

THE COLLEGE

VOICE

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Replacing Volpe

Committee To Hire New President In Place

Patafio, page 3

Security

Vs.

Education

"The Campus Security Initiative was implemented...to establish a system-wide security and public safety program that reflects the values and goals of an academic community—one that is primarily a service and not a law enforcement function."

FROM THE '94 - '95 CUNY BUDGET REQUEST

Yet, the 1994-95 CUNY Budget Seeks an Additional \$5.3 Million for Campus Security and only...

- \$4.4 Million for Library Initiatives
- \$8.7 Million for Undergraduate Financial Aid
- \$15 Million for Undergraduate Instructors

Is Security 1/3 as Important as Teachers?

What Are CUNY's Priorities?

T O P S T O R Y

by Shaista Husain

A draft written in late December by Jose Elique, University Director of Security, attempting to amend the current CUNY by-laws by allowing CUNY security guards the power to issue summonses (Universal Appearance Tickets) has been rejected. However, the Chancellor's security initiative is continuing.

If passed, the draft would have been inconsistent with the current Complaint Procedures in the CUNY By-Laws, section 15.3. These procedures give a detailed account of how a student, faculty or administrator can carry out disciplinary procedures if any person violates the rules of CUNY (Henderson Rules, Health Codes, and Traffic Violations). The UAT tickets would have given security the ability to police any offense and thereby issue tickets

according to their own discretion, thereby taking the complaint procedure out of the hands of the academic community. Furthermore, the offender's name would have been filed and passed onto Central Security, whether the offender was innocent or guilty. This would have rendered the current Complaint Procedures obsolete and left the alleged violator without any measure to handle a case with a fair hearing in

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E D I T O R I A L

Improve Access Now

In the latest confrontation with CUNY administration, students, faculty and staff have seen another drastic, misguided measure taken by the Chancellor and the CUNY Board Of Trustees—a drastic increase in the prioritization of campus security. However, not every problem that College of Staten Island students confront begins at East 80th street (CUNY's central offices). In fact, students here are being forced to deal with local administrative decisions which are making life for the average college student increasingly difficult.

Presently, CSI students—and most harshly weekend students—face an alarming lack of access to vital services. Students, now, must not only deal with the squeeze of overcrowded classrooms and hiked tuitions, but have to deal, as well, with inadequate transportation, limited library hours, and the loss of 24-hour access to club space.

Now that CSI has moved to Willowbrook, and the St. George building is

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In the Name of "the Troubles"

Book Review,
Deignan
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The Shot Heard 'Round the Free Market

Blinth, page 10



The Borough of Manhattan Community College's victorious chess team

CUNY Checks Harvard

CUNY Press Release

In an unprecedented upset, the Borough of Manhattan Community College's Chess Team defeated the reigning champion, Harvard University, to win first place in the Pan-American Intercollegiate Chess Championship. BMCC is the first community college ever to win the prestigious annual international team competition. Proudly displaying their three-foot high golden trophy are the winning team members (front row l-r) Nikola Duravcevic, Cassidhee Santos, Oleg Shalumov, and Gennady Sagalchik. Back row (l-r) BMCC Dean Howard Prince, Chess Club President Stephen Curtis, CUNY Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds, Chess Club Past President Aristotle Beriquetta, Chess Club Member Peter Roberts.

Photo / Andre Beckles



THE CUNY BIG APPLE

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**WELCOMES CUNY Graduates:
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Tuesday, March 22, 1994

11:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

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45th Street and Broadway
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Graduating students:

Register at your college career services/placement office.
Bring your registration form and current CUNY College I.D. to the fair.

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Register at the fair and present your résumé for admission.

On the day of the fair, students and alumni must arrive no later than 6:00 P.M. to gain entry.

Both students and alumni are advised to bring at least 25 résumés to the job fair for distribution to prospective employers.

Appropriate attire required for admission.

Employers will be interviewing for full-time positions for

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CSI Scholarship Info

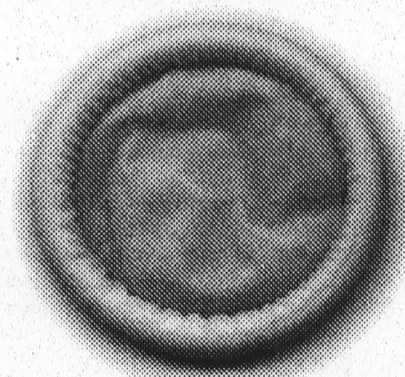
A variety of academic scholarships are available for full-time undergraduate students for the 1994-95 academic year. Applications may be obtained at the Registrar's Office 2A-107, the Office of Student Services 1A-109, the Office of Admissions 2A-208 and the Office of Student Recruitment 1A-211.

Full tuition scholarships are available as well as cash awards of up to \$1,500.

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**Application deadline is March 11, 1994.
For More Info Call 982-2259**

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Snow Emergency Hotline

To find out if CSI is closed due to snow or other inclement weather, call 982-3333 or 982-4444

Student Access To Critical Services Remains Limited

by M. D. Wijerama and J. P. Patafio

The ability for students to reach and use important student facilities has been greatly curtailed according to a recent *Voice* investigation. However, it does not take an in-depth study for students to feel the consequences of the measures. The three areas where administrative measures affect students most critically are shuttle bus services, library hours and student space.

In CSI 40% of the student body is enrolled in evening and weekend classes. Fully 70% of students at CSI work either full or part-time to pay for classes, books, "activities," "materials," etc. and often have to pay rent and support themselves and their families. The amount of time that these students have to study is limited, the problem is compounded by the fact that there is limited space where students can study.

Currently the library remains open between the hours of 8:30 am. to 9 pm Monday through Thursday, on Friday the doors close at 5 pm. During the weekend the hours are 11 am through 4 pm. For weekend and evening students, who have classes during these hours, the library is non-existent. For students who work during the day and

attend school at night the library is not open to them. The administration points to the withering budget but upon closer scrutiny there are plenty of areas where money can be redirected from. One student suggested that it come administrative salaries whose average salary is \$65,000 a year.

Another area where students are facing difficulties due to the move to the new campus is transportation. The dilemma of trying to find a parking spot on a Monday afternoon or the traffic jam at the Victory Blvd. exit and entrance is not as disjuncting as making your to school by public transportation. At the end of last semester the administration ceased shuttle bus services from St. George. Without this service students who once used the shuttle as a convenient and inexpensive way to travel to school now have to pay additional fares and squeeze onto overcrowded buses. Even though more than 20% of the students that attend CSI live off Staten Island the problem of affordable and comfortable transportation does not seem to phase the administration. The problems of parking space could be greatly reduced if students had

Improved Shuttle Bus Service and Library Access are Sought

affordable, efficient and comfortable transportation available to them. One student activist proposed that there be two shuttle bus services with routes spanning from the south shore to the north shore.

Places of independent student expression and will, like student clubs, student government, and the *College Voice* have been dealt with the most severely. Student clubs with the notable exception of NYPIRG and a new gay, lesbian advocacy group operating in conjunction with administration, discovered that they no longer even had the humble "cubicles" that were used at the old campus for office space. When contrasted to the new offices of key administrators the loss of space for the students was an acquisition of space for administration. The Campus Center building, specifically built to house in part student activity space, is poorly budgeted and under the control of a new wing of the administration working under the guidelines of "risk management."

The *College Voice*, a volunteer student newspaper, and the main vehicle of student communication, along with student government, have lost 24 hour access in the move to the new campus. Before this new measure was passed student clubs, publications under the direction of student government enjoyed 24 hour access. In the St. George campus many clubs took advantage of this space by holding meetings, study groups or just for leisure. Today no such access exist.

Given these harsh conditions and the administrations lack of collaboration with various student groups many student activist are giving up on the promises of "cooperation between the two." There have been numerous discussions between student government, the college *Voice* and the administration about the issue of access but only in vain. Around the campus several student groups and individuals are starting campaigns to reverse the present course of administrative policies.

Looking For A New President

In Search Of...

by J.P. Patafio

In the beginning of the semester the Search Committee (SC) met for the first time to go over some ground rules and a projected timetable for hiring CSI's next president. It may not be until the beginning of May that CSI students, faculty and staff meet the finalists. Mrs. Rodin of central administration, Director of Public Information, said there is no time schedule in place and is unsure whether the meetings will be open to the public after the names of the final candidates are disclosed. At present, committee meetings are not open to the public.

At this point a want ad is circulating in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and the SC is waiting for responses. In the beginning of April the applicants will be reviewed and interviews will begin shortly thereafter. Six candidates will be picked and three finalists will be voted by the SC. The finalists will entertain campus visits and meet with CSI administrators, faculty and selected students. Each group will then submit a report about the three finalist, forward it to the chancellor who will then make her recommendation to the CUNY Board Of Trustees (BOT). The final vote will be held by the BOT and Chancellor Reynolds at a private meeting. The final committee meeting will be May 26th, but the process can last into the summer.

The committee consist of 11 people, four members of the board of trustees, one CUNY campus president (DR. Moses of CCNY), three CSI faculty, two CSI students and one CSI alumni. The committee will be chaired by board member Susan Moore of Staten Island. The Chief of Staff of the SC is Dr. Brenda Spatt, who will coordinate the activities of the committee and busy oneself with visiting prospective candidates.

Sighting the tumultuous relationship between the CSI campus and central administration (BOT and the chancellor), there is potential for a split. Even if the CSI representatives vote as a block, which will give them a six votes to five advantage, in the end the outcome will be determined without their participation. At a closed meeting amongst the BOT and chancellor the election of CSI's next president. There are concerns that at this point since there is no outside pressure to monitor the meeting, the chancellor and board can vote for the person who best suits their agenda.

Student Reps Cynical

The two CSI representatives are student government (SG) President Nanci Richards and SG senator Tam Taaffe. Though both spoke under "conditions of confidentiality," they were able to express that many obstacles present in the existing structure are likely to impede their ability to deliver what students need.

The selection process of the next CSI president underscores the undemocratic nature of the CUNY administration from top to bottom. Decisions effecting tens of thousands of students and employees are made without their participation. The student representatives are in the uncomfortable position of trying to reflect student needs yet due to the structural restrictions most student activists

realize that their concerns will fall on deaf ears when dealing with administration. It is with this understanding that the two student representatives have become "cynical" about their roles on the SC.

When the student representatives were asked about their strategy towards the process, they responded by pointing to the most immediate problem facing CUNY - the centralization of authority and consolidation. Concerned that the chancellor will maneuver and place someone in position who will do her bidding they feel that creating a voting block with other CSI representatives will help to secure "the best selection." The strategy of incorporating as many students, faculty and staff as possible in the

Student Representatives are cynical towards this search committee

process thereby challenging the apparent autocratic nature of the procedure was not sighted as an immediate task.

Representative Taaffe understands that the odds for a positive outcome are slim to none. "There are a number of ways that the chancellor can intervene in the process and get her way." Despite this admission he is still willing to participate in the process. He concedes that structural changes are needed but has no intention of challenging it through the committee. His philosophy of "power is a relationship" leads him to have an inside-outside strategy by attempting to influence the committee members closest to him politically. He acknowledged that within the present structure two students cannot impact substantial change, it remained unclear whether he would attempt to use this process to build a grassroots movement.

