

THE COLLEGE VOICE

Volume XIX • Issue No. 1 • September 1998

FOR FREE
TUITION
AND
OPEN
ADMISSIONS!



HEY! WHERE IS EVERYBODY?



Student Government offices remain barren as clubs and publications await funding. Article pg. 3

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CSI GRADUATION TAKES A POLITICAL TURN

WILLIAM WHARTON

In a period in which the concept of equal access to higher education is being directly challenged by the conservative right, the CSI graduating class of 1998 decided to take a stand. Students and Faculty carried out a silent protest by turning their backs as Board of Trustee member Alfred Curtis gave a speech welcoming the graduates. The normally placid ceremony was held a mere week after the City University of New York's (CUNY) Board of Trustees (BOT) decision to end remediation at senior colleges. The decision, which has recently been ruled invalid in Manhattan Supreme Court, signals a programmatic shift in the goals of the university system from open access for the City's poor and working class population to more elitist notions of selectivity based on the improvement of university "standards."

CSI graduates, campus political activists and sections of the faculty responded to the invitation of BOT member Alfred Curtis and Borough President Guy Molinari. Curtis has been an outspoken opponent of Open Admissions since being appointed to the Board by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. When asked about his decision to end remediation Curtis responded, "This is about re-engineering access to help those who need remediation come up to snuff." When asked about the effect his decision would have on minority students Curtis told the Staten Island Advance, "I will not introduce race into this." Noted CUNY Sociologist David Lavin has a different perspective and has calculated that there will be up to a 65% reduction in the population of Black, Asian and Hispanic students enrolled in senior colleges as a result of the BOT decisions.

The CSI administration added insult to injury by also inviting Guy Molinari and awarding him the President's Medal for Meritorious Service. Molinari has been equally outspoken about his opposition to open admissions along with consistently taking rabid anti-gay and racist positions on a slew of other issues. In addition to opposing the candidacy of Karen Bernstein on the basis of the fact that "The next Attorney General shouldn't be an admitted lesbian," Molinari supported NYPD officer John Pirozzi who was convicted of beating down a black motorist and telling her "that's what happens when you assault a police officer you black bitch." ("Racist Cop Cries Foul"; pg. 31; Oct. 1997 College Voice) The invitations of both Curtis and Molinari bring into question the political sentiments of the CSI administration and make a statement about their acquiescence to the destruction of educational opportunity.

CSI Professor Sarah Benesch warned, "There's going to be another vote coming up which could abolish remediation at the two-year colleges too. Giuliani wants to privatize remedial education and we've gotten no reassurance from Curtis that he will vote against it." Valedictorian Barbara J. Murphy, a Search for Education

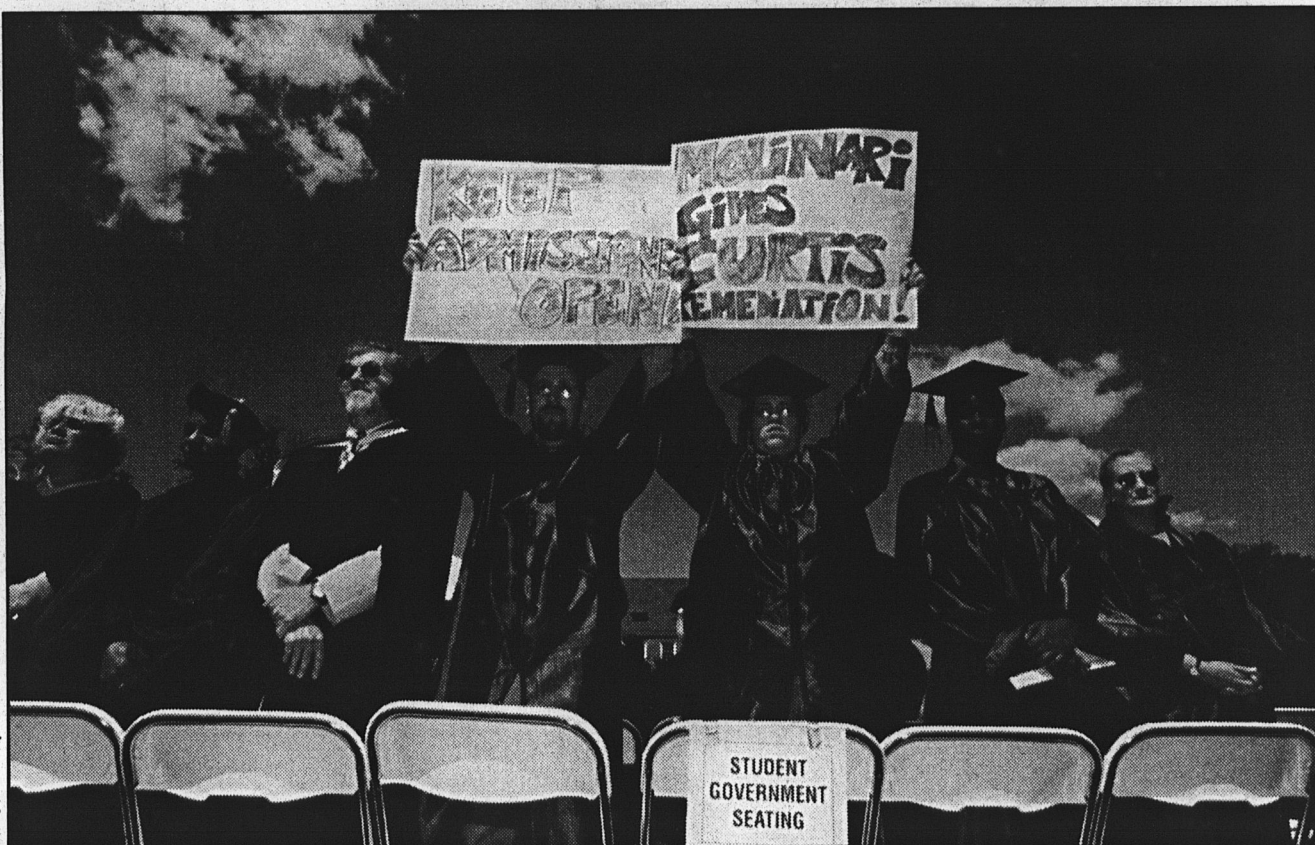
Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK) tutor, made it very clear during her speech that, "I am a proponent of remediation." Graduate and Voice Editor Debra Behr said that she took part in the protest "Because I was a remedial student, I took the CWAT four times and it was something I just needed to go through like 1/3 of the CUNY population or more and his actions (Curtis) were a disgrace."

Enjoying wide spread support for their positions, student activists from the College Voice and the 97-98 Student Government carried signs which read "Keep Admissions Open," "Stop the War on CUNY," "Molinari Gives Remediation to Curtis" and "Save CUNY - All Power to the

People." Despite passing a resolution in support of the action the new 98-99 Student Government led by Morgan Healy and Joanne Gallo were conspicuously absent from the day's event, perhaps fearing

Administrative reprisals for their actions.

Standing together in solidarity, CSI students and faculty sent a message directly to the enemies of educational opportunity that they will not sit by idly while CUNY is torn to pieces. The participants in the action were able to look past the media propaganda campaign that sought to demoralize CUNY graduates. Instead, the day was focused upon the outstanding accomplishments of the next generation of CUNY graduates while fighting to ensure that other people are given access to the same avenues of empowerment. Graduate and Voice Editor Devon Blinth felt the day was a success; "I think the message got out. The point was Alfred needed to know that there was dissent in the ranks and people were not going to take this lightly."



(From Left to Right) SEEK Professors Gloria Garcia, Roberta Vogel, WSIA General Manager Greg Adamo, and students Bill Wharton, Natina Berrios, Shenika Aspinall and Kathy McHugh protest against BOT member Alfred Curtis.

PHOTO BY RICHARD FORMICA/THORNTON STUDIOS

IS YOUR PROFESSOR'S ATTENDANCE BELOW AVERAGE?

ANNEAD MILLS

As a student at the College of Staten Island since Fall 1995, I have had the experience of taking some of the best and some of the worst instructors on campus. Many of which who taught very well, when they did arrive to class. Often times when my fellow students and I would be sitting in a class twenty minutes after the scheduled starting time of the class waiting on the professor to arrive. I want you to understand that this wasn't a just one of those days kind of thing. We would wait like this at least once a week. Now I understand that a professor may occasionally schedule a meeting before a class that may run a little late, but my situation was so much different.

In one of the classes for my major - Computer Science, I had become accustomed to arriving to class between 11:30 a.m. and 11:40 a.m. because I knew there was a slim to

none chance that my instructor would arrive before this time. This is a shame in my eyes because we pay The College of Staten Island almost \$135 dollars per credit to have an instructor teach us what we need to know to make it in this crazy mixed up world we are living in today, and hopefully in four to five years have a degree to prove it. But the College of Staten Island has employed lackadaisical instructors to teach for twenty minutes out of the forty we pay for. I find this really upsetting.

I never really bothered to approach the instructor or seek help from the chairperson of the department, because during the twenty to thirty minutes that my professor did teach I would actually learn something. It wasn't until the next semester that I realized the dangers of just sitting back and taking it. Out of about thirty students in the class only six or so passed, and I think I was the only student who received an A in the class. It was very unsettling to learn

that so many people flunked, not because they didn't show up for class or understand the work, but because of the professors poor attendance, tardiness and lack of a teaching style.

If Mayor Giuliani plans to force college level instructors to take daily attendance records of their students, I think we should also implement a plan for the instructors attendance and tardiness in the class to also be monitored daily.

I have woken up and I think you should too. I caution you, if you are having similar problems with any of your instructors, put in those complaints! It's time we started to look out for our own best interests. Even if the instructor is tenured, I urge you to go to the chairperson of the department, with some other people from your class, and blow the whistle on these people who are just in it for the MONEY. WAKE UP!

Dysfunction In-Action

An analysis of your brand spanking new Student Government.

DEVON BLINTH

Another summer has passed and the sights and sounds of a young semester have replaced the tranquility of the summer. Students waiting in line at the Bursar, others beseeching professors for overtallies, and the timeless sight of that one student having a nervous break-down at the financial aid window. All of the seasonal elements are in place for yet another semester at CSI, everything that is except Student Government. After a hotly contested election, the United Student (US) slate managed to gain a majority of seats on Student Government over the Progressive Student Alliance (PSA) slate. Due to the fact that Student Government elections operate on a "winner take all" principal the US slate, with its majority, is in the position to set policy for the new SG. They chair all commissions and as a result have a deep influence on SG policies. However it is becoming painfully apparent that infighting and intrigues among members of the US slate are taking their toll on the functioning of the government.

During the June 16 meeting Marguerite Taylor a parent of a child in the Child Care Center spoke about the \$72,000 budget shortfall and the possible cutbacks facing the Center as a result. She asked the Government to donate \$37,000 to help keep the infant toddler program open. After considerable debate and parliamentary maneuvering the motion was grudgingly accepted but only after "matching funds" from the administration are put up and "pending Finance Commission approval." This means that the Finance Commission must hold a meeting and rubber-stamp the decision retroactively because the commission did not meet at the time the matter was presented to the government. Almost three months later as parents prepare their children for attendance at the Child Care Center the Finance Commission has yet to meet and approve the allocation. In addition the club and publication budgets have not been passed because Student Government has not met since June 16. "It is upsetting to see that nothing has gotten done this summer," said Kathi McHugh a former member of the Government during the 1997-98 term. "The budgets aren't going through, I think that if Student Government is having problems, the way to resolve [them] is to have a meeting and speak about what the problems are. I don't see that happening with this Student Government." Though SG has held only two meetings this summer they did manage to appoint themselves to various commission positions and pass a resolution banning student access to the back office without an SG babysitter.

Pinky and The Brain: Healy-Gallo Inc.

The US slate was elected to the Government with the staunch support of the clubs. Lured by promises of a "revitalized" club commission many clubs gave the nod to the US slate during the elections. Three months later some members of these very same clubs are now questioning the sincerity of those promises. "We wanted to put in some papers to charter, but no one knows what's going on up there," said a frustrated Jonathan Brown pointing in the direction of the SG offices. "I went up there four times and every time [the staff] tells me they don't know when SG's gonna meet." Students wishing to charter a club, request funding for special programs, print a newspaper, or do anything which remotely relates to funding from Student Government will soon discover that SG has done little to lay down the ground

"This is a time when Morgan needs to step up and show some leadership, he's obviously being manipulated and doesn't have the backbone to assert himself."

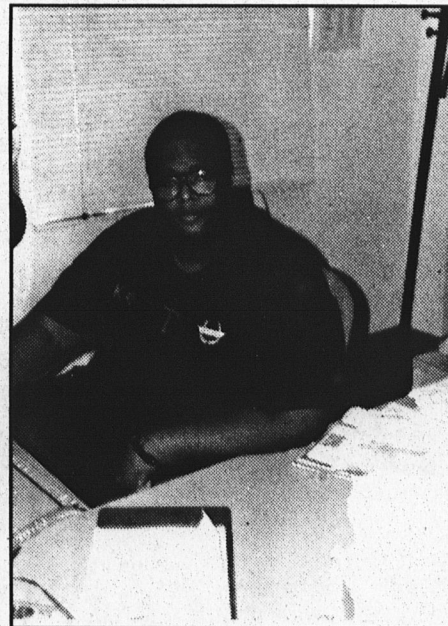


Morgan Healy SG President

PHOTO BY MEREDITH FOGELMAN

work needed to accommodate them. Generally students elected to the Government during the spring elections take their seats in June and immediately begin planning for the upcoming academic year. Commissions are formed, budgets are hammered out and a tone is set for the direction the organization will take during the upcoming year. However SG has done little in the way of preparation this past summer. They came roaring out of the gate and immediately fell flat on their asses, hopelessly mired in petty politics, in fighting and cliquism. "Morgan needs to get his act together or step aside," said Brenda Lovelace of the PSA slate referring to Morgan Healy SG President and US slate member.

As President of the SG - placed in that capacity presumably because of his outstanding leadership ability - Healy seems to vacillate between the somewhat dazed and the profoundly confused. Commenting on Healy's conduct as a member of last year's Government former SG President Bill Wharton stated:



SG Senator Andre Woods

the responsibility to call meetings and if need be, to cancel them. During past administrations the SG protocol was to inform SG members and the student body at least 48 hours in advance. The procedure is simple; the President would inform the staff of an impending meeting and the staff in turn would inform the public and members of the SG. The same procedure would be followed to inform people of a canceled meeting.

This course of action - a courtesy really - gives the public and SG members the opportunity to plan around meetings. When Morgan Healy scheduled a meeting on July 14 members of the PSA slate dutifully showed up along with a few members of the US slate and the general public, some traveling from as far away as Brooklyn and Queens. The SG leadership and their acolytes were nowhere to be found. Interestingly enough Morgan Healy, Andre Woods and several other members of SG were seen on campus earlier that day. Woods was spotted sitting in the cafeteria at the time the meeting was scheduled but did not appear in the office. The question begs to be asked: if he knew the meeting would not take place why didn't he inform everyone waiting in the office? As a member of numerous campus governance bodies and committees, Woods has never seen a conference table he didn't like, so his absence can, at best, be viewed as a thoughtless confusion in priorities and at

worse part of a coordinated effort on the part of the leadership clique of SG to call off meetings without informing their dissident colleagues and the public. What sort of perverse logic would lead Healy to sabotage his own meeting? Why do lemmings leap off of cliffs? The answers are not clear but as the summer unfolded it became agonizingly apparent that SG is devolving under Healy's uninspired leadership. Observing this state of affairs Brenda Lovelace concluded, "This is a time when Morgan needs to step up and show some leadership, he's obviously being manipulated and doesn't have the backbone to assert himself."

Enter Joanne Gallo, Healy's companion. The controversial Gallo was elected to an SG seat on the US slate

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Dysfunction In-Action

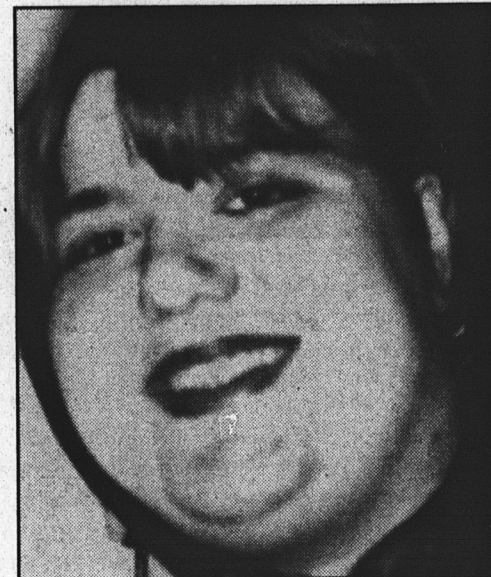
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but was disqualified by the Student Election Review Committee (SERC) because she was caught dumping rival PSA campaign literature in the garbage during the spring elections. Gallo reflexively denied the charges and appealed her conviction to President Marlene Springer who upheld SERC's decision. But the conviction has not deterred Gallo from elbowing her way onto the Government as a de facto member; making announcements, passing out paper work and doing all of the tasks of an SG member with the exception of voting. "She's just sore because she feels she should be on SG," explained Meredith Fogelman, SG member on the US slate and Editor-in-Chief of the Banner. This state of affairs is apparently a contributing factor to some of the tensions in the slate. "She'd call you late at night and talk, talk, talk about SG stuff," said a US slate member adamant about remaining anonymous. "You can never get a word in edgewise, and like, you can never disagree with her. It's scary." Tim Jenkins, an SG member on the US slate concedes, "We ran on a slate and there have been some divisions and nasty stuff that might not have happened in the past. There have been physical altercations and ideological differences within the group, things that might have been overlooked when we first ran are coming to a head now." The "altercation" Jenkins is referring to is the fracas between Meredith Fogelman and Joanne Gallo in the Student Government offices. On July 7 after yet another canceled SG meeting Gallo and Fogelman became embroiled in a heated argument which degenerated into a brawl. "I was informed by a Banner staff member that Joanne had asked him to leave [the SG office]," said Fogelman, "since Joanne is

not a member of SG I had a problem with that." Meredith attempted to talk to Joanne about her concerns and the situation deteriorated. Fogelman ended up in the nurses office with a bump on the head and serious lacerations on her arm. Joanne Gallo now faces criminal assault charges stemming from the incident. As of this printing she is set to appear at Stapleton Criminal court on August 24.

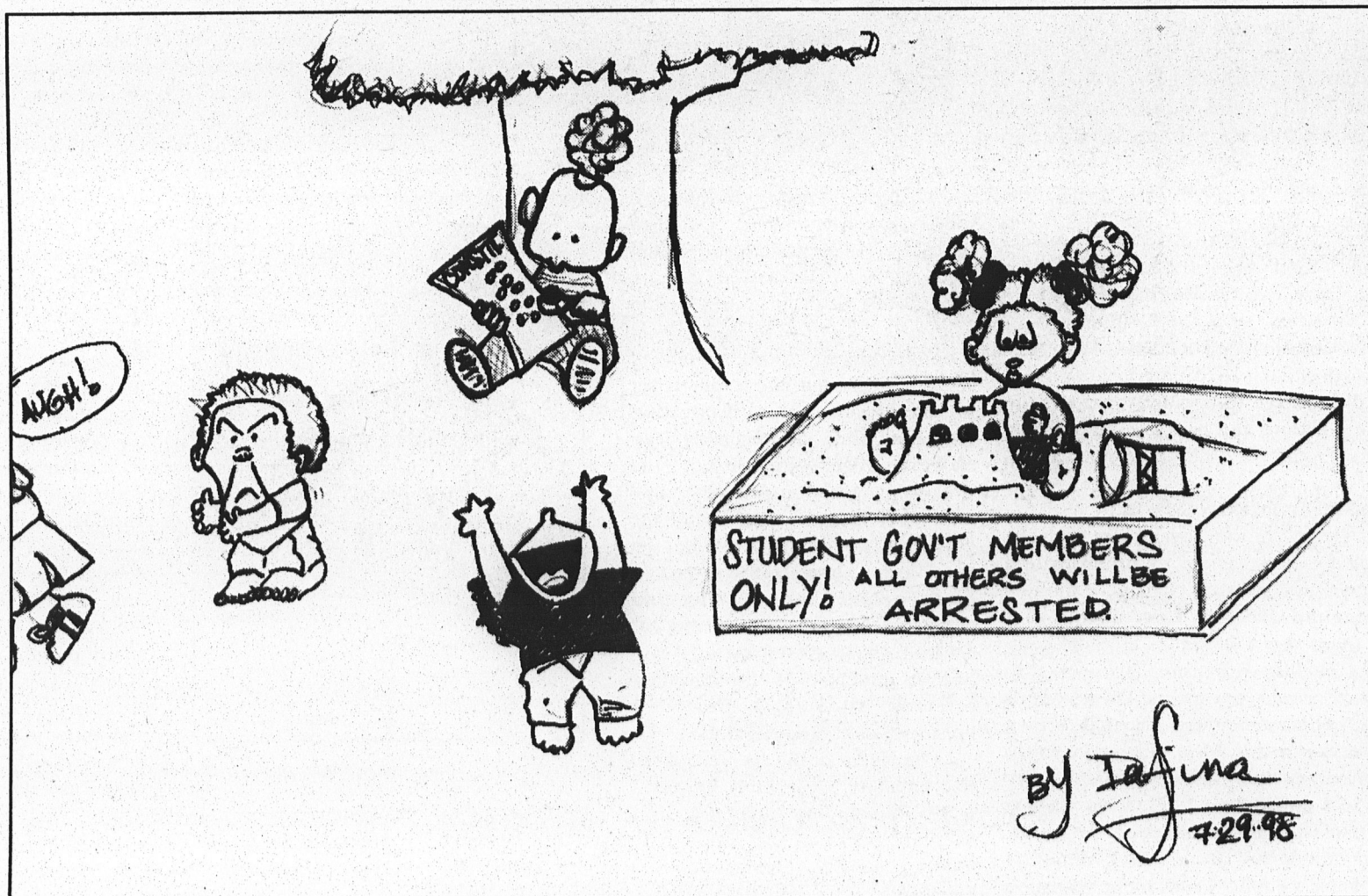
Slip Sliding Away?

