began a process of radical transformation of CUNY where college presidents and CUNY board members who did not agree with Wall Street's policies were forced out and obedient hacks were brought in. Our illustrious Marlene Springer was brought in for her "realistic" attitude towards destroying CUNY. Wall Street, by which we mean the leading capitalists of New York, and their political cronies in both capitalist parties - Demicans and Republicrats - reasoned that CUNY was educating too many, black, brown, yellow and white working class youth. For these heartless

CONTINUED ON PG 6

CSI Administration : Anti-Student and Anti-Worker The Case of Rory Satchel

The CSI Administration doesn't just limit themselves to kicking out students out of school and ripping off the ones they allow to remain. No, they treat workers on this campus far worse. Rory Satchel is an African American custodial worker on campus who has been keeping our floors shiny and classrooms clean for over 4 years. Students and professors, who know him, know him to be a professional worker and a kind and friendly human being. He has received letters of recommendation from professors for his good work. Unfortunately, the CSI Administration which pays and treats Rory and his fellow workers very poorly, set the tone for quite a bit of corruption and favoritism at the supervisory level. A supervisor who thought it was funny to call African American workers nigger was exposed by the College Voice in our Fall 1999 issue. In our investigation we learned that complaints made about this issue and others were simply swept under the rug by the Administration. New workers, many of whom were African American, were being fired for small infractions that others were getting away with. A culture of cliquishness and 'ass kissing' was the status quo. If you wanted to keep your job, you had better kiss the supervisors' ass as well as the ass of every body on top of him. Now that's a lot of ass. Despite the existence of a union, custodial workers had no shop steward representation for over 2 years. Workers were not being represented and were intimidated if they ever complained. Meanwhile Herr Hudacs, the Vice President lording over the workers on campus, would walk around spying on workers but never

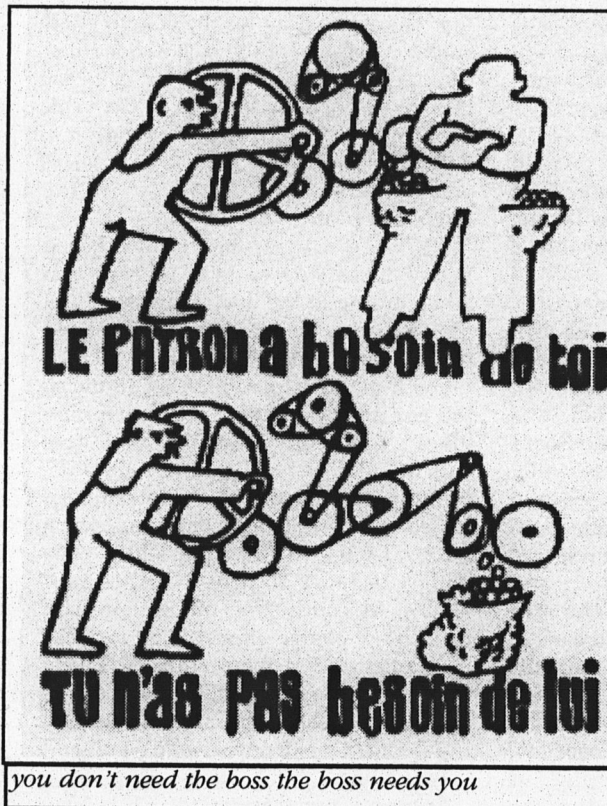
seemed to discover these abuses. We wonder why? Anyhow upon our exposure of the racial name calling, the supervisory staff decided to go after Rory. They knew

Another supervisor provoked an argument with Rory for asking for pine cleaner and decided he was so great that he can send Rory home for insisting on

pine cleaner. The Administration suspended Rory for 60 days without pay for insubordination. A man can die of starvation in a much shorter period but who cares right?! To show how fair and equitable they were Administration set up a hearing for Rory at E80th Street - CUNY Central Administration. It was an Orwellian experience. Every single supervisor whether they were present at the incident or not showed up to hang Rory. The Administration hacks were so geared up to fire Rory that they did not know what to do when a couple of College Voice members showed up to speak in Rory's defense. Rory's lawyer was so flustered by the kangaroo court setup he declared, "this is a lynchmob not a hearing".

Rory at this point appeared emaciated, surviving thanks only to the kindness of a fellow worker who housed and fed him. Though his body was weak his spirit was still strong. He was insistent upon his innocence and was not about to cave into the overwhelming force assembled against him. The gods smiled on Rory when the

brilliant supervisor who was name-calling admitted to Rory's lawyer upon cross-examination that he did use the N word on campus. This threw a big wrench in Administrations plan to quietly fire Rory. It would open them up for quite an expensive lawsuit and much public embarrassment if it came to light that CSI Administration does nothing to investigate charges of racism and then



he was a principled man, who did not kiss ass, so they figured he must have ratted out the supervisor. This same supervisor threatened Rory and the College Voice for writing the article.

A couple of months later, the vengeful supervisors finally struck back at Rory.

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To make matters worse CSI Administration is still withholding the 60 days pay Rory was robbed of through the trumped up suspension

turns around and fires the worker who complains. Rory is back on campus working but his status has still not been made fully clear. It's been almost six months since the hearing and these jokers have still not cleared Rory officially. Is it incompetence or psychological warfare? To make matters worse CSI Administration is still withholding the 60 days pay Rory was robbed of through the trumped up suspension. Would it not be the grown up thing to do to admit when a mistake is made and correct it rather than try to cover it up like little babies? Rory has been put through enough - give him his damn money and apologize to the man for treating him so shabbily. Hands off all CSI workers, they deserve raises not harassment.

SUPPORT CSI WORKERS

CSI workers perform some of the most fundamental tasks necessary for the functioning of our university. The backbreaking, dirty work that they dutifully perform so that we can have a clean and safe environment to study in goes totally unrecognized and unappreciated by the college administration. But what else is new. Workers are always considered to be expendable robots by the powers that be.

However that does not mean we as college students and educators should accept exploitation and degradation of human beings before our very eyes. During the little wine and cheese functions that take place on campus workers are in fact told to stay away. We can't have these raggedy workers mixing in the administrations' high bred company. What a pathetic joke. Vice President Hudacs who is the feudal lord in charge of CSI workers makes it his business to spy on workers, treating them as if they were little children, not grown adults with families. The Administrations contempt for workers has even rubbed off on some junior bureaucrats on Student

Government who couldn't stand the fact that workers would help themselves to some coffee during the evening coffee hours. These junior bureaucrats are a good argument for making sure abortion remains legal. Some motherfuckers just ain't human. But it is the Administration that clearly sets the tone for the mistreatment of CSI workers. Custodial workers now have twice the workload due to cutbacks. A paltry \$20 raise won in their last contract has been erased by the elimination of the night differential pay they received. Administration managed this swindle by changing the day-shift for custodial workers from 6 AM - 2:30 PM to 8 AM to 4:30 PM. This has additionally caused workers with children to pick up from school and workers with second jobs to be greatly inconvenienced. It is time that students, workers and part time faculty, in other words, all those who are shafted by this college administration to support each other and develop a common strategy to deal with our common enemy. We students at the College Voice know we speak for a majority of students on this campus when we say that we honor and

value the labor and the humanity of CSI's workers. After all, though we are students when on campus, we too have to work for a living and understand what it is like to be treated unfairly by inhuman bosses. For this college administration, it is not higher education and everything that it entails -

compassion for our fellows, the common upliftment of all - that is important. No for them, CSI is a place of business, where they are the managers, dutifully squeezing the rest of us, to fatten themselves and their bosses - the CEO's of Wall Street.

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NEW PROFESSORS UNION LEADERSHIP: A NEW HOPE FOR RESTORING CUNY'S MISSION

RENEE MARHONG

During the past decade there have been extensive and increasing cuts targeted at CUNY. Funding in all sectors of CUNY, including TAP, PELL, faculty, programs, housing, facilities and courses have been drastically decreased. This growing problem not only hurts students, but staff also. Professors at CUNY have systematically been reduced, given unfair contracts and placed between students and Administrators. The past 10 years at CUNY has seen the loss of 1,500 full time faculty, huge increases in tuition and the continual privatization of CUNY. Here alone at CSI, Barnes and Nobles controls our bookstore, the Staten Island Yankees play on our campus, Coca-Cola sells us over priced beverages and our own theaters in 1P are rented out for private use. These transformations are occurring cunywide. All these measures have been an active attempt to reduce the number of students and full time staff at CUNY, this particularly targets students of color and working class students and immigrants. A perfect example this is the ending of remediation. As a result of the widening attacks on CUNY, an organization within the old union (City University Union Caucus), has successfully taken over the defunct union. In the last election New Caucus won 17 of the 21

available seats, now controlling the PSC (professional Staff Congress) of CUNY.

New Caucus or what is now PSC is comprised of 8,000 members, it was founded in December of 1995 as a proactive democratic organization. The mission of the New Caucus is to mobilize and educate all of its members, increase the resistance against the CUNY cutbacks, utilize the members skills, enforce affirmative action and end all discrimination and ultimately link faculty to students, students to the community and the community to the labor movement.

As the representative of the CUNY staff PSC has taken a major stand against the CUNY Master Plan which has been proposed by the CUNY Board of Trustees. This year this plan was approved in a 10 to 4 vote by the Board of Trustees. The Master Plan is basically a move to severely reduce the number of working class, minority, immigrant students at CUNY, while fattening the pockets of select administrators and corporations by privatization. The plan includes using highly selective means of choosing students such as the proficiency test (a student already accepted in CUNY must take a test after a certain amount of credits to continue his/her education), the ending of remediation and the development of the Honors College. The Honors College is facility which is under CUNY but is privately funded, to be accepted to the

honors college a high school student must obtain a 1400 or more on his/her SAT, the student also receives a personal laptop and a \$7,500 bank account. If CUNY is able to obtain these fees, clearly they should be used for the benefit of all students because of the lack of adequate funding. Also the Master Plan calls for little or no increase in State or City aid, Faculty or cunywide programs. Basically the Master Plan favors select administrators and is solely in the interest of profit.