Both agreed students should be well informed participants in the process yet Nanci Richards cites the problem of lack of student mobilization as one reason why the process remains closed to students. Taaffe believes that the way to open up the process is not by challenging it directly but by forming voting blocks. This he believes will assure that the students use their two votes to choose the "best candidates."

However, it remains unclear whether or not there is a broader strategy that seeks to incorporate the majority of students, staff and faculty into the process either through the calling for direct elections of the next president or by opening up the process to the general public and wresting control from central administration.

College Of Staten Island Presidential Search Committee

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(Chairperson)

Member, Board of Trustees
The City University of New York

The Honorable Michael J. Del Giudice
Member, Board of Trustees
The City University of New York

The Honorable Stanley Fink
Member, Board of Trustees
The City University of New York

The Honorable Charles Inniss
Member, Board of Trustees
The City University of New York

Dr. Yolanda T. Moses
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The City College of New York

Dr. Jane Coffee
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Dr. Sandi Cooper
Professor, Department of History, CSI

Dr. Fred Naider
Professor, Department of Chemistry, CSI

Dr. Charles Auer
Alumni Representative

Ms. Nanci Richards
Student Representative

Mr. Thomas Taaffe
Student Representative

Chief Of Staff:

Dr. Brenda Spatt
Associate Dean for Executive Search and Evaluation

—Patafio

You are Listening to "WSIA-ngry"

Campus Center Neon Signs Have WSIA Members Wondering, "Where's ours?"

by Ed Hicks

Since the inception of WSIA, 88.9 FM in 1981, the campus radio station has had all the luck of Los Angeles residents. WSIA has battled Mother Nature, enduring numerous lightning blasts that struck their transmitter, knocking the station off the air anywhere from two days to two months.

WSIA has battled obscurity, languishing in the basement of the infamous "E" building on the Sunnyside campus. "I would join WSIA if I could find it," said one befuddled CSI student.

But for all the indignities suffered by WSIA members past and present, there was a light at the end of the tunnel. That light was in the form of brand new facilities at the Willowbrook campus.

A new home, state of the art equipment and a big neon sign to let everyone know that WSIA is on the map, ready and willing to embrace the eager student body.

As you might have read in an old issue of the College Voice, former CSI president Volpe nixed the WSIA neon sign, stating that the sign "went against the neo-Georgian styling of the campus." Volpe also didn't want the sign because he felt it would mislead students into thinking that the whole building was WSIA.

WSIA members were outraged and demanded a meeting with Volpe to try and get the sign reinstated. They were flatly refused and after some time passed, the whole matter was swept under the rug and never talked about again.

WSIA station members, (who, ironically, participated in the Volpe rallies in October) licked their wounds and accepted the fact that there would be no neon sign.

Well, a funny thing happened on the way to the radio station a couple of weeks ago. Construction workers were erecting neon signs for the bookstore and the Green Dolphin. And this angered WSIA personnel to no end.

"It's unfair that the college would pro-

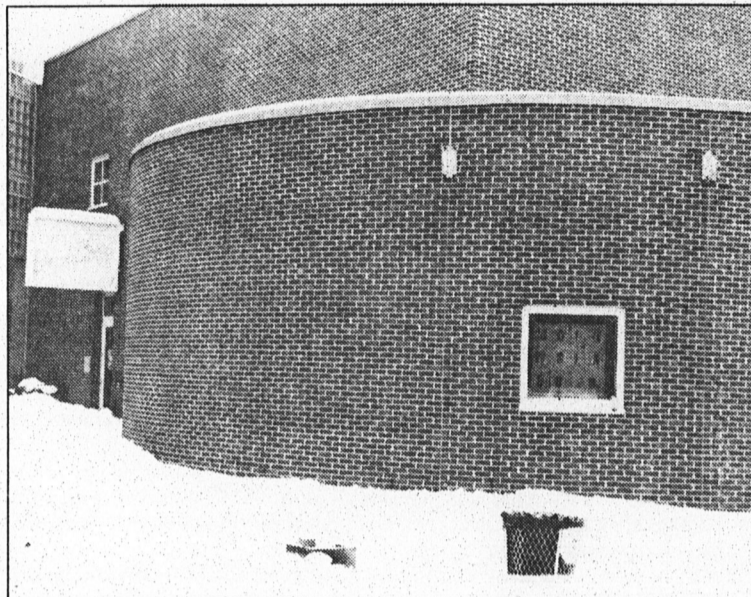


Photo / Nanci Richards

Former President Edmond Volpe nixed a neon sign for WSIA-FM because he believed the sign contrasted too greatly with the architectural design of the Campus Center. Not surprisingly, WSIA students are irate over the recent resurrection of similar signs at the bookstore (left) and the Green Dolphin. (The two fixtures, to the right and left, above the "Join WSIA" window were constructed for the purposes of a WSIA sign, before Volpe rejected the idea.)

mote a commercial enterprise like the bookstore, which makes money off college students, but they will not put up a sign promoting a student organization," said Brian Roach, co-music director at WSIA.

"WSIA is here to benefit students and possibly act as a stepping stone to a career out of college, not to exploit the average college student for over-priced textbooks."

"I've always been disappointed by this decision," said Greg Adamo, general manager of WSIA. "The bookstore is a commercial operation and WSIA is a public service operation. The students who work here

have a right to be mad and a right to be heard."

Another argument to nix the neon was the location of WSIA. Volpe contested that WSIA is in a high visibility area next to the bookstore and the cafeteria, so there would be no need for the sign.

But Volpe's shortsightedness reared its ugly head at Good Morning CSI, which is a CLUE program designed to provide education for students outside of the classroom.

Sally Modugno, who is assistant to the general manager at WSIA, attended these meetings and gave speeches three to four

times a week during the month of September about WSIA to the students and met with pathetic, but not surprising results.

"The majority of the students have never heard of WSIA, and these aren't just freshmen that I was dealing with," said Modugno. "People who have been here for a year or more were saying 'There's a radio station here?'"

What is more astonishing than WSIA's lack of exposure is the aloofness in regard to the "commercial" neon. Dean Carol Jackson, who actually listens to the voice of the students, contested that the bookstore and lounge neon signs were indoors. She went further to say that those signs would not have been erected if they were outside.

Apparently, Jackson and Volpe haven't strolled by the cafeteria recently, for the neon signs are outside doing what neon does best: being seen.

"I've always felt that the neon signs were a part of the plan," said Adamo. "It was the architect's idea to mix the neon color with the grays and whites of the buildings, but for some reason, Volpe nixed our sign and not the others."

"It was not his (Volpe's) intent to alienate WSIA," said Jackson. "He saw the grid on the building and asked what it was for. When he was told it was for WSIA's neon sign, he was against it totally. We pleaded with him to reconsider, but he was adamantly against it."

Will the new neon signs be taken down when they are "discovered?" "I can't speak for anyone," said Jackson.

So WSIA, yet again, feels the pain of an outside force stunting its growth. Whether it's Mother Nature's fury or Volpe's lack of vision, WSIA keeps absorbing the abuse like a frightened child. No voice. No results.

"Everytime I go past the bookstore and see the sign, I am reminded that we didn't get our sign and that bothers me," said Adamo.

Radio Station's Ceiling in Danger of Collapse

by Egan Gerrity

Pity the students at WSIA, Staten Island's only radio station and one of CSI's most popular student organizations. A Convex parabola has formed on the ceiling of its brand new production studios, forcing the millions of dollars of equipment that were recently installed, to be taken out. Currently the sagging ceiling has been stabilized with rough cut four-by-fours to prevent damage to equipment and personnel.

An employee of TBX Contracting, the group responsible for constructing the Campus Center, was the first to notice the problem on January 25th. The radio production equipment was hastily removed and the ceiling braced. John Ladley, the station's production engineer, said "Who knows what caused this but it's definitely structural and needs some major work."

The near collapse has put production to a halt. "Community service messages and Front Row radio (a live broadcast featuring local bands) has been canceled," said Greg Adamo the General Manager of WSIA.

"Things are normally hectic here but this is too much" Ladley added.

Repairs are to begin soon and are expected to take two days. No dates have been set. Engineers and workers have visited the station and are planning to begin very soon. "Until they take the ceiling apart, human error is to blame," said Ladley.

The cost of the repair is unknown. "It's early in the situation and I don't expect the money for repairs to come out of student funds," said Adamo, the General Manager. He added, "The contractor (TBX) has been very cooperative and is expected to make good on this." Equipment is piled high in an auxiliary room, unused and in disarray. "This is \$50,000 worth of digital state of the art equipment" said Adamo. "It's easy ripping the equipment out but, it's difficult to put it together. It has to be installed and calibrated."

To date, it's still undecided who will pay for reinstallation of the production equipment.

Negotiations are taking place between Mike Daniels, the Campus Centers Building Manager, and TBX to resolve the situation.

How Long Before The Snow Falls Through?

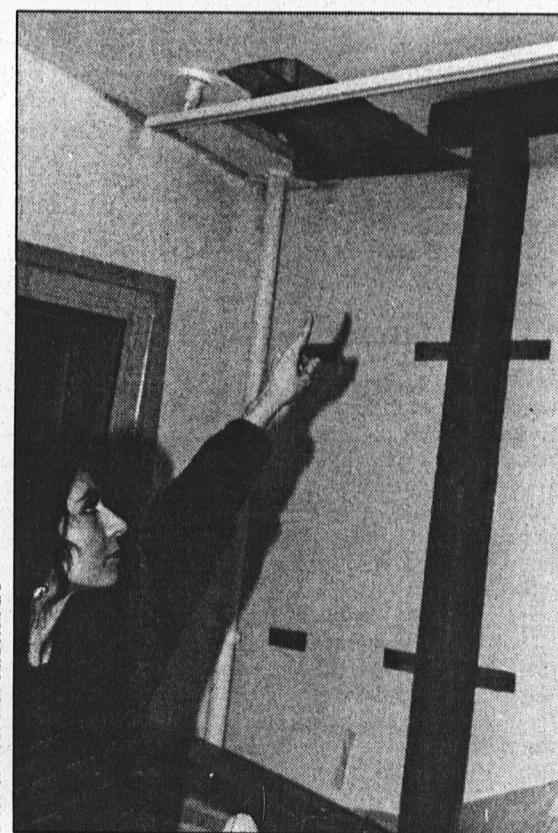


Photo / Nanci Richards

WSIA's assistant to the General Manager Sally Modugno points out the obvious problem: a huge hole in the wall. The station's production room, which would normally house thousands of dollars worth of equipment, was felled in late January by faulty construction

Registrar: More Students Registering at CSI

by Peter C. Guagenti

On February 4th, the Registrar's office released the Spring 1994 Enrollment Estimate Report, which gives an estimated count of the number of students attending the College of Staten Island. The figures in this report show an increase in students compared to the Spring of 1993.

There are approximately 412 more students attending CSI this term; from 11,789 in '93 to 12,201 now enrolled. By some, this is seen as good news after the release of the 1993 report, which showed a drastic decrease in the student body; about 328 less students attending in '93 than there were in '92. The Registrar's office states that the drop from the 1992 figures could be accounted for by a tuition increase in the Fall of that year, which raised the cost of non-degree tuition by \$125.00, while other tuitions remained the same. This hypothesis is backed up by the fact that over 79% of the students who left were non-degree students.