We are witnessing the nervous breakdown of Student Government. Certain individuals on, and associated with, that body are apparently grappling with issues they should have dealt with during childhood. Because of this student services are being negatively impacted as a result. Can Student Government make the quantum leap from their playpen to an activist organization? That remains to be seen. But the reality that it takes a real political program and hard work to run a successful government is evidently beginning to set in. "In my opinion [open admissions] should be our focus because all of this infighting makes the enemies of CSI happy because we can't get united and fight the big fights," concluded Tim Jenkins



Joanne Gallo

They came roaring out of the gate and immediately fell flat on their asses, hopelessly mired in petty politics, in fighting and cliquism.



By Dafina
7-29-98

THE COLLEGE VOICE ANNOUNCES POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS FOR 1998-99

For most students Summer Break is an opportunity to go on vacation, spend some time with family and friends and work a summer job to make some money for tuition. Other than a few days spent on line in building 2A waiting for Financial Aid or Registration, the goal is to stay as far away from campus as possible. For a few students however, a break from classes offers an opportunity to focus on political activity. College Voice organizing meetings which were held throughout the summer offered a chance for student activists to speak about the projects they were working on and what they hoped to do when the Fall semester begins. Together, the group has come up with a political agenda that it will pursue throughout the upcoming year and invites any student interested in any of these diverse campaigns to contribute to the effort. Here is the list for 1998-99

• **Defending Open Admissions** - Support for keeping the doors of public higher education open to all citizens who seek it draws 100% approval among student activists and has resonance within the student community. With the recent Supreme Court ruling that the Board of Trustees (BOT) vote to end remediation was illegal, a significant opening has been created which a vibrant student movement can fill. What will be required is the creation of an alternative vision of the future of the university and an emphasis on the role it plays within poor and working class communities in the city. The Voice will work to play a role both CUNY wide and on campus to defend this educational right.

• **Fighting Institutional Racism at CSI** - The recent controversy over the denial of tenure to English Professor Onwuchekwa Jemie brings light to the stark contradictions that exist within the walls of CSI. With only a handful of tenured African-American professors, CSI is an institution in crises and the Voice will continue to work to examine the root causes of this injustice along with putting pressure on the administration to make immediate changes to remedy the situation. We also clearly understand that combatting racism is not as simple as putting black faces in the classroom. A comprehensive plan which draws on and celebrates the intellectual traditions within minority communities must be developed. The classroom and the curriculum must be integrated simultaneously.

• **Fighting Sweatshop Labor** - Each day hundreds of thousands of workers head to their jobs knowing they will face 13-14 hour shifts, sub-minimum wage pay and oppressive workplace conditions. Sweatshop labor destroys the everyday lives of those who suffer under it and eliminates good paying jobs of others as capital seeks the cheapest international labor sites. Working in solidarity with an international campaign organized by the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) and other trade unions, the Voice will join the struggle to defend workers rights throughout the world. Guess Inc. has been a major violator of anti-sweatshop regulations throughout the world and are the primary focus of this consumer and worker educational program.

• **Fighting For a Democratic Student Government** - Student Government is a campus organization which controls almost \$500,000 worth of student money. The history of ideologically conservative students on SG, such as this years group of Healy, Gallo and Woods, is one in which democratic principles are consistently violated. The Voice will work to help defend the interests and rights of CSI clubs, protect the First Amendment and ensure that SG abides by the New York State

Open Meetings Laws. By doing this we will ensure that our Student Government serves the interests of the students, not the resumes of the political conservatives.

• **Fighting For Students Rights** - The trend that has dominated the affairs of students at CSI has been a significant erosion of student rights and student control. From being price gouged at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore to the innumerable amount of forms that must be filled out by clubs, the voice of students has been stifled. Student control over the decisions that affect their daily lives will produce an environment in which the university becomes less of a center for profit and repression, and more of a site for the flowering of intellectualism and social relations.

• **Supporting Community Organizing Efforts** - Throughout New York City citizens groups and other community based organizations are organizing a fight back against the oppressive regime of Giuliani/Pataki. Groups such as the October 22nd Coalition and Workfairness have made significant inroads into tackling the problems of police brutality and the Work Experience Program (WEP). The problems that exist within our communities have a direct effect on students daily lives. The work of student activists does not end at the gates of CSI. We must take the lessons that we have learned here back to the streets of our communities.

• **Supporting Organized Labor Actions** - Throughout the country, American labor unions are beginning the process of re-building their base as well as defending their workers. The work stoppages over the summer by the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) represent positive actions by American workers. The Voice successfully intervened on last years Teamster strike by providing voluntary labor and support to striking workers. The Voice will continue to support the expressions of resistance by rank and file organized workers.

• **Organizing and Educating Radical Students** - Since 1968 the offices of the Voice have been a haven for radical students. Students that consider themselves Communists or Socialists, Anarchists, Radical Feminists, Black Nationalists or students just plain old fed up with the system have found their way to the offices and pages of the Voice. The Voice will continue to support and enhance the tradition of resistance that is so historically strong among students. The successful struggle of the students in Indonesia and the rich history of CUNY radicals (69', 95') will be built upon and expanded by the Voice.

Now that we have outlined our focus for the coming year, we hope that the students at CSI will be able to support these campaigns in any way possible. History has shown that it is not good enough to be upset with the conditions you live in ; you must take action! If that action is taken from an individual base, it made be loud but it will be ineffective. If collective action among large numbers of individuals is effected, dramatic changes become possible. You can help to support the struggle for social and economic equality by writing, organizing, speaking, drawing or reading. There are so many ways to become involved, so many that we cannot even list them. So, come up and visit the Voice! We are in the Campus Center in room 1C-230 and our door is always open!

JOIN The College Voice

In the Campus Center, Room - 230

982-3091

CITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT VOIDS STUDENT ELECTIONS

DEVON BLINTH

In June the administration at the City College of New York (CCNY) declared the results of the Spring Graduate Student Council (GSC) elections "null and void." As a result of this decision, the members of the progressive New Millennium slate were denied their seats on the Graduate Council in the wake of their resounding victory at the polls. The administration also changed the locks on the GSC offices, and the editors of the CCNY *Messenger*, the graduate student newspaper, were locked out of their offices. In justifying what some CCNY graduate students consider a punitive and vindictive action, President Yolanda T. Moses released a memo on June 18 citing violations of electoral procedure during

President Moses' ruling, according to several student activists, is in retaliation for a lawsuit filed by the CCNY graduate students . . . all of whom were involved in the discovery of a surveillance camera hidden in a campus smoke detector in June. The students charge that such covert surveillance is a violation of their privacy and invokes images of Big Brother.

the Spring elections as reasons for her administrative putsch. According to the memo, the students illegally used student activity fees during the elections through the use of student government offices as campaign sites and spent in excess of the \$500 limit on their campaigns. "These rules were violated by the production and distribution of a four page 'Elections 1998 *Messenger* Special Edition'; dated April 27 of the newspaper entitled CUNY *Messenger*, by the Graduate Student Government with graduate student activity fees," the memo verbosely states. Another page inside the newspaper contained a border box with the candidates of the "New Millennium Slate," which the administration viewed as the "equivalent of a piece of campaign literature."

The administration's repudiation of the *Messenger's* First Amendment right to endorse candidates and the student's right to choose their representatives is not new in CUNY. CSI President Marlene Springer voided the results of the Spring 1997 elections due to the fact that the *College Voice* endorsed the Student Union slate. The *College Voice* has since sued the college and the matter is pending in court.

President Moses' ruling, according to several student activists, is in retaliation for a lawsuit filed by the CCNY graduate students and New Millennium candidates Ydanis Rodriguez, David Suker and Brad Sigal, all of whom were involved in the discovery of a surveillance camera hidden in a campus smoke detector in June. The students charge that such covert surveillance is a viola-

tion of their privacy and invokes images of Big Brother. These moves by the administration followed heated struggle throughout CUNY by students to prevent the dismantling of open admissions via attacks on remediation. "This is an outrageous attempt to halt our movement on campus," said Rodriguez, a graduate student in bilingual studies. "She can't stop the movement, nor will this impede our determination to continue our fight for a decent education." "Canceling an election because you don't like the results is something you expect to hear in a dictatorship, not at City College," said Felipe Pichardo, a member of the CCNY coalition. Charles DeCicco, director of public relations at the school did not respond to numerous calls to his office by this publication. After scrapping the results of the Spring Graduate Council elections, Moses called for new elections early this fall. "The 14 students who ran in this past election for the 12 seats assigned to the School of Education (six seats) and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (six seats) will be entitled to run in the new elections, and additional students will also be given an opportunity to petition to run."

A letter from Bryan Hennegan, president of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, and endorsed by a number of academics across the nation, took strong exception to the college's decision. "These actions set a precedent which threatens the right of students at any college or university in the United States, and these actions show blatant disregard for the fundamental principles of a free society, freedom of speech and association." The letter called for an end of the lock-out, full recognition of the GSC as the official representative of CCNY graduate students, and an end to surveillance and retaliation against students who seek to express their constitutional rights.



"CLEANSING THE UNIVERSITY"

FRANK TALK

Capitalizing on their positions as the official governing body of the university, the City University of New York (CUNY) Board of Trustees (BOT) launched thousands of New York citizens into a new era of restricted admissions by passing a motion to end remediation at four year colleges. Using the rally cry of "standards" and the creation of a mythical past, i.e. the pre-Open Admissions proletarian Harvard, conservative trustees attempted to justify their decisions to a New York community that is growing increasingly hostile to such anti-poor measures. While the Board was successful in garnering the nine votes necessary to end remediation at senior colleges and thereby lay to rest the concept of open admissions at CUNY, they proved grossly inadequate in their attempt to sell their actions to the public. In the process, they have allowed a new generation of New Yorkers a window into the manner by which the power politics of the conservative right trample upon the democratic impulses of the masses.

In a moment of amazing clarity following the decision to end remediation at senior colleges, the BOT Chair Anne Paolucci issued her now famous proclamation that "We have finally cleansed the university." The truth inherent in both the characterization and spirit of this comment cuts to the heart of the dismal future of the university. The societal gains forged out of the progressive movements of the 1960's and 70's, aimed at rejecting notions of racial and class superiority, have been attacked by a powerful conservative movement. In the case of open admissions, the attack began directly after a large influx of both minority and poor white students into CUNY after 1969. The introduction of tuition into the university system in 1976, after almost 130 years of tuition-free existence, was the first blow to the creation of a truly open university. Following the imposition of tuition, the assault was carried out on two different fronts.

The first area of battle was ushered in the late 80's as the New York State government, particularly the governor's office, imposed a series of tuition hikes on the poorest student community in the country. These hikes were met with fierce resistance from below as students drew on the left traditions that exist within the history of the university and are reinforced through the class positioning of the student body. The battles against the hikes produced victories in both 1989 and 1990. The state proposals were, however, a bi-partisan effort and produced a stunning defeat with the largest tuition hike in the history of CUNY in 1991, courtesy of the Cuomo Administration. While the students were becoming more organized and politically sophisticated, due to their exposure to struggle, the state was increasingly becoming resigned to the fact that the program to reduce the student population would be won by the group that exerted the largest amount of force. The 1995 hikes provided the stage for this use of force and resulted in the destruction of one of the largest social movements that has developed in New York City in years. The Giuliani administration sent the message directly to the student movement that collective action and mass dissent would be met by the overwhelming power of the state. In 1995 this translated into officers beating down and arresting hundreds of student protesters.

While the financial assault on the student body at CUNY was fully underway, the ideological struggle for the minds of the poor and working class raged on. The intellectual conceptions that emerged from the struggles of the late 60's were those which emphasized liberation over marketability and the community over corporation.



Intellectuals and their students attempted to develop a mass critique, and ultimately a dis-connection, from the conceptions which had previously packaged students for the capitalist market economy. Dueling perceptions regarding the potential of working class students came to bear between a new curriculum which emphasized revolutionary possibilities and a traditional curriculum married to the fulfillment of the "American Dream." Newly formed Ethnic Studies departments would theoretically become the focal points of an intellectual movement which placed the community at the center of its development in opposition to corporate America. This development was sabotaged from the onset by both political and intellectual conservatives slavishly bonded to a Eurocentric curriculum. With the destruction of the CCNY Ethnic Studies department in 1994 the theoretical underpinnings of the open admissions project began to fade away. The intellectual movement within CUNY soon came to replicate that of the market-centered visions of right wing conservatives and their liberal apologists.

Given the two debilitating tendencies set into motion against open admissions, the BOT's decision to eliminate remediation at senior colleges must be seen as the culmination of over two decades of political maneuvering. The environment in which this decision was conducted demonstrates both the conservative control over the machinations of political decision making and the ease by which the state chooses to use force to subdue dissent. Far from the days of exercising restraint in regards to student protesters, the New York Police Department (NYPD), working in conjunction with the CUNY (not so) SAFE Team managed to arrest 26 students, faculty and community members. The arrestees included State Assemblyman and Chair of the Higher Education Committee Edward Sullivan, an 83 year old woman and a Hunter student who was arrested twice and smashed in the face by a NYPD officer outside of 80th Street. All three of these people were guilty of the highest possible crime in the eyes of BOT Chair Anne Paolucci, resisting. Uncomfortable making their decision about closing access to public higher education in public, Paolucci demanded that the public meeting room be cleared, with those refusing to leave subject to arrest. Losing even the veneer of democracy was a fitting touch to Paolucci's plan to cleanse New York's poor and working class students.

The use of coercive police force demonstrates where

the balance of power falls within the established societal institutions. Only through the immediate use of this mechanism can the conservative elite hope to stifle those citizens who provide direct resistance to their policies. The fundamental democratic expressions of the people are thus cast aside in favor of the policies of those who can control and manipulate state power, thus firmly severing any tie between the state and the people.

Given this divorce, those sectors of society that will be directly impacted through the end of remediation must begin the long process of organizing and carrying out a campaign, both social and intellectual, which will address the fundamental issues that challenge them on a daily basis. To achieve this, we must deal with the concrete and organize for the ideal. The concrete facts are that sociologists such as David Lavin project that there will be a 60% reduction in the number of minority students given access to senior colleges. Therefore a large group of students will be forced into the grossly underfunded community college system which will transform these institutions from centers of empowerment into educational ghettos. The lack of adequate teaching, facilities and curriculum will serve to restrict students, the majority of whom will be Black and Latino, who need some form of remediation, into an educational obstacle course that is doomed to fail. Indeed failure seems to be the main goal of the latest BOT decision. The failure of the community colleges, their backs broken by the massive influx of students without the necessary influx of funding, creates the preconditions for the institution of Giuliani's "final solution", i.e. the creation of privatized off campus immersion institutes.

Organizing for the ideal means that a new ideal must be fashioned, one steeped in the traditions and sentiments of the 1960's but firmly rooted in the material and intellectual needs of the 21st century. To accomplish this, recognition must be given to the idea that, as many community leaders have stated, we are "at war" with the mayor. This, however, is not a kind of romantic, rhetorical term; this is a class war. One need only look at the forces of resistance that have been stirred up as a result of this latest assault, divisions that are regularly seen as insurmountable have now become working relations forged through struggle. Indeed, Hindu and Moslem cab drivers and Black, White and Latino students united by their class positions, march through the streets of Manhattan together, fighting to save their collective futures. From this we see that the seeds of a new powerful movement are being planted on a daily basis. Each bold step the conservatives take against the poor and working class is a step into its own grave and a future in which the potential of a united poor and working class movement will be fully realizable. Transferring this new found unity into a fighting program for action, will be the greatest remediation that any disempowered New Yorker can experience.

INTERVIEW WITH A NURSE

CUNY students are not the only NYC group that has been targeted for extinction by the Giuliani/Pataki administration. Cab drivers, welfare recipients, food vendors, construction workers and just about every working person in the city has been touched by repressive cutbacks. City hospitals are among this group of damaged New York institutions, savaged by a decade of reductions and moving headlong into a future of privatization. In order to gain a

front-line perspective of the situation and role of City hospitals, the College Voice had the opportunity to interview Denise Carrier, a CUNY graduate and Registered Nurse who is currently working at Metropolitan Hospital.

CV: We are here today to ask you a few questions about your current job and ask you about your background, how you got into your job. Could you tell us a little about your college education, where you went to school and how that enabled you to prepare for your current job?

Denise Carrier R.N.: I went to Hunter College. I started there in 1990 and entered the nursing program in 1992 after two years of pre-requisites. I then did my two year nursing program, so I graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing in 1994.

CV: Why did you choose to go to Hunter College?

DC: Honestly, my mom helped me to decide that because she is a nurse manager where she works and there are several groups of nursing students that she is in direct charge of. She always felt that the Hunter nurses who worked there were some of the best prepared. Also, my sister went to Hunter so my decision was based on the fact that the education was the best and it was the least expensive, at the time that I entered it cost \$625 a semester, and they had dorms. So, it was good all around.

CV: How was your experience at Hunter? You had initially told us that you had been told that there were highly qualified staff teaching there so how do you feel they prepared you for your career? How does your training compare to other nurses who went to private colleges?

DC: The experience in Nursing School was that as long as you pass the Boards you were well prepared. The best experience I received was when I did a student-nurse externship program at Bellevue Hospital and I did that between my Junior and Senior year. They took about fifty nursing students from Hunter College and CCNY and we worked at Bellevue under an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) in a student-Nurse LPN status for about three months. By the time we finished the three months, they certified us in BCLS (Basic Cardiac Life Support) and ACLS (Acute Cardiac Life Support) and we were much more well prepared after finishing the program and going back to school for our senior year. We were able to give medications out on the entire floor, we were able to assume Charge duty, although we didn't because legally we weren't allowed to, but we were prepared to. We were able to take care of our own patient load so, when it came time to come back for our senior year, the practical experience made us much more prepared than the rest of our classmates. My real education

came through Bellevue Hospital.

CV: Can you tell us a little bit about where you are working right now and how you got there? Did you start there? Give us your career in a capsule.

DC: I started at Bellevue Hospital in 1993 as a LPN and when I graduated from Hunter the program that I had been in as an extern assured me of a job as a Registered Nurse, when and if I passed my Boards. This is a city sponsored program through Bellevue Hospital where we signed up ahead of time saying that for every year of service we gave to a city hospital they would give us \$2,000 toward our education for living expenses. I signed up saying that I would work for Bellevue or any other HHC (Health and Hospital Corporation) facility for two years. I started at Bellevue in the Orthopedics unit and they were downsizing and I was not told that I would be laid off but they were closing down my unit so I would have been sent to another area of the hospital and my ultimate goal in Nursing is to be a midwife and I wanted to work Labor and Delivery (L&D). When I

tried to get into L&D in Bellevue, I was told that for someone with no experience it would be quite a few years before I would be able to get in there. I would have to start in the Ante-Partum and Post-Partum and work my way up that way. At the time they were running a program called Re-deployment. Instead of laying off nurses, or other Hospital staff they would fill other openings in HHC hospitals from Bellevue, which is one of the larger hospitals. I looked on the list I found that they had L&D positions open at Metropolitan Hospital, so I applied and I didn't think I would get because I was so low on list of seniority but I was lucky enough to get it. In February of 1995 I was re-deployed to Metropolitan Hospital which is where I am now. I have been in L&D for the past three and half years.

CV: Can you tell us about what happened to the Department you worked at in Bellevue Hospital and some of the other nurses that were downsized at Bellevue.

DC: The nurses that I started with during my externship program at Bellevue, the majority of them were laid off. If I hadn't taken the re-deployment I would have been laid off as well. My start date was the date I began in the HHC system which was the first day of my externship program, not the day I started as an RN. At Metropolitan I had more seniority then I did at Bellevue. Fortunately, I was not laid off when the major cutbacks came though but many of my co-workers were.

CV: Could you tell us about some of the changes that you have seen at Metropolitan Hospital over the time you have been there?