PSC/New Caucus has resolved that higher education should be accessible to all according to the open admission law of 1969 (won by militant students and faculty), an increase in full time faculty, the end of the exploitation of adjuncts, the end of the political attacks, tuition hikes (gradually leading to free education), testing barriers, public funding cuts and the reinstating of remediation. PSC also has proposed a budget for the FY fiscal year) 2002. The budget includes 10 new CLT's, 66 new HEO's, 34 counselors, office hours for majority of course offerings, an increase in graduate level fellowships, 525 new full timers over the following 2 years (which would lower the student/teacher ratio) and a major increase in State and City funding.

Primarily for the staff of PSC, New Caucus proposes an increase in economic and health benefits, complete job security, programs that enhance

affirmative action, an end to speed ups and productivity increase (i.e. hiring of more faculty to reduce workload), reform grievances procedures (i.e. class action grievances), enhance local bargaining and support of faculty governance.

The implementation of these proposals would greatly reform the face of CUNY but it takes more than a progressive union to resist the tremendous attacks directed toward us. CUNY students should seize the opportunity to restore CUNY to an equal access institution. The only way to battle privatization, tuition hikes and the systematic expulsion of students is to organize together to take our campuses back. We should not allow money for our education to be funneled into the building of prisons, (NY State spends more money on financing prison ventures than on financing higher education). We also should not allow profit motivated politicians and administrators to further limit our access to education. Education should not be distributed according to who can afford it, anyone who wants to learn should have the opportunity to do so. Open admissions, free tuition and remediation must be brought back to CUNY, without these things equal opportunity is impossible. Education is a right, not a luxury.

CUNY Is For the Working Class

continued from pg 4

capitalists, education is only important in so far as it could lead to them making a profit. But this logic was not even sufficient for them because CUNY was already providing New York and the country in general with some of the highest percentage of top executives, scholars and other leaders in their fields. The problem was CUNY was too black, except for colleges like CSI, but then again for the ruling capitalists, poor white is almost as worthless as black.

So capitalizing on the right-wing mood in the country fresh after the orgy of profiteering and open racism and anti-poor policies in the 80's under Reagan and Bush, the ruling bastards in New York were ready to destroy CUNY. This was about the same time that the US military would go on a murderous bombing spree in Iraq, the socialist countries in Europe and the Soviet Union were being crushed under the weight of US military expenditure. The idea of government funding for social programs was effectively devalued, the lives of the poor and the black were effectively devalued. If you were rich, you deserved it. If you were poor it was your fault and you deserved no help. In fact if you were poor, we will police you heavily, violate your human rights and even kill you. Such was the social-political crucible in which the capitalist vultures set their eyes on CUNY.

Now we can better understand why President Springer, Vice President Hudacs and the others who "lead" our college can't understand non-for profit education. They are being paid precisely for the purpose of transforming CSI/CUNY into a for profit institution. There are many "educators" at our

**Democrats and Republicrats -
reasoned that CUNY was
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brown, yellow and white working
class youth. For these heartless
capitalists, education is only
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lead to them making a profit.**

college who understand fully well that "for-profit" and education does not go together. But we have learned that there was a mass removal of backbones and conscience from these poor educators thus eliminating the ability of these unfortunate folks from being able to defend the liberal arts conception of education. These poor souls are trapped like jellyfish: into floating about, their life direction being set by the currents of the capitalist ocean. But we students cannot

expect our elders to do the right thing. We must avoid becoming jellyfish at all cost and learn to think critically about everything.

Although capitalist society teaches us that success is measured by how much money and things we accumulate in the end we all die and we cannot take these things with us. What we will be remembered for is the type of human beings we were. Did we help others? Did we live our lives with compassion for other living beings and the planet or were we part of their destruction? Revolutionaries like Che Guevara may have accumulated nothing in their lives but they helped their fellow human beings live lives of dignity without being slaves to rich imperialists. Malcolm X may not have accumulated wealth but he brought hope, confidence and dignity to black and other oppressed people. Rosa Luxemburg, the great German revolutionary, paid with her life for her commitment to the liberation of the working class from the degradation of capitalism but how many men and how many women did she inspire with the confidence to fight for their human rights, to fight for a world where human needs and not profit is the bottom line.

Fellow students, do not feel demoralized by the corruption and

greed of administrators, politicians and others who are supposed to show us the way. Let your lives be animated by the spirit of those great human beings who dared to rebel, who dared to think and act and not simply follow. Don't take any shit from anyone just because they are in positions of authority. You decide what is right and what is wrong for yourself and act upon your convictions. Study history, study languages, study everything you can - let your motto be "nothing human is alien to me" and organize for a better world. If not for the courage and convictions of the great men and women who came before us, we would still be sitting in the back of the bus. Worse we would still be in chains. Fight for your education fight for your rights as workers, as people of color as women. When an administrator treats you with disrespect, tell them to go fuck themselves and organize like hell.

Here are some resources you can use to strengthen your theory and practice:

For info about CUNY, check out the faculty union website - www.psc.org

For info about your rights as workers - www.Aflcio.org

For info about those fighting for a better world - www.iac.com

www.greenleft.org

www.socilistalternative.com

For info into the theory of struggle www.marxist.org

THE WAR ON DRUGS: DO WE NEED NEW TACTICS?

ROB LAURO

Since the days of REEFER MADNESS our society has tried, unsuccessfully I may add, to stamp out any and all "illegal" drug use. This was done while the culture was bombarded with advertisements that in effect said, we never need to feel pain, never have to face something we don't want to because our drug industry has a pill for whatever ails you. Can't sleep. Can't eat? Eat too much? Depressed? Anxious? Need energy? Fear not fellow Americans, we have a quick fix for it all. As long as the medical-pharmaceutical industry and its voice, the media, made money we saw nothing wrong here. Isn't America about making everything better?

Well my fellow Americans, it ain't working. People get drug habits just as easily from prescribed drugs as the kind that any kid across this land can buy from the local drug supply. A supply that in 35+ years that I've been aware/involved in this scene has increased rather than lessened. Now with an upsurge in heroin use, we either have to seriously come to terms with exactly who, why or what is happening and face another generation of our young dying, become incarcerated or spread fatal diseases.

Why after all the educational programs warning of what the use of drugs will do are 1. People still using and 2. Drug company profits are at an all time high (no pun intended)? From what I can gather it is basically due to the fact that a certain percentage of our society has what I call an "addictive personality". This is not to say that people can be pigeon holed into one category, rather than a criminal problem, drug use is a medical problem. By criminalizing street drugs we have made them profitable. We have failed to learn the lesson of history once again. Prohibition, the great social experiment which failed miserably and made alcohol use a crime, is something we as a society are still paying for today.

My solution will undoubtedly cause many to cry about morality. Naysayers will climb out onto their soapboxes to give their reasons why it won't work. I say that we have tried the zero tolerance/ criminalize the users tactics, to only find that we have not only created an enormously expensive criminal justice/prison system but have also in the process eaten great holes in our constitution and rights in the name of "War On Drugs". We even glorify via t.v. and film stories of police breaking down doors, stopping and frisking those who fit the drug "profile". Meanwhile hundreds of Wall Street "profiles"

continue to supply those criminals who are making billions in profits on addicted people with hardly a fear of being stopped or having their door crashed down by a narcotics squad. What is my solution?

My solution would be to decriminalize drugs. Also, making drugs available to addicts at cost via government control. Rehabilitation at cost and on demand to addicts is also part of this tactic. Medical problems are best dealt by people in medicine, not a corner cop, nor the DA nor the judge. This would only be available to those who can prove to a doctor's satisfaction that the person is indeed an addict. Legal drugs, in my opinion, WILL NOT cause an increase in the number of addicts either old or new. This is one of the fallacies of those who opt to keep putting the same addicts in jail over and

over yet never see that if this did work the numbers would decrease, not increase or remain level. Why?

Because as long as I was in the drug life the last thing that ever crossed my mind, along with everyone else I knew, was what I was doing was illegal. In each generation there will be a certain percentage of the population with a propensity towards drug/alcohol abuse use just as there is a certain percentage that will become child abusers, criminals, hetero or homosexuals or have cancer, TB or any number of medical problems.

The number of persons in each category will not change drastically whether something is legal or not when we are speaking of medically caused behavior.

As far as allowing whoever walks in the door at 18 asking for hard drugs we can be in better position that we now find ourselves. That is, by the time a young person becomes known to a society as in need of help, the criminal justice is usually the agency that is the first to have contact with this person. They are hardly set up to render medical rehabilitation. They are set up to "punish" through incarceration. This is the focus of the war on drugs, as it is now constituted. Is it any wonder why we, as a society don't see any "light at the end of the tunnel?"

The failure to lesson the effects of drugs on our society through laws and morality set by a segment of a society is evident to all but those who either don't want to see or those who have a vested interest in keeping this "war" going on ad infinitum. We need a new tactic now. (next issue: vested issue in the drug war)



STEAL THIS COLUMN

ANDY ZUCKERBERG

Abbie Hoffman, a 60's/70's cultural revolutionary was always looking for a way to bring free goods to the people, something that does not occur too much in our present day and age. He was also a very outspoken critic of the government and the injustices it carried out against the people of the United States. Through this column, I hope to carry on the tradition of a man who was always looking out for the good of his brothers and sisters.

There are many organizations out there that are willing to give stuff away for free just for the asking (and of course, for a bit of information.) This is all very simple and easy to do if you follow the steps I am about to give you.

1 - Obtain an e-mail account. You don't need to own a computer to do this. Your local library or college gives you access to the internet and companies like Yahoo.com or Hotmail.com will set you up with a free internet account for the asking.