What do these figures entail?

Many people at CSI hope it's a raise in funding, for one. With this increase in the student population, the College of Staten Island will be entitled to more money from the government. More than a few

students I spoke with expressed that a rise in funding will lead to an increase in the spectrum of courses offered, as well as the total number of classes held under each of these course titles, which will lead to a smaller class sizes.

Due to a large reductions in classes offered (mainly Liberal and Fine Arts classes), many students are complaining of not being able to take courses which they need to fulfill their major. According to one administrator within CUNY, speaking on the condition anonymity, with more federal funding CSI could afford to add classes to make up for this increase in demand. However, according to another source, the money which the new students bring to the school will not completely pay for such additions.

With a well expressed need for funding from the government, every one I spoke with, from administrators to students, saw this increase in the headcount as a sign of hope for the future of CSI at its new home in Willowbrook. However, without proper increase of funds for more classes and full-time professors, this "hope" can lead to increased frustration because students are locked out of classes which they need in order to graduate.



More and more people are lining up to register at CSI.

Photo / Peter Guagenti

Security Vs. Education

Continued from page One

a conciliatory manner. Ron McGuire, a student advocate lawyer, attributes this lack of respect for due process and academic freedom to Chancellor Reynolds and Central Administration.

Although this draft never came to fruition, the centralization of security has not subsided. The Elique memorandum draft was "formulated within the scope and intent of the Chancellor's Security Initiative." Chancellor Ann Reynolds' Security Initiative, was first introduced in the Spring of '93, and mimics the security structure she implemented while she was chancellor of the state university in California. The Initiative includes the plan to lay-off private security, such as WatchDog at the College of Staten Island, and replace them with a CUNY employed security force trained at Central Headquarters. The expansion of a Security force is still in store, despite the failure of the Elique Memorandum. At CSI there will be 35 new Level 1 Security officers by the end of this semester and 75 new officers by next year.

In the 1994-1995 Budget Request by Chancellor Reynolds, it is stated in section *Protecting People and Property* what their projected goals are. "By the end of 1993-1994, the complement of campus security officers and supervisors placed across CUNY will grow to more than 400 employees at the senior colleges and 200 at the community colleges. In 1994-1995, the Initiative will be expanded to include staffing at all of the colleges." The implementation of the security initiative parallels the implementation of consolidation. Similar to the initial consolidation draft, the Goldstein Proposal, the Elique memorandum has been "officially" rejected but the overall strategy continues.

The 1994-1995 Budget Request asked that the State funds currently issued to private security contracts be transferred to "personal service." In addition to this re-allocation of funds to the Chancellor's "personal" disposal, Chancellor Reynolds also requested a total of \$5.3 million for her Security Initiative (\$3.7 million to senior colleges and \$1.6 to local campuses.) When the total requested for the security initiative is compared to the total requested for providing undergraduate teaching, calculations conclude that the increases in Security Initiative is over one-third of increases allocated to providing instructors. In addition, funds sought for Financial Aid to assist undergraduate students is a mere \$8.7 million increase. In fact, Library Initiatives seek \$4.4 million—almost \$1 million less than what is sought for security.

These figures have been taken from the The Chancellor's 1994-1995 Budget Request, therefore they do not accurately reflect the lump total of the money that will go towards an increase in security forces. The Chancellor is also requesting that the State funds in Other Than Personal Service (OTPS) line (which is currently State-mandated as a line that serves to provide Financial Aid, Salary increases, handicap service for emergency or inflationary increases) be permanently transferred to the "personal" line where it will further finance the expensive process of implementing the Security Initiative. Whether this budget passes or not, not only will the current funds that are allocated to private security be converted to the "personal" line, plus an additional \$5.3 million towards security, but the present OTPS line will be converted to "personal" permanently. This drastic increase in security is unprecedented in CUNY's history.

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Italian-Americans Settle Suit with CUNY

Is Reynolds on the Ropes? Well, Not Quite, But...

by Thomas Deignan

Perhaps writing a conclusion to a protracted legal battle that has spanned two decades, Italian-American professors at CUNY have reached a settlement in a discrimination suit it had filed against the University. Under the terms of the settlement, the John D. Calandra Italian-American Institute will remain at the Graduate Center in Manhattan, rather than move to the College of Staten Island, as had been proposed by CUNY Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds in 1991, a move many saw as an attempt by the chancellor to tacitly dismantle the institute, as well as its political voice, which was quite critical of CUNY on several issues.

Other terms of the settlement: Queens College, where the Calandra institute will be administered from, will appoint a distinguished professor of Italian-American studies, the representatives of the Calandra Institute will withdraw their charges of discrimination, Italian-Americans will remain an affirmative action group at CUNY, and all future disputes will be settled by arbitration.

"We are very pleased with the settlement. I believe we got about 95% of what we could have gotten and I believe it's a good settlement," said Dr. Joseph Scelsa,

the director of the Calandra institute and case's principal plaintiff. Scelsa speculated that CUNY came through with a settlement because it finally came to a conclusion, given Federal Judge Constance Baker Motley's constant repudiations of CUNY, that it could not win the case. Scelsa also acknowledged that New York State played a decisive role in the ultimate resolve of this situation, as it did with the ongoing feud between Chancellor Reynolds and CSI President Edmond Volpe, which is well-documented throughout the Italian-American episode (see accompanying chronology) and culminated with her decision to remove Dr. Volpe as President of CSI last October.

As Scelsa, who also remains director of the Calandra institute as a result of the settlement, stated "The state realized that this something it had better get done."

Scelsa also added that there were some in the Italian-American ranks who may be "discontented" with the settlement, but he felt a majority were in favor of it.

The origins of this case stretch back to 1976, when CUNY chancellor Robert Kibbe acknowledged that Italian-Americans deserved affirmative action status.

by Thomas Deignan

As Ronald Reagan proved, demise comes not from gradual and systematic restructuring to the detriment of many, but from one or two highly publicized mistakes that have little effect, in reality, on the masses. The situation is similar with CUNY Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds. Her critics assert (and her record supports) that she is a power-hungry autocrat interested in streamlining CUNY and limiting access to the public University system. Given her academically sadistic priorities, one would wonder why students and faculty alike are not screaming for her head. A small clique of active people are, and have been doing so since Reynolds became Chancellor in 1990, but for the most part, Reynolds, and Governor Cuomo, have been able to anonymously implement drastic cuts on CUNY at a very small political price.

However, while the Chancellor can, and probably will continue to, get away with anti-student policies, if her hands are dirtied in another public incident, the Governor, her boss, is going to begin wondering if she's not more trouble than she's worth. When those out-of-touch State Assembly members wake from their Albany snooze and start questioning her, and those same revelations about her past come forth and pop open a few more eyes, and martyrs lie in her wake, she is only asking for trouble. In short, when Governor Cuomo has to come in and handle a situation that she has publicly allowed to spin out of CUNY's strange, esoteric circles and onto the pages on *The New York Times*, even she may be powerless, simply because she is spending the political capital of forces much greater than her.

This is not to say, by the way, that there is any reason to think that Reynolds will be leaving her job soon. However two incidents in the past six months have proven out of Reynolds' grasp, and in need of the Governor's soothing, up-for-re-election hands: the mess involving CSI's President Edmond Volpe, and the lagging litigation, finally resolved, between CUNY and Italian-American faculty members at CUNY.

The former legitimately could have meant the end of Reynolds. For all Cuomo has spoken good about her, and even discounting the extent he needs her to continue streamlining CUNY, if she publicly eggs Cuomo's face too much, he will abandon her in seconds and find someone else just as...well...good or bad, depending on whose needs.

And she looked *real* bad during the Volpe episode. The image of Reynolds as a tyrannical and high-strung power monger came through, juxtaposed with the congenial, 70 year-old, Burl Ives-esqe, President-of-the-people demeanor of her victim. If CSI were *The New York Post*, she was Rupert Murdoch to Volpe's Pete Hammill; he a deposed leader, who would not cave into the whims of the outsider.

In the wake of this mess, the anti-Reynolds screamers screamed louder, but this time, there were actually interested ears out there,

ears that were connected not only to students and staff, but local news vans and editorial pages. In addition, State Legislature members were outraged, as was Borough President Guy Molinari. We're not talking about irreparable damage here, but it is clear Cuomo had some serious damage control to do. And when it all dies down, it proved to be the first very public black mark on Reynolds' record. It was the type of incident that the public at large—the people who don't think about this stuff everyday or every week—will remember negatively. Like Reagan's Iran-Contra, it was far from his biggest sin, but it's the one he's branded with. Unlike her policies pertaining to academia, which can be justified as

good or bad, depending on where ones interests and allegiances lie, this was a much grander gaffe: this was both a political and a public relations error, the most vile of all American sins.

And before it's all over my sense of the entire convoluted mess that comprises the Italian-American situation is similar. For such a seemingly narrow topic, it involved many figures from Volpe again, to Dino Cinel to, yes, the State Legislature. And again, despite it being a narrow issue, Cuomo and the state had to be called in. The public barely budged at the settlement, announced in January, but ill tastes are left in the mouth of all those involved, with the exception, really, of the Italian-American faculty members, who won, were almost totally vindicated, and never like Reynolds anyway. Cuomo, on the other hand, had to appear indifferent despite the fact that he is an Italian-American, as Reynolds and CUNY spent dollars on dollars and stubbornly refused to settle the case. Then finally, Cuomo's people stepped in to broach a settlement. Do you really think Governor Cuomo, or anyone in his office, from his chief-of-staff to his paperclip retriever really wants to deal with this stuff? But it is Ann Reynolds' public miscalculating that is forcing the Governor to get involved and dirty his hands. It seems fair to say that what the Volpe incident did to public perception of Reynolds, the Italian-American incident did to insider perception. The insiders know who she is and what she is about, they just didn't think she'd get caught. And for a second time, she did.

And that's where the Reagan analogy comes in. If he hadn't been so neatly pinned (however messy the facts were) in Iran-Contra, the public would not be as hostile to the Reagan legacy as it is. Similarly, when Reynolds commits an act attributable to her temper or stubbornness or desire for control, she is begging for all eyes to turn to her real crimes, her legacy as an educator at CUNY. And if this happens, she'll go down in flames, and her subordinate, Governor Cuomo, looking so weak already, would have no choice but to literally turn his back on her, or pay a political price that is far too expensive as election time ebbs closer. Especially when he could get someone else to streamline CUNY just as easily as Reynolds.

An Analysis

The CUNY/Italian-American Confrontation

1976 - Robert J. Kibbe, CUNY chancellor, acknowledges shortcomings in the treatment of Italian-Americans at CUNY, and designates them an affirmative action group.

1986 - A letter from CUNY Chancellor James Murphy reaffirms the status of Italian-Americans and acknowledges still-existing shortcomings.

1991 - CUNY chancellor W. Ann Reynolds proposes, with the consent of President Edmond L. Volpe, relocating the John D. Calandra Italian-American Institute from the CUNY Graduate Center in Manhattan to the College of Staten Island, a proposal hailed as a political attempt to splinter the chancellor's enemies at the Calandra Institute.