DC: When I started at Met there was a group of nurses who were in a midwifery program at SUNY-Downstate. They received their full salary and money for their tuition and were therefore able to go to school and not have to work at the same time. When they graduated as midwives they were able to get a job at a city hospital to pay back the debts with service time in a city hospital. This is wonderful program because the hospital got a highly qualified trained midwives and in return they were able to go to school without the pressures of having to work as well. That's one program that when I applied, had already been cut out by the state government. Now that I am going back to school to study midwifery, I am going to have to pay for it myself. We've

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NY Taxi Drivers Fight Horrible Conditions and Exploitation

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Anyone who says that immigrant workers can not be organized to fight for their rights, doesn't know what happened in New York over the last few months. Over 24,000 yellow cab drivers in New York City, virtually the entire taxi work force, organized two successful strikes in May.

The conventional wisdom said that it is impossible: Too many languages. Too many ethnic groups. Too many recent immigrants, more concerned about earning a dollar than joining anybody's political cause. Even their own. The conventional wisdom was wrong!

The action was organized by the New York Taxi Workers' Alliance.

The NYTWA had been organized for several years primarily among South Asian drivers, who make up the majority of the workforce, which, however, also includes substantial numbers of Latinos, Caribbean's, Africans and Eastern Europeans.

The first strike was organized in barely a week in response to Mayor Giuliani's imposition of 17 onerous rules that would make an already dangerous and nerve-wracking job unbearable and would cost the drivers thousands more in fines for no good reason.

Right-wing Republican Mayor Giuliani's response to the strike was his typical combination of childish denials of the strike's impact (which was completely discredited by the media themselves) and dictatorial threats to take away their licenses and threats to call the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The second Thursday the taxi drivers had threatened to shut down the city through gridlock and organize a caravan of thousands of taxis to City Hall. In the event, the caravan was organized, but the police department managed to make gridlock a reality around the bridges that lead into the city.

The heroic struggle of the taxi drivers to protect their livelihoods in one of the most difficult and dangerous jobs in the city, was in sharp contrast to the apathy of the official labor movement which has been pummeled by repeated defeats in the past period at the hands of Giuliani.

The mayor's attacks on welfare recipients, city workers, housing and garden activists, students etc., etc., have met with no resistance or scattered ineffective protests, including the recent layoffs of 600 hospital workers. What this struggle has revealed is that the desire to fight back is there amongst the most oppressed and exploited workers.

RUDY THE PRUDE

Vows To Clean Up Dodge By Targeting Those Least Able To Fight Back

ROB LAURO

In the latest round of Rudy's flying circus and quest for higher office, our "play to the crowd" mayor has decided that he knows how to deal with the disease of addiction facing this city. Years of painstaking research amount to nothing if that data dares contradict the mayor's preconceived ideas. The public, through the corporate media slavishly dependent upon their city hall "sources," is led to believe that methadone maintenance treatment programs don't work. To a shallow political hack like Giuliani the answer becomes easy. Do away with the programs! Get "tough" with those who suffer the twin burdens of having this disease and the dehumanization associated with public treatment leaving people in situation where they seem completely undeserving of medical help. To Rudy, getting "tough" on those already down is his way to national office.

Lost in his equation is the fact that getting rid of the methadone programs will not get rid of the addiction problem. It will simply force those now being successfully treated with methadone and leading productive lives to return to the horror of heroin use. It will most likely cost society far more money dealing with the by-products of addiction, crime, and death due to a rise in AIDS cases through the use of unclean needles. The cost of turning a tax payer into a tax user must also be factored. The methadone programs are not, as they once were, free of charge to the client. The client pays on a sliding scale from \$15 to \$45 per week. Those who are not working and are on Medicaid use that to pay.

Closing the methadone programs will bring us backwards in time. In the late 60's early 70's this city faced an epidemic of heroin addiction. Space does not allow an in depth analysis of the reasons why heroin use rose and the availability of this curse spread to all parts of the city. I will state that it was curious indeed that methadone programs became available and free of charge after heroin had spread into the middle class neighborhoods of the city. While Rudy plays his dangerous game, the public has the right to know some facts about heroin, methadone and addicts.

New York City has approximately 250,000 intravenous heroin addicts within it's five boroughs. The funded capacity of methadone programs available to this population of 250,000 is 33,000. The programs are filled. Drug free residential programs have a capacity of about 6,000. They too are filled. These figures, in a nutshell, summarize the failure to deal with heroin addiction in New York. This in a city that takes pride in its uniqueness and in many ways, NY is indeed without parallel. When it comes to the inadequate treatment of addiction, New York has plenty of company. A wide gap between the need for addiction treatment and its availability is the rule rather than the exception in major urban centers throughout the world.

Rudy and the corporate media, along with those who feel a sense of hatred towards those who have this disease are aware of facts they don't want you, the public, to know. There are more persons who have been able to make positive steps to turn their lives around using the methadone programs than those who have failed to make any changes whatsoever. Just being in a methadone pro-

gram means that one less heroin addict is using illegal drugs. One less chance that heroin needles can spread AIDS. One less person who must resort to crime to feed an ever increasing need for heroin. Unfortunately, the public rarely sees or learns of those who have made a productive life out of the ashes of addiction through the availability of the methadone programs. What the media shows you are those who, for many reasons, fail to come to grips with their addiction and thus fall back into multi-drug use and eventually to crime.

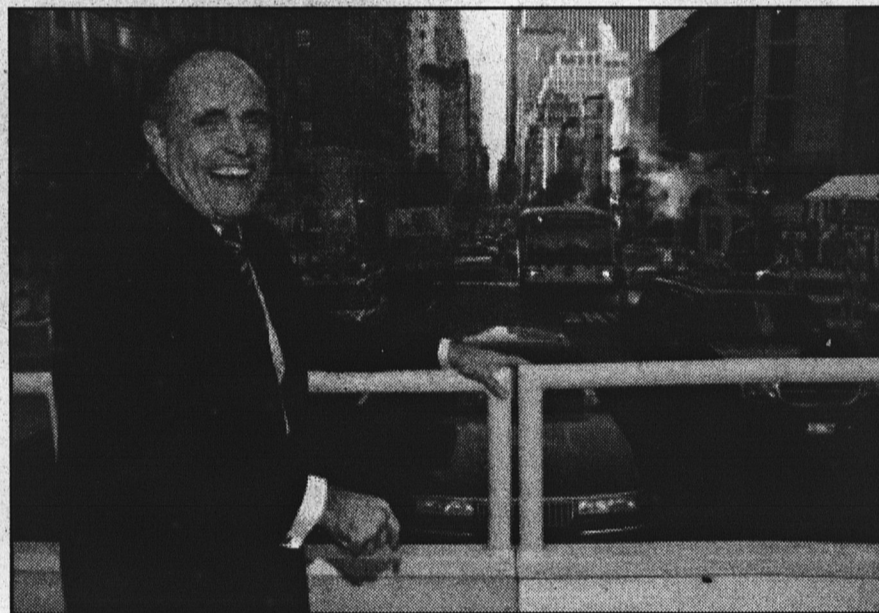


photo by Peter Morgan

I'm not saying that there aren't many addicts running around the streets out of control and/or contact with any addiction agencies because there are. What I am saying is that these persons are not going to disappear or change without a real commitment by this city, this society, to fund those programs that have been proven statistically to make headway into this scourge. This includes therapeutic communities, detox facilities, methadone programs and needle exchange programs. The last, despite it's being made into some sort of morality test, has been shown conclusively to have a positive impact on lessening the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This has been carefully verified and is incredulous considering the relatively small percentage of addicts who are allowed to take part in these exchange programs.

From a humanitarian standpoint, this situation is shameful; from the perspective of societal self interest, it is suicidal. Denying treatment to large numbers of these individuals who engage in behavior that is potentially lethal to society and costs billions is simply insane! This harsh criticism applies because we know addiction treatment with methadone is effective and can be implemented promptly on a massive scale. Yet, Rudy's idea is to close the program that has made a positive reduction in heroin use. Unlike Rudy, who meanly bends whatever he learns into something to fit his preconceived ideas, I speak from experiences that killed many, many of those whom I've known in my 49 years.

One may certainly ask how is it that I have come to the above conclusions. What makes my viewpoint so special?

Fair questions deserve truthful answers. I want to preface the following remarks by saying that in order to give you the reader good reason to read this I must admit to some things that I'm not particularly proud to make public. I decided that I could no longer go quietly about my business when I heard of Rudy's plan to close methadone programs. To do so would be to risk the torture that I had experienced climbing out of heroin addiction more times than I care to say and having to perhaps do so again. Without the methadone program I would have

never been able to maintain the stability to work, to plan a future and break the hold of heroin. I write this as a student here at CSI who has won scholarships, won an award for excellence in History, my major, and maintained a GPA of over 3.75 the three years that I have been here. I hadn't been inside a school since 1965. I had a GED diploma and they're were many who doubted I could do college level work. I came to CSI hoping to get a degree and teach high school history. That dream is now only two semesters away. I doubt if I have missed more than six classes in the three years I've been here at CSI. During this time I have been on a methadone program. This means every day I take methadone and have been successful at my studies. I also am News Director at

WSIA, and have a music/ variety show, "Uncle Bob's Show". I was one of the founding members of the Student Union. I am only reciting this short bio in order to show that it is indeed possible to become a better person if you are given the chance to modify the disease of heroin addiction. I am far from unique in this. There are many students at CSI who are enrolled in methadone programs, however it is not my place to violate their privacy by naming them.

I have seen and felt the effects of heroin addiction, cocaine use, smoking opium, taking LSD and alcoholism first hand beginning in 1964. It was during the early 1970's that I finally was enrolled into a methadone program. After 7 years I detoxed because they began to want to charge for it.

It was free at first and we were told it should be considered that we were somewhat akin to diabetics who have to take insulin every day. We were told lots of things in the beginning in order to induce heroin addicts into the programs, as it would be free. I felt at that time the programs were no better than the pushers I had left. They waited until you were hooked on methadone before demanding money. It is harder to kick methadone than heroin. It is more painful and takes longer to get out of your system. If one doesn't have clear goals and stability after kicking, there is usually a quick return to heroin use. Detoxing always must be voluntary in order to have any chance of making a successful transition into mainstream life. This is another fact that Rudy entirely over-

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Rudy the Prude Vows To Clean Up Dodge By Targeting Those Least Able To Fight Back

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looks when he advocates closing the methadone programs. Those who don't want to detox methadone will be forced and will certainly return to heroin use.

Many people feel that methadone and heroin is the same thing. There are similarities as well as differences. I will relate to you what each is and what it does.

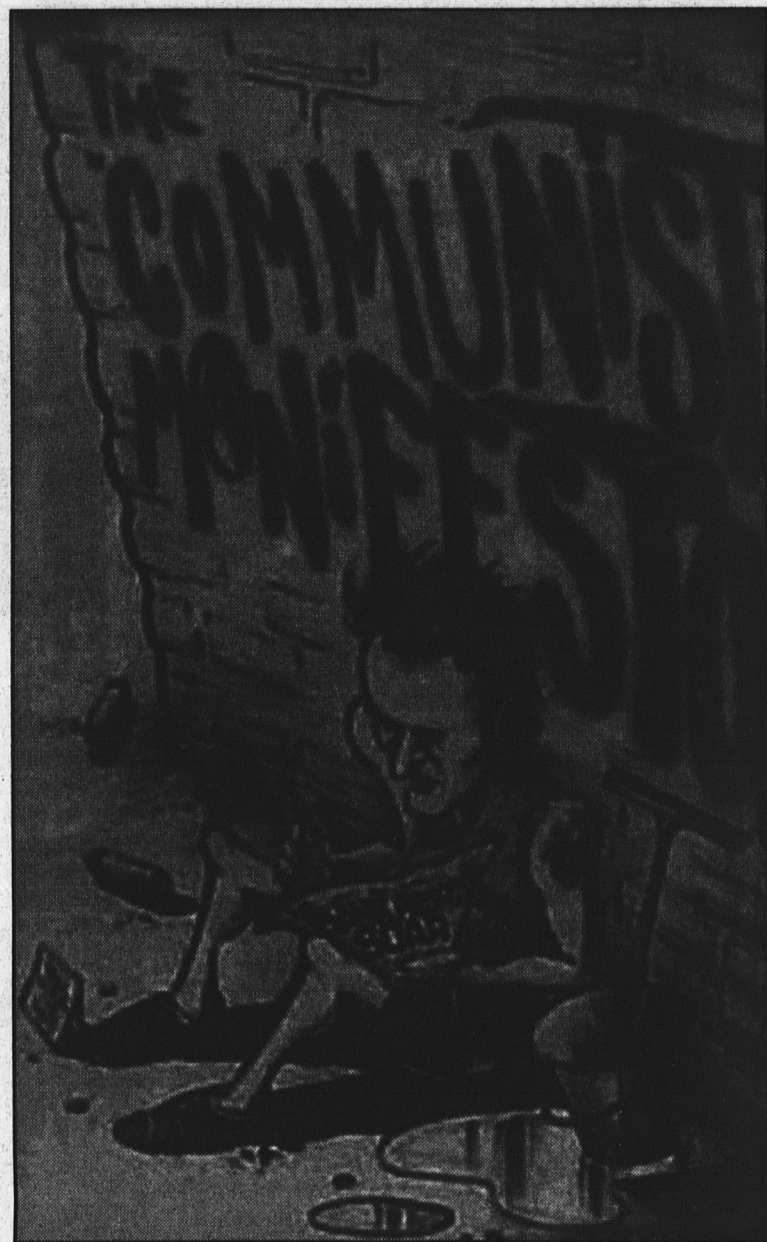
Methadone is used to replace the hunger for heroin that is the main problem of an addicted person. In that way it is indeed a substitute. Unlike heroin, it is dispensed under strict controls and the dosage does not need to be increased over time. Once a stable dosage is achieved the person takes it each day and has a tolerance to its effects. In other words, the person can function in the everyday workplace without anyone aware that they are using methadone. Anyone who has seen hard core heroin use by an addict knows that there is no way for that person to maintain themselves in a business like atmosphere. The addict must take ever larger doses. There is no control over quality. The person who needs to take five \$20 bags of heroin to keep from going into withdrawal has no way of knowing how much heroin is in each bag. Thus they are at risk of overdose and death at worst, and nodding out uncontrollably at best.

The heroin addict thus faces ever increased

costs that, unless the person is very wealthy or deals heroin to support his/her habit, must turn to crime to keep from the pain inherent in withdrawal.

Methadone removes those factors. No increased dosage over time allows the person stability to work and have a life in society. Rudy's plan to close these havens of sanity from the insanity of the street will be a disaster for the 33,000 addicts in the programs. It will simply add thousands of persons doing well, despite having this debilitating disease, back into the nether world of heroin addiction. It will cost society a hundred fold increases in taxes having to deal with the crime and the spread of HIV and other diseases into all segments of society. It's our children, our brothers and sisters, our parents and grandparents who will be affected by closing the methadone programs, not just those now on methadone. The drug epidemic in this country cannot be solved by enacting more draconian laws and huge tax increases for prisons to hold people suffering from a disease. It can be won by a relatively smaller amount of money dedicated to drug treatment programs like methadone, drug-free programs and education programs that show the real face of this problem.

1 Newman, R.G. "What's so Special about Methadone Treatment?"



INTERVIEW WITH A NURSE

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also had quite a few RN's laid off while we have seen massive reconstruction of L&D; a brand new unit of L&D, a brand new unit of Ante-Partum and Post-Partum, so they lay off our nurses yet they'll redecorate and you know they want to come up to date, which is important that structurally they have a better L&D that is able to function and they have the equipment that keeps us to date. Yet at the same time, they are laying off nurses.

CV: So you had a reduction in the amount of RN's working on the ward and increase in the space they had to work in?

DC: At first yes. But now a lot of the nurses who were laid off in that major cut in the last year and a half were re-hired but not the ones we worked with. Some of the laid off nurses went into a pool throughout all of HHC. So, we did actually receive a few nurses from Harlem Hospital that they transferred to us. So now actually we are staffed. But we are only staffed to the point that we are floated on the weekends consistently which means that our unit will not be over-staffed on the weekends but staffed to exactly what we need, which may not be enough if it gets too busy.

CV: How would you respond to some of the cuts that are going on or are proposed by the Giuliani administration that target hospitals like Harlem Hospital? Also, how do you feel about the recent demonstrations at Mamomidies Hospital by nurses trying to defend their right to a flex time schedule?

DC: They were trying to take away flex time from us and we were able to fight through our union and they were able to save it. I support the Mamomidies nurses 100%. Being a nurse is a very difficult job. Flex time is one of the smallest perks that they can give us, it's nice for us to have it.

CV: What is flex time? Is it a perk or is just a re-organization of the workweek?

DC: It's a re-organization of the workweek, in fact it makes more sense, in every study that has been done it has been better for patient care because you are having less turnover of nurses and they say that most patient incidents that occur do so during change of shift. So, instead of having

three to four changes of shift in a day you are having two changes of shift in a day which decreases the chance of having anything go wrong. Also, within L&D which is a high risk area, it is better for continuity of care. Our patients are only in for a few hours at a time and leave at the most after two days or three days. So, it's better for the patients and the nurses.

CV: Let's talk about the patients. Let's get back to the point I was asking you about Harlem Hospital. Who are the clientele that the public hospital's serve? Who are the people you serve on a daily basis?

DC: HHC hospitals serve their communities. The hospital's serve whoever is in your area. In my area the hospital is in the very beginning of what they call Spanish Harlem up on 97th street. The majority of patients we care for are Mexican patients, Hispanic patients, we receive quite a few patients who are from West Africa. We do also have a lot of patients that come from outside our community, who come to Metropolitan to be served. You'll see patients from Astoria, all over Manhattan and the Bronx. Technically we are supposed to serve our area but we do branch out through word of mouth or family relations. Now that Medicaid is being accepted at the private hospitals as well, people that are going to public hospitals are going there because it is a good hospital and they are getting quality care. It used to be that if someone didn't have insurance they would go to Harlem or Metropolitan, but now everyone that has Medicaid they can go to New York University Hospital. They could go to Mt. Sinai if they want but people in the community are still choosing to go to Harlem Hospital they are still choosing to go to Metropolitan, North Central Bronx they are still choosing to go to the public hospitals. It's a statement about the kind of care they are getting there.

CV: Who are these people are they rich people are they poor people? Is there difference between the patients at a private hospital and Metropolitan hospital?

DC: At Metropolitan Hospital it's the working class people

that I take care of. Many of our patients are not legal, they are not legally here so they will work 12 hours a day, 7 days a week sometimes more. At private hospitals I've worked at, the patients have private doctors, although there are some Medicaid patients, the majority of them have their own health insurance.

CV: You said that people with Medicaid now have the option to go to a private hospital, but generally they stay in their own community. What are some of the roles that the hospitals play beyond just the direct medical attention? What else is going on inside of the hospitals?

DC: For Metropolitan it really is its own community. We have many social services provided there and you see people around all of the time. There are many services that are highly utilized by the community. There is of course the emergency room facilities, the pediatrics ward, the walk in clinics. It's really like one big family. I enjoy working in the city hospitals. There is a sense of community and a sense of bonding that seems to be there, I just don't get the same feeling from private hospitals. We are there for the community and they know it. For the most part people are happy with us. When I work at private hospitals, and my co-workers find out I work in Spanish Harlem they think that it is horrible but I tell them I feel so much more appreciated when I'm working at Metropolitan as opposed to a private hospital. People don't expect to get much because in life they have to work for everything they get so, when you can go that extra step and make them feel like they are special and that you are there and you're happy to help them you just feel really good about yourself.

CV: Okay this is your chance to send a message out Mayor Rudolph Giuliani about city hospitals in New York. You have three sentences to tell him directly.

DC: I would tell him to keep his hands off of the city hospitals. We are doing a wonderful job and we are a vital part of the city and we serve a purpose in the community. Instead of taking money away give us more money so that we can do the job we are here to do.

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Shatiek Johnson: An Indictment Against the System

JP PATAFIO

By pulling the trigger of a gun, Shatiek Johnson at the young age of 17, wanted to end his life in a shoot-out with the police. Accused of killing Officer Gerard Carter in a brutal fashion, the case before us bears witness to a bad situation getting worse that is not unlike the fate for a majority of black youths of the inner cities. Indeed, life in the inner city for black youth is increasingly becoming nihilistic.

Quickly the politicians scream blood for blood, provoking a mob mentality among the masses. In Shatiek, Pataki and Giuliani have their perfect role model, an angry black youth with dreads. The media quickly embellishes the stereotype, and the legislature passes more draconian penal laws. The system remains intact while more blood spills and black men (who now comprise over fifty percent of the federal prison population) are arrested en masse.

If there is to be an end to the systemic violence and criminal activities that plague the black communities living in the projects, night-time vigils, moralist preaching and right-wing political browbeating will not resolve anything. Upon closer inspection, it is evident that Shatiek Johnson is merely a product of the cruel, racist, poverty-stricken environment in which he was raised. This is not meant to proclaim his innocence, or to increase the liberal harangue for more welfare, or even to say that blacks are hopeless victims who need patronizing. No, the point is simple. The social conditions that engender such violence in our society must be uprooted if we are to move forward, instead of building more prisons and sending more working class and poor people to the death chamber.