2 - Go to sites such as [Http://www.101freeitems.com](http://www.101freeitems.com), and [Http://www.freakyfreddies.com](http://www.freakyfreddies.com), which offer free things such as long distance calling cards, calendars, t-shirts, aspirin, hair products and more. In addition, [Http://www.allaboutforms.com/index.cfm](http://www.allaboutforms.com/index.cfm) offers free legal forms to do everything from incorporating a business to filing for a divorce.

3 - Need a free or low cost HIV test? Call 1-888-422-8669 for information on where to obtain these services. Some of us think we are still living in the era of "Free Love" and that just isn't working anymore. Just ask someone with AIDS.

4 - Looking for a free haircut? Call Vidal Sasson at 212-229-2200. They are

always looking for hair models and as long as you don't mind getting a creative cut, they will be glad to assist you. Call them for the days and hours. If the idea of creativity just doesn't work for you and your hair, invest 15 bucks in a hair buzzer and do it yourself.

5 - Toxic Hell...Make a Run for the Bathroom - this takes a moment of planning. Call 1-800-TACO BELL and tell them that you were dissatisfied with their service. They are going to ask you a few things like which store were you at, what did you order, what time of day did the problem occur and where did you get the 1 800 number to call. Everyone knows where there is a Taco Bell so that shouldn't be hard. Tell them you went in during mid-day...lunch time always works best and that you ordered a combo meal or some other basic item like a bean burrito and when you got back to work (or school, or home) with your food, it was cold (or undercooked, or overcooked) and you are not happy with Taco Bell. Tell them the number was posted on a sticker on the wall in the store. They will take down your information and send you a coupon for some menu items. Give it a try 'cause queremos taco bell.

Now I know some of the above ideas may seem a bit strange and borderline illegal so remember...THIS IS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY! You should also keep in mind that we are students, not college presidents. We don't have a chauffer, personal security, hot catered meals, free use of a telephone and free housing. So take advantage of all the free stuff you can because it will never get easier then this (unless you are a college president.)

Coming Next Issue - How to prepare for a Civil Disobedience!

CONTINUED FROM PG 4

has good grades and has been attending the college for a couple of years and fails the test they are expelled. This is what they call higher education. It is higher prices and higher number of expulsions.

Last but not least, for all the students who don't have cars and live hours away from Staten island, a shuttle bus should be immediately in service from the ferry to the campus with one stop on Clove road for Brooklyn students. This will solve the huge problem of lateness and transportation. Students travel 5 hours a day to go to school and come back home, and aren't provided any services, not even a metrocard to make things easier. Doesn't it make sense if there is a shuttle bus for students. Four thousands students come to CSI from Brooklyn alone without counting other boroughs. In the old CSI campus there was a shuttle bus, but now with a new location (that is further), they figured forget the shuttle bus.

All these are the main problems of CSI and CUNY but there is much more. All these problems exist because there has been a campaign that has ended open admission, ended remediation, slashed financial aid, raised tuition, raised prices from books to food. The reason for this is profit. Corporations want to come to our campuses and profit off of us. They have monopolized our bookstores and cafeteria, they have rented out our student space and students are not seeing a dime

from all this. The people who are profiting from this is our administration along with others and the Board of Trustees who have allowed these policies to go through. Our public university has become a private business for outside companies along with our bloodsucking administration.

The only way to solve this problem is for students to get together. Students from all CUNY campuses need to build a new student movement that deals with working class issues. Issues like remediation and bookstore prices need to be dealt with. We can not depend on our administrations or student government to solve our problems because they are part of the problem. The way to solve these problems is by having support among major workers in New York, which we already do for example among the transit workers. We need to organize our campuses first and take our demands to City Hall and the Board of Trustees. New Caucus, a new progressive professors union leadership hopefully will assist students in fighting back for CUNY's mission of higher education. We need to organize ourselves and put pressure on them to take action hand in hand. Nothing will stop us if we have students, faculty and workers united in NY on these issues and more.

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 unbecoming our species and recognize that the fight for human liberation will be achieved only in the course of combating 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.

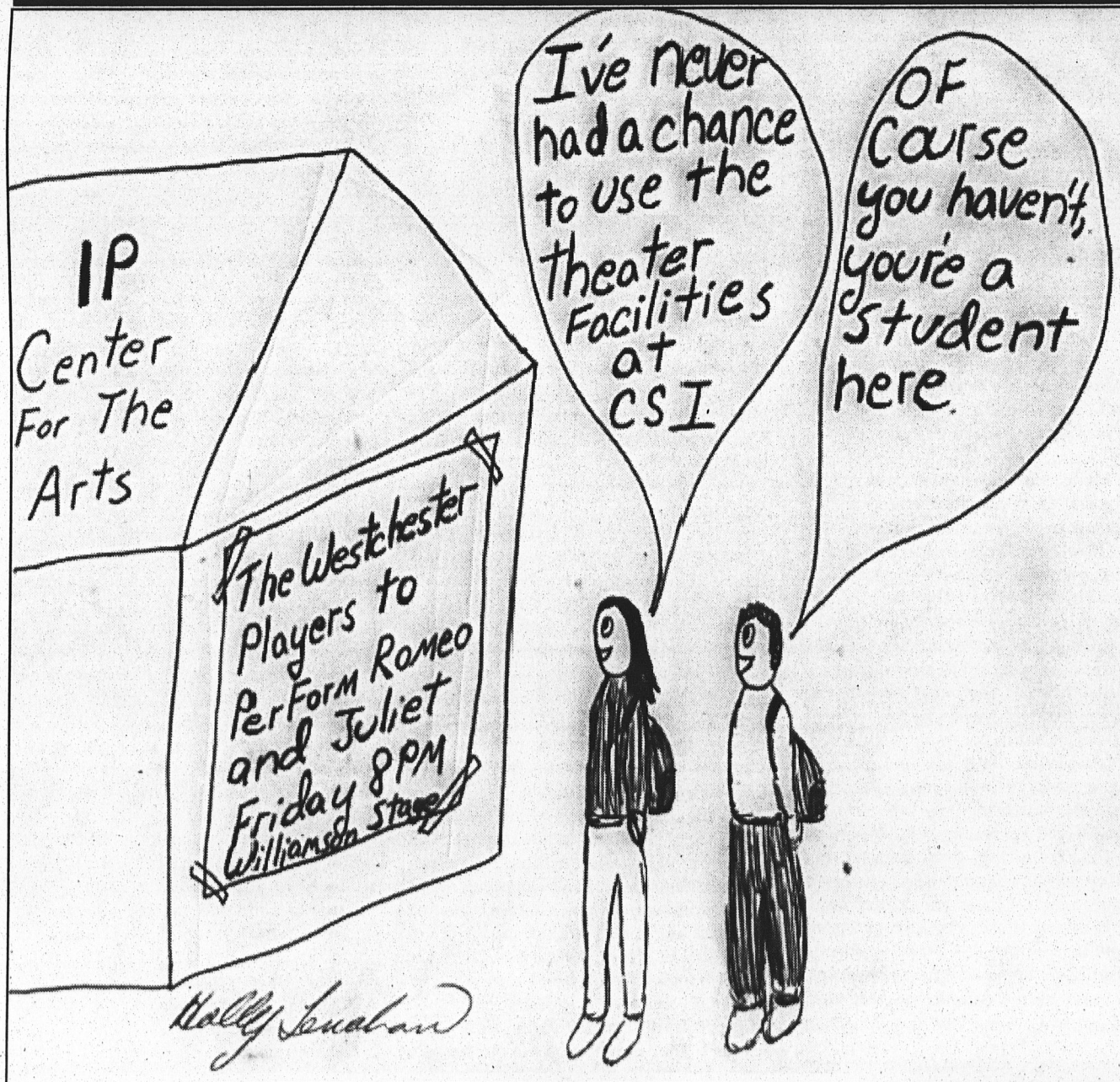
The CV recognizes that this contradiction, far from being some "natural" condition, is one maintained by the armed power of the capitalist state (army, cops and courts) and ideological apparatus (media, church and schools) of the capitalist class that insures the domination of the few over the many; 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 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 transitional 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

LIFE AT CSI



EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

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We welcome readers' views and criticisms.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

August 20, 2000

Attn: Editors: R.Marhong, A. Elsayed, M. Wijerama, D. Mclaughlin

Dear Editors:

I am writing to let you know how impactful your Vol. XIX, Issue #VII, August 2000 was to me. I especially liked the article written by Roy Rollin, "With Miracles Like These, Who Needs 'Disaster'?" It would have been nice if Mr. Rollin had also included the poor aged and the poor with mental conditions who are crapped on regularly. Perhaps you could encourage him to do an article on them, also.

I've been poor all my life - one of the "working poor". I had to work three jobs to support myself and two children, three hundred and sixty five days to survive.

Please contact me if Mr. Rollin can use some personal reminiscences of my working in our current political system of "give to the rich, tough shit on the poor". I fall into the category of aged, mentally disabled. But, do college students have any interest of what life could become for them? Maybe, it's too soon to make them aware.

Sincerely,
Julie Hunting

On Nov. 30, 2000 I Mrs. Michele Denise Payton-Garrett was personally assaulted verbally by Senator Joanne Gallo while presenting the Kwanza line by line budget. She was very aggravated and aggressive while asking me why is it that certain groups are able to get unlimited funding while other groups are not. From the past Senator Joanne Gallo has been belligerent about funding Kwanza in the fall of 1999. In the student government meeting of 10/12/00 there were a lot of activities on the table for the student body plus my paycheck was on the line. During this meeting Senator Lorrian DePhilips moved that the Senate move into Executive Session to discuss the punishment of Morgan Healy and to accuse the chair for the breakdown of order and creating a dangerous, harmful environment at the meeting of 9/21/00 and that senators and senators-elect be allowed to participate in this meeting. Melanie Goldstein seconded this motion. The parliamentarian noted that who participates in an Executive Session is defined by the constitution. The Chair ruled that the Executive Session would be limited to senators only. Lorriann DePhilips moved that the Chair be overruled in this decision. This motion was seconded by Melanie Goldstein and passed by a vote of 4-1-1.