November 1992 - Federal Judge Constance Baker Motley halts the proposed move by issuing an injunction, disallowing CUNY to make any administrative changes at the Calandra Institute. In a scalding 51-page decision, Motley writes "It is clear that CUNY's employment of Italian-Americans is not only significantly less than what it should be, it is also unconscionable given the existence of an affirmative action commitment on the part of CUNY."

February 1993 - The Italian-American faculty Staff and Advisory Council sends a letter to CUNY Board of Trustees Chairman James P. Murphy calling for Reynolds' resignation, saying that her handling of the Calandra situation and Motley's decision "raises serious doubts about the about the Chancellor's ability to function effectively as head of a major public institution as CUNY."

March 1993 - The situation heats up as CSI's President Volpe becomes ensnared in the controversy. A letter dated August 28, 1992 surfaces, in which Volpe, the only Italian-American president at CUNY, tries to dissuade Chancellor Reynolds from relocating the institute to CSI. He cites concern for the community however many on the side of the Calandra institute question his sincerity and Dr. Joseph Scelsa, the Calandra Institute's director, claims that Volpe is backing out because he discovered that he would not be controlling the Institute's funding, the Chancellor would. Volpe, who has also been criticized for allowing CSI's own hiring of Italian-Americans to falter, is also accused of acting along with the Chancellor to silence Scelsa. Volpe denies these accusations, noting that nothing in the letter supports these assertions.

April 1993 - Italian-Americans send a scathing letter to President Volpe blasting his actions and saying that his has been a "...policy of exclusion; of promoting a self-serving agenda supported by a small coterie of careerists." Particularly embarrassing for President Volpe and CSI, was the allusion to the debacle that led to the nomination of Dino Cinel as a Distinguished Professor of Italian-American Studies. Volpe was criticized for excluding all active Italian-American faculty members from the process, and Cinel, it was eventually discovered, had had alleged sexual relations with minors.

June 1993 - Motley again rebukes CUNY, denying its request to set aside the injunction which bars the relocation of the Calandra Institute.

September 1993 - Motley again rebukes CUNY, ordering CUNY to pay for all attorney's fees accrued as the case unfolds.

October 1993 - President Volpe, voted out by the CUNY Board of Trustees, ponders signing on to the Italian-American lawsuit against CUNY.

January 1994 - The case is finally settled and a press release, written on behalf of the Italian-American complaint, asserts that "The settlement...saved CUNY and Chancellor Reynolds the embarrassment of another public spectacle, a Department of Labor investigation and the ire of Italian-American legislators..."

— Deignan

DINO CINEL
130 STUYVESANT PL
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301-1907

This letter, addressed to Dino Cinel, ended up being delivered to CSI. Cinel was nominated as a Distinguished Professor of Italian American Studies but was dropped when allegations surfaced that he had sexually abused children.

CHILD CARE CENTER ON HOLD

by Petka Orlovic

A great number of people returning to school have children. At the College of Staten Island, the head of the Child Care Center is Cynthia Murphy. She has a well organized staff and a variety of programs to help both parents and their children organize their education. There are 70 children at the center and the parents are comprised of a variety of groups. There are two family households as well as single-headed households. About 1/3 of the children come from minority backgrounds, African-American, immigrants, as well as single working mothers. 40 of the 70 children at the center have parents who receive Federal Grants. The importance of having a functional Day Care Center is crucial to the success of families striving to obtain degrees that will secure their financial future.

The students' children can attend while their parents are in classes. The age of children ranges from thirty one months and six years of age. The location of the Children's center is at the Sunnyside Campus in J building. The new Children's Center at the Willowbrook Campus will open for the Fall 1994. However, Spring 1993 was the established date. The center is open on weekdays from 7am to 9pm, Saturdays from 8am to 5pm. The Center offers a pre-school program which imparts "learning experiences" and a school-age program with "problem solving activities". The pamphlet advertising the Center makes a point of writing that they do not discriminate and are open to children students "regardless of age, class, differing abilities, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation." Yet, to pass the registration one requires, "a copy of paid bursar receipt", "health and immunization records", "food program form" and an "income documentation form" among other things.

Our children's center is run by a corporation which has to organize the funds allocated for child care. In this there are Federal funds, State funds, and a 2\$ per head from students' activity fee. To organize these fees CUNY-wide, the heads of each particular Child Care Center take hours out of their jobs to engage in necessary bureaucratic organization of the funding. This time consuming operation is due to the fact that there is no central child care coordinator specifically assigned to allocate funds. One of the Center's demands is to have one, but such a position does not exist. Consequently, Child Care is not a priority for the Central Administration and has been left open for private funding at each of the local Colleges.

One of the main problems arising from the fact that this childcare service is not provided by the CUNY administration is that the child care staff have no pension plan and are not unionized. The workers are not employed by the City Board of Education, but directly by their corporate boards. The teachers at the Center are professionals, education certified, however, their salaries are below the CUNY faculty's, despite the equal qualifications.

To get your name on the waiting list contact the center at: 718-720-4359.



PHOTO/PETER GUAGERTI

Diane Paris (left), president of the student organization, Parents as Students, discusses the problems of daycare with Cynthia Murphy, who is in charge of operations at the childcare center.

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Improve Access Now

Continued from page one

closed, the college has officially left behind the shuttle bus service that many students and faculty depended upon for transportation, not only to and from school, but so that they could, in a timely fashion, get from school to work, or other responsibilities that the demands of college life make tough to meet. The shuttle bus service had been convenient and dependable (and free), running every twenty minutes until early evening. Today, however, with the suspension of service to St. George, this lost service stands as a harsh detriment to both student's and faculty, who depend on easy access to Staten Island's transportation system, most specifically the ferry.

Library hours, meanwhile, also vital to a student's academic life, remain severely limited. In addition, a marked lack of books, journals, and other additional resources only serves to exacerbate the scarce hours. For weekend and evening students especially, the library might as well not exist. For example, if a student must attend a weekend class, given the 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekend hours, and the weekend class schedule, which is 9:00-12:20 and 12:45-4:10, one wonders when the a student is supposed to use the library to any worthwhile extent. Even if the student goes before or after class, this amounts barely to three hours of access a week. Are these the circumstances under which students perform best? CUNY students are often criticized for not working hard or for being second-best, however before the quality of the student is assessed, the priorities of the institution under which they operate should be assessed. And CUNY, given the Chancellor's 1994-1995 budget request, seems intent not on prioritizing education and access, but, for some unknown reason, security initiatives.

These losses make the lack of 24-hour access to student club space seem like a luxury worth forgetting. However it is vital that students remember that this goal is worth achieving because student clubs should be a vital part of any campus. In addition, some clubs—The College Voice among them—need 24-hour access to complete school or club-oriented work.

In such instances the relationship between local and central administration becomes quite clear. Each, through a startling mix-up of priorities, hinders greatly college life for students at CSI, and throughout CUNY. The task facing student activists is to forge movements against these actions that seek to restrict access and call for extended library hours, free shuttle bus service or bus passes for every student, and 24-hour access to all student facilities. A victory on the campus of CSI will only be secured by a CUNY-wide rally to dismantle that \$65 million dollar boondoggle known as CUNY's central administration at East 80th street.

CSI Takes a Beating on Secession

Theoretically, a democracy works when citizens vote selfishly—in other words, with their own interests in mind. This way, the theory goes, the politician who meets the interests of the largest number of the populace is elected to carry out the pluralistic needs of the majority, while of course, tending to the sensitivities of the minority. Needless to say, not often does this happen. Instead, people vote for imagery and slogans, with their hearts rather their heads, rarely aware of how their direct interests will be affected.

Such is the likely case of CSI students voting for Staten Island secession. Given the large margin of victory a split from New York City achieved, it is safe to say that a large number of CSI students were for the split, or at least a large number did not vote against it. As a result, if Mayor Giuliani is ignorant enough to let secession come to fruition, lower-level CSI students, and all future CSI students, will face an even more restricted state of higher education on Staten Island.

As this editorial space warned before the election, secession would mean nothing good for college students on Staten Island. Recently released plans to nothing to debunk this sentiment. As currently envisioned, CSI would become a SUNY school, offering two and four year degrees, and there would be a local council appointed to look after it. But the real evils glare under the light of further examination. Of course, SUNY schools are approximately twice as expensive as CUNY schools, which have faced massive tuition hikes already. Imagine, in other words, if CUNY tuition were increased again—up to 50%—next year. That is what secession means to CSI.

Sadly enough however, financially, this option still remains the best for Staten Island's many working and middle class students. Because beyond CSI, there are much more expensive private schools (St. John's and Wagner), and the CUNY school in the other boroughs won't be any help because, while this is not confirmed, in all likelihood, Staten Island residents, aside from having to travel by train, ferry and train to get to another CUNY, will not enjoy the less-expensive benefit of CUNY because...you got it, CUNY costs more for non-City residents, exactly what Staten Islanders will be!

Meanwhile, the problem of access, if you have the money, is really only half of a problem because open-admission will be maintained, but only for the two year degree students. Students looking for a four year degree will have to face SUNY's much more rigorous entrance standards, or, given the financial and academic hassle, perhaps many will simply forego college and enter the "work force."

Of course, it doesn't end there. The so-called "council" that will be appointed to look after CSI will represent the largest (though by governmental standards quite adequately-sized) sham of all. The board will be comprised of ten members, nine appointed by the governor, one elected by students. On top of that, the governor's appointees serve a seven year term, while the student serves one year. The question this begs, of course, is at whose behest does this college operate? Whose interests does it truly serve?

The first secession hurdle is done and over. However students who pulled the lever for it can still keep it from culminating. Senator Marchi's children, in all likelihood, can afford to attend a SUNY, or a private school, or an Ivy-League school for that matter. Can you? A question worth pondering the next time you offer your opinion on secession.

Philosophical Feedback

To the Editor,

I am writing to make some observations about Professor Simpson's letter to the editor (College Voice December/January 1993). Professor Simpson was writing in response to Dr. Erica Polakoff's article, "Tolerating Misogyny" printed in the December 2, 1993 issue of the College Voice.

Professor Simpson attempts to redefine Dr. Polakoff's subject (our "rape culture") by making several narrowing distinctions (including at least one which is simply wrong) and then finishes with a gesture toward the practice of the virtues as a solution to his redefined problem. In doing this Professor Simpson misses the import of Dr. Polakoff's article while managing to play the role of Western philosopher quite well.

The Western philosophical response to any real (social or cultural) problem, at least for the better part of the 20th Century, has been to clarify the problem and make what seem to be appropriate distinctions. Thus the normative actions of philosophers (mostly males in dialogue with other males) tend to dissolve the lived experience of real problems into problems as Western philosophers like to see them. Problems lose context, relevance and become abstract cases filled with interesting but often meaningless distinctions; the lived dimensions of experienced situations become diminished in the flattening apparatus of the rational. In this way Western philosophers have protected themselves from coming face-to-face with the culture which they help to perpetuate, one deeply imbued with rationalized violence and sexism.

Although an appeal to the virtues always seems admirable, we must remember that the Homeric virtues, and the later Aristotelian articulation of them, came out of a male dominated culture which sponsored a stunning level of violence in the world as it was then. Since then Western culture has continued to practice violence on an increasingly global scale, employing technologies, both bold and subtle, the rational underpinnings of which bear close resemblance to our much vaunted "philosophical foundations." The scope of what we cannot see about ourselves as a violent culture is truly awesome.