It is clear that Shatiek was raised in poverty, where crime and violence, economic as well as physical) are a part of daily life. He had already spent time in a juvenile detention center where surely his attitude towards life became hardened. Upon release, he was to return to another "prison" society calls the projects. The familiar vengeful howl by Mayor Giuliani ("an eye an eye") of locking "criminals" up and throwing away the key does little to explain the complete failure of the present prison system to offer any sort of comprehensive method of rehabilitation.

We did not hear the mayor or governor call for major reforms for the prison system that failed to "rehabilitate" Shatiek. Instead, they offer the masses the lowest common denominator - irrational revenge - to push for further draconian penal laws and further restrictions upon the civil

"... is there not a necessity for deeply reflecting upon an alteration of the system that breeds these crimes, instead of glorifying the hangman who executes a lot of criminals to make room only for the supply of new ones?"

- Karl Marx on Punishment and Society

rights of those already convicted. For them, the violence in the projects serves well to promote their racist agenda to "middle class whites," while leaving intact the very conditions, i.e., class inequality and racism, which perpetuate the cycle of violence.

Perhaps Shatiek could have found a dead-end job in Home Depot and lived the rest of his life working hard for naught. I suppose his dreams and ambitions laid beyond the projects but the reality was that he was not going to get there. The anger intensifies when the options are few for achieving the "American Dream". Watching it on TV, or seeing it through a store window is not good enough for a young person living under the heavy influence of consumer capitalism.

Selling drugs is the quickest way of making a profit. This underground activity is connected to every level of society, and involves police, lawyers, politicians, FBI/CIA, Mafia, and street corner dealers. What must be noted, however, is the way in which black youth, the lowest player on the drug chain, are the most visible targets of the War on Drugs.

Instead of addressing the social problem of urban poverty in the black communities, the politicians and police, with the assistance of the corporate media, have refashioned it as a criminal problem. War was declared by the government, and as we all know civilian casualties such as victims of police brutality and frame-ups, will occur. Using the advantage that blacks are an oppressed minority in the U.S., policy makers utilize the utilitarian angle—the rights of the majority are more important than the rights of the few—when applying the rhetoric and laws.

The euphemistic War on Drugs is a failure, neither removing drugs nor alleviating the community of the scourge of drug abuse. Its only redeeming quality for the capitalist order is that it keeps the racist stereotype alive in the minds of whites, while conveniently eroding civil liberties. Like

the specter of "terrorism" is used as a reason to keep battalions and troops in the Mid East, the War on Drugs is used as the pretext to keep a heavy police presence and special squads in predominantly black communities. The "War" deflects the focus from the monopolistic grip of power and capital by the ruling class, the fundamental source of problems, while the antagonism between working class whites and blacks continue to permeate society without much hope of reconciliation.

Besides "gangs," which serve as extended families that provide a source of income and excitement, there are few groups with a sense of community for black youth. For the police and politicians "gangs" are used as a pretext to harass people, and they will be tolerated to a degree in which the problems they cause can be contained within the walls of the projects, or used as a political football during election time agitation around the crackdown of gang violence or useless rhetoric about the death penalty.

The potential of "gangs" to revolt against the system, the real possibility of these community organizations turning from street warfare to class warfare, necessitates the use of oppressive measures against them. There comes a time when the internal violence amongst the different gangs will cease and the source of the anger will focus on the abject poverty and class inequities. It is here that these seeds of community organizing will push forward demands that challenge the present capitalist system with the intent of altering it.

Unless a movement is created with the goal of "altering the system that breeds these crimes instead of glorifying the hangman who executes a lot of criminals to make room only for the supply of new ones" cases like Shatiek Johnson's will proliferate with little hope for peace and justice.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED AT THE NAACP 89TH ANNUAL CONVENTION AFFECT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND OPEN ADMISSIONS BATTLES

TARA L. MARTIN

The National and Executive Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) have recently passed a national resolution that will combat the recent assaults on Affirmative Action and Open Admissions at colleges and universities in this country. During the latest 89th Annual NAACP Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, current President and CEO Kwesi Mfume and Board Chairman Julian Bond brought forth several resolutions that reaffirm the organization's commitment to the "...need to overcome the residual effects of past injustice because discrimination and segregation of minorities continue" and for the need "... to obtain higher education for hundreds of thousands of minority youth throughout the nation."

The first decree, was in opposition to the McConnell-Canady Bill, misnamed the Civil Rights Act of 1997, which seeks to eliminate equal opportunity for women and people of color in all federal programs and activities. This bill would halt 30 years of progress that women and people of color have made in education, employment and contracting. The bill is made to create the perception that adver-

saries of affirmation action are turning a blind eye in the cynical attempt to promote "colorblind" rules. In truth we live in a world whose unresolved difficulties with racial and gender discrimination remain at the core of our society's worst problems. The McConnell-Canady bill seems to want to transport us back to "1909" when the NAACP was founded during a time of very unhealthy racial climate of the United States. The main purpose for the resolution is to promote "... affirmative action programs that involve a very modest means of moving our society toward a true racial balance, and would easily survive our justice system's "strict scrutiny" test".

As of Monday, July 13th, 1998, the NAACP will collaborate with high school and Departments of Education in colleges and universities, in an effort to implement and reconstruct a policy of open access to higher education. Programs of open admission have unfairly been targeted for elimination or substantial downsizing by state legislators, mayors, and some members of Congress. Admittance to higher education has been an act of struggle for many people of African and Latino ancestry, and higher education can no longer be regarded as a privilege for the few, but must be seen as a right for the many. The main purpose for this

resolution is that "... every NAACP unit shall monitor local and state legislation that would prohibit access to higher education, through open admission policies and that the NAACP shall vigorously oppose any effort to limit access to higher education through budget cuts, elimination of remedial programs, or curtailing affirmative action programs that seek to increase opportunities for minorities in higher education."

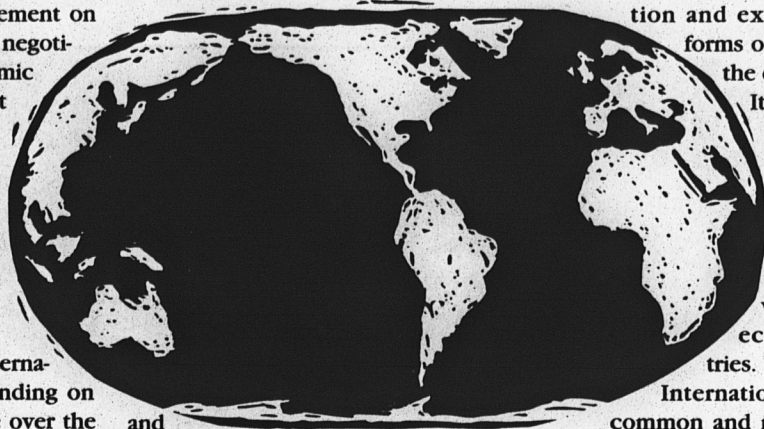
Throughout the week of the 89th NAACP Convention, many other emergency resolutions were passed dealing with issues of the restoring of budgets that had been cut by national institutes of health for research and care for sickle cell disease. Along with this the organization expressed its support for the Seminole Freedmen of African ancestry who migrated with the Seminole Tribe from Florida to Oklahoma and are now trying to receive the justice and the recognition of their heritage to which they are entitled, through full access to the Judgment Fund Benefits as members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. Other resolutions involving economic development, civil rights, education, health, labor, and legislation were passed and are expected to be implemented throughout the state conferences and with the local and metropolitan chapters.

UNITE to Stop the MAI

The proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), currently being negotiated by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries but intended as an investment regime for the entire world economy, poses a colossal threat to the democratic and social rights of workers and peoples of all countries and to the national sovereignty of all states.

It is an outrage that such an international treaty, which would be binding on governments and take precedence over the domestic laws and national interests of almost every country, has been negotiated behind closed doors and purposely shielded from the world's peoples for more than two years.

According to its promoters, the MAI would become the new "constitution of a single global economy", one firmly under the control of the most powerful transnational corporations and international banking and financial institutions. It would constitute a qualitative leap in the imperialist-driven "globalization" process that has already led to increased economic instability and disparities between countries, and caused growing unemployment, poverty



and other hardships for working people, and the loss of social rights and services.

The main purpose of the MAI is to grant complete capital mobility to global corporate interests. Under its terms, trans-nationals would have the unfettered right to penetrate national markets at will, free from regulations or "performance guarantees" applied by national governments.

Such an investment regime would fundamentally undermine the ability of states to determine national economic development objectives, to maintain and improve labor standards, to control the utilization of precious natural resources, to prevent privatiza-

tion and expand collective and social forms of ownership, and to preserve the environment.

It would effectively eliminate the democratic and sovereign right of peoples and their governments to determine their collective national destinies, and would accelerate the downward levelling of social and economic rights in all countries.

International agreements to regulate common and mutually advantageous trade between countries are urgently required, but the MAI and similar initiatives, which provide a virtual carte blanche to the most powerful private corporate concerns, would take the global economy in a dangerous, anti-democratic direction.

Growing popular opposition to the MAI around the world, combined with competitive rivalries and differences between some of the leading capitalist states, has already forced a crisis in the MAI negotiating process. Despite the current impasse and the six-month postponement of the signing, powerful imperialist interests led by the United States are continuing to press for adoption of the main components of the

MAI, either through the World Trade Organization (WTO) or by amendment to the Basic Rules of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

We therefore call on the labor movement and democratic forces in all countries to maintain and intensify their united efforts to prevent the ratification of the MAI by their governments in any form believing that there can be no compromise on a basically anti-working class agreement. We reject the drive by the transnational corporations for maximum profits and global dictatorship. We propose alternative economic policies which place primary importance on meeting the needs and aspirations of the people, protect the environment and maintain the independence and sovereignty of all nation states, as opposed to the global corporate drive for maximum profit.

As of August 13, 1998, some fifty two (52) Parties and Movements have endorsed the Joint Statement: "UNITE TO STOP THE MAI!" which has been circulated by the Communist Parties of the USA, Canada and Australia: In addition, various unions and other progressive organizations have agreed to endorse this Statement in some countries.

WORKERS' VICTORY BLOCKS CUTBACKS

By Joe Piette
WORKERS WORLD NEWS SERVICE

Philadelphia

"We have victory," Transit Workers Local 234 President Steve Brookens announced July 10, ending a bitterly fought 40-day strike against this city's transit authority.

"We stood strong. We stood together. And we won," Brookens said as he thanked the union membership for fighting it out to the end and winning a victory for labor.

The agreement was announced at the 15th Street entrance to the Market-Frankford station by politicians, Transit Authority officials and TWU leaders to dozens of reporters, photographers and transit workers. At the end of the news conference, as other speakers scattered, Brookens raised a clenched fist in a victory salute.

The terms of the agreement will not be released until Local 234's 5,200 members are fully briefed. The tentative contract will be voted on July 24.

All bus, trolley, subway and El transit services were free for the first four days after the agreement was announced in order to welcome back the 435,000 commuters stranded since workers walked out on June 1.

The tentative three-year agreement sent to binding arbitration the major sticking point of part-time workers, an offer the union had proposed in the first week of the strike but repeatedly rejected by South Eastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority officials.

SEPTA management instigated the strike by demanding 47 major contract changes. Issues included attacks on compensation rights and grievance procedures, numerous work rule changes, so-called management rights' clauses that would have allowed contracting out, and the right to hire part-time workers.

Street rallies beat SEPTA

Transit Authority negotiators were led by David L. Cohen, infamous for defeating an AFSCME strike here several years ago that led to the privatization of

hundreds of civil service jobs. AFSCME District Council 47 President Tom Cronin repeatedly spoke at TWU rallies, urging all workers to take sides in the "class war" and support Local 234.

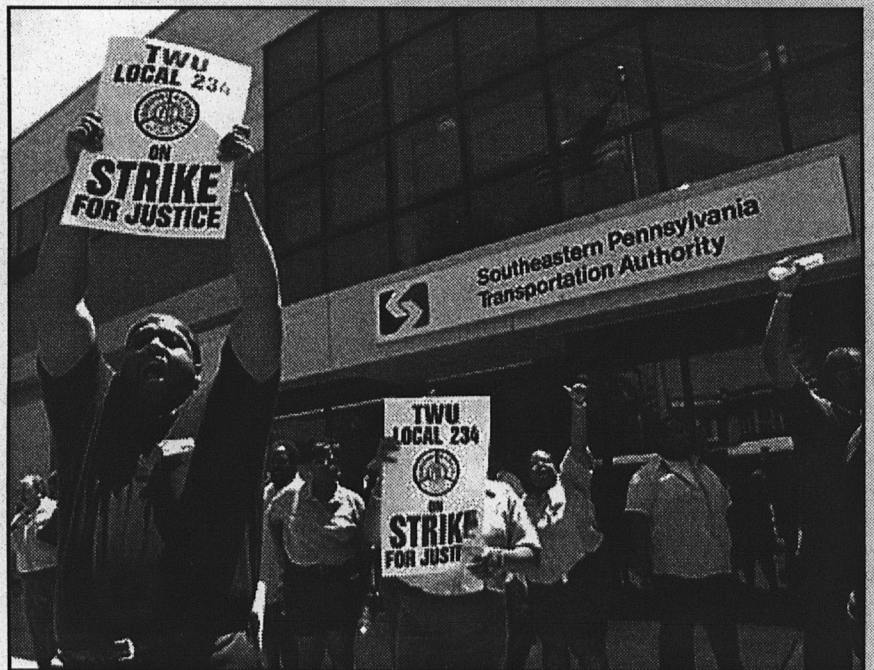
Local 234 had announced this week that it was taking strike support rallies to the city's neighborhoods. The first rally drew hundreds to Progress Plaza in North Philadelphia on July 9.

Faced with the outlook of a long strike, and no strike benefits, TWU leaders had asked other unions and community groups this past week for donations of food. One organization, the National People's Campaign, had organized activists to hand out a "Which Side Are You On" flyer and collect food at supermarkets in the Gray's Ferry, South Philly and University City sections of the city. The agreement canceled their plans.

Early in the strike, SEPTA was forced to back down on its plans to run the trains and trolleys with management scabs when the TWU and the AFL-CIO threatened a million-unionist march and a general strike if transit service resumed with a non-union work force.

SEPTA and city officials were especially surprised and upset when TWU leaders and members tried to picket the Democratic Party Convention Site Selection Committee on June 30.

Dozens of rallies and picket lines were organized over the six weeks, which included blocking non-



striking regional trains. That ended after five different court injunctions were served against the union. Brookens threatened to block the trains again if necessary, risking mass arrests. SEPTA board members were repeatedly picketed at their homes and offices.

Hundreds of unionists from Pennsylvania as well as out of state attended the rallies. Thousands of dollars in donations from dozens of unions were handed over to the embattled local.

Discussions had taken place in the last few days with AFL-CIO national leaders on plans to hold a national march in Philadelphia.

The end of the strike not only put the trains back on track, but perhaps labor militancy as well.

UAW ANSWERS THE BELL

Rank and File Take Action; Leadership Seeks Dialogue



photo by John C. Hillary

BY WILLIAM WHARTON

Responding to the heightening assault that has been waged upon them by the management of General Motors over the last 20 years, 9,200 United Auto Worker (UAW) members carried out a 54 day work stoppage. The main issues of the action revolved around the consistent reduction of American production and the increasing moves to impose work speed-ups on its membership. UAW locals 659 and 651 began the walkout which eventually idled over 175,000 workers throughout the country. GM management focused on the issue of increasing the productivity of workers in plants it claimed to be inefficient and asserted their right to relocate production facilities globally. The strike cost GM almost 2.2 billion dollars and was ended by a July 29th agreement which will ensure labor peace at six key production sites, including the two striking locals.

General Motors - Globalization Fattens the Bottom Lines

When he testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee in 1952 former General Motors President Charles Erwin Wilson said "What is good for the country is good for General Motors, and what is good for General Motors is good for the country." At the 90th annual meeting of GM shareholders on June 1, 1998 current GM President John K. Smith presented the strategic plan for the future of the company. Smith, who was compensated to the tune of \$7,228,000 in 1997, outlined a three part program which is centered on global expansion, innovation and cost reduction.

Over the last five years the cost reduction section of this program has resulted in the elimination of 40,000 hourly production jobs in the US. Smith stated that cost reduction measures has been "aggravated by the Asian crisis which prevents any increase in vehicle prices." He termed the cost cutting possibilities at GM as being "practically limitless" and presented a goal of cutting "1.2 billion costs worldwide half of which will come from North America." Standard and Poors indicated that they were "placing emphasis" on "the pressing need for GM to pursue its flexibility to continue to reduce the size of its workforce to

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more competitive levels."

Global expansion has meant that GM shifts production from unionized American facilities into areas with cheaper unorganized labor forces. According to Jane Slaughter of The Progressive, "shortly after the strike began, the leak of an internal company document revealed GM's plans to increase vehicle production in Mexico from 300,000 to 670,000 annually by 2006." In his speech, Smith indicated that "North American operations would be going from seven manufacturing and engineering centers to two; one for cars and one for trucks." The target areas for new production centers are Central and Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia and South America. Smith proudly announced that new factories in Brazil and China would be running pilot production models by this fall.

Globalization and Cost reduction are merely code words for attacking American organized labor and abusing unorganized international workers. In order to carry this out public opinion must be transformed to view American workers as overpaid, underproductive and outdated. GM spinsters and the mainstream media used the strike as an opportunity

to do just that by focusing on the workers in the engine cradle production section of a plant in Flint, Michigan. A Detroit News editorial proclaimed that "ultimately the company needs a strategy that will allow it to compete effectively, and the UAW needs leadership with the courage to let it happen." The USA Today reported that the main issue of the strike for GM management was the "250 workers at the metal center (of the Flint Metal Stamping Plant) can go home when they hit their daily production quotas which takes 4 1/2 to 6 1/2 hours..management wants. to change the system and work a full 8-hour shift without overtime pay." On the basis of this complaint, the company withheld an additional 300 million it had agreed to invest in the Flint plant and threatened to shut down that plant and others based on their lack of productivity.

UAW Workers Have Had Enough

The fact that Flint became the focal point of the latest showdown between labor and capital created dueling historical dynamics. The existence of a United Auto Workers union was predicated on the success of the sit down strikes of 1936-37 in Flint. Fed up with unsafe working conditions and faced with the threat of management moving the plant to a more "capital friendly" area of the country, workers occupied the factories and withheld their labor. Ultimately these actions resulted in one of the greatest victories of the American working class and built the foundation of the

UAW. More recently, Flint has been the epicenter of dramatic cutbacks in industrial jobs which have devastated the once vibrant local economy. The population of the city has been reduced by 1/3 as union jobs at GM have been cut from 77,000 to 33,000 over the last twenty years. Downsized workers were left with the choice of accepting meager paying service industry jobs or relocating to other areas of the country to eventually accept another meager paying job. Given the contradiction that exists between the current situation and the historical realities of labor militancy, the solidarity shown by the UAW workers points to a shift in both tactics and tolerance.

Local 659 worker Elvis Strachly described the reality of the production quotas or pegged rates which had drawn the attention of GM management and the mainstream press. He described the jobs as "hot, loud and dirty" and that the workers operated "old, worn-out equipment, turning out engine cradles in 100-plus heat indexes every day." Strachly, who works as a welder at the Flint plant, also said that "by starting early, running through breaks and lunch at full speed, you can actually run ahead of production. People should know that this one group on second shift, working 10-11 hour days supplies both the Buick City and Lake Orion plant with all their engine cradles, as management already had cut first shift off a few years ago." He also pointed to "understaffing and the constant moving of workers from job to job" as the real issues of productivity.

Drawing on the success and experiences of their fellow union brothers and sisters in the 1997 Teamster strike, UAW workers enjoyed widespread support for the actions of their two locals. On July 20th the 7,200 UAW members at the Saturn plant in Spring Hill, Tennessee voted to authorize their union leadership to call a strike and join the Flint workers on the picket lines. This action drew the surprise of many people

who considered the Saturn plant to be the model for a new labor-capital "partnership." Saturn's "constructive labor management relations" have translated into business as usual for management as they have increasingly moved to use outsourced labor and are currently discussing the production of new Saturn models in non-union factories. Choosing to draw on the inspiration of 1937, the Saturn workers along with the rest of the UAW membership decided to take a stand against the relentless assault of capital on their daily lives fueled by the notions of labor "flexibility" and a new labor-capital partnership. However, this bold commitment did not translate into the actions of the union leadership as evidenced by the terms of the strike ending agreement.

A Contradiction in Terms

The position of both the workers and the owners were made explicitly clear during the UAW-GM strike. Ownership was focused on downsizing the workforce and enforcing speed-ups on the remaining workers under the guise of productivity. The UAW rank and file demonstrated a commitment to take up the struggle on the picket lines and not rely on the negotiation table which had betrayed them so many times in the past. The UAW leadership, as represented by UAW President Stephen Yokish and Vice President Richard Shoemaker, showed themselves to be high on rhetoric but short on any real commitment to defend the desires of their membership.