Iman El-Sayed called for a quorum count. Six members of the Senate were present. The meeting was adjourned because quorum was lost. I asked Senator El-Sayed to call for a quorum count out of fairness for all students that voted for Senator Thomas Healy to remain on student government for a second term. There were just six Senators left and I thought to accuse the student government president of anything, the full senate should have been there. The following week after the student government meeting, I was in the back room of student government reading my e-mail when I was verbally assaulted about what I asked Senator El-Sayed to do.

To get back at my self and Senator El-Sayed, on the student government meeting of 11/30/2000 Senator Gallo called a quorum count so the Kwanza line by line budget was not O.K. because the minutes was not approved. Senator Gallo didn't want to approve or disapprove the funding for this event.

Senator Gallo also is the Co-president of PPOC that does food and clothing drives every. I want the readers of this letter to ask why there are clothing from two years ago in the club storage space. Why is this still in the storage when it was suppose to be out by 10/17/2000. You may ask how do I know this, I donated them. When will this madness STOP!!!

Michele Payton-Garrett

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is to inform you guys about a dangerous condition that exists here at C.S.I. I overheard some of the the Public Safety Officers talking about the fire alarms and emergency blue light pull boxes in the parking lots. None of them are working and haven't been for years! They said nothing is working at their operation. I work here at the school and feel that all of the students should know that these alarms are not in service. God forbid if they needed help in the parking lot and pulled one of the alarms or if a fire started no one would come to their aid. I hope that someone investigates this before a tragedy occurs.

The Banner: The "official" School Paper??
Peter Lang

Every now and then our school wastes money on producing a publication called The Banner, the supposed "official" paper of CSI. With riveting articles like "Want to Get Married?" and "Who the Fuck is Neil Shuldiner?" makes me realize what a waste of absolutely good paper and good money this is. In past issues there were many, many spelling and grammatical errors, and quite frankly many of their issues repeat themselves, and seem to do nothing but complain.

I raise a simple question to the banner; I thought this was a bi-monthly paper, not a bi-annual one? Why must I wait until early November for the first issue? And another thing, when are you going to stop knocking people, complaining about the same issues all the time, and start making this look like real paper? A prime example of this is when I pick up two different issues and both front pages have to do with parking. As I said, enough complaining now it is time to tell students what they can do to address the problem, and please, please stop knocking people. For example, there are two articles in two separate issues that do nothing but insult people. If anyone has picked up an issue they see that all that goes on is blatant insulting. This is supposed to be a paper about student life and events on campus; this should not be a way to attack whoever the staff of The Banner does not like.

In doing my research, I have come to realize that all this paper is actually used for is to "endorse" United Students. I find this funny since no other paper is "official", The Banner ends up becoming just a voice for all the people associated with United Students. If you want a copy of that pick up last years election issue, where for one, right on the front cover says "The Official Student Newspaper Endorses United Students." Now, this is in no way shape or form an attack on the United Students, but I am saying that the time has come to open the forum.

To the editors of the Banner, the time has come where you must stop acting so petty by attacking people, choosing sides, and continuously writing about the same things. It is time to start writing about issues that affect this campus by putting out a decent calendar (how many events were submitted for this issue?) Discussing issue that matter such as the bookstore, talking about events on campus (and writing about them, remember the great article written about the club fair?) Maybe doing random issues on a particular subject, ya know, livening' up the damn paper. Rumor has it that your creativity has gotten so poor that the English Department now must force students to write articles to publish, but oh well. In closing, I will leave you by saying that you have lost the true spirit and meaning that come with publishing a school paper. Just remember this is not the National Inquirer, this is supposed to represent the spirit of CSI, and if this crap is the best you got than it is time to give some willing students a try.

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**The College Voice Welcomes Any Suggestions, Criticisms or Comments
Submit Your Letters Through E-mail (CollegeVoice@usa..net) or Come To Our Office 1C-230**

A Vote for Nader; A Step Towards A Working Class Alternative

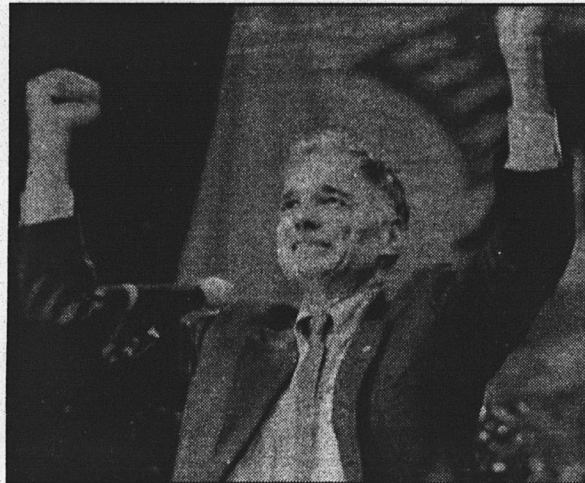
ROY ROLLIN

Whether he's starving children in Iraq, bombing pharmaceutical factories in the Sudan or just getting a blow job in the White House woodshed, Bill Clinton hasn't exactly been known to tell the truth. Or to put it more plainly, the man lies like a rug. So when he addressed the Democratic convention in August and told Americans that they never had it so good, he was, to say the least, stretching the truth just a bit. For most American workers don't have to consult statistical surveys or phonebook-thick think tank reports to know that they have been working more hours (often at more than one minimum wage "Mc-job") for less pay and that they are deeper in debt in spite of the endless economic expansion Clinton crowed on about. But Clinton and Gore either take working people for idiots, for granted or, perhaps, both. For they figure that when election day rolls around, the AFL-CIO trade union tops along with the middle class misleaders of the mainstream Black and feminist outfits will once again dutifully get out the vote, and that their flocks will faithfully follow them into the voting booths to pull down the lever for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman. When all is said and done, figure Clinton, Gore, Lieberman and the rest of the DLC, working people will have no where else to go...in spite of eight years of not so benign neglect at the hands of a Democratic administration with even more of the same on tap should they come out on top again.

Only this year they do have somewhere else to go. As opposed to both bosses parties, who don't even bother to offer the traditional dime's worth of "difference" that in the past nominally served to distinguish them, Ralph Nader is running for president on the Green party as an explicitly anti-corporate candidate, whose campaign zeroes in on the enormous increase in economic inequality that the Democrats and Republicans have taken turns presiding over. Unlike both of the bosses' bought and paid for parties, Nader opposes the World Bank, the IMF, the WTO and "free-trade" flimflam like GATT and NAFTA, which mean lower wages and lay-offs for workers both here and across the border. Unlike the Democrats and Republicans, who haggle over raising the minimum hourly wage a few cents to something no worker can live on anyway (\$5.15), Nader supports a \$10.00 an hour living wage. Nader advocates the repeal of the Taft-Hartley slave labor law that ties the hands of union organizers and has joined the picket lines of striking workers to offer them his support. In spite of the backing they get from the trade union bureaucracy, Democrats, like Hillary Clinton, oppose such strikes. Indeed, the "First Lady" even supported NYC Mayor Giuliani's draconian measures against transit workers last year.

Unlike Gush and Bore, Nader opposes the racist death penalty, the

mushrooming prison-industrial complex and the phony "war on drugs," which is just a code word for police pogroms against the Black and Latino communities. Clinton and Gore, on the other hand, have not only put more killer cops on the streets but have made it easier to apply the death penalty at the



federal level and harder for death-row inmates like Mumia Abu-Jamal to get their convictions overturned in court. Under the guise of fighting "terrorism," the Democrats have gotten police state style legislation passed that even Newt Gingrich would have thought twice about. Unlike Gore and Bush, who are in the hip pockets of the HMOs and the drug companies, Nader is the only candidate who supports universal health care in particular and increased federal funding for social services in general. While Bush and Gore are ready to dole out even more in tax cuts to the rich along with more handouts to the Pentagon war machine, Nader calls for an end to corporate welfare and cutting the military budget. Because both of capitalism's candidates are tied to the oil industry lock, stock and barrel, they will continue to apply a scorched earth policy to the environment in order to further boost corporate profits. Nader, on the other hand, has a proven track record as a defender of the environment. A vote for Nader will thus be a vote against the bosses and their bi-partisan war on workers and the poor. More importantly it will be a vote for political independence from both of their parties...especially the Democrats, who have attacked social services and workers living standards and gutted civil liberties in a way that that not even right-wing Republicans like Ronald Reagan dared do.

However radical his rhetoric has become, especially since the "Battle of Seattle" last year, Nader remains a proponent of middle-class populism, not working class socialism. He sees big capital, in particular, rather than capitalism, in general, as the problem and therefore has no real alternatives to the inherent inadequacies of contemporary capitalism. Like other "anti-monopoly" crusaders before him, Nader seeks to make capitalism more competitive by "leveling the playing

field." However, as far as progressive solutions go, there is no going backwards to middle class utopias of pre-monopoly "competitive" capitalism; only going forward beyond it to socialism. Nader's opposition to "globalization" thus stems far more from middle-class American

nationalism, with its obsession for protecting American's "national sovereignty," than from working class internationalism. Hence his China-bashing protectionism, which earned him brief support from pro-capitalist trade union bureaucrats upset with Clinton and Gore's snub over the issue and his failure to support efforts to obtain full citizenship rights for all immigrant workers in the US. In addition, while Nader has far better positions on issues that affect Blacks, women and gays than the Democrats do, he has, so far, failed to reach out to these groups, who could and should be amongst his strongest supporters. A \$10.00 minimum wage and expanded social services will benefit lower paid Black and women workers more than anything Gore has to offer. And coming from the pro-capitalist supporters of the same Democratic party (like NOW's Patricia Ireland or Jesse Jackson, Jr.) that abolished "welfare as we know it," such criticism rings cheap, to say the least.