Dr. Polakoff's article, in my reading, is an effort to raise consciousness about who we are in our culture. What are our symbols? What do we know about ourselves? What do we prize? To what do we aspire? What do we tolerate? What are the artifacts with which we surround ourselves?

The matrix from which we gather life is our culture. Awareness about our culture, on a continuum from negative to positive, is essential to true acts of learning. In this regard I read Dr. Polakoff's article as a wake-up call about a problem, however characterized, that saturates our culture and our college community and to which we seem largely oblivious. We need a heightened sense of the severity of our dilemma and of how our peculiar Western melding of rationality and violence prevents us from constructive and humane action.

Professor Simpson's characterization of rape as "brutal sexual penetration" demonstrates how easy it is to mask ourselves from the true nature of things. Rape is foremost control and domination by violence and force. Its primary nature is not sexual and to characterize it as such perpetuates various myths that many males hold about virility, strength and their sexual selves.

I respect Professor Simpson's response as an attempt to clarify the issue. But clarification is not an absolute or objective virtue that transcends time and place as many philosophers would have us believe. Let's try casting off the protective cloak of clarification for a time. Let's learn to listen to the voices of those who have been traditionally disenfranchised from the Western philosophical dialogue. In their voices we may hear something about ourselves and our culture that so far we have managed to evade.

Sincerely yours,
Allan F. DiBiase

THE COLLEGE VOICE

The College of Staten Island Student Newspaper

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A Modest Proposal

To the Editor,

The other day while beating my head into the wall trying to add a class, I had a realization. One might call it an epiphany. I came to the realization that all this frustration and agony was part of a grand design. What one might consider a school structure that is rife with flaws is actually an example of a milestone in educational achievements. It's a tough world out there, and the college is just trying to teach the students that no matter how hard you try, you are always destined to failure. In light of this revelation I decided that instead of complainin g all the time, I should try to help my school. Now, while the colleges maze is a complex one, designed to breed aggravation and fustration I believe that there are some wasted avenues that hev been overlooked. Therefore I shall offer some suggestions.

Although waiting on line may be considered a hassle by some, it still pales in comparison to the stres incurred upon reaching the computer terminal. What the school has failed to realize is that this valuable time to the student. It gives him a chance to compose his thoughts so that he can defend himself against the overpeid housewife that will greet him shortly. The student must be kept on his toes. If he were the pilot of a passenger plane that was plunging into the sea, he wouldn't have time to think, only time to act. I propose that the school hire punk rock squatters from Manhattan. Not just any Bohemian looking for inexpensive shelter, mind you, but filthy, bitter, bottle chewing, heroin shooting potential Travis Bickles. They could stand on predesignated points in the line and hustle students. Really stress them out. Imagine, you just made out your schedule, you've got ten different combinations of classes, you've got every contingency accounted for, and some cro-magnon shit kicker knocks you asid and takes your spot. you politliely tap him on the shoulder, in a

chance to rectify the situation without engaging in fisticuffs, and he turns around and proceeds to vomit all over you and your registration form. They'll never accept a form so stained so now you'll have to start all over again.

your mind is now a nervous wreck, totally unprepared for the disappointment in discovering, after an eternity's wait, that you forgot to get a signature from the sub-advisor. The school could administer the policy of getting a sub-advisor signature as a red tape entangled obstacle to your peace of mind. If you thought getting an advisor signature was senseless, then this is for you. The "purpose" of the sub-advisor would be so as to make sure you have gotten the right advisor, computers being what they are. The advisors can be chosen arbitrarily, but you would still need the sub-advisors signature. As a furhter challenge, the school could have the sub-advisors office at St. George, and only open it during the three-quarter phase of the moon.

Confusion will abound when the school starts hiring shell shocked war veterans for security and strats issuing them canisters of mace and giving them guns that fire rubber bullets. A common fustrstion at CSI is the seeking of information from ubiquitous security guards that the school hires with your tuition money, that never seem to be doing anything useful. Finding the women's bathroom will be the least of your worries when this ex-POW decides it is time to "terminate your command." It most likely won't be the last time in your life you'll have to dodge bullets, so you might as well get used to it.

I hope the school takes these considerations into mind. Menta anguish and ulcers provide the core of a well-rounded education. We would only be cheating ourselves if we tried to get around them.

Mike Russo

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Feb. 17 Forum, Racism & Sexism - 7pm, Green Dolphin Lounge, Campus Center

Feb. 19 Film *Bijou* (11am & 1:30pm) Campus Center

Feb. 23 Film *Bijou* (2:30, 5:30 & 8:15) Campus Center

Feb. 24 Forum Black Americans Politics: What is to be done? - 130pm Campus Center, Rm110

Feb. 24 Forum Race, Gender & Ethnicity Workshop - Green Dolphin Lounge, Campus Center, 1pm

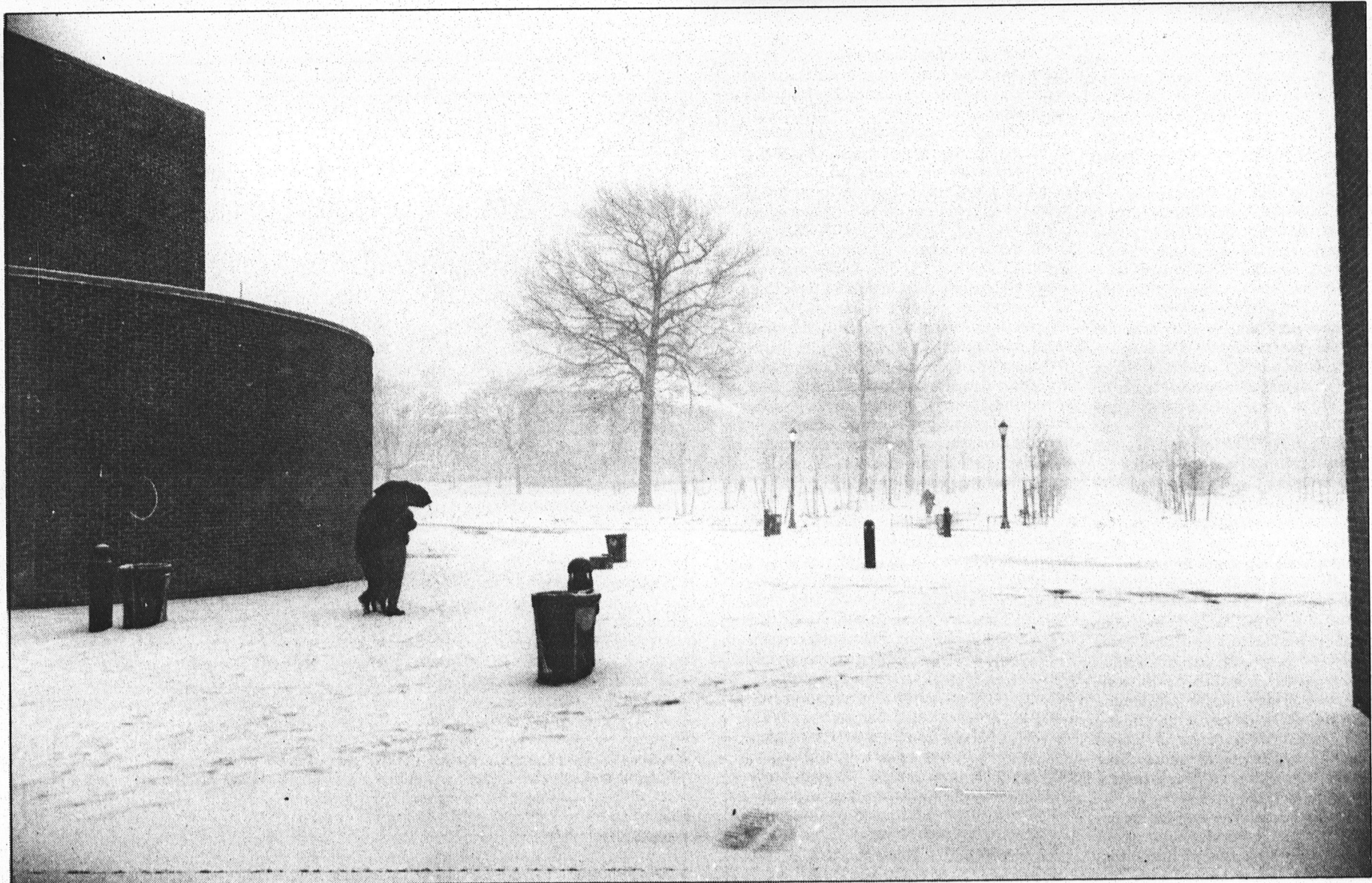
Feb. 26 Film *Bijou* (11 & 1:30) Campus Center

Deadline for the next issue is March 4

A Photographer's Portfolio

By Peter Guagenti

As annoying as the snow has been, photographer Guagenti has captured Mother Nature's more pleasant side—the Campus Center as a veritable Dickensian landscape.



The Shot Heard 'Round The Free Market

by Devon Blinth

On New Years Day, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) officially went into effect. In objection to the agreement, an insurgent force of upwards of 2,000 indigenous peasants, descended upon several towns in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas. As the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) as they are called, swept through the countryside they incarcerated members of the local police forces and attacked symbols of government authority. The Zapatistas as they are popularly called (named after Emiliano Zapata

the illusion of a prosperous Mexico when in fact the situation was just the opposite. The revolt in Chiapas, represents a justifiable desperation of the impoverished populace, "There is no housing, work education, there is no justice; we are hungry...They torture and murder our leaders," said an insurgent spokesperson, (La Jornada 2 January 1994). It is not uncommon for people to be "tried" and imprisoned without ever learning of the charges against them; to compound matters, the proceedings are conducted in Spanish only with no translation into the Mayan languages spoken by most of the region's Indians. Powerful *caciques* own the most productive lands with the police and private goon squads acting as personal enforcers. Peasant farmers on the other hand are forced onto arid useless parcels of land to scrape by on subsistence farming; what little food

market to direct U.S. competition Salinas abolished laws that supposedly empowered peasants to own their own land. This is diametrically opposed to the gains of the Mexican Revolution of 1910 that promised peasants that they would own their own land.

Facing mounting worldwide opposition to the Mexican military response to the uprising, President Salinas has moved to save face by firing a number of hard-line ministers and replacing them with a group of respected liberals. He has promised to implement a variety of social welfare programs to appease the Zapatistas and to ostensibly correct the social and economic disparities in the region. But these Maybelline cosmetic solutions are not expected to correct the fundamental root causes of poverty that has afflicted Mexico since the Spanish conquistadors defeated the Mayan empire.

This is an election year and Salinas' ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (the PRI) cannot afford to have the ballot boxes open this August with a guerrilla war on it's back; incidentally Salinas is not running for reelection so the PRI presidential candidate is Luis Colosio. The PRI could conceivably jimmy the elections as they have widely been known to do in past, but several large demonstrations against the ruling PRI party have occurred indicating that even the thought of electoral impropriety on the part of the PRI could lose it the election. For years rural Mexico has been the scene of intense conflicts over land. Today, as the reality of NAFTA takes hold, the televised images of revolt in early January will not be so uncommon.