Prior to capitulating to GM management, the UAW was in the process of challenging GM over the issue of capital expenditures in the Flint plant. This demand of investment into the Flint plant represents a challenge to the notion that corporations can use threats of "capital flight" to squeeze demands for speed-ups and layoffs out of workers. Buoyed by these ideas and the support of the rank and file, UAW President Yokish pledged that "We're going to continue this

until we beat them. We will last one day longer." This momentum, as seen by the fighting rank and file and tough talking leadership, led to the results published by a Flint Journal/ABC poll taken mid-strike which showed that "two out of three residents agree more with the position of the strikers than the company."

However, the tactics used by Yokish and Shoemaker led the workers into a dead end position which could prove to be extremely harmful in the future. GM management filed charges against the UAW claiming that the job action taken by the two locals was in direct violation of the national agreement between the two parties. According to GM, the locals could only strike around issues of health and safety factors and not in response to withholding capital investment. Judge Paul Gadola, who presided over the complaint, felt that "I don't see that the court should interfere in the dispute at this moment." Despite this surprising ruling from the bourgeois legal system, UAW officials agreed to

production, it guaranteed them labor peace for at least one year, so that they could continue with their plans to downsize the workforce. As the Wall Street Journal (July 30th pg. A2) reported the day after the deal was signed, "the no-strike elements of the pact could help GM carry off some fairly substantial restructuring moves without fear of UAW retaliation."

Instead of honoring the commitment of the workers, Yokish and Shoemaker decided to continue to follow the path of the "labor-capital partnership" that had failed so miserably at the Saturn plant. Following the ratification of the agreement, Shoemaker was almost apologetic telling the press "we regret being forced into this strike that impacted so many people." He claimed that the settlement was favorable because out of it came "a new process with more frequent discussions between people at the highest level of both the union and the corporation, to be sure we can resolve things before we reach a crisis." New Directions

(an oppositionist caucus within the UAW) leader Dean Braid felt the sting of these conciliatory measures when he told The Progressive, "until the UAW denounces jointness, it's all a dog-and-pony show."

GM management wasted no time in seizing upon the concessions bargained away at the table by UAW leadership. A mere five days after the agreement was ratified GM President Jack Smith announced the companies plans to "cut plants, models and workers in an effort to be more competitive." Reuters reported Smith's commitment to "continue to reduce its hourly work force through attrition." As part of this program GM plans to sell off 15-20% of its Delphi parts plants through an IPO offering in the first quarter of 1999. The remainder of the shares will then be distributed to GM shareholders which will effectively liquidate the company. This move raises serious questions



A scene from 1936-1937 Flint plant takeovers that led to the creation of the UAW.



settle the matter via a binding arbitration agreement. As the Wall Street Journal (July 16th pg. A4) stated, "the UAW hasn't contested GM's right to have the issue settled by an arbitrator."

While the rank and file had learned valuable lessons from the Teamsters strike of 1997, UAW leadership seemed to have their ears sealed shut. One need only look to the federally mandated witch hunt which resulted in the expulsion of Teamster President and strike leader Ron Carey. Instead of settling issues through the mobilization of the work force against the management, Yokish and Shoemaker were content with giving the judicial system the power to exercise control over the democratically decided upon actions of the union. These tactics then set off a chain reaction in the strike negotiations, forcing the union to close a deal quickly, before the arbitrator had enough time to rule against them and force the membership back to work.

Have I Got a Deal For You

The resulting agreement left many workers pondering what exactly they had been striking for in the first place. In return for completing its promised investment in the Flint plant, the UAW agreed to increase productivity in the engine cradle section of the plant by 15%. In addition to this, the UAW agreed to have the pact settle potential strikes at five other locals, along with the two that had initiated the strike, in return for a GM agreement not to sell its Delphi parts in Flint or Dayton until January 2000. Essentially the negotiations resulted in a victory for GM management. While the strike cost them 2.2 billion in lost

regarding the future of UAW workers in the Delphi plants. Stripped of one of the only mechanisms of defense as workers, the right to strike, Delphi parts workers are left defenseless against the GM assault.

The Time For Class Struggle is Now

While the Detroit News calls for a union leadership with the courage to allow GM to enact mass firings of workers, the UAW rank and file are demanding that Shoemaker and Yokish recognize and take up the class struggle at hand. The American working class is in the process of moving away from the demoralizing losses inflicted upon them during the 1980's and 90's by a combination of capitalist globalization of production, state intervention and a corrupt labor bureaucracy. With the national contract between UAW and GM up for negotiation in September of 1999 and the pressure from GM management increasing daily, workers must show that their demands will be addressed on the picket lines and in the factories not by high level officials at the negotiating table. The time has come for the UAW rank and file to take action against both capitalist oppression and a union leadership which values dialogue over struggle.

Peruvian nightmare

Amnesty International has declared that Berenson is a political prisoner and... termed Berenson's trial a "parody of justice."

COLLEEN MCGRAHAM

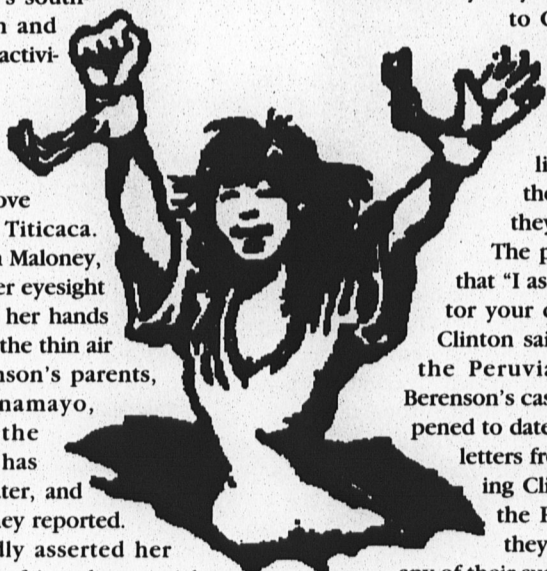
On November 30, 1995 Lori Berenson, an American citizen working in Peru as a journalist, was arrested on a Lima city bus. Her arrest came one day before police captured 20 rebels in an all-night gun battle in which three revolutionaries and one officer died. Ms. Berenson was arrested, convicted of "treason against the fatherland" and jailed inside a Peruvian military prison named Yanamayo.

In January of 1996, she was convicted of "terrorism" by "faceless," military judges under a tough anti-guerrilla legal regime in which defense lawyers may not cross-examine witnesses and trials are often wrapped up in minutes. Berenson has denied the charges. Her lawyers have demanded she be released or given a civilian trial.

Amnesty International has declared that she is a political prisoner and that Peru has acted in violation of international treaty obligations by imprisoning her. The human rights group's U.S. chapter said Berenson's trial, in which she was sentenced to life in prison, fell far short of international standards and prison conditions for her and other suspects were "inhuman." They termed Berenson's trial a "parody of justice." The anonymity of judges was ended last year, but many of the system's rules are still in effect.

Amnesty International also sharply criticized conditions at Yanamayo prison in Peru's southern Andes, where Berenson and others convicted of guerrilla activities are currently held. Berenson spends 23 hours a day locked in a cell in Yanamayo, 530 miles south-east of Lima, 12,700 feet above sea level overlooking Lake Titicaca. Visitors like U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a New York Democrat, say her eyesight is failing in the dim cell and her hands are becoming gnarled due to the thin air of the highlands. Ms. Berenson's parents, who have visited Yanamayo, described the prison as the "Andean refrigerator." She has neither heat nor running water, and her health is deteriorating, they reported. Ms. Berenson has repeatedly asserted her innocence and has requested a fair and open trial.

In April of this year Berenson, went on a two-week hunger strike, drinking only water and herbal tea and refusing solid food, to demand a re-trial and improved prison conditions. The Berensons stressed their daughter's "hunger protest" was separate though largely simultaneous with the hunger strike by Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) members at the Yanamayo, Castro Castro and Chorrillos jails. They said their daughter was also angry that prison authorities had prevented her from sending letters to President Clinton asking for his help in seek-



ing a re-trial.

Lori Berenson, a New Yorker, and now 28 years old attended public schools, then the High School of Music and Art, a city-run school for gifted youngsters. It is now known as LaGuardia High School. She entered college at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Her father Mark

Berenson is a statistics professor at CUNY's Baruch College, and his wife, Rhoda, teaches physics at Nassau Community College on Long Island.

Over time many politicians and others have shown their support for Berenson and her family. In May 1996 Jimmy Carter released a statement of support reading, "The Carter Center is following this case at the request of her family. I am deeply concerned that Lori Berenson has not been afforded her rights of due process of law. I urge the Peruvian authorities to uphold the right to fair trial by providing Lori Berenson with an open and fair proceeding in the civilian court system."

Berenson's call for a public civilian trial to challenge the charges has also drawn public support from President Clinton, the U.S. State Department, 55 U.S. Senators and 180 members of the House of Representatives. President Clinton raised her demand for a retrial in a May 20, 1996 meeting with Fujimori, the White House then said. But the Peruvian President said the subject did not resurface in a February 1997 meeting with Clinton. So far this year, Mark and Rhoda Berenson say they have sent numerous letters

to Clinton requesting a meeting on their daughter's case.

The White House has told the Berensons that the letters have been passed on to the appropriate agencies, like the National Security Council and the State Department. The Berensons say they are still insisting on meeting Clinton.

The president wrote them on June 14, 1996 that "I assure you that we will continue to monitor your daughter's case closely." In the letter, Clinton said he had told Fujimori he hoped that the Peruvian Supreme Court would transfer Berenson's case to a civilian court, which has not happened to date. The parents have mailed thousands of letters from supporters to the White House, asking Clinton once again to raise the case with the Peruvian president. The Berensons say they have received no word of response to any of their supporters' letters.

Over the summer the issue of Ms. Berenson has again been raised in the media due to an appeal initiated by her parents. Members of the MIT community, including MIT Professor Noam Chomsky, MIT Professor Emeritus Philip Morrison and Episcopal Chaplain Jane Gould, have signed an appeal to President Clinton on behalf of Lori Berenson. Two events, a press conference and a silent vigil, both organized by Ms. Berenson's parents, were also held on the MIT campus in June.

Human rights activist and former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark spoke at MIT in support of the Berensons,

declaring, "This is the most important liberty issue in the Western hemisphere. President Clinton has simply not done his duty." The Berensons' letter asks President Clinton to intervene in Ms. Berenson's case and "to right this injustice — either by winning Lori's release or by requiring Peru to respect its treaty obligations." The letter also notes, "Fifty-five Senators and 180 Representatives have written to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright calling on our government to help... to ensure that Lori is granted a fair trial or is immediately released."



Laurie Berenson in the custody of Peruvian authorities
photo by Mariana Bazo

Later in June some signs of hope rose for Ms. Berenson's parents when Peruvian Prime Minister Javier Valle Riestra's called for her release. Valle said Peru should pardon and expel Lori Berenson to "defuse" unjust criticism of her secret military trial. Lori's parents tried to put Valle's comments in context. "This new prime minister (appointed three months ago to improve the image of democracy in Peru) is a member of the 'opposition party'."

One positive development, Rhoda Berenson said, is that Valle's comments opened a dialogue in Peru about the way her daughter was sentenced. The prime minister's proposal sparked controversy in Peru, where local media mounted call-in shows to gauge sentiment about Berenson's possible release.

The reluctance the US government has shown in relation to Berenson's case belies the fact that the protection of American citizens is selectively enforced. Suffice to say that if Lori Berenson-CEO had been captured by the Peruvian government, the US would be on the brink on war. Since Lori Berenson-Leftist Journalist rots in jail all is quiet in the State Department. This situation has forced Berenson's parents to turn to the real source of power in America - the people. By recognizing her as a person guilty of nothing more than writing the truth and demanding her immediate release, students can begin to educate themselves and the public about conditions inside of Peru. The first lesson is that the US government, while professing a commitment to spreading democracy globally supports the injustices of the Fujimori government with its silence. This is wrong and its high time the masses of Americans made it right!

Public Equality & Private Oppression

The Case of the Billion Dollar Baby and the \$2 Per Hour Mother.

BY WILLIAM WHARTON

The history of American social relations is one in which the guiding force of struggle for public rights has been egalitarian but the dominant trend within private relations has been one of stratification. From the Civil Rights movement to the struggle for Women's emancipation, great strides have been made to ensure equity within the public sector. However, an analysis of the private sector reveals an entirely different movement. Private sector financial accumulation has risen to unheard of levels and has stretched class differentiation to equally exorbitant positions. To illustrate the class movement that is increasingly prevalent within the private sector, we will examine the changing life opportunities of two groups of citizens, Chief Executive Officers (CEO) and women on public assistance.

The transformation of the welfare program, guided by calls for "ending welfare as we know it," has centered on instilling the mythical "Puritan work ethic" into a group that has theoretically been entirely devoid of its principles. CEOs, on the other hand, have prospered as a result of a raging bull market fueled by ballooning corporate profits courtesy of the globalization of capitalism and the destruction of the American labor movement. According to prevailing logic, the CEO is the pinnacle of success, a true "American Dream" whose hard work and determination have fueled their success. As we shall see, this idea may not be entirely rooted in the truth but more securely attached to the prevailing method of production.

High on the Hog - The Story of Charles Wang

Economists throughout the nation hail the current boom cycle of the American economy. With unemployment at record lows, the threat of the Soviet bloc obliterated and inflationary pressure a seemingly archaic notion, American corporate power reigns supreme. As a result of this seemingly rosy picture, the leaders of corporate America are currently engaged in a compensation feeding frenzy. The method of delivering this compensation has come in the form of a base salary, a variety of stock option packages and bonuses. On April 26, The Detroit News reported that the 1997 level of compensation for CEOs (including all of the previously mentioned mechanism's of payment) has increased by 52.7%. This increase moved the average compensation level for CEOs to a record \$4.74 million dollars. In addition to this, Paywatch (www.paywatch.org) a subsidiary of the AFL-CIO, reported that from 1980-1995 executive pay had increased by 499%, in comparison to the rate of inflation which had climbed 85% and factory wages which had only increased by 70%.

Richard Shoemaker, a United Auto Workers (UAW) Vice President at General Motors, when asked about the pay raise for CEOs stated, "These grossly inflated executive salaries reflect a corporate culture that totally ignores the needs of workers and their communities." Automobile executives have particularly profited from pay increases with the top executives at Chrysler and Ford Motor companies receiving between \$10.7 and \$16.6 million per year.

Sandy Weill Chairman of the Travelers Group has a different perspective. Weill stated that, "I think as we look at this world that we are living in, there are opportunities for a lot of terrific things to happen." This statement followed the March 10, 1997 announcement that Weill has received \$94.1 million in compensation the previous year. From a political perspective, Staten Island's own ultra Conservative Borough President Guy Molinari, speaking at the recent CSI graduation ceremony, stated that "this is a great moment in history, the possibilities are endless."

For Computer Associates Chairman Charles Wang, endless possibilities have become a reality, courtesy of his

recently announced package of compensation. On May 21, 1998 Wang was awarded 12.15 million shares of stock worth a market total of \$670 million dollars. Graef Crystal, named as "America's Leading Expert on Executive Compensation" by *Fortune Magazine*, has calculated that for the fiscal year of 1996, 1997 and 1998 Wang received over \$1 billion dollars in base salary, stock options and bonuses. Crystal said, "Face it, we know of no one - not in the history of the universe - who has earned so much money from his labor in such a short period of time as Charles Wang. There is no reason why they need to be paid this sort of money...these guys are pigs!" *New York Times* reporter David Johnson calculated that "had the stock awards been divided evenly among the companies 9,850 employees, each would have received shares worth \$113,000."

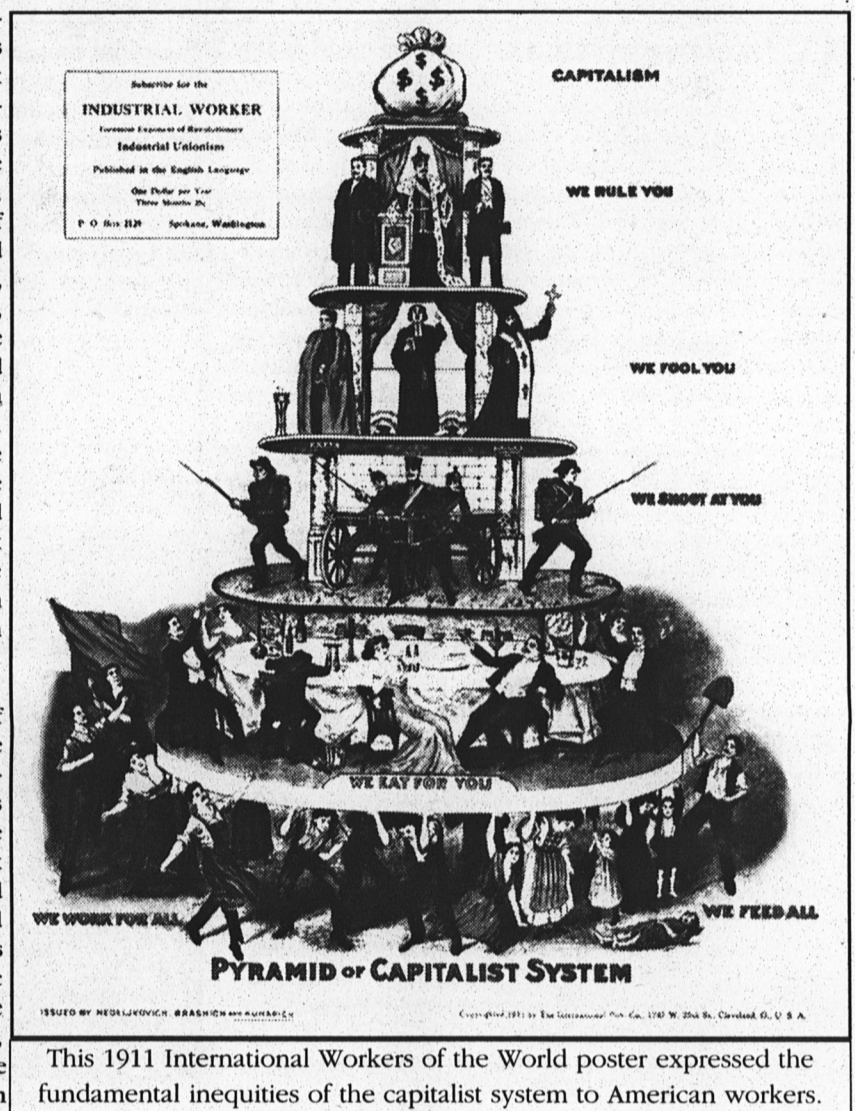
The Other Side of the Possibilities

Far from the glittering boardrooms of corporate America, a new set of life opportunities has been imposed on citizens from an entirely different class background. Seizing on the nationwide attack on welfare recipients, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has determined that physically and mental disabled mothers must be enrolled in the city's Workfare program. Since Democratic President Bill Clinton signed the Welfare Reform Bill into law in August 1996, Giuliani and New York Governor George Pataki have launched vicious attacks on all sectors of the welfare system.

This has resulted in the creation and implementation of the Workfare Program, an initiative which forces welfare recipients to work for their welfare payments. In theory, this measure will imbue welfare recipients with the "work ethic" necessary for success in our country. In actuality, the Workfare program has been little more than a 90's version of slavery with workers placed in the most dangerous jobs with little or no training or safety equipment. When asked about the program, Bill Davis, Union activist and member of the National Board of the Communist Party said, "The thing is that you are replacing unionized public sector workers whose positions are allowed to become vacant. You also get none of the benefits that public sector workers generally get under their union contracts — dental coverage or eye-glass coverage or health insurance which is better than Medicaid, for example."

In the next phase of the Workfare attack 33,000 mothers on public assistance that have been deemed unemployable will be forced to enter the program. A June 8, article published by the *New York Times* indicated that the women in question had "already been examined by city doctors who classified them as permanently or temporarily unemployable since they suffer from seizures, mental illness, severe arthritis and other ailments." Prior changes in the welfare system have resulted in numerous suits against the city and state governments of New York and the same is expected as a result of the latest requirements.

Susan Sternberg, a staff attorney at the Brooklyn Office of the Legal Aid Society, said, "These are people who the city has already found to be unable to participate in work activi-



This 1911 International Workers of the World poster expressed the fundamental inequities of the capitalist system to American workers.

ties. This means hundreds more people are going to be sicker and risk death." The Legal Aid Society is already involved in litigation against the city representing welfare workers with medical limitations. The Association for Community Organizations for Reform Now's (ACORN) Lead Organizer with the WEP Program Committee Milagros Silva told the *College Voice* "[that] if someone has a disability they should be able to work if they choose to, but the employer will have to make the adjustments necessary to provide this opportunity. Forcing disabled mothers into the WEP program will not do this." Silva also stated, "If the goal of the administration is to weaken the position of unionized workers this is the smartest thing he could have done, it is brilliant."

As organizations opposed to the WEP program begin to develop strategies to combat this latest measure, public assistance recipients such as Daisy Riveria prepare to face a state-mandated labor assignment. Riveria, a 28 year old mother of one was diagnosed as permanently unemployable due to her weight, 400 lbs., and severe asthma. Despite this, her name was among the first batch of 12,000 disabled mothers to be phased into the program. ACORN organizer Milagros Silva reported that the majority of those enrolled in the program were placed in positions such as street cleaners, maintenance workers and a few in clerical positions. Due to her disability Riveria would not qualify for any of these positions. When asked about this she stated, "They say I am a sick woman, I don't know how I am going to handle this."