Finally, Nader is dead wrong when he says that if successful, his campaign will put some backbone in the Democrats,

be. With the ruling class as a whole agreed upon making the poor and needy pay the way for the rich and greedy, the days of the "New Deal" are long gone, replaced by the raw deal, regardless of which party occupies the Oval Office. Nothing that Nader says or does is going to keep them "honest," because when it comes to cutting costs to stay competitive on the world market, "honesty" doesn't even enter into the picture. If Nader fails to see any or all of this, it is because his middle-class "consensus" approach, which welcomes all but a few "monopolists" into the camp of "the people," fails to see the profit motive as capitalism's *raison d'être*, class conflict as the driving force in capitalist society and working class struggle as the motor force for progressive social change.

The shortcomings of Nader and middle-class Green politics should not, however, prevent working people from voting for Nader nor detour socialists from giving his campaign critical support. Some sectarian socialists seek to justify their abstention from yet another mass movement by claiming that Nader is as much a "capitalist candidate" as are Bush and Gore. Yet as few capitalists are lining up behind Nader as workers are supporting the sectarians' abstract appeals for "independent working class politics" as an alternative to backing him. Far more important than Nader's positions on this, that or the other issue, are the thousands of radicalizing youth who are gravitating to him and who any serious socialist would want to interact with and win over. They see Nader giving an electoral expression to the world wide

If Nader's campaign is to be really successful, from a working class perspective, that is, it means taking the first steps in building a left-wing alternative to the Democrats, who are as much a bosses' party as the Republicans are, always have been and always will be.

not to mention more of them in Congress or that his Green Party will act as a watchdog to keep the Democrats "honest." If Nader's campaign is to be really successful, from a working class perspective, that is, it means taking the first steps in building a left-wing alternative to the Democrats, who are as much a bosses' party as the Republicans are, always have been and always will

fight against corporate greed and "globalization." That is why we need to push Nader as far to the left as he will go; which is what the anti-capitalist mass movement is, in fact, already doing. At the same time socialists need to be pointing out what is needed to go even further in taking on the rule of the rich; a political party of, by and for the working class with a program of class struggle to go with it. By doing so we can work together with the radical youth who are making their first break with Democratic party politics and win them to a socialist alternative. Unfortunately, this task has been made all the harder by the rotten role played by the top leadership of AFL-CIO as well as that of the Labor Party. The former, of course, are going all out for Gore while the latter will do nothing to offend them and are therefore sitting out another election rather than

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The Problem: Global Capitalism

The Solution: World Revolution!

Roy Rollin

The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO); these are the economic arms of imperialism, the institutions which the ruling rich utilize to force governments to abolish protective measures, to privatize industries and social services, to reduce levels of health care and education to gut labor laws and lower standards of environmental protection. Just as the Mafia offers its victims "protection," the IMF and the World Bank claim to offer "aid" to theirs. Only "Structural Adjustment Programs" and "loans" leave their lucky recipients even deeper in debt than when they started. With "greed is good" as their battlecry, the bankers and bosses behind them have set their sites on anything and everything that moves as fair game within the new "unified global economy." In every nook and cranny of the globe, the perspective of the capitalist class is one and the same: private profit before public need, untold riches for the few and endless misery for the many without even a pretense of trying to smooth over the differences anymore. For unlike the post World War II boom of the 1950's and 1960's, today's economic expansion has brought no qualitative improvements in working peoples lives. Indeed, just the opposite is true. Never before has there been such economic inequality as exists today. The richest 350 people today possess wealth far in excess of the income of the poorest third of the world's population. Three of those 350 have as much wealth as the poorest nations in the "Third World," whose combined population totals some 600 million. The wealth of just one of those three, Bill Gates, could guarantee every child in Africa and Asia a primary education for ten years! Meanwhile four billion of the other six billion people on the planet live on less than \$5.00 a day while the number of people living on less than \$1.00 a day has grown by 20% to 1.2 billion over the last five years.

Africa's gross domestic product is now lower than at the turn of the previous century but the effects of what is now commonly called "globalization" have not been limited to "Third World" countries or the former Soviet bloc. America's "economic miracle" has been based upon a quarter century of falling wages and a degree of economic inequality wider than any time since the Great Depression. So is it any wonder then that when the world's corporate kingpins and their politician pals get together, be it in Seattle, Washington, Melbourne or Prague, like the heads of the five families in *The Godfather*, to haggle over how to divide the spoils "globalization" has brought them, they find their private parties being crashed by thousands of uninvited guests from amongst their intended victims? Nor is it any wonder that vast segments of a working class whose real wages are still less than those they earned over twenty years ago are becoming more

sympathetic to the protesters and their message and more hostile to their targets. A survey taken in the wake of the "Battle of Seattle" last December showed that only 37% of those in families earning less than \$50,000 viewed "globalization" in a positive light, whereas 73% of them said they weren't earning enough. No wonder that the *New York Times* found itself worrying that "the Seattle protests may resonate...for lower-paid Americans."

"Globalization: The Empire's Not So New Clothes

For the bosses' bought and paid for press like *Time* magazine, "growth, prosperity and upward living standards always entail some disruption." The few on top obviously have good reason to find the status quo in which their "living standards" (i.e., profits) have zoomed "upwards" the best system that money can buy. However, more and more of those on the bottom, whose living standards have zoomed downwards and entailed the "disruption," are no longer willing to blindly accept this situation as the only game in town. The same "internet revolution" that allows Wall Street swindlers to bamboozle billions of

Yet as a recent biography of Karl Marx points out, "today's pundits and politicians who fancy themselves as modern thinkers like to mention the buzz-word 'globalization' at every opportunity, without realizing that Marx was already on the case in 1848." He might have added that Lenin was "on the case" as well in 1916, when he pointed out that "imperialism is capitalism at that stage of development at which the dominance of monopolies and finance capital is established; in which the export of capital has acquired pronounced importance; in which the division of the world among the international trusts has begun, in which the division of all territories of the globe among the biggest capitalist powers has been completed." What's commonly referred to as "globalization" today is the ruling rich's attempt to impose its will on every inch of the world now that the Soviet bloc is out of the way. Hence the existence of bodies like the WTO which the monopolies (today referred to as "multi-national" or "trans-national" corporations) and the states that stand behind them use to regulate that division. There are, of course, those who

The Bosses Have Their World Parties...

The IMF, the WTO and the World Bank constitute a capitalist international; a general staff of world reaction that plans strategy for the exploiters. Capitalist governments work hand-in-glove with them, supplying the military muscle that backs up their blackmail and extortion threats. "International" organizations like the UN provide a "humanitarian" fig leaf to cover up the endless acts of aggression carried out by the same imperialist powers who created it and continue to control it. Like any other bully, they only get away with carrying out their countless crimes because the working class lacks similar such bodies to fight back with on a global scale, and, in some cases, like the US, even on a national scale. Beginning with Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, revolutionaries have long argued that the international nature of capitalism necessitates an international organization of the working class to combat it. That is why Marx and Engels, not to mention Lenin and Trotsky, devoted a great deal of their time, energy and resources to building revolutionary parties on an international scale. Unlike the narrow nationalist trade-union bureaucrats who push buy-from-your-own-boss protectionism, revolutionaries have long recognized that an injury to one is and injury to all. International working class solidarity, best expressed by the Communist Manifesto's call for "workers of the world (to) unite," remains the only way to fight against the bosses rather than get stuck fighting for the bosses through their divide-and-rule schemes. The latter may begin with the battle cry of "Buy American" but they ultimately end on the battlefield with workers being called upon to die American in inter-imperialist turf wars between the world's rival ruling classes.

The sixties saw massive struggles against the US war in Vietnam, against racism and against sexism. In addition to the anti-war movement, mass movements emerged for civil rights, Black power and womens' liberation. Because they lacked a class struggle perspective and a working class orientation they never came together into a single struggle against capitalism and for socialism. Instead their middle class misleaders were co-opted while the more militant ones who made that connection (Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Black Panther Party) were killed off. The various movements all eventually dissipated into the dead of the Democratic party and lesser evil liberalism. Of course, the fact that the leadership of the AFL-CIO supported the war in Vietnam while opposing the struggle for Black liberation when it got too hot to handle didn't exactly endear organized labor to many "radicals," who concluded that the working class had been "bought off." Since the bosses have long since stopped "buying off"



bucks with one click of a mouse also permits workers in one country to see images of workers in another successfully defying the dictates of their bosses and government on their computer screens. Thus all the ruling rich's academic apologist and politician pals, both right and "left," who previously portrayed global capitalism as being the best of all possible worlds are now working over-time to remind us that, like it or not, global capitalism is here to stay. In other words, since this is about as good as it's going to get, you might as well grin and bear it. Anti-capitalist activists are, in turn, dismissed as naive nitwits who either want to turn back the clock or simply don't understand the "complexities" of the economic issues involved and who possess no alternatives to offer anyway. Needless to say, socialism, and for some, even social reform, are considered crimes against nature rather than any kind of possible economic alternatives.

like to claim that capital now knows no boundaries or national loyalties. Such theories, however, only exist to absolve their academic authors from opposing their own governments' acts of imperialist aggression. In the case of the trade union bureaucracies, they absolve their advocates from their craven capitulation to their respective ruling classes in the economic arena since "globalization" supposedly renders strike struggles a thing of the past. Yet even in the epoch of "dot.com" capitalism, it is still labor that creates all wealth. And by withholding that labor power, workers can still bring the whole system to a screeching stop as truck drivers across Europe recently proved. When Arthur Scargill, leader of the British coal miners' union told his fellow British union heads that "It's about time the(y)...got hit by a French baguette and got some Seattle spirit," he might as well been talking to the leadership of the AFL-CIO as well.