The following is a letter to the U.S. Congress from the Zapatistas:

January 13, 1994—

We direct this letter to you to tell you that the Mexican federal government is using U.S. economic and military support to massacre Chiapas' indigenous people. We would like to know whether the U.S. congress and the citizens of the United States of North America (sic) approved this military and economic support to combat narco-trafficking or to assassinate indigenous people in southeastern Mexico. Troops, planes, radar, communications apparatus, arms and military gear are presently being used not to chase narco-traffickers and the leaders of the large drug cartels but to repress the just struggle of the Mexican people and the indigenous people in Chiapas and to assassinate innocent men women and children. We do not receive any help from foreign governments, persons or organizations. We have nothing to do with narco-trafficking or national and international terrorism. We organized ourselves willingly and of our own accord in response to our tremendous problems and grievances. We are tired of years of abuse, lies and death. We have the right to fight for our lives and dignity. We have at all times obeyed international laws on war respecting the civilian population.

With the support that the U.S. government and the people give to the federal government they are staining their hands with indigenous blood. Our longing is that of all the people in this world: true liberty and democracy. And we are prepared to give our lives for this desire. Don't stain your hands with our blood by making yourself accomplices of the Mexican government.

'As long as there is hunger there will be revolution.'

- Emiliano Zapata



revolutionary peasant leader of the early twentieth century) burned the headquarters and archives of the justice department, freed hundreds of prisoners from local jails, and commandeered stores of food and medicine, distributing them to the villagers. The EZLN held several towns including the city of San Cristobal, the third largest city in the state of Chiapas. On 4 January, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari ordered in 15,000 troops in a counterattack. Direct combat with the army lasted roughly one week during which time the government reported over one hundred deaths as a result. However some sources say the death toll is much higher. In the early days of the fighting reporters found bodies of rebels with bullet holes in the back of their heads and their hands tied behind their backs. Some human rights activists returned from a fact finding mission to Chiapas relating evidence of mass graves, attacks by the Mexican military on Red Cross personnel and torture of civilians and prisoners.

NAFTA Connection

Yes, we are the destitute, the ones who are denied the most elementary education and the government doesn't care that we don't have anything, absolutely anything; no homes no land, no work, no education. Communiqué, Zapatistas, January 1, 1994.

The State of Chiapas is located on the Pacific coast of Mexico and borders Guatemala. Most of its people are indigenous and impoverished. Chiapas has historically been the scene of many controversial land disputes and human rights abuses. Lacandon and other indigenous people have long fought with the government over land and the encroachment of lumberers, landsharks and the like.

President Carlos Salinas and his image makers have spent millions of pesos on public relations selling Team Clinton Inc.

is left over is sold on the national market; at least until the arrival of NAFTA anyway. All of these forces converge to earn Chiapas the dubious honor of being one of the most consistent violators of human rights in this hemisphere.

U.S. corporations have created industrial zones in Mexico just south of the U.S./ Mexican border called *maquiladoras*. These factories use Mexican workers to assemble parts brought in from the U.S.; the finished goods are then resold in the U.S. Many of these workers earn a minimum wage of about \$3.30 a day. In fact most Mexican wage earners are paid even less than that. The warped economy this creates has left the rest of the country, especially the rural areas, to stagnate and regress into backward, semifeudal conditions. These zones don't create an economic climate that best serves the interests of the Mexican people. When Mexican government economists analyze the national economy, their models treat the *maquiladoras* as a part of the U.S., not of Mexico. (Business Week, April 19, 1993)

With the implementation of NAFTA, low-priced food imports from the U.S. will wipe out small farmers. Already 90 percent of Chiapan communities are classified as economically marginal. Under NAFTA millions of Mexican peasants will be driven into economic oblivion. For over ten years the average Mexican wage earners buying power has dropped by over 60 percent under the draconian austerity measures instituted by the Mexican government. With the arrival of NAFTA employers have been emboldened to cut wages, ignore union contracts and quell strikes. Recently factory owners just inside the Mexican border launched a surge of firings of workers suspected of union organizing.

By opening the Mexican agricultural



The Politics of Black Struggle

by Shaista Husain & Vimukthi Jayadeva

The Post-War Boom and The Rise of Black Struggle

World War 2 forced the racist US ruling class to utilize the working class to its maximum in terms of laborpower for war time production. The massive slaughter opened the way for Blacks in areas of military service from which they were previously barred. Blacks having sacrificed a great deal in this war for "democracy" were not about to accept continuing to be deprived of elementary democratic rights at home. This heightened sense of consciousness amongst blacks coincided with a tremendous expansion of the US economy. The destruction of Europe and Japan left the US as the sole great economic power. The US ruling class was in a position to grant concessions to the working class.

The struggle against Jim Crow began in the 50's. The movement was led politically at two levels. The reform oriented Black middle class represented by organizations like the NAACP, and embodied by the figure of Martin Luther King Jr., and the Black Power movement which developed out of the gains made by mass movement against Jim Crow and segregation but faced racism in the urban centers of the U.S.

The Civil Rights movement was initiated when some students occupied a "whites only" drug-store and held a non-violent sit-in. This tactic of passive resistance soon spread all over the South. Direct action was the main ploy by the demonstrators even if they were physically attacked, beaten and even cut down by heavily armed police. This led to a national movement that began when King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) sponsored a meeting with Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in April 1960 in North Carolina.

Black Power or Liberalism

The Black Power Movement of the 1960s developed out of SNCC, Students Non-Violent Coordinated Committee, of the Civil Rights Movement but it was composed of students and radicalized urban black workers and unemployed. One organization of this movement was the Black Panther Party (BPP) which organized chapters in many states across the nation.

The politics of Black Power and the politics of moderate liberal civil rights co-

isted in an often uneasy relationship driven and sustained by the mass struggle. Black Power rooted in the urban ghettos was far more militant and developed an anti-capitalist political dynamic. Black Power opposed US aggression in Vietnam and supported the Cuban revolution and struggles

for national liberation. The development of Black Power as a contender for the ideological leadership of the civil rights movement clearly highlighted the existence of the class divisions within the black population and their centrality in determining the political course of the struggle.

In the ghettos, BPP members were combating police brutality, setting up community defense guards, free breakfast programs for children and free health services to ghetto residents. However their program of social liberation while radical did not involve a conception of broad based class struggle. This was due primarily to the fact they were comprised of urban unemployed and poor who were marginal to the process of production. Theoretically, the Panther program was drawn largely from Maoism which was characterized by its emphasis on the role of the peasantry or their urban

counterpart the poor, the unemployed, youth and other sub-proletarian layers.

The Boom Goes Bust and the Capitalist Counter-Offensive

As the Black Power movement gained momentum and became the engine of the whole civil rights movement, the ruling

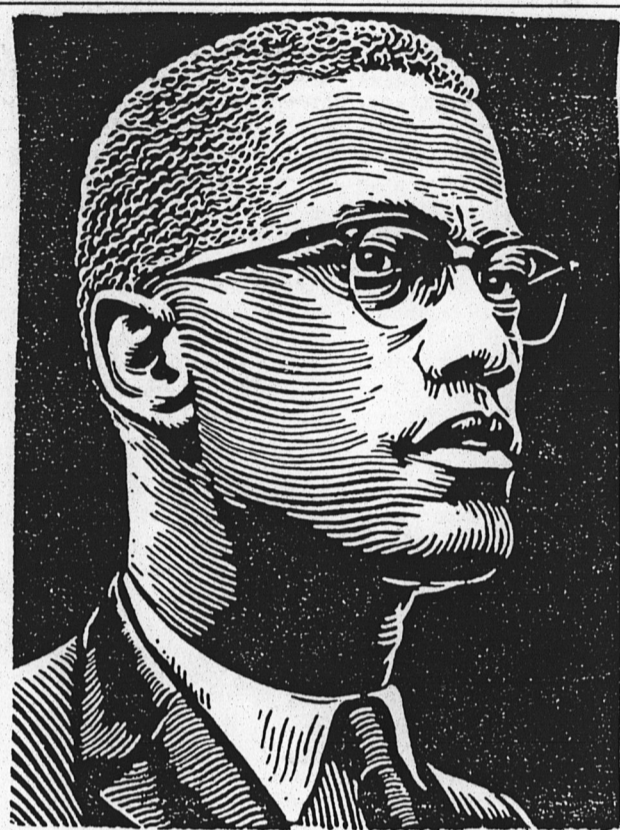
class was not willing to sacrifice its profits for the sake of racial equality.

The liberal wing of the black leadership found itself isolated, without the engine of the mass struggle and without the Black Power fuel that drove it.

The Dead-End of the Democratic Party and the Crisis of Leadership

Even though the mass movement of blacks had receded by the late 70s the impact created by these struggles continued to reverberate well past the movements demise. The 1980s witnessed the logical development of the reformist politics that dominated the movements from the 50s to the 70s. In the absence of mass mobilization the middle class leadership continued the process of trying to exact concessions from the ruling class through legalistic means. By legal, we refer to those social relations of production that are defended by force of arms i.e. the inviolability of private property. However without the power of mass struggle behind it the ruling class is under no compulsion to grant any concessions. The character of the reformist ideology thus qualitatively alters in periods of working class retreat and economic crisis. The middle class reformists fearing the loss of the petty property and prestige panics and serves as watchdogs of the bourgeoisie.

The politics of reformism found a welcome home in the arms of the Democratic Party. The object of black politics became attaining public office. However within the pro-capitalist confines of the Democratic Party the needs of the masses of black workers and poor were ne-



class began to employ ever more repressive measures. In July 1969, the FBI initiated its CONTELPRO Counter-Intelligence Program, which was particularly directed towards eliminating the BPP. In 1969 alone 29 BPP members were killed by the police and 749 were jailed or arrested. In Hoover's words, any illegal acts of suppression were justified, because the Panthers

were "the greatest threat to internal security of the country." This assault by the ruling class, followed the logic of cutting off the head in order to kill the body was quite effective. The mass movements, particularly in the urban centers found themselves without leadership and were effectively deflated.

The backdrop to this intensified repression was the decline of US capitalism which found itself on very shaky ground in the late 60's and early 70s. With the crash of 73 the post-war boom definitively ended. With its rate of profit declining, the ruling

The crisis in the black community can be summed up as a crisis of leadership. Black workers, particularly those in unions, have the social power by their ability to shut down production to lead a serious struggle for defending and extending the modest gains that the civil rights movement was able to exact.

Multi-Culturalism

Contribution to Class Consciousness and Possible Drawbacks

by Shaista Husain

It seems on the face of it almost ridiculous, even racist or ethnocentric to question the viability of the multi-cultural movement. However, when considering questions of culture, nationality, race, ethnicity, religion or related categories we must not forget the organically linked category of class.

The movement for multi-culturalism clearly lacks a class analysis or class based program of extending cultural rights. Of course when we demand the elaboration of the curriculum to include the histories, contributions and tribulations of the non-white, non-Judeo-Christian, female components of our world, that have been neglected due to sheer western cultural arrogance, we demand rights promised by the ideology of bourgeois democracy. As such we are demanding freedoms or rights that apply to all classes of society.