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Reading Between the Class Lines

When radicals refer to the mainstream media as "the capitalist media" they do so to expose the contradictions that exist within the institutions that emerge from the capitalist system. In theory, the media is set apart from the institutions of business, politics and the military, and supposed to project an "objective" glance into society. In reality, such a division does not exist and the interests of big business, the military and Washington converge within the coverage of every major international event. Newspapers such as the *Daily News* and the *New York Post* display these biases overtly but the newspaper of record, *The New York Times*, has made an art of delicately manipulating the news to conceal these contradictions. In the case of the recent unrest in Indonesia, the Times coverage has reached new heights of deception that only the critical eye can work to deconstruct. A recent news analysis piece by Times writer Seth Mydans (*New York Times*, 5/15/98; pg. A8) entitled, "Role of the Military: A Potential Unifier Split by Conflicting Goals," offers the best example of the deceptive coverage by the *New York Times*, by acting as a virtual surrogate of the State Department.

The coverage begins with the sentence, "As Indonesia suffers its worst crisis in 30 years, its capital seething with rage and its President struggling to keep control, the key to the nation's future lies increasingly in the hands of the powerful military." Claiming that the uprising in Indonesia is the "worst crisis in 30 years" clearly reveals the point of departure for the author of this article. For the propertied classes of Indonesia, the student protests which have led to an uprising by the urban poor of Jakarta are the greatest threat to capital in 30 years. This 30 year period has been one of mass exploitation of workers which has been enforced by a powerful military. In addition to this, referring to Suharto as "its (Indonesia's) President" implies some form of connection between the people of Indonesia and the office of president. As we have seen by the widespread demands of the students and the actions taken by the poor, this connection has been irreparably severed.

The article continues by stating, "Now the riots have come, ripping away any hope that Indonesia could weather its political and economic crisis in peace." Any hope for a "peaceful" weathering of the economic and political crisis implies the continuance of the Suharto regime or the installation of a Suharto surrogate. This assessment is also connected to the belief that the Structural Adjustment Programs instituted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) can provide ailing economies with the currency they need to fix their problems. In this sense, the system (i.e. capitalism) is not broken (i.e. "food riots"); it's just rusty and needs some grease (i.e. IMF currency). A more accu-

rate assessment of the situation is that the revolt by the poor is a reaction to the exploitation that the globalization of capitalism has enforced. This is where the capitalist media draws the sharp dichotomy between the "peaceful" protests of the upper and middle class university students and the "violent" riots of the urban poor. In truth, the reaction of the urban poor is an expression of the reality of the IMF bailout package. The austerity measures have sent food prices skyrocketing, demanded massive layoffs and cut other meager social programs. This sharpened the contradictions that already existed between the urban poor and the Indonesian bourgeois and led to the uprising. "Peace" in an Indonesian context can be translated into acceptance.



When the author describes the military he refers to them in the following manner: "The Indonesian armed forces enjoy widespread respect as the agent of liberation, a half century ago from Dutch colonialism, and play a constitutionally prescribed political-military role known as 'dwifungsi' or dual function." The recent record of the Indonesian military tells an entirely different story. While the author looks towards the dual function of the military as a possible solution to the unrest in Indonesia, its true role has been one which has severely limited any form of democratic expression. Taking action against the Dutch imperialists as a force of liberation has long since been forgotten by the Indonesian generals who have tapped into the Suharto money machine. This story begins in 1965-6

during Suharto's ascension to power. Using the Indonesian military to consolidate his power, Suharto massacred almost 500,000 communists and communist sympathizers. Almost anyone considered to be left leaning-intellectuals, labor leaders and atheists were rounded up and systematically eliminated. Following this massacre, the Indonesian military, backed by U.S. arms and tactical support, invaded neighboring East Timor and carried out the genocide of over 200,000 indigenous peoples. Recently, the military has been used to crack down on any sign of resistance among the burgeoning proletariat that has developed around Indonesia's urban centers. July 1996 saw an uprising of 20,000 female workers and April 1997 10,000 workers in a Nike factory struck and won a pay raise, only to be put down by the military. Given this, we can see that "dual function" is a code word for dueling forms of inequality, both political and military, which have suppressed popular expressions of the general will.

Mydans closes by stating that "In a scene as common here as it might be unusual in many other countries, the arrival of a contingent of soldiers at the University of Indonesia today - wearing red berets and carrying long riot-control sticks - was greeted by students with cheers and applause." One need only think back to the student movement of 1989 at Tiananmen Square to understand the foolishness of this statement. Students protesting in the streets of Beijing initially greeted the Red Army with applause,

food and flowers. Students and soldiers competed with each other by singing "The Internationale." Meanwhile a force of military troops was being held in the countryside cut off from any news about the student protests. When the time was right, these forces were unleashed on the students. It is safe to say that the Indonesian military is prepared to conduct themselves in a similar manner whether it is directed at putting down the people in support of Suharto or solidifying their position in political leadership. Undoubtedly, the military will attempt to use the popular protests to launch a coup against Suharto and then use force to put down the unrest.

As we see from this article the news analysis of the Times is really an "ideological analysis"

which is rooted in protecting the interests of the national bourgeois and global capital internationally but masked in bourgeois notions of objectivity. In this context, the military is not the solution for the people of Indonesia who have suffered brutally for the purpose of industrialization and economic expansion. The growing urban proletariat has begun to flex its political muscles and the threat of a workers movement in Indonesia is registered within the *New York Times* presentation of the military as the logical solution to unrest. Students must understand the biases that exist within this exposition of "the facts" by the *Times* and begin to search out alternative sources of information. Looking beyond capitalist interpretations is perhaps the most seditious act anyone can take.

Public Equality Private Oppression

continued from pg. 17

Same System - Different Futures

Although they seem to be entirely different people, the lives of Charles Wang and Daisy Riveria are intimately linked. They are both products of a system which has the ability to create fantastic wealth for a few, and glamorize it as the ideal, but build this ideal on a foundation of fantastic suffering for many. The reality of the situation is that it would take Daisy Riveria, working for her welfare payment at a wage approximately equal to \$2.00 per hour, almost 500 years to accumulate the compensation Charles Wang received in three years time. This 500 year time span covers nearly the entire history of "modern" America, from the

arrival of Columbus up until today. Over this course of time there have been hundreds of Wangs feeding off the millions of Daisy Riveria's.

As stated earlier, the public rights of both Wang and Riveria are quite similar. They can both vote. They both can ride on the same bus together. They can both sit at the same lunch counter. However, equality extends far beyond public rights into the private sector which provides the massive distinctions that exist between these two people. There is a substantial difference between the massive accumulation of Charles Wang and the decisions that Daisy Riveria will soon be faced with. In order to feed both herself and her family she will have to decide whether to risk

her like and accept the WEP assignment or get cut off from benefits and possibly try her luck living on the streets of New York City. The solution to this problem does not come from simply condemning Giuliani's program as being immoral, but examining in examining g the entire structure of a society which leaves people to face these choices on a daily basis. Is it fair or even tolerable to deprive anyone the basic essentials they need to live? In this society these essentials include a job with a living wage, full healthcare, safe affordable housing and a safe food and water supply. Without reaching even these minimal demands of humanity, the contradictions of capitalist production will continue to institutionalize oppression.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND PART-TIME WORKERS

DEBRA BEHR

The majority of college students are either full or part-time employees. Unfortunately, many forms of employment that are available to college students are minimum wage, non-union jobs. Many of these jobs come from the retail and service industry and others may entail hard labor. Some of these jobs may also revolve around hazardous working areas such as kitchen, construction site, or even a library. Although it may seem odd to define the library as a hazardous working zone, we will soon find out that for a worker there is virtually no job site that is one hundred percent safe.

It is crucial that all students and non-students know their rights under Worker's Compensation. It is also important to know the steps for enacting these rights. In addition, it is useful to have a brief history of workers' compensation.

Workers' compensation, traditionally called workmen's compensation, is the name commonly applied to statutes that give protection and security to workers and their dependents against injury, disease, or death occurring during the course of employment. The statutes in general establish the liability of an employer for injuries suffered by workers, and benefits—generally financed by insurance bought by the employer—which usually include hospital and other medical payments and compensation for loss of income.

During the nineteenth century, U.S. employers—following English common-law tradition—contended that the hazards of a particular job were a risk that the employee assumed when he or she went to work. Their position was further bolstered by the "fellow servant" rule, which held that an employee could not sue an employer for negligence if the employee's injury was caused by the negligence of a fellow worker. In 1908, Congress abolished the rule for railroad workers when it passed the National Employers' Liability Act.

In the late 1800s various European countries instituted the first workers' compensation programs. In 1911, Wisconsin passed a Workers' Compensation Act—the first U.S. social security program—that was upheld by the Supreme Court, and other states followed Wisconsin's lead. Today all 50 states have workers' compensation statutes.

As soon as an injury occurs, the injury must be reported to a supervisor and it must be documented, as soon as possible, at the place of employment. Next, the employee must be examined by a certified workers' compensation doctor. If the injury has affected the neck and back it might be advisable to seek a licensed chiropractor. A certified workers' compensation doctor for any special or general need may be found in several ways. They may be listed in the Yellow Pages. The injured employee may also ask for a referral from his or her regular doctor. In addition, workers' compensation lawyers would also be helpful in finding a certified doctor.

The injured employee may run into some difficulties with his or her employer. Some employers may not be aware of the rights regarding and the procedures to file for workers' compensation. The following is my own personal experience with my employer and Workers' Compensation.

I am a part-time, non-union employee of the New York Public Library. At the time of my injury, I had been employed with NYPL for a little over a year. My job sometimes requires lifting heavy material. We are constantly told not to lift more than we can handle. Yet, when pressed for time, one tries to do as much as possible in order to complete a task. I was binding old newspapers together and lifting them onto a book truck. Considering I am 5'1", weigh less than 120 pounds, and rarely go to the gym, my body is susceptible to injury. Nevertheless, I lifted more than I could handle. I felt some kind of pull in the upper portion of my back, but no pain. I did not report anything to my supervisor.

After twenty-four hours, I began to feel a great deal of pain in my neck and back. I could not sleep or sit still for long periods of time. I decided to seek out a chiropractor. Considering I was not aware of Workers' Compensation, I did not know anything about the proper procedures or my rights. I was lucky. The chiropractor I went to was Workers' Compensation certified. In fact, he educated me on the rights and procedures. He informed me that I must docu-

ment the incident at work in order to begin the process.

When I approached my supervisor the next day about my injury and mentioned workers' compensation, she looked at me as though I was talking a different language. When I again explained to her the situation, she had no clue but told me that she would ask her supervisor. All I wanted was an incident form to fill out, be signed, and sent to the appropriate place. My supervisor never approached me with an answer. When I approached her again, she said that her supervisor explained to her that because I am part-time and non-union, I am not qualified to pursue Workers' Compensation. There was not even an incident form to complete. This was clearly wrong and illegal.

Fully aware of my rights, I decided to go behind their backs in order to attain an incident form. I asked my ex-supervisor, who also knew nothing but was willing to make some phone calls, to find out the correct information. He connected me with the right person, the safety officer, who was in charge of overseeing Workers' Compensation cases. My ex-supervisor also helped me attain an incident report to fill out, which I did. The safety officer also contacted my supervisor and my supervisor's supervisor and educated them on the rights of Workers' Compensation and that all employees of the NYPL are entitled to this right.

Nevertheless, I considered myself lucky that I had someone who did not dismiss me just because they did not

know. Not all employees would be this lucky if their employers were as ignorant as mine. My advice to injured workers is not to give up in claiming your rights. If they do feel as though they hit a brick wall in their pursuit of Workers' Compensation, it would be advisable to seek out a Workers' Compensation lawyer. Workers' Compensation not only pays for medical fees but lawyer fees as well.

Going under Workers' Compensation does not always mean you can not work. This is a decision that you and your doctor will make. If you feel that you can go back to work you can still receive compensation for medical expenses. However, if you and your doctor feel that you are not able to return to work, you will be compensated two thirds of your pay. Most places of employment will not allow you to stay home, with or without written consent from your doctor, stating that you can return to work for full or light duty.

I was advised by my doctor not to go to work for two weeks. Since then, I have returned to work and I am receiving compensation for the treatment I still need.

Workers' compensation is everyone's right. Do not allow employers to intimidate you from seeking your rights. An employer should not force an employee to continue working despite the injury and refuse to give employees any information about Workers' compensation. It is also important to document everything and to keep a file.

| STATE OF NEW YORK WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD ESTADO DE NUEVA YORK - LA JUNTA DE COMPENSACION OBRERA | |
|---|---|
| NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW | AVISO DE CUMPLIMIENTO LEY DE COMPENSACION OBRERA |
| TO EMPLOYEES | A EMPLEADOS |
| IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYEES WHO ARE INJURED OR SUFFER AN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE WHILE WORKING. | INFORMACION IMPORTANTE PARA EMPLEADOS QUE SEAN LESIONADOS O SUFRAN UNA ENFERMEDAD OCUPACIONAL MIENTRAS TRABAJAN. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Your employer is in compliance with the Workers' Compensation Law. Immediately tell your employer or supervisor when, where and how you were injured. Obtain first aid or other necessary medical treatment immediately. Tell your doctor to file medical reports with the Board and with your employer or his or her insurance carrier. You may be entitled to compensation if your work-related injury keeps you from work for more than seven days, compels you to work at lower wages or results in permanent disability to any part of your body. Obtain and file a claim form (Form C-3) with nearest Workers' Compensation Board Office. Failure to file within two years after the date of injury may result in your claim being denied. You are entitled to be treated by a physician, podiatrist or chiropractor of your choice, if he or she is authorized by the Chair, Workers' Compensation Board. DO NOT pay your doctor or hospital. Their bills will be paid by the insurance carrier if your case is not disputed. If your case is disputed, the doctor or hospital must wait for payment until the Board decides your case. In the event you fail to prosecute your case or the Board decides against you, you will have to pay the doctor or hospital. While a claimant usually needs no representation, you may be represented by an attorney or a licensed representative. DO NOT pay anyone directly. A fee will be fixed by the Board and deducted from your award. If you have difficulty in obtaining a claim form or need help in filling it out, or if you have any other questions or problems about a job-related injury, contact any office of the Workers' Compensation Board. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Su patrón esta cumplimiento con la Ley de Compensación Obrera. Avise inmediatamente a su patrón o a su supervisor cuando, dónde y cómo sufrió la lesión. Obtenga primeros auxilios u otro tratamiento médico necesario inmediatamente. Pídale a su doctor que presente informes médicos a la Junta y al patrón suyo, o a la compañía de seguros de él/ella. Usted podría tener derecho a compensación si su lesión relacionada con el trabajo le impide de trabajar por más de siete días o le obliga a trabajar a sueldo más bajo o resulta en incapacidad permanente de alguna parte de su cuerpo. Consiga y presente una forma de reclamación (Form C-3) en la oficina más cercana de la Junta de Compensación Obrera. El no presentar reclamación dentro de dos años a partir de la fecha de la lesión puede ser motivo de que se le rechace la reclamación. Usted tiene derecho a ser tratado por un médico, podiatra o quiropráctico que usted elija, si él/ella está autorizado por la Presidenta de la Junta de Compensación Obrera. NO PAGUE a su doctor ni al hospital. Esas facturas serán pagadas por el asegurador si el caso suyo no ha sido disputado. Si es disputado, el doctor o el hospital debe esperar para recibir pago hasta que la Junta decida su caso. Si deja usted de proseguir su caso o si la Junta fallara contra usted, se verá obligado pagar usted mismo a su doctor o hospital. Por lo general el reclamante no necesita representación, pero usted puede ser representado por un abogado o por un representante licenciado. NO LE PAGUE a nadie directamente. Los honorarios que le correspondan los fijará la Junta y serán deducidos de la otorgación que se le haga a usted. Si tiene usted dificultad en conseguir una forma de reclamación o necesita ayuda para llenar la forma, o si tiene algunas preguntas o algunos problemas con respecto a lesión relacionada con el trabajo, comuníquese con cualquiera de las oficinas de la Junta de Compensación Obrera. |
| WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD OFFICES Albany, 12241 - 100 Broadway - Menands - (518) 474-8874 Binghamton, 13901 - State Office Bldg. - Hawley St. - (607) 773-7887 Buffalo, 14203 - State Office Bldg. - 125 Main St. (716) 847-3158 Hempstead, 11550 - 175 Fulton Avenue - (516) 690-7700 New York City, 11248 - 180 Livingston St. - Brooklyn - (718) 602-8600 Rochester, 14614 - 155 Main Street West - (716) 236-8321 Syracuse, 13202 - State Office Bldg. - East Washington St. (315) 426-4464 | |
| Workers' Compensation benefits, when due, will be paid by (Los beneficios de Compensación Obrera, cuando debidos, serán pagados por): Insert name, address and telephone number of insurance carrier, county self-insurance plan or main office of self-insurer. | |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> | |
| Effective From...3/31/97..... To...3/31/98..... (En Vigor Desde) (Hasta) Policy No..... (Póliza No.) | |
| THIS NOTICE MUST BE POSTED CONSPICUOUSLY IN AND ABOUT THE EMPLOYER'S PLACE OR PLACES OF BUSINESS. | |
| C-105 (3-88) Prescribed by Chair Workers' Compensation Board State of New York | |
| Name of employer (Nombre del patrón) New York Public Library Astor, Lenox, Tilden Foundation By _____ THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD EMPLOYS AND SERVES THE HANDICAPPED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. LA JUNTA DE COMPENSACION OBRERA EMPLEA Y SIRVE A PERSONAS INCAPACITADAS SIN DISTINCION | |

CAPITALISM COLLAPSES IN ASIA.

WILL THE US BE NEXT?

MANJULA WIJERAMA

The Collapse

On "Black Monday" in October 1997, the Hong Kong stock market, the Hang Seng, crashed losing \$60 billion of its value. The European markets and Wall Street followed like dominoes. The Wall Street Dow Jones posted a 550 point drop, the biggest one day drop since 1987. While the markets rebounded and capitalist economists nervously shrugged off the drop as a the result of a peculiarly "Asian crisis", the following months were to see the "contagion" spread over the globe.

The crisis which was developing within the interstices of global capitalism for some time emerged in Asia in the form of a currency crisis. The Thai government was forced to allow its currency into free fall or "float" in July of 1997. It had previously been indexed to the dollar at 25 baht per dollar. Indexing their currency to the US dollar was the accepted wisdom for financial stability and growing exports for east Asian ruling classes. This wisdom collapsed along with all the other southeast Asian currencies, the Indonesian rupiah, the Malaysian ringgit and the Filipino peso.

The Thai government, banks and finance companies went bankrupt. Fifty six Thai finance companies closed shop in 1997. They had expended all their reserves on trying to maintain the peg to the dollar.

How the Crisis Developed

While the US dollar was weak relative to the yen and European currencies, Asian exports were relatively cheap thus leading to spirited growth for the southeast Asian region in the early 1990's. By April 1995, the US dollar began to strengthen and the Japanese, unable to crawl out of a seven year recession, devalued their currency. The heavily "leveraged" or indebted economies quickly faced a balance of payments crisis due to declining exports.

Indeed, vast flows of capital flooded the region from Japan, Europe and the US. The attraction of high rates of return on capital investment in relatively short order was cheese to a hungry rat, which was not being fed from the paltry, stagnant rates of growth in the US and Europe in the 80's and 90's. Western economies were experiencing stagnant growth of less than 3% in the 80's. Japan experienced a boom in the 80's and was investing its surplus capital in southeast Asia. Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines were used as the low tech manufacturing and assembling center for the Japanese economy.

Western capitalism while not growing in terms of production was faced with a growing glut of profit that required a profitable ground for investment. The further expansion of the western economies were limited by the ability of the tightly squeezed working classes to consume. Furthermore, as the Dow Jones index shows, major US corporations were already highly overvalued. The cheap labor and authoritarian political regimes of east Asia served as a perfect outlet for excess capital with high returns on investment.

Japan Inc. Hits the Skids

Japan whose advanced industrial economy and high growth in the 80's principally fueled the "Asian miracle" entered into recession in the early 90's. Japan saw the closure of 42 major corporations by May of 1998. Devaluing the yen and exporting their way out of the crisis did not work. The southeast Asian market for Japanese products was drying up due to their own crisis. The other side of the equation was the Japanese market for southeast Asian goods drying up. The simultaneous slowing of the economies of Japanese and the tiger economies deepened the crisis.

The crisis of the Japanese economy is of more serious significance for the health of the world capitalist economy. Japan accounts for more than 60% of the value of all the goods and services produced in Asia. It is 10 times the size of the south Korean economy and 20 times the size of Indonesian economy.

The crisis is partly rooted in the huge debt default

Japanese banks face from southeast Asia. Indonesia alone owes \$50 billion to Japanese banks.

The US has used the crisis as a way of applying pressure on Japan to further liberalize its banking and financial system meaning simply the greater presence of US capital and goods in Japan. Meanwhile US capitalists have been buying up the shipwrecked economies of southeast Asia, formerly the backyard of Japan.