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The Problem: Global Capitalism

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unionized workers, laying them off instead, the AFL-CIO tops have been forced to strike a more militant pose of late, as was seen in Seattle last year. This would seem to create the possibility for bringing together the various movements currently operating on their own into a labor-led mass movement against global capital. Only the leadership of John Sweeney & Co. remains as firmly tied to the American ruling class through the Democratic party as his predecessors were even though Clinton's "New Democrats" have been even bigger boosters of the WTO and NAFTA than the Republican "right." Instead of building a labor party or even supporting Ralph Nader's populist anti-corporate campaign, the trade union bureaucrats have relegated the fight against "globalization" to the back burner as they go all out to get Clinton's fellow free trader, Al Gore, into the White House. Any successful struggle against global capital will, needless to say, entail a united front fight alongside the unions wherever and whenever possible. However, it will also entail a struggle inside the unions to replace the pro-capitalist leadership with a rank and file alternative that looks to the anti-capitalist movements as well as to those who struggle against racism and police brutality and not to the pro-capitalist Democrats as their allies.

...It's Time the Workers Had One of Their Own

Like the struggles of the sixties, today's mass movements are mostly made up of radicalizing youth making their first foray into political activity. The ideological confusion that currently reigns amongst them in some ways mirrors the early days of the "New Left," where reformism and liberalism, mingled with a disdain for history and theory in general and working class socialism in particular. This was based upon hostility not only to the pro-war AFL-CIO bigwigs but to the "old Left," ie, the reformist Communist Party (CP), as well. Yet as much they tried to ignore history, the young radicals of the sixties couldn't avoid it. They started out by rejecting Marxism and Leninism only to end up embracing its bastardized Stalinist offspring, via Maoism, which eventually put most of them back in the Democratic party with the same CPers they had written off to begin with. By openly identifying capitalism as the enemy, today's movement is already ahead of its early sixties' counterparts. But by rejecting the need for a

revolutionary party on the one hand and militant mass action on the other, as both the reformists and the anarchists do, movement activists are headed in the same dead-end direction as the "New Left" did.

"Direct action," when it's confined to a handful of dedicated activists may force the bosses and the bankers to call off a meeting or two but they won't stop the system from running for one day. While it may be possible to catch a few cops off guard, the ruling class as a whole is not about to make the same mistake when it comes to protecting their power and privileges. Such actions are no substitute for the kind of militant mass actions which give working people a sense of the collective power they possess as a class when they are consciously organized as such. Indeed, they end up having exactly the opposite result. Why should workers bother taking on the bosses if someone else will do it for them? And to think that the most powerful corporations and the states that stand behind them will be taken down simply by mass demonstrations and street protests lacking a clear class content and without a party and a program that expresses them and actively organizes around them is pure utopianism. Only by building a worldwide political party of the most advanced workers and their allies based on a program and perspective of uncompromising class struggle can the the struggle against global capitalism become concentrated and centralized into a struggle for socialism, as the only international alternative to global capitalism. Otherwise it will dissipate down a dozen different paths, almost all of them leading back to making peace with the status quo via the Democratic party. Already the head honchos of the IMF and the World Bank are talking about "globalization with a human face;" rechristening their infamous "structural adjustment programs" as "poverty reduction strategy papers.." Only this has far more to do with dividing the anti-capitalist movement than it does with what the NY Times calls an "emerging new consensus about helping the poor."

So History Hasn't Ended Afterall

The massive demonstrations in Seattle, Washington and now Prague against the greed of "globalization" have placed socialism and international working class solidarity, deemed dead not so long ago by capitalism's commentators, back on the agenda. Even they cannot cover-up the explicit anti-capitalist character of the

demonstrations and consciousness of the demonstrators. Thus the BBC World News took the anti-capitalism of the Prague demonstrations for granted in its coverage of them and even American publications like Newsday have been forced to do the same. Francis Fukuyama, who made a name for himself by proclaiming "the end of history" when the Soviet-bloc states collapsed in the early 1990s, is now forced to wonder whether socialism isn't dead afterall!

Needless to say, the class struggle against capitalist exploitation and

of the fabulous fifties had rendered the working class null and void as a force for social change in the sixties. The uprising of the French workers in May 1968 followed by that of the Italian workers in the autumn of 1969 changed all that. Now it's taken even less time for the bosses' bought-and-paid for "experts" to look stupid, since, unlike in the fifties and early sixties, the "prosperity" of the 1980's and '90's was built on sand, or stock market swindling to be more precise. As more and more workers around the world wage strikes and struggles against IMF-inspired austerity

attacks, the notion of a disappearing working class washes almost as thin as the WTO and the IMF's paid propagandists' proclamations of prosperity for all.

Thus Fukuyama declares that "Karl Marx's exhortation 'workers of the world, unite!' has never seemed more apt." and that "what the left needs today is a Fourth International uniting the poor and dispossessed around the world in an organization that would be as global as the multinational corporations and financial institutions



Break the chains of global capitalism

oppression went on long before there ever was a Soviet Union and has continued even after it. Class societies based on economic inequality generate class conflicts be it in ancient Rome or modern America no matter how hard the the hired historians of the ruling rich (both then and now) try to bury any record of them. Indeed the triumph of the Russian revolution under Lenin and Trotsky, its subsequent degeneration under Stalin and his successors, and its ultimate demise under Gorbachev and Yeltsin represented high and low points of the class struggle on both the national and international scale. Now as workers around the world rise up against the supposedly triumphant capitalism of the post-Cold War world, the same observers who had written them and their struggles off yesterday have been forced to rediscover them today

Of course this isn't the first time that capitalism's academic apologist have been caught with their pants down. Many on both the "left" as well as the right wing of bourgeois "public opinion," proclaimed that the prosperity

they face." Needless to say Fukuyama is certainly no advocate of the kind of Fourth International that Leon Trotsky conceived of, i.e., a world party of socialist revolution. However, his rediscovery of the class struggle is not only a recognition of how wrong he and his ilk were to begin with, but, more importantly, a recognition that socialism, now more than ever, is not only still alive, but remains the only alternative to the exploitation, oppression and destruction of the environment that the ruling rich have to offer the overwhelming majority of the earth's inhabitants. And while Fukuyama, not surprisingly, pushes the dead-end detour of "the left (trying) to take over the WTO," i.e., reforming a system that is not only unreformable but has no reforms in the cards anyway, thousands of militant workers and radical youth have already began to look to another road, that of the same socialist revolution thought dead and buried by the Fukuyamas of the world to begin with!

A Vote for Nader

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providing a working class alternative to both bosses parties. Their inaction has allowed Nader and the Greens to fill the void, echoing the anti-capitalist sentiments of all those fed up with business as usual and, unlike the leadership of the Labor Party, eager to do something about it.

In 1980 Ronald Reagan won an election by asking Americans if they were better off than they had been four years before. Today Ralph Nader is expressing the gut feelings of millions of American workers when he points out that they are, in fact, worse off than then they were twenty, not to mention, thirty years ago. A large vote for Nader will therefore be a statement against corporate greed and the rule of the

rich; a declaration that millions of us are fed up with a decade of decadence in which a greedy few further fattened up on the blood, sweat and toil of the needy many. In addition it can serve as a wake-up call for the trade unions, the Black and womens' movements and all those who claim to speak on behalf of the exploited and oppressed that the twin parties of the capitalist class are not the only game in town and that it is possible to successfully organize politically outside of the dead-end of the Democratic party. Hopefully it can than inspire rank-and-file trade unionists and movement activists into building a working class political party that can bring their struggles together into a mighty movement against capital that at long last redraws the political map of the US along class lines.

WOMEN IN PRISON

According to the May 1994 issue report of Women's Economic Agenda Project

Eleven things you should know about women in prison in the us:

There are over 90,000 women in prison in the US today. The majority are in prison for economic crimes. The most typical convictions resulting in imprisonment for women are property crimes, such as check forgery and illegal credit card use. 80% of women in prison report incomes of less than \$2,000 per year in the year before their arrest, and

crimes, the vast majority were convicted for defending themselves or their children from abuse. In California alone there are 600 women in prison for killing their abusers in self-defense.

Average prison terms are twice as long for killing husbands as for killing wives.

54% of women in prison are women of color.

Ninety percent of women in prison are single mothers. They lose contact with their children, sometimes forever. There are 167,000 children in the US whose mothers are incarcerated.

The average age of women in prison is 29, and 58% have not finished high school.

Racism and economic discrimination are inextricably linked to sexism in our culture, creating severe inequalities in the court system and the prison system. For example, Black women are twice as likely to be convicted of killing their abusive husbands than are white women.

Black women, on average, receive longer jail time and higher fines than do white women for

the same crimes.

25% of political prisoners in the us are women.

The number of women in prison has increased 138% in the last ten years. This is partly due to the worsening of economic conditions for women, and also due to the increase in arrest rates due to the "war on crime" and "war on drugs".

Women prisoners spend on average 17 hours a day in their cells, with one hour outside for exercise. Compare to men prisoners, who spend, on average, 15 hours a day in their cells, with 1.5 hours outside.

The Women's High Security Unit at Lexington, KY, was closed in 1988 because of a national and international human rights campaign. The prison kept the women in years of isolation in subterranean cells, conducted daily strip searches, allowed extreme sleep deprivation practices, and as policy, condoned a

complete denial of privacy, including male guards watching the showers, and an intense campaign of sexual abuse.

The late Senator Hart estimated that the annual cost of corporate crime was between \$174-231 billion dollars, while the economic cost of "street crimes" (e.g. burglary and robbery) was \$3-4 billion. We must look at why the state focuses on enforcing laws which penalize the types of actions take by poor and working class men and women while systematically ignoring the more destructive white-collar crimes.

There are over 90,000 women in prison in the US today. The majority are in prison for economic crimes. The most typical convictions resulting in imprisonment for women are property crimes, such as check forgery and illegal credit card use.

92% report incomes under \$10,000.