However the manner in which the struggle for these rights is waged must be clearly differentiated along class lines and at all times proletarian political independence must be maintained. The necessity of this becomes evident if we study the history of the multi-cultural movement. Al-

though, a multi-cultural curriculum speaks to the interests of non-white-male proletarians it is for understandable reasons being led largely by petty-bourgeois layers of the specially oppressed. For petty-bourgeois Blacks, Latinos, women, also gays and lesbians the struggle against cultural oppression takes precedence over matters of class struggle due to the sheer material ability to pay attention to these matters and the ideological function cultural pride plays in establishing a culture coated niche within capitalism where they would play leaders.

Certainly proletarians of these groups are concerned about the right to have their particular histories researched and publicized, however this for the proletarian is a component of the central struggle against capitalism, against the social relations of production which breeds cultural arrogance, racism, etc. The proletarian therefore understands that these are rights which can only begin to be fully realized under the Proletarian Dictatorship. The proletarian has nothing to gain from the schemes of the petty-bourgeois culture vendors whose program insists not on the abolishing of private capital but upon the ability to exploit or be the junior administrators

of "their own".

The struggle for Multi-culturalism represents at once an indicator of a heightened level of education and confidence of the broad masses of specially oppressed groups and a possible reformist detour from the path that made such a movement possible. Widening of the vision of academic scholarship and curriculum will facilitate a speedier disintegration of prejudices and stereotypes that have no basis in fact and that serve to divide workers. If the leadership of this struggle is left to the petty-bourgeoisie, it faces the danger of being undermined by demagogery and opportunism. The proliferation of socially powerless yet ideologically pernicious theories of African-superiority, female-superiority, etc. threaten to perpetuate mythologies of "essential", "innate", or biological characteristics albeit in a "politically correct" garb.

For the proletarian the struggle against racism, sexism and all forms of bigotry is a struggle against the distortions of human freedom under class society. Proletarian Blacks, women, Gays, etc. must make clear that the enemy lies not in a color, a gender or a sexual preference but in a system that profits off of their oppression.

glected. Instead of fighting for full employment, expanded health, education and other vital services black Democratic officials acquired the role of meting out austerity and policing discontent. Mayor Dinkin's presided over the largest expansion of the police force in New York city history. The Reverend Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition launched in the mid-80s by virtue of its independence of the two parties and its progressive social program drew considerable support from black and white workers. However with its submersion in the Democratic party it shifted decisively to the right, losing its grassroots vitality.

Towards An Independent Workers Party

As was demonstrated strikingly by the LA uprising, the tasks of Black liberation remains on the agenda. However under the reformist middle class leadership the black masses are unable to fulfill this agenda. The crisis in the black community can be summed up as a crisis of leadership. Black workers, particularly those in unions, have the social power by their ability to shut down production to lead a serious struggle for defending and extending the modest gains that the civil rights movement was able to exact. However, without a political party independent of the two capitalist parties rooted in the unions and other mass organizations the fight cannot even begin. Moreover such a political party must seek to organize and lead white workers as well on a clear anti-capitalist and anti-racist program.

The Politics of Race in the '93 Mayoral Election

In a city with a majority of registered Democrats, why did a Republican win?

by Lloyd D'Aguilar

W.E.B. DuBois once wrote that the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line. DuBois then, would hardly have been surprised that the November 1993 Mayoral election in New York city was about the color line. The majority of Blacks and Latinos (95% and 60% respectively), gave their votes to the Black incumbent mayor, David Dinkins. On the other hand, 75% of whites, who are the majority electorate, voted for the white Republican chal-

As happens in most elections when race is a factor, the race coded issue of "crime" was used to rally white voters. The mythology is that whites are on the verge of being overrun by lawless Black hordes and only a tough white man can stand up to this threat.

lenger, Rudolph Giuliani. What unmistakably clinches the argument that this was a race vote, is the fact that the city is overwhelmingly Democratic, and the re-election of Dinkins, a Democrat, should have been a mere formality.

As happens in most elections when race is a factor, the race coded issue of "crime" was used to rally white voters. The mythology is that whites are on the verge of being overrun by lawless Black hordes and only a tough white man can stand up to this threat. It mattered little that Dinkins had spent millions of scarce city dollars to put five thousand more policemen on city streets. It also mattered little that as far as the other race coded issue of "management" was concerned, that Dinkins had kept the city from being consumed by a fiscal deficit by cutting back on services that directly affected his base constituency—Black, Latinos and City workers.

What mattered to better-off white voters was that Giuliani would be tougher on crime

than Dinkins—meaning that they believed he would not hesitate to institute draconian measures to ease white paranoia about Black crime. And who would bother to scrutinize his fiscal policies once it is understood that he would target welfare cheats, end corruption in government, and prune the bureaucracy. Most importantly, no one had any doubts that in situations such as the boycott of the Korean grocery and the Crown Heights riots, both in Brooklyn, Giuliani would offer a tough response.

So what is this issue about Crown Heights and the Korean grocery boycott? Again we find a lot of mythology, and mischievous misperceptions at work. In the case of the Korean grocer, whose business was boycotted by community activists after he allegedly assaulted a Black female customer, Dinkins was faulted for not using his powers to crush this example of Black racism. But did the demonstrators have the right to demonstrate? Should the Black community not be upset about yet another immigrant businessmen adopting the racist attitudes of whites towards Blacks? There was zero concern for such issues. David Dinkins had been elected by the grace of the liberal white vote, called himself a race healer, and should be man enough to discipline his own kind.

Crown Heights was an even more charged issue. There was not much anyone could have done about the swift retaliatory killing of a Hasidic rabbinical student after a Black child had been killed, and another seriously injured, by a Hasidic driver. Who cared that emotions were fanned by the Jewish ambulance service which upon arrival, directed by the police, refused to treat the injured children and attended instead to the slightly injured Hasidic driver. Who cared that this was seen as just a continuation of preferential treatment to Hasidics as opposed to Black residents. Three days of rioting resulted, and though some of the incidents were directed at Hasidics, the major confrontation was between the police and young Black youths in the area. Police cars were overturned and set on fire. Stores were looted, etc. What irked the white press most was the appearance that the police had lost control of the situation. Could this be because they were being held back by a Mayor and a Police Commissioner who both happened to be Black? Rudolph Giuliani who made it

known in no uncertain terms that he was a friend of the police, and had the endorsement of the white Patrolman's Benevolent Association (PBA), would never tolerate such a situation.

A subsequent enquiry into the Crown Heights riots found that though the Mayor did not try to hold back the police, it found that he was misled by his aides about the seriousness of the situation, and should have taken charge much earlier. The same went for the Police Commissioner. As was expected, the report castigated Police tactics as being too soft. In effect it echoed media suggestions that there should have been a body count —i.e. of Black bodies. And as we write at this moment, the new Police Commissioner, who happens to be white, has just released an elaborate and detailed blueprint for dealing with future Crown Heights. The blueprint draws as well on the experience of Los Angeles. The bottom line is that the Police plan to mount a most severe response.

While focussing on the race aspect of the elections the impression should not be created that all was well among Mayor Dinkins' core constituency — Blacks, Latinos and organized labor. A number of unions, disappointed by wage contracts, either withdrew or gave tepid support to Dinkins. And though Dinkins got 95% of the Black vote the turnout was much less than the 1989 election. Disaffection was so great in the Black community that Percy Sutton, the owner of Black talk show radio station WLIB, had threatened to close the station if the daily attacks against Dinkins did not cease. Blacks were also incensed by Dinkins' handling of Crown Heights. They felt that sensitive to the Jewish vote, he was much too apologetic and by doing so legitimized the now current Police policy that future rebellions must be swiftly suppressed. Likewise, in response to media pressure, Dinkins' crossing of the picket line during the Korean grocery boycott did not endear him to those who expected him to share their outrage.

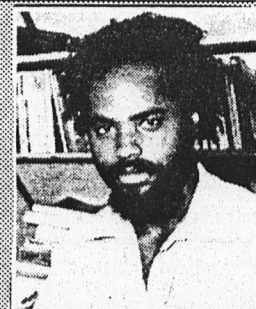
What effect will the defeat of Dinkins have on Black activism? The answer is problematic. Most Black radicals called upon the Black community to re-elect Dinkins as the lesser of two evils. They saw Giuliani as a "proto-fascist" because of his strong sup-

port for the police. Giuliani's pro-police stance is troubling at a time when public enquiry reveals rampant police corruption. Policemen have admitted to randomly beating hundreds of Blacks and Latinos; ripping off drug dealers; selling guns; raping prostitutes; etc., etc. But any support to Dinkins, even against a "proto fascist" effectively dampens the militancy of Black community, and gives Dinkins room to carry out his bourgeois policies. Dinkins did more to destroy the morale of the homeless than his predecessor Koch could have done because Dinkins didn't have to worry about being called a racist. His administration went as far as to warn the homeless not to be seen near the site of the '92 Democratic National Convention. And even this pales with the destruction of settlements built by the homeless around the city.

All of this suggests that Black radicals have yet to develop a strategy for struggle which avoids the trap of two-party lesser evilism. It also suggests that while the issue of race cannot be ignored, the class character of the candidate being supported needs to be taken into consideration. And most importantly, to overestimate the strength, or to mischaracterize the politics of your adversary, is to run the risk of politically downgrading the power of struggle. Finally, only time will tell whether Black radicals will be intimidated by Giuliani, and so spend the next four years grooming the next future Black Mayor, or whether they will boldly challenge Giuliani and try to build a movement outside of the Democrat and Republican parties.

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Lloyd D'Aguilar is the Editor of Third World Viewpoint, 328 Flatbush Ave., Box 171, Brooklyn NY 11238



Free Mumia Abu-Jamal From Death Row!

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a Philadelphia black journalist, is on death row at Pennsylvania's Huntingdon state prison. Framed up because of his political views, Jamal faces death for his defiance of the racist, capitalist order. To get involved in the fight to save Mumia Abu-Jamal and abolish the death penalty, contact the Partisan Defense Committee, PO. Box 99, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013. If you wish to correspond with Jamal, you can write to: Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM8335, Drawer R, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Free all Political Prisoners in US Jails!

Why Cornel West Matters—and Race—Matters

by Randal L. Hepner

(This article was originally written for *Third World Viewpoint* and will appear in its March 1994 edition.)

Over the course of the past decade or so Cornel West has emerged as one of the more important "left public intellectuals" in America today. By "public intellectual" I mean one who writes for and addresses a general and educated audience, as opposed to the "professional academic intellectual" who writes in arcane and highly special-

Book Review

Race Matters, by Cornel West
BEACON PRESS PUBLISHING

ized languages aimed at an exclusive audience permanently ensconced in the university. And by "left" I mean one who self-consciously (although not necessarily always consistently) identifies him-or-herself with social struggles from below, who stands to the left of the "imperial center" in American political life, and who is committed to redistributive economic justice, race and gender equality, etc.

That West is broadly recognized as a public intellectual might seem ironic given the fact that he has spent the past several decades in the academy, most recently as professor of religion and director of the Afro-American Studies Program at Princeton. This fall he will take up a similar position at Harvard. Moreover, not all of his published writings are equally accessible to lay audiences. For instance, *Post-Analytic Philosophy* (1985), *The American Evasion of Philosophy* (1989), and *The Ethical Dimensions of Marxist Thought* (1991) have intended audiences that probably do not differ qualitatively from those addressed by academic intellectuals.