Protectionism and State Planning - Behind the "Miracle"

South Korea, the classical "tiger" economy, enjoyed double digit growth and became classified as a "newly industrialized country" (NIC). This model of capitalist success did not develop on the basis of "free markets" or liberal democracy but on a militarized state capitalism that was extremely repressive and denied people basic civil liberties. Similar undemocratic dictatorial regimes presided over the



Indonesian looters redistribute the wealth in Jakarta

Taiwanese and Hong Kong "miracles".

Despite all the bluster about free markets, the NIC's of Asia employed extensive state intervention. Controls were placed over trade, investment and finance and growth was organized according to a central plan. Of course this type of "planning" has nothing to do with the type of central planning that was common in the former Soviet Union or other "socialist" economies. The Soviet Union then, like Cuba is still, are societies where the capitalist class and the capitalist system were overthrown through social revolution.

While increased trade is considered the sure route to economic growth by the IMF, the facts prove otherwise. The growth rate in the developing world with free capital flows over the last twenty years has been less than the previous twenty.

"Socialist" planning was set up to fulfill full employment and basic services for the people as opposed to capitalist planning which is directed towards accumulating private capital thereby strengthening the domination of the capitalist class over the laboring classes of society.

South Korea managed to build the 11th largest economy

in the world. Unlike the southeast Asian "dragons"- Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines- which were still low wage, low tech export dependent economies. South Korea had built up a impressive industrial infrastructure, competing with Japan and the US in automobiles, steel production, semiconductors and other high tech areas. However in the 80s Japan slowed down "technology licensing" to South Korea fearing it as a potential rival.

By 1996 South Korea was facing a relative decline in the terms of trade between the relative value of its exports and that of its imports. The weak Japanese yen and increased competition at the "low end" from China and the dragons was at the root of this decline in the terms of trade.

South Korea borrowed heavily in the early 90's to try to give its economy a boost. Much of this foreign capital was in a most volatile form - portfolio investment and short-term loans. The economic recovery never came and South Korea

faced a huge debt default. The South Korean government tried to place the cost of the loss in exports on the back of the working class. Wages had risen at an annual rate of 16% between '87 - '96. A secret government meeting to slip through a revised labor code in December of '96 was exposed and led to a massive general strike. The government was forced to repeal its new law.

Recession and "liberalization" - The IMF Solution

Today South Korea is at the mercy of the International Monetary Fund - the central economic tool of western capitalism - which is "bailing out" its shattered economy at the price of selling off South Korean assets to western capitalists at fractions of their real value. What the South Korean capitalist class could not achieve in

December of 1996, the IMF and its western capitalist backers were able to enforce in wake of the the 1997 economic collapse. This has meant thousands of layoffs and intense social misery for the workers, poor and even the middle classes.

The IMF has as its central goal the bailing out of all the western capitalists who gambled their money in southeast Asia. Western capitalists fully knew and indeed helped to sustain the status quo or the way of doing business in these countries. President Suharto, forced to resign by a popular

uprising in Indonesia this year, ruled for 32 years after the CIA aided him to power 1965 in a fascist-militarist putsch, murdering close to a million Indonesians suspected of being communists. Since 1975 Suharto has killed off a quarter million East Timorese that were upset by being taken over by Indonesia.

World Bank officials were well aware that 1/3 of the capital going

into Indonesia was pocketed by Suharto (Henwood, LBO). The Suharto clan amassed a vast empire that commanded the heights of the Indonesian economy. But he was a strident anti-communist and corruptible by cash - he was almost American.

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KOREAN WORKERS LIGHT THE FUSE



WILLIAM WHARTON

Swept up in the tide of economic restructuring following the almost complete collapse of the Southeast Asian "economic miracle", Korean workers and students have carried out a series of demonstrations and factory take-overs to protest harsh austerity measures. Following the demands of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) restructuring program, Hyundai Corporation, one of the largest Korean chaebol's or conglomerates, announced the firing of 1,600 workers. In response to this announcement workers occupied Hyundai production plants in the southern industrial city of Ulsan and have held the factory since early July.

Recent tensions between automotive workers and management began late May in a dispute between Kia Corporation and the Kia Motors Workers Union. A strike by the union was sparked after a worker named Song In-Doh lit himself on fire in protest over the oppressive conditions in the factory. In-Doh was a 37 year old father of two who had seen his pay repeatedly delayed by the company and faced the prospects of a 50% pay reduction in the coming weeks. Kia Motors Workers Union officials noted that almost 157.7 billion won in wages remained unpaid.

Korean students have also joined the resistance movement by continuing to carry out pro-unification rallies in towns on the North Korean border. The Korea Herald reported that 2,500 pro-unification students clashed with riot police on August 17th outside of Seoul National University. Police sealed off the university, used water cannons to disperse the crowd and reportedly dropped yellow paint onto the protesters to identify them for arrest. Almost 200 student members of the outlawed leftist group Hanchongnyon were detained for questioning by officials.

Workers at the Ulsan face a similar fate as the students as the Hyundai Corporation begins to enforce cutbacks. The Korean Times reported on August 14 that union officials offered to accept a voluntary reduction in wages along with a plan in which "reinstated workers would take rotating six-month unpaid leaves." Hyundai officials rejected this offer and announced that the entire factory would be closed. This followed attempts to re-open the factory on Monday and Tuesday using scab laborers, which resulted in violent clashes between labor and management and sent the company's executive vice manager to the hospital with injuries.

On Wednesday the company came to workers with a counter offer to take back 60% of the fired workers on two years unpaid leave but that offer was soundly rejected. Union official Kim Kwon-soo told the British Broadcasting Corporation, "We are not fools. The offer means that the company will cut the wages as well as sack workers."

President Kim Dae-jung intervened on the negotiations between Hyundai and the workers on August 18 by sending the Labor Ministry's top official Lee Ki-ho as a mediator. Lee was unable to broker a deal as corporate negotiators refused to budge from their demands for layoffs. Following

this breakdown, 15,000 police officers in full battle gear armed with water cannons, tear gas and bulldozers were deployed to the strike site. In response, union officials sent 2,500 workers armed with iron pipes, to the gates of the factory to defend both their fellow workers and the 200 women and children who had joined the strikers in the factory. An anonymous government official told the Korea Herald, "We find it inevitable to take stern action because the prolonged work stoppage at the firm would negatively affect Korea's international credibility as well as the domestic economy." Korean Confederation of Trade Unions Chairman Lee Kap-young respond to these threats by stating, "If the government uses force to disperse the workers, the KCTU will launch a massive anti-government demonstration and the metal workers unions will go on sympathy strikes."

Hyundai's corporate mantra is "Pursuing happiness through cars" but as the second largest chaebol in Korea they have taken up the role as corporate vanguard for a new era of downsizing and wage cuts. Despite public pronouncements of their financial woes the top five chaebols, Hyundai, Samsung, Daewoo, LG and SK, have used recent financial woes as an opportunity to expand. As one stock market analyst told the Korea Herald, "The concentration of powers on the Big Five groups is reaching a serious level." For workers, the countries financial woes have translated into a destruction of the nationalist notion of building the nation together, the labor-capital partnership, that they have been fed for decades. There are many lessons for American workers and students to learn from deteriorating conditions in South Korea. First and foremost is the role of the state as the tool of capitalist oppression. From the political mediators to the tear gas wielding riot police, Korean workers have no hope of finding justice from the state. Instead, they have built links based on collective class struggle and have their eyes firmly planted on the enemy, capital. The rank and file, through their commitment to solidarity and militancy, will not allow its leadership to deviate from this position. As workers wakeup to the ugly face of capitalist exploitation they will begin "pursuing happiness through class struggle."

CAPITALISM COLLAPSES IN ASIA. WILL THE US BE NEXT?

Similar corrupt authoritarian regimes rule all the east Asian countries with the exception of Japan which could afford a liberal democratic facade.

The IMF turned a blind eye to the undemocratic practices of the southeast Asian regimes and championed the "Asian model" of growth for years. Billions of western dollars were invested in short term high interest loans in Asian banks and financial houses. Capital flows to the region quadrupled from 1988 - 1996.

Almost overnight and with the hypocritical charge of "crony capitalism" the IMF has begun to attack their former star pupils. In a logical twist that in psychology would be described as paranoid-schizophrenic the IMF alleges that the very model of liberalized capital flows that the US and IMF foisted upon the region that led to the crisis must be further extended. In other words the state regulation and planning of the economy that were integral to its growth must be dismantled completely or "liberalized" and this liberalization that precipitated the financial collapse furthered.

While increased trade is considered the sure route to economic growth by the IMF, the facts prove otherwise. The growth rate in the developing world with free capital flows over the last twenty years has been less than the previous twenty.

The IMF and its US backers are engaged in a wholesale takeover or recolonization of the Asian economies. Japan

weakened by its own crisis is unable to resist. The IMF convinced South Korean officials to allow foreign companies to acquire 100% of the Korean companies. Kim Dae Jung, the South Korean premier humbly offered up the 71 institutions comprising the countries financial sector for sale to foreign capitalists. The South Korean chaebols or conglomerates are being dismantled and the governments are under the direct supervision of the IMF. The IMF loans are used to pay off the western capitalists and the tax incomes and export incomes are also used to pay off the external debt.

1998 - the Crisis Deepens and Spreads

Today the Asian governments are still in crisis and Russia has joined the ranks of the financially stricken. China meanwhile is also experiencing slower growth and pressure to devalue its currency. Asian officials are meanwhile facing intense pressure, caught between the recessionary policies imposed by the IMF and the pressure of the masses for relief from increasing unemployment and social insecurity. Notable figures of western capitalism like Jeffrey Sachs of the Harvard Institute for International Development and Henry Kissinger, former Nixon aide have voiced caution about the IMF course. "The IMF has pushed these economies into a position where no one is willing to spend", says Tim Condon, an economist with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in Hong Kong. The deputy prime minister of Supachai Panitchpakdi of Thailand puts it more suc-

cinctly, "We cannot go out to the public and say we are opening up Thailand for sale to foreigners".

However, the US, the IMF and the main western capitalists are still committed to a recessionary policy for Asia.. This is a dangerous prescription, first for the Asian ruling classes and in the long term for the US. With Goldman Sachs predicting a 14% economic contraction for Indonesia, 7% for South Korea, 8% for Thailand and 2% for Hong Kong, the local ruling classes are bound to face increased pressure from the impoverished masses. The South Korean working class which has shown great organization and combativity in the past is unlikely to accept the cuts to its standard of living lying down. Hyundai car workers are occupying factories at the present time. Indonesian students and workers who forced the dictator Suharto to resign are bound to continue their agitation as the economic crisis their deepens.

The IMF "solution" or the method behind the madness, is for Asia to cut spending, force down wages, pay their debts and export their way out of the crisis. With Japan in crisis, the US would be the principal absorber of Asian exports. The "Asian crisis" is expected to add \$100 billion to the US trade deficit as orders for capital and consumer goods is reduced from Asia. With the US already a trillion dollars in debt, further debt within a stagnant world economy could lead to a serious economic crisis in the west.

EDITORIAL

Rudy "Whites Out" Street Artists

By targeting innocuous street artists in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and thereby violating their First Amendment rights, Mayor Giuliani has once again overstepped his boundaries as mayor. Under the euphemism of improving the city's "quality of life," the mayor is, in reality, targeting vulnerable populations. First, it was the street vendors, then construction workers, jaywalkers, and now street artists. What next? Brownies selling girl scout cookies?

At the beginning of March, New York City police precincts and the parks enforcement officers enforced an artist permit system in front of the museum. Anyone found violating the permit system had his art work confiscated. Talk about the land of the free.

Not only was the mayor's ordinance an attack on First Amendment rights but once again it was an attack on minorities. Many of these street artists were immigrants and political refugees from China, the former Soviet Union and several Latin American dictatorships.

Mayor Giuliani is enforcing his police state in order to create an image; a sterile city of control and discipline.

This returning arts editor, after three years, believes that the mayor's attack on these artists is not just a tactic to create "A Nicer and Cleaner City" but to paint an image of social control.

Fighter Planes and Unzipped Pants

Fighter jets appeared over the skies of the Afghanistan and Sudan just in time to provide cover for a president zipping up his fly and a rabidly right wing Congress thirsting for a national enemy. After launching a missile attack against the latest, greatest threat to the American nation-the World Islamic Front for Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders-Clinton proudly declared that, "Today we have struck back." Calling terrorism "one of the greatest dangers we face in this new global era," Clinton is counting on tapping into the anti-Arab sentiments weaved into the fabric of American nationalism and aggravated by the recent embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya. The current crisis points to both the inherent weakness of terrorist activities divorced from class struggle and the readiness of the U.S. government to employ military power to crush any signs of opposition.

The focus on the U.S. as an agent of imperialism throughout the world, masked in the rhetoric of acting as the watchdog of global democracy, is a just and real analysis. In some ways, it provided much of the motivation for the actions at the African embassies. U.S. diplomats are the salesmen for global capitalist expansion, they are the real face of the "global era." Throughout Africa, multi-national corporations, backed by the military fire-power of the U.S., have continued the legacy of colonialism set forth by their European counterparts. A group such as the Islamic Front would have no problem recruiting African contacts to assist in the attacks. The U.S. is the watchdog for the expansion of global capital and if Islamic Fundamentalism gets in the way, as it is in Afghanistan with the Taliban, it will be crushed.

However, the tactics of the Islamic Front, the individualistic acts of terrorism belie the inner contradictions of the Fundamentalist movement. If the goal of the group is to transform social conditions in opposition to the capitalist form, then they must have the understanding that terrorism is never a substitute for mass work. The Islamic Front can set off as many bombs as it wants but that will be met by the dominate fire power of the U.S. on every occasion. In the end the focus on the religious agenda of the movement blurs the class struggle that is at the heart of the matter and leads the movement into a dead end struggle against a superior. Striking the heart of capitalism, its centers of production, through the organization and radicalization of workers can accomplish social change.

In the final analysis, the U.S. military shares a huge portion of the guilt. Showing a violent disregard for national borders and breaking their own international laws, they entered two separate countries and carried out their own terrorist attacks. As the last victims of U.S. imperialism, the citizens of Iraq, can attest to no depravity will be reserved. American students and citizens must show that they are wise enough to see through the thin veneer of nationalism that is being placed before them. While rejecting the failing tactics of terrorism we should turn towards the winning strategy of class struggle and fight the real enemies of the people-the capitalists who are backed the firepower of the U.S. military.

THE COLLEGE
VOICE



FOR FREE TUITION AND OPEN ADMISSIONS

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Inert Inertia: the Old Man With the Beard

Know us: The College Voice is a monthly journal published by the students of the College of Staten Island.

Visit us: Our office is located at 2800 Victory Boulevard, Room 1C-230, Staten Island, NY 10314

Sue us: Opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily shared by anyone else.

The College Voice is a member of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, The Associated Collegiate Press and the College Media Advisor

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Letters

Letter to the Editor:

Once again New York State is penalizing the wrong part of the population to cover its inadequacies. Why do young adults who want to better themselves through higher education and were shamelessly neglected by the New York City Board of Education during their formative years be told "there isn't any place for you in our colleges"?

The Governor should pay more attention to the dead weight on the teaching staff of our public schools who have tenure (because of political favors) and yet whose teaching skill fail to meet the criteria needed to help our young people reach higher goals. There are some very fine teachers in our schools who are hampered with little or no funding to help students reach their potential.

I am the parent of a successful college graduate who was diagnosed as dyslexic after she applied for entrance to a community college. How could a student possibly be promoted every year being labeled as "slow." If it were not for CUNY's remedial program this viable young adult would just become another education throwaway. To cancel such a program borders on the criminal. The victims of this crime are young people with undiagnosed learning disabilities, new citizens who could be a great asset to our country, minorities and our rich resource of older students. I say cut the political dead wood from our educational system and save the remedial education program.

Sincerely,
A CONCERNED PARENT

THE 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 jobs, wages and living standards of working people, as well as by the attacks on trade union, democratic and civil rights.

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

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

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

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

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

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

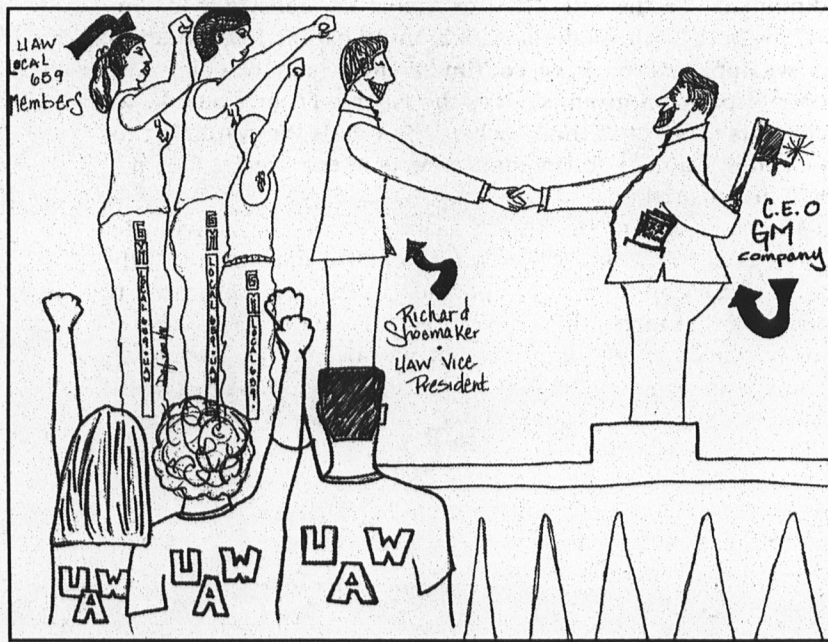
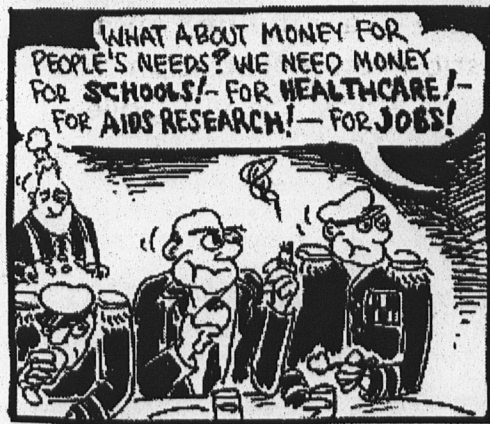
The CV recognizes that this contradiction, far from being some "natural" condition, is one maintained by the armed power of the capitalist state (army, cops and courts) and ideological apparatus (media, church, and schools) of the capitalist class that insures the domination of the few over the many;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

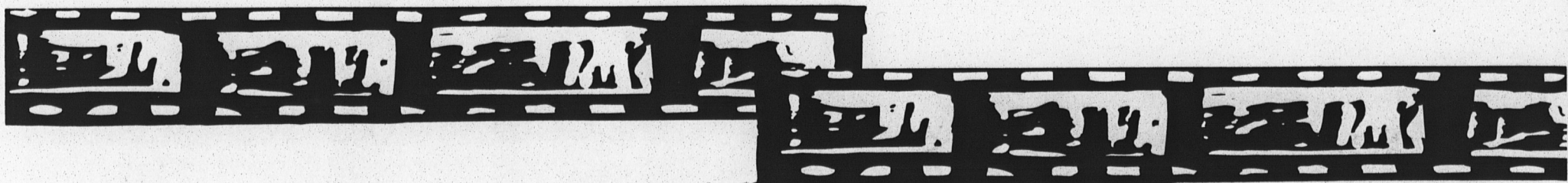
The CV recognizes the possibility and the burning necessity for creating a society in which the productive forces are democratically organized through the cooperative association of workers and production is based on human needs instead of private profits in harmony with the environment.

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

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

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Tar Kastella *Repar* *analysee omistaja se poliittinen*

Besprechen der polstisch Kino

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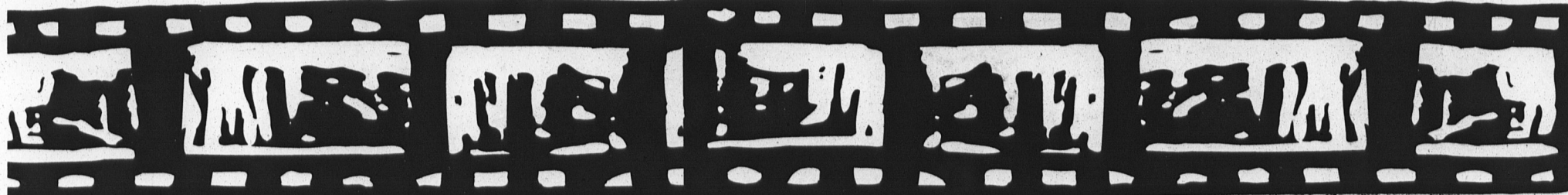
Rewia

Politics, history, and social culture have always had an impact in the direction of the cinema. Directors of Hollywood as well as abroad have attempted to capture the themes and aspects of emotion of the key historical and political moments of our time. The Arts and Culture section of the College Voice will now have a monthly series entitled The Political Cinema. This series will examine and critique films in consideration of their political and historical content. We will also explore such political and historical themes as the sixties counter culture, modern democratic politics, the several Holocausts, revolutionary politics, the concept of feminism, racism, police brutality, capitalism and other topics. This section is not intended to bring praise or idealize certain directors or films. The purpose of this section is to examine cinematic expressions for their political content. This section will also be open to other serious political topics from the student body.