Of the women convicted of violent

average, receive longer jail time and higher fines than do white women for



SELF DEFENSE IS NOT A CRIME

Some Facts on Domestic Violence

· Each day in the U.S., between 5 and 11 women are killed by a male intimate partner, between 1800 and 4000 per year.

· In the U.S. women are more likely to be killed by their male intimate partners than all other homicide categories combined.

· 90% of women murdered are killed by men, men who are most often a family member, spouse or ex-partner.

· There are hundreds of women in California prisons and thousands of women in prisons nationwide convicted of killing an abusive partner.

· Studies show that the vast majority of women who kill their abusers do so as a last resort in defense of their own lives and/or the lives of their children, and that many have stayed with abusive partners because they have been beaten trying to escape or because they rightly feared an attempt at escape would cause their partner to retaliate with violence.

· Battered women who defend themselves are being convicted or are accepting pleas at a rate of 75-83% nationwide.

· In about 85% of spouse assault and homicide cases, police have been called at least once before. In about 50% of those cases, police have responded five times to family violence incidents prior

to the homicide.

· Women in the U.S. are much less likely to commit homicide than are men.

· During the years 1980-84, women perpetrated only 14% of all homicides committed by those 15 years or older, a homicide rate of 2.7. Men committed

86% of all these homicides, a homicide rate of 18.1.

· Between 2.1 and 8 million women are abused by their partners annually in the U.S. At least every 15 seconds, a woman is beaten by her husband or boyfriend.

· The Surgeon General has reported for at least 10 years that battering is the single largest cause of injury to U.S. women.

· In national surveys, approximately 25% of U.S. couples report at least one incident of physical aggression between them during the course of their relationship.

· Over 50% of all women will experience physical violence in intimate relationships. For about 25% of them, the battering will be regular and ongoing.

· Women of all class levels, educational backgrounds, and racial, ethnic, and religious groups are battered.

· Almost 90% of the hostage taking in the U.S. is domestic violence. Most hostages are the wives or female partners of hostage takers, although children are frequently taken hostage.

· Abusive husbands and lovers harass 74% of employed battered women at work either in person or over the telephone, causing 56% to be late for work at least 5 times per month, 28% to leave early at least 5 days per month, 54% to miss at least 3 full days of work

Over 50% of all women will experience physical violence in intimate relationships. For about 25% of them, the battering will be regular and ongoing.

per month and 20% to lose their jobs.

· 47% of the husbands who beat their wives do so three or more times per year.

· Children in homes where domestic violence occurs are physically abused or neglected at a rate 1500% higher than the national average.

· Children are present in 41-44% of homes where police intervene in

domestic violence.

· At least 53% of all battering husbands also batter their children.

· 75% of women surveyed in some studies report that their children had been physically and/or sexually abused by their batterers.

· 33% of teenage girls report physical violence from their date.

· 21-30% of college students report at least one occurrence of physical assault with a dating partner.

· Between 25-45% of all battered women are abused during pregnancy.

· In many U.S. cities, more than 50% of women and children seeking shelter are turned away due to lack of space.

· An estimated 10% of incidents of domestic violence are reported.

· The injuries that battered women receive are at least as serious as injuries suffered in 90% of violent felony crimes, yet under state laws, they are almost always classified as misdemeanors.

· In some surveys, 90% of battered women who reported assault to the police actually did sign complaints, but fewer than 1% of the cases were ever prosecuted...

[facts compiled by the National Clearinghouse in Defense of Battered Women, Washington, D.C.]

i sit here in wait for the bus

I sit here in wait for the bus. Passing cars, trucks and caravans reflect the bright light of the sun's radiance, momentarily impairing my vision, interrupting my silent observation of her. She struts she walks to dance up the hill. Walking against the rhythmic swing of her handbag she carries in regal fashion. She is almost two blocks away and five steps further than she was a second ago. Walking with a paced hurried, she is still too far. A mountain stands between us, not a hill! Who is this gloriously ornamented energy that walks towards me? She transcends our ideal image of beauty and now is the standard.

Her face starts to make sense. No longer is she just a blur of energy prancing alongside the seemingly symphonious clamor of her urban surroundings. The sounds to her are becoming vivid, disturbing. The horns of the cars now frozen in traffic now grip her consciousness. To stab the bitter nuisance into the steady thoughts of yesterday; when she laid in the white of a porcelain bathtub and wished that bubbles never vanished, her black body immersed in the comfort of the hot, milky froth.

She could fall asleep in the arms of the bathtub like an infant pampered gently on its mother's chest falls asleep to the dull quiver of her heart. But she does not. She doesn't feel herself vulnerable yet.

She fights the inevitable approaching peak to relish in the blissfulness of the present prolonged excitement. Cause it just feels so goddamn good; she'd prefer to live in blindly so to see no end to it. But it is only a short time before she is unwilling to fight it. Her body surrendering to a blanket of pleasure that stifles all ill pains, memories and thoughts. Existing in her now is the force that which makes the moon rotate. She will explode. Electricity will stretch every limb out of an awkward taut. Each toe standing up at an alert angle smelling the commotion, detecting danger. Something is coming. Under the bubbles, her legs display a graceful gymnastic kicking then tapping the ends of the tub as to satisfy the desire of her feet to be smothered with massage. Something is coming. Body vibrating. Blood leaping in her veins with great determination towards an ecstasy she's willing to kill for. She is twelve minutes outside the realm of fruitfulness where she and the land are thirsty for water. She is flowing with great force her body dancing high then deep—like the tumultuous turquoise of the Atlantic. She is wanting water now and is flowing to her. Coming to her! Coming!

She breathes long one last time in satisfaction, before falling into a familiar calm, "Hmmm." Utterly relaxed and still like a seashell just washed ashore. I am aware that what I am imagining of her may be completely inaccurate because unfortunately I do not know her. She is but another stranger whom I found attractive and want to sleep with. I wonder if she would frown upon my fancies if she ventured into my mind? Would I have enough courage to introduce myself, and converse with her when she finally makes it up the hill and marches across the street to where I sit? Perhaps, she is travelling in the same direction as me and taking the same bus I am. We could talk about Egyptian philosophy and telepathic communication. Or, maybe we could discuss Huey Newton's Revolutionary Suicide or Brother Garvey's U.N.I.A. She has thick locks running down her back. Maybe she's a Rastafarian. I know a little bit about that too. We could exchange phone numbers. I could call her tomorrow and make plans for the museum and dinner.

In my kitchen, we'd sit across the table and consume in an exchange of philosophies. She'd tell me about the way in which she wishes to fall in love and how one tells when they've arrived at true love. She'd talk to me about the soul and the body. She'd say that the body is a mere decaying flesh but the soul is forever in existence. No beginning and no end like a tremendous circle. She'd tell me that the souls is genderless and because of this it is undoubtedly possible for two people of the same sex to be soul mates.

She'd reveal to me that once she felt intimidated by a woman's touch—afraid and eager all at the same once. And despite the many times she's been exposed to gays it remains new to her when she sees two women walking hand in hand. She'd say, "The world won't allow me to accept it and therefore accept me. Because acceptance equals normality and homosexuality is not the norm—the norm is never debated."

Here she comes walking bouyantly over the pot hole ridden road. I feel a certain sense of confidence now. I will approach her and introduce myself Our eyes meet before we do. "Hi," I yell, before she makes it halfway across the street. Her eyes glued in my direction, she says
"Hello, Sista."

ALBERTO DANIELS



Violent Hypocrisy

Carpet-bombers of
Cambodian Peasants
shootdown protesters
at Kent State

Napalmers of
Vietnamese children
shoot Black Panthers
in their beds

Murders of
retreating Iraqis
splatter you
on suspicion of crack

Hair-trigger executioners of
a poor African in a Bronx
apartment vestibule
merely reaching for his wallet

Peace-loving capitalists
(*ba-da-boom!*)
guard their World Trade
organization
with overkill
SWAT teams

In the tradition of
"the Founding Fathers"
in the name of
"we the people"
and "free trade"
they
gorge on the world's labor
and whack you
if you
dare to
dis them

Tim Hall



Just Another Form Of Imperialism

COMMENTARY BY MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

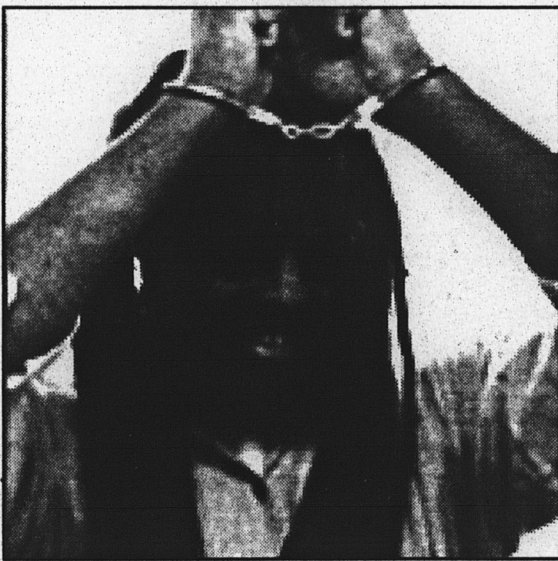
MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

"If they [NGOs-Non-Governmental Organizations] are allowed to hijack the World Trade Organization talks, it will be a dangerous precedent that every government and every global company will regret long after the protests in Seattle." Business Week magazine

The spectre of tens of thousands of workers, environmentalists, human rights activists and anarchists, seizing the streets of Seattle, was a stirring sight indeed. Their opposition to the antidemocratic, corporation-heavy World Trade Organization earned them the enmity of the corporate media, and the vocal condemnation of corporate politicians.

The WTO, the successor organization to the GATT-General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, functions as a virtual shadow government, in fact a Super-government, that rides roughshod over the national and state concerns seeking to protect the wages of workers, insure environmental standards, and protect collective bargaining gains. To the extent that the WTO consists of a collection of governments, it in fact protects corporate interests: the primary interest of capital, over and above all other interests. In this context, the demonstrations were a welcome and powerful corrective, expressing the views of the many, not protecting the interests of the few.

Much can be said about the much-maligned anarchists that rocked the mid-city, by attacking the shimmering edifices of capital. The press leaped at the opportunity to call them "thugs," or "hooligans," who were involved in "violence." What is missing from the reportage, of course, is that those young folks attacked property, not other beings. Meanwhile, the state, through its police, attacked persons, kicking them,



gassing them, beating them, and jailing them. What, one wonders, is the greatest form of "violence?" But, in the world projected by the corporationist media, state violence isn't real violence. Only individuals who are unaffiliated with

the state can therefore be truly violent.

What madness!

John Cavanaugh, from the Institute for Public Studies, speaking at a public meeting in Seattle around the time of the demonstrations, likened the powerful anti-capitalist, anti-WTO

demonstrations to another well-known act of violent civil disobedience that marked the beginning of the American Revolution. That act of Civil

Disobedience is now known as the Boston Tea Party, where Americans demonstrated against the trade domination of the British, by blackening their faces (to hide their identity), dressing like Indians (to hide their ethnicity), and by destroying over 30,000 pounds of British Tea, by throwing boxes, bundles, and bales into the Boston Harbor.

Their lament? Taxation Without Representation.

To the Brits and their Tory sympathizers, this was the action of "thugs," "hooligans" and "ruffians," no doubt. But what did they contribute to the public spirit of resistance to the British Empire?

The length and breadth of capitalist corporation's control over the lands, resources, and labor of millions of people in the US and abroad (especially in the so-called Third World) makes the grievance of American colonists against the British look remarkably

petty. The WTO is the unelected, privately-dominated body that undermines democracy by its very existence. They make the rules under which the world's vast economy is organized. And all must submit to this economic power, despite local, national and/or regional laws to the contrary. For the only "law" that they respect is the primacy of profit. Capital makes the rules; labor dances to their tune. Consider, how very quickly (overnight in fact!) Seattle cops created what was termed a so-called "Protest Free Zone" in the very heart of a major American city, to "protect" the interests of foreigners, diplomats and businessmen, of some 50 square blocks! A "protest free zone," is by necessity, a "First Amendment-Free Zone," with the word "free" meaning as little as the term used in discussing "free trade." In what part of the United States does the U.S. Constitution not apply? In whose interest was this cordon sanitaire established? The citizens of Seattle, or the monied gentry of global capital? Seattle revealed the faultline underlying the lie of the great economic "miracle" of the 1990s. It revealed the justifiable fears and anxieties at the heart of millions of American workers. It revealed who politicians work for. It revealed the nature of the police. It can, it should be, a beginning.

PANTHERS STILL ENCAGED IN ANGOLA

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

"... for people of color, doing time is only one among many terms of imprisonment legitimized by the concept of race." - John Edgar Wideman,

Behind the Razor Wire: Portrait of a Contemporary American Prison System

If ever there was any question of the slave parentage of the American prison system, one glance at the massive penitentiary known as Angola in steamy Louisiana removes all doubt. Once a

group of slave plantations, it earned its name from the southwest African kingdom which was later colonized by the Portuguese in the 1600s. It was from this region of Africa that a majority of black slaves were taken in chains to people Louisiana's rice plantations, and it is here, Angola, where the state concentrated its penitentiary, and its attempt to stifle righteous black resistance to racist repression.

It is here that a young prison guard joined the mound of dead bodies manufactured in Angola, and several young black men, members of the state's

Black Panther Party, were unjustly targeted, tried, and two convicted in his killing.

The year was 1972, several months after then-U.S. president Nixon's visit to China. It was the year the late Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace was shot and paralyzed while campaigning for the U.S. presidency.

One year later, Watergate exploded across the nation, and four imprisoned members of the Black Panther Party were formally tried for killing the prison guard. One, Gilbert Montegut, was acquitted, two, Albert Woodfox and Herman "Hooks" Wallace, were convicted, and another, Chester Jackson, turned state's witness, and snitched. Both Woodfox and Wallace have served a quarter of a century in continuous solitary confinement, locked down 23 hours a day.

There is every indication today that both men were framed for the killing. Indeed, after Montegut's acquittal, even Angola's then-warden, C. Murray Henderson, later admitted that Montegut was framed because of his "militancy." (Disbarred, Spring 1999, p.

14). (Ironically, ex-warden Henderson, convicted of shooting his wife five times, is doing a 50-year sentence for attempted murder).

The crime's only "witness" (now dead) was a notorious prison snitch named Hezekiah Brown, known as a "soft cop." What wasn't known at the time of trial was that Brown was at and after the time of the stabbing not only a snitch, but a paid snitch, who received "one (1) carton of cigarettes per week." (letter from Angola warden F.C. Blackburn to C.P. Phelps, Secretary of Corrections, 7 April 1978). The letter refers to "the original agreement with Brown" made by ex-warden Henderson years before, in "partial fulfillment" of their agreement "with respect to his testimony in the state's behalf."

Several years ago, Woodfox submitted to a polygraph examination, and his denials of involvement in the stabbing were found to be "truthful."

Like Montegut, Woodfox and "Hooks" Wallace were tried because they were "militant" members of the Black Panthers who organized the deeply

oppressed brothers of Angola to rebel against that repression. They were so skillful that (before the killing) they organized a prison chapter of the BPP, an astonishing feat given the site.

Faced with life without parole in solitary, it is past time for people to organize for their life in freedom. They are political prisoners of the highest caliber who deserve your support.

FREE THE ANGOLA 3!



The Rise of a New Intifada

Zionism Is The True Terrorist

AYMAN EL-SAYED

The conflict in Palestine going on now is nothing new. For the past fifty years Israel has fascistically killed thousands of Palestinians kicked them out of their homes and have occupied their land. The Zionist of Israel did not learn from the holocaust in order to prevent it from happening again, instead they have adapted nazi-like methods in massacring the Palestinian population and the Arab people as a whole.

Since September 28, over 310 Palestinian have died mostly shot in the head and neck area. Around 36 Israeli soldiers have died since the break out of the conflict and yet the US media portrays the Palestinian youth as the terrorist. The racist media does not consider the Arabs as people instead they are labeled terrorist, savages, etc. Israel has used tanks, helicopters, missiles and machine guns against the Arab youth while the Palestinian have used only rocks and stones to defend themselves. Any person who watches the conflict cannot deny their sympathy towards the Arab masses that have suffered from fifty years of war and genocide.

Israel and the Zionist do not want peace and never wanted peace. Peace in their terms is continued settlement expansions with the Palestinian people silent about it. They think or pretend to think like Arafat is behind all this. In a sense, he hasn't achieved anything for the Palestinian people and they have no choice but to revolt. He is not behind it in telling the people to fight Israel, he does the total opposite and tells the people to not fight back and remain in their deteriorating status. The current uprising or Intifada is the expression of the Palestinian people towards their living conditions and the reason behind their living condition.

The Palestinian people have suffered from dispossession by the Zionist State for over fifty years. There situation does not get better as the years pass but worsens as Israel expands it's settlements in Arab land and territory while building roads that only Israeli vehicles can travel on. They've armed the settlers and put them in hilltops where they can control the territory.

The ten Israeli communities with the highest unemployment rate are all Arab, and 40 percent of Arab families live below the official poverty line. How can you starve a people and deny them their right to live and when these people fight for their rights, you kill them and call them terrorist. Israel and the ideology of Zionism are the true terrorist.

Zionism and Israel are not the only terrorist, America which has

watchdog. Israel is an ally of the US along with neighboring Arab regimes. Israel serves as a big military base to control the oil rich areas of the Arab countries and to protect US interest. If the US did not have any interest in the region Israel would have collapsed a long time ago.

When a few Israeli soldiers are killed or American soldiers are killed the US and Israel makes a



"I'm willing to talk peace, but there aren't any Palestinians to talk peace with!"

supplied Israel with weapons and aid (\$4 billion annually) is also behind this genocide.

The US supports Israel not because it cares about Jews but because Israel is in the Middle East serving its' interest as a

big deal as if their lives are worth more than the Palestinians are.

These soldiers should be killed because they are not our friends. They are an occupying force in Arab land killing Arab children. If Jewish youth in

Germany killed a Nazi soldier were they considered terrorist and savages or is the term terrorist only given to Arabs who fight for freedom. Are terrorist the one's the US government say they are or are terrorist the one's who bulldoze Palestinian homes and shoot Palestinian youth? It is clear who the real terrorist is.

The Palestinian people will not achieve liberation as long as they follow Arafat. Arafat has done nothing for the Palestinian people and must no longer be the representatives of the Palestinian people. The present war is not a holy war and never was one. It is a war all people of Africa, Asia and Latin America have faced; this is an anti-colonial war. The Palestinian people are fighting a war against colonialism and imperialism not against Jewish people.

Israel and Zionism have been a dead-end for the Jewish population. It has only caused war for the Arab and the Jewish people. The solution of this conflict is not simple. The Palestinian people need to gain their freedom and justice. For an immediate solving of the problem Israel needs to pull out all it's murdering troops and tanks from Palestinian areas. Palestine should declare it's statehood with a collectivized economy and it's own borders with Jerusalem as its capital. If there would be a capitalist Palestinian state the poor people of Palestine would remain the same, poor, while a minority which already exist will be the wealthy and powerful.

The five million Palestinian who are living in exile should have the right to return to their homes. This will help solve the problem of the Palestinians but it will not be in the interest of Israel or the US. In order to stop the war in this area period both the Arab people and the Jewish people need to work together to build a secular state based on equality for all.

Israel out of the Occupied Territories!!

Palestinian Right of Return!!!

Victory to the Intifada!!!

Down with Zionist Terror!!!

FREE PALESTINE