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THE CINEMA POLITICA

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Ice Storm and Week-end : Two Different Approaches To The Sixties Counter Culture and the Middle-Class



Ben Carver and Ellen from the Ice Storm.

DEBRA BEHR

The politics of the sixties left a serious imprint on society and culture. Mainstream society struggled to come to grips with aspects of the counter-culture, such as rampant sex, drug use and rock and roll music. The Sexual Revolution, in particular, resulted in an exploration of desire as well as confusion of identity. The films, "Ice Storm" by Ang Lee, 1997 and "Week-end" by Jean-Luc Godard, 1967, are two very distinct films that attempt to capture the effects of emerging culture on the bourgeoisie during the end of the sixties.

The film "Ice Storm" portrays the counter-culture entering the lives and homes of people who are unequipped to deal with it. The film attempts to capture the cold, impersonal relations between parents and children in a culture left over from the sixties which didn't assimilate so well into middle-class life. The ice storm in the film metaphorically as well as physically, paralyzes the world, leaving everything in its wake cold and emotionless. Of course, one could argue the paralysis had set in some time ago, like a winter downpour that turns to ice in the cold November air. Everyone's out getting into some kind of trouble, or at least trying to.

Sexually and socially, everyone in this film is groping for the answers, whether they are age fourteen or forty. In fact, it could be argued that the teenagers have a clearer and healthier approach to sexuality than the adults. More often the children are open about what they want. The adults, on the other hand, feel the need to resort to deception and wife-swapping games to achieve the same ends.

The film is about two neighboring families in Connecticut, the Hoods and the Carvers. The cause of their paralysis is easy to detect: all have fallen victim to the 'Summer of Love' mentality that has infected the suburban middle-class. Ben Hood has gotten far too familiar with his next door neighbor, Janey Carver. Hood's wife, Elena, suspects that something is not right. Elena is not portrayed as a prude but someone who is bewildered and feeling left behind. Janey doesn't care about Ben and Ben doesn't care about her. She's just a warm responsive body in bed. The affair just seems like the popular thing to do.

When not glued to watching the immediate fallout of the Nixon administration on television, Wendy Hood, the daughter of Ben and Elena, is following in her father's footsteps and playing her own sexual games with the Carver's sons, Mikey and his younger brother Sandy. Mikey is a true-

blue space cadet who gets lost in thought even when he and Wendy are locked in heavy petting. Sandy is a locus of torment and fury as he drools over Wendy, only to shriek at her sexually aggressive approach. The sexual experimentation among the children only serves to ignite the looming conflagration between the parents. Ben, attempting to get comfortable on Janey's water bed; itself a running gag, overhears his daughter necking with Mikey and postpones his own plans for sex with his mother to give hypocritical lecture. The comedy in the film is served dry. The tragedy emerges the night after Thanksgiving, at the key party, where the marriages of Ben and Elena and Janey and her husband collide in public. The kids are left to their own devices, acting out their parents' marital tensions through sexual

activity or risking death by slipping out doors amid the great ice storm.

"Week-end," directed by Jean Luc Godard, is a vicious satire on Western civilization. The film concentrates on two of the most flamboyant aberrations of contemporary life. Those aberrations are the bourgeois materialist in his most aggravated fever of accumulation and consumption and his double, the anti-bourgeois, anti-materialist drop-out from society whose only alternative to the horror of the bourgeois life is more horror. Godard exposes his negative feelings on the destructive side of bourgeois life as well as the counter-culture. One can hardly come away from the film without feeling despair.

The couple in the film, Corrinne and Roland, vacillate between living the middle-class life or rejecting it. Yet the focus throughout the film is on the woman and her indecisiveness rather than the man's, beginning with her psycho-analytic session at the start of the film and ending with her ultimate act of sacrilege. Roland is a repulsive neanderthal who does not develop beyond crassness. Godard's feeling about capitalist society reaches full height in his depiction of the relationship and values of the characters. Offered the chance to fulfill their desires, they can think only of the basely material hotels at Miami Beach and weekends with James Bond.

Sexual experience no longer a pleasurable one but a source of insanity and discomfort. Relationships resemble a grotesque parody. Corrinne relates her sexual fantasies to



Roland and Corrinne chasing carjacker in Godard's Week-end.

us. The image is dark. She is almost invisible and parts of her confession are difficult to hear because of the swells and fading music. Her story about the eggs being placed between her thighs refers to the hippie guerrillas' sexual rites. Corrinne's description provides a perfect illustration of the spectacle of words. Sitting on the edge of a table in front of a window, she tells the story about the married man and his wife to her husband. She is filmed half in shadow which reveals little of her body.

During another very long abstract and apocalyptic scene, the road out to Paris is blocked by a monster of a traffic jam, with drivers and passengers getting out of their cars to play ball and picnic. The traffic jam ends in a deadly car crash with dead bodies strewn out on the road. Godard uses a long, slow tracking shot that moves in one lateral direction, left to right, moving from the scene of excitement and fun to one of horror and chaos.

Corrinne and Roland turn off the road to be confronted with the class struggle. At the scene of the next car crash a bourgeois girl screams out her philosophy, "He was young, handsome, rich; that gave him the right of way over everything, over the fat, over the poor, over the old...". The proletariat who was hit by the young woman wavers between resentment and reason, but all is fair in love and war as they walk away arm in arm.

During one of the couple's next experiences, they encounter a woman and a man who philosophize about pebbles and other elements of the earth have existed before mankind. This reminds Roland and Corrinne of man's mortality and asks impossible riddles that the two aren't interested in. They are only interested in getting to Orville and ignore the questions. Before they leave the scene, Roland burns the other woman's dress. In this scene, Godard reminds us bluntly that we are watching a film when Roland says "This is a horrible film". In the following sequence which I found very difficult to digest, a musician rambles on about Mozart while playing piano in what appears to be a courtyard. Corrinne and Roland yawn broadly, and are as bored with high culture as the workers are. Once again a very long take is used. The camera pans very slowly in a 360 degree angle twice, right to left, then once left to right.

The film reaches a turning point when Corrinne and Roland get a lift from two garbage men. Godard uses 'Third World' monologues of an Arab and a black African with long takes and voice overs. The sequence is punctuated by flash-backs and one flash-forward of the guerrilla hippies. One after the other, the Arab and black worker look directly into the camera while they disclose their political sentiments. The monologue stresses the necessity for violence among emergent workers. The speeches attempt to link contemporary political reality with Marxist dogma.

During the final section of "Week-end" we are introduced to the hippie guerrillas. In the scene in which they are introduced, they massacre a group of middle class picnickers. Sex for the hippies is ritualistic. In comparison to the opening scene of Corrinne describing her sexual encounter, the hippies reduce the words of sex to minimal, shouted commands: "Take off your sweater...skirt...bra...pants". However there is no real contact between partners. Instead of lying down with a nude woman, a female hippie dances around her. Another hippie paints her body. Also, a fish is used to penetrate a woman's body after eggs are broken between her legs. In further comparison to the opening scene, the hippie sexual mode is violent because the women are violated, sacrificed and eaten.

Godard reveals that hippie life, just as much as bourgeois life, rests on the capitalists' fundamental obsession with consumption. Finally, just as the members of the bourgeoisie exploit and destroy one another, so do various hippies destroy each other. The film ends with Roland being cooked and Corrinne joining the guerrillas. We see her, in medium close-up, eating as one of the other guerrillas says, "This was a couple of English tourists and your husband".

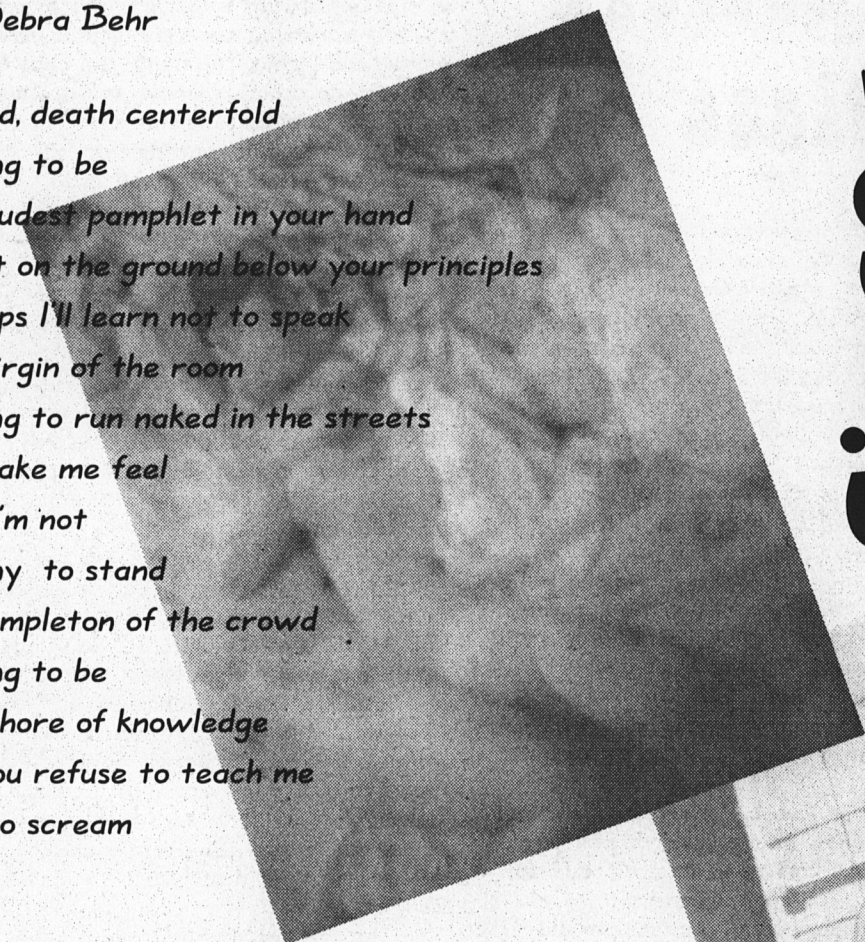
Cinematically, "Ice Storm" cannot be compared to "Week-end," in which the images are daring if not disturbing. Godard's cinematic style is unique and requires a certain taste in new-wave cinema. "Ice Storm" is far more accessible to a mass audience. They are two very serious and very different films that try to encapsulate the image of the bourgeoisie of the late sixties.

Poetry

BURN MY BRA

By Debra Behr

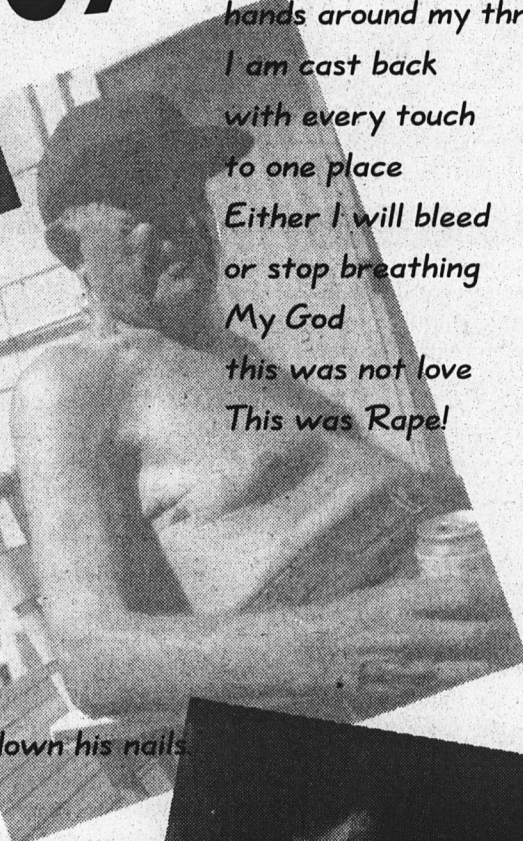
A blind, death centerfold
 wishing to be
 the loudest pamphlet in your hand
 If I sit on the ground below your principles
 perhaps I'll learn not to speak
 The virgin of the room
 wishing to run naked in the streets
 You make me feel
 that I'm not
 worthy to stand
 The simpleton of the crowd
 wishing to be
 the whore of knowledge
 but you refuse to teach me
 how to scream



Since the age of 4

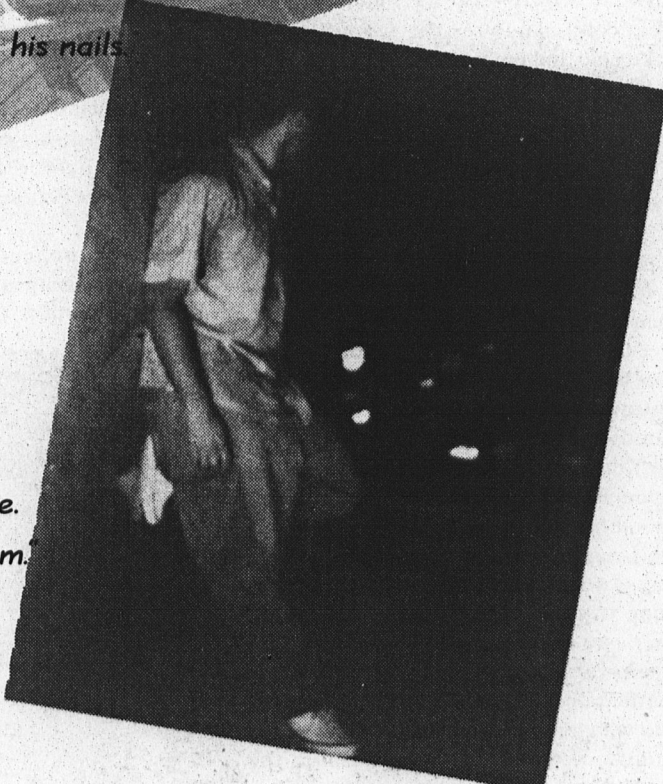
by Junior Hersch

I am struggling
 speechless
 imprisonment
 I am a child
 taught not to scream
 with every broken promise
 ever made
 every touch is the same
 sharp points of pencils
 hands around my throat
 I am cast back
 with every touch
 to one place
 Either I will bleed
 or stop breathing
 My God
 this was not love
 This was Rape!



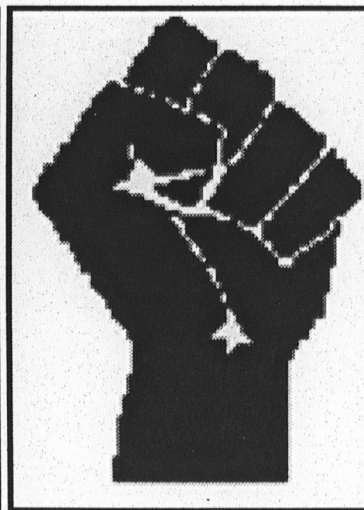
P Pedro sits in the center car.
 He hasn't realized that he missed his stop.
 This tube of oppression wasn't moving anyway.
 He stares at the man wearing a Gucci tie filing down his nails.
E Today he realized "There's no American dream".
 It's just a fucking bureaucracy.
 Pedro is going to die in the same dirty jeans.
D Pedro rides the elevator.
 He hasn't realized that he missed his floor.
 This box of oppression wasn't moving anyway.
R He holds a stack of bills in his right hand.
 His left is too tired to rise from working that machine.
 Pedro is too scared to say "There's no American dream."
 It's a just a fucking legacy.
O He doesn't want to die in the same dirty jeans.

By Debra Behr



photos by Anthony Gargiso

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE CUNY



Dispel the Myths - Speak the Truth

- 2/3 of all CUNY students work and go to school at the same time. 1/3 of CUNY students work a full time job and go to school at the same time. 13% of CUNY students work more than 35 hours a week and attend school full time.
- CUNY students provide the working backbone of New York City. CUNY has produced thousands of the nurses, doctors, teachers and community leaders that educate and care for the young people of this city.
- Sociologist David Lavin has proven that the main reason for student failure at CUNY is not lack of intelligence or motivation it is financial. CUNY is the largest poor and working class university in America and is the only low cost access to higher education available.
- CUNY awards more master's degrees to Black and Latino candidates than any other institution in America.
- CUNY offers nearly all of its courses for 3 credits each. Exactly comparable courses are offered at NYU for four credits each. Currently CUNY students must complete 40 courses to graduate while NYU students only complete 30.
- City College is the 3rd largest source of bachelor degree students who go on to earn their doctorates in America. Hunter College is the third largest source of women candidates that go on to earn doctorates.
- Over the past 11 years, 178 CUNY faculty have earned National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowships and 34 are Guggenheim Fellows.

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Defending Open Admissions at CUNY

Fighting Institutional Racism at CSI

Fighting For a Democratic CSI Student Government

Fighting for Students Rights

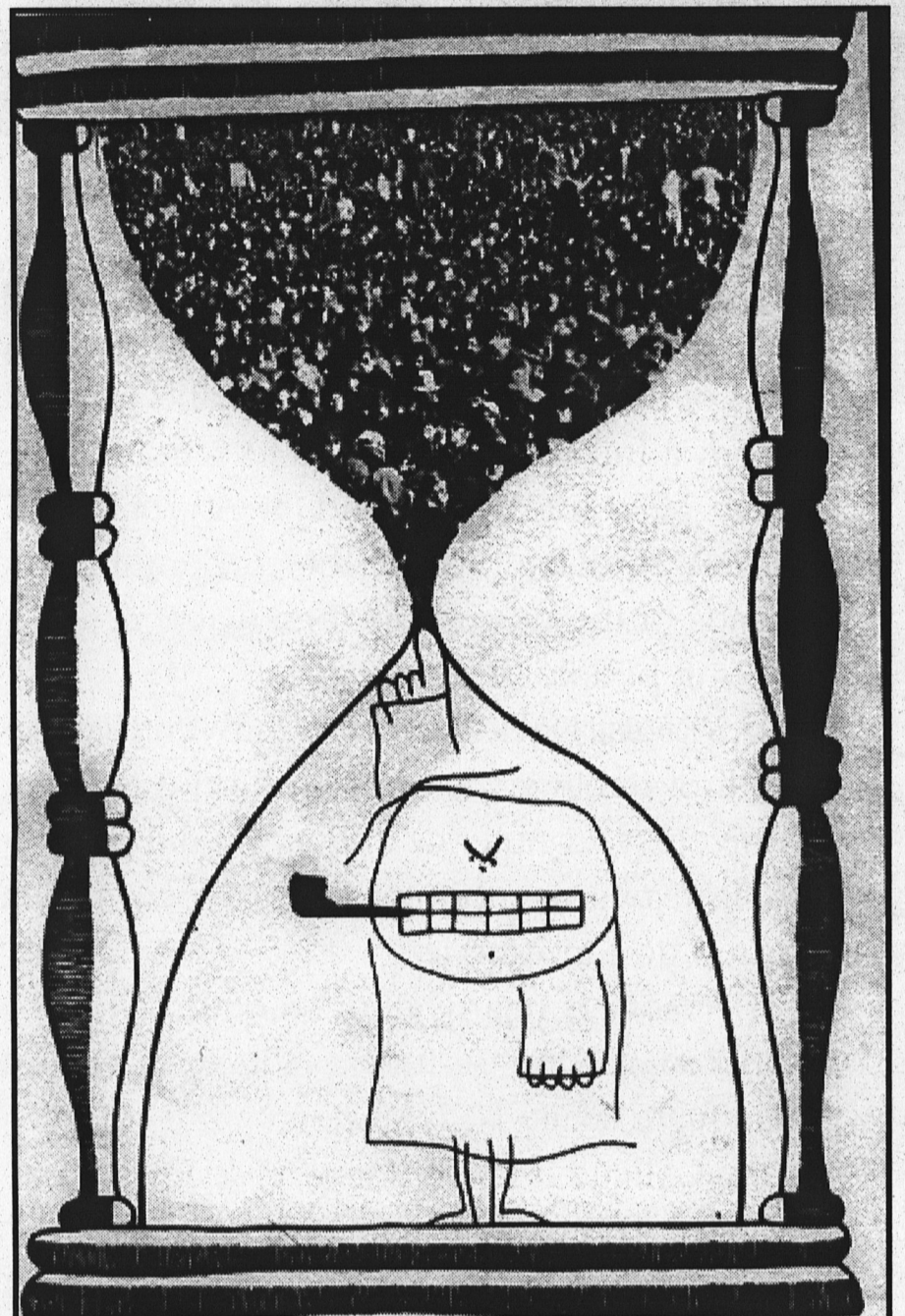
Struggling to End Sweatshop Labor

Supporting Community Organizing Efforts

Supporting Organized Labor Actions

Organizing and Educating Radical Students

WHAT'S YOURS??



**The time
has come**

**Help Organize for Social and Economic Justice
Join the College Voice**

Campus Center Room 1C-230

(718) 982-3091

Email: collegevoice@usa.net