Nonetheless, Cornel West warrants the title lavishly imposed upon him recently by *Newsday*: "The Fresh Prince of Ideas—An Intellectual Who Matters." And the reason he matters is precisely because he reaches out to audiences beyond the academy and he does so with intelligence and style. Through numerous appearances on TV talk shows aimed at educated public audiences as well as popular journal articles, public lectures, participation in student teach-ins, and most importantly, lucidly written texts, including his first volume *Prophesy Deliverance! An Afro-American Revolutionary Christianity* (1982) and his writings with Bell Hooks, *Breaking Bread: Insurgent Black Intellectual Life* (1991)—it is clear that West takes the public sphere seriously. And perhaps no where has West been more adamantly public than in his recent best seller, *Race Matters* (1993).

In this timely and highly provocative collection of short essays West addresses in a straight forward and convincing language the crisis currently facing America today—a crisis rooted in historic inequalities based on race, class, and gender oppressions but a crisis that goes even deeper than these structural categories. His fundamental quest, "to speak the truth to power with love so that the quality of everyday life for ordinary people is enhanced and white supremacy is stripped of its authority and legitimacy" (p. x), is powerfully advanced by his somber but deeply penetrating analysis of contemporary American culture.

At the heart of West's analysis is an attempt to go beyond the framework of liberal and conservative discourse that relegates the plight of African Americans to either structural constraints imposed by economic and political elites or behavioral impediments rooted in the supposed waning of the Protestant work ethic in black communities. It is not that West rejects structural and behavioral arguments in his analysis of black oppression, rather, he rejects the

liberal/conservative versions of such arguments that, at best, promote nothing more than a warmed-over (albeit severely truncated) New Dealism and, at worst, the cynical "New World Order" of Reagan and Bush.

For the left to go beyond the discursive framework imposed by liberals and conservatives, West argues, it is necessary to 1) "acknowledge that structures and behavior are inseparable, that institutions and values go hand in hand"; 2) to "reject the idea that structures are primarily economic and political creatures—an idea that sees culture as an ephemeral set of behavioral attitudes and values. Culture is as much a structure as the economy or politics"; and 3) to "delve into the depths where neither liberals nor conservatives dare tread, namely, into the murky waters of despair and dread that now flood the streets of black America" (p. 12; emphasis added).

It is the second and third points that animate much that is most insightful in *Race Matters*. For West, the discussion of black survival must be framed in terms of a "nihilism" that he finds increasingly pervading black communities.

"Nihilism is to be understood here not as a philosophic doctrine that there are no rational grounds for legitimate standards or authority; it is, far more, the lived experience of coping with a life of horrifying meaninglessness, hopelessness, and (most important) lovelessness. The frightening result is a numbing detachment from others and a self-destructive disposition toward the world. Life without meaning, hope, and love breeds a cold-hearted, mean-spirited outlook that destroys both the individual and others." (p. 14)

That this nihilism is a result of conditions of structural oppression is obvious from West's discussion of the shattering of black civil society. The casino-economy of the 1980s that redistributed national wealth upward and sent multinational corporations in search of cheaper labor markets abroad combined with cut-backs in federal aid and repressive social legislation to gut much of the public spaces and institutions of black America. The result has been a weakening of the cultural mechanisms and institutions that formerly sustained black identities and black communities and that defended against the nihilistic threat. This leads West to the provocative suggestion that

"the major enemy of black survival in America has been and is neither oppression nor exploitation but rather the nihilistic threat—that is, loss of hope and absence of meaning. For as long as hope remains and meaning is preserved, the possibility of overcoming oppression stays alive. The self-fulfilling prophecy of the nihilistic threat is that without hope there can be no future, that without meaning there can be no struggle" (p. 15).

What seems unique in all of this is West's ability to combine various levels of lived reality in an analysis that accounts for the structural and behavioral dimensions of social life. That he is able to do this seems dependent upon his recognition of the ironic centrality of culture in both the mechanisms of oppression and the resistance to such by oppressed communities. It is this complex understanding of the cultural arena that tends to underscore the importance West's places upon black religious and civic institutions as sources of a subversive memory that keeps hope and resistance alive. The result is a stimulating and suggestive analysis of the crisis in the black liberation struggle as reflected in the failure of black liberalism, the rise of black neo-conservatism, moribund versions of black nationalism, and the unprecedented "forces of death, destruction, and disease" that plague the everyday life of black people in America today.

Throughout his text West asks the rhetorical question "What is to be done?" and his response, while at times vague and somewhat idealistic, nonetheless seems to get at the heart of something real. His call for a "politics of conversion" intends to promote "new models of collective black leadership"

and a prophetic vision of politics grounded in grass-roots organizing, democratic accountability, and a recognition of the irreconcilable nature of economic systems based on rapacious corporate market institutions and the quest for freedom and equality for all.

West argues that the present nihilistic threat to black America has to be understood in terms of the crisis of black leadership—a crisis exacerbated by both liberal "race-effacing managerial leaders" (e.g., Thomas Bradley and Wilson Goode) and myopic "race-identifying protest leaders" (e.g., Al Sharpton and Louis Farrakhan). In their place West draws inspiration from the examples of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Ella Baker and Fannie Lou Hamer to call for "race-transcending prophetic leaders."

"To be a serious black leader is to be a race-transcending prophet who critiques the powers that be (including the black component of the Establishment) and who puts forward a vision of moral regeneration and political insurgency for the purpose of fundamental social change for all who suffer from socially induced misery" (p. 46).

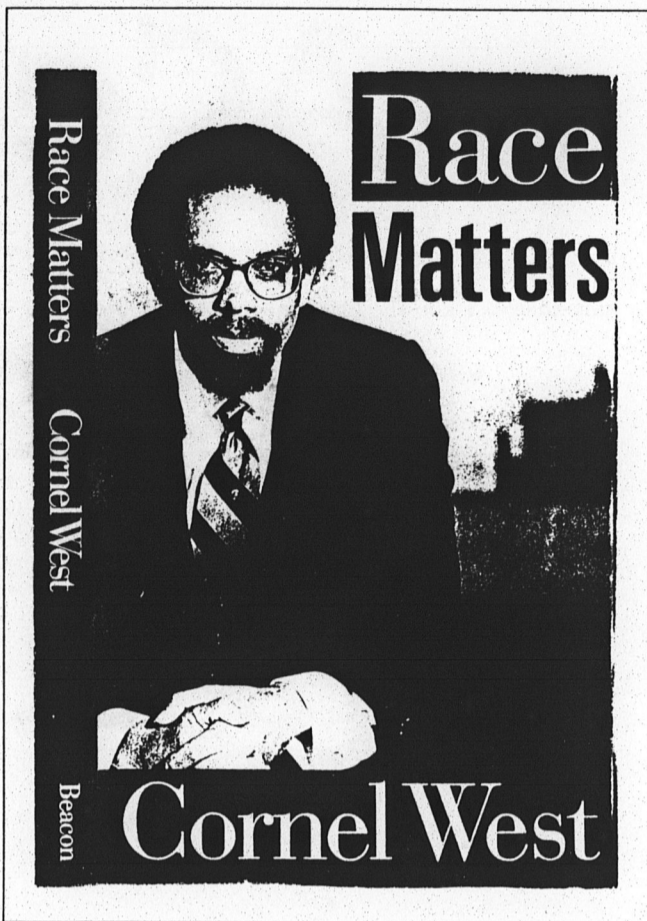
To underscore his point West reminds us that Fannie Lou Hamer "led the National Welfare Rights Organization, not the Black Welfare Rights Organization" (p. 39). That this new political leadership will require broadly based alliances with other groups in society and other oppressed peoples is clear from his trenchant critique of narrow, xenophobic and homophobic black nationalisms. What is less clear in West's vision is how we will get there—that is, how we will transform a racist and capitalist America into a land flowing with racial and economic justice for all. As *Newsweek's* Ellis Close wrote recently,

"Advocating redistribution, tolerance, love, self-acceptance and faith is not the same as putting forth a serious program for social revolution."

The irony here is that West would probably agree with Close's critique. His own "African-American socialist Christian" perspective and his long-term membership in the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) has seemingly not provided him with the wherewithal to think through the nitty-gritty details of revolutionary transformation. Indeed, compared with his past writings, there is a conspicuous absence of socialist language in *Race Matters*. No where does he use or even evoke the term "socialism". This

may be attributable to the "popular" character of the book or to a deliberate attempt to distance himself from a term that has fallen (yet again) in disrepute. Unfortunately for those of us on the left who maintain a critical commitment to socialism and a critical respect for Cornel West, *Race Matters* does not help us to understand this disturbing lacuna. If West no longer wishes to name the future society he is struggling for, it would be useful to so inform his readers.

Nevertheless, Cornel West really matters. Even if one applies the yardstick of revolutionary socialism, it is clear that West's vision is necessary (if still yet insufficient) for the future creation of a just society that will emerge out of the rubble of urban America's asphalt jungles. The "nihilism" that West detects as the preeminent threat to black survival pervades the whole of U.S. society today. Nihilism and political apathy are not race specific—they are reflected in the cynicism of political elites and ordinary people and propelled by a private consumerist mentality rooted in economic and cultural structures of longstanding injustice. Cornel West is one of the few public intellectuals these days that has the courage and integrity to say such things. That he does so with vigor and vision in a way accessible to lay people may be one of the few hopeful signals in our society that something better than a racial apocalypse awaits us. In the meantime, let us hope that West's prophetic vision may have predictive value for a left still in disarray: "For the moment, we reflect and regroup with a vow that the 1990s will make the 1960s look like a tea party" (p. 46).



PUBLIC FORUM Black American Politics What is to Done?

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The Staten Island "Rudy"-vance

by Thomas Deignan

Pity *The Staten Island Advance*—their so-very-blant allegiances/biases lie with conflicting forces. On the one hand they can't say enough about our great, new, hands-on, activist Mayor Rudy Giuliani. On the other hand they remain die-hard secessionists. What to do? Well, oddly enough, they should be

On Media

given credit because somehow, they have managed to remain true to both forces. In fact, the lead in Reginald Patrick's February 6th column summarized *The Advance's* sentiments strikingly well: "By straightening out New York City, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani may be inadvertently building a stronger case for secession." Amazing. They were able to pat their boy on the back, while at the same time, turning their nose to New York City.

Recent *Advance* coverage has been sadly pro-"Rudy." In fact, the constant use of Rudy, as a reference to the Mayor, has itself been rather sickening. Sure, some tabloids use the same, in the spirit of in-your-face tabloid vernacular, but *The Advance's* usage has something else behind it: He's our friend, they seem to be saying, your's and mine. He's our Rudy!

"Secession: Rudy working on it." blared the February 2nd headline. What does this say? It says we have a caring, loving, borough-friendly comrade in City Hall. Check out, further, the huge February 4th editorial entitled "The limits of a Mayor." Now that "Davy" is out of office, *The Advance* editorial board has discovered that the Mayor's seat is just another cog in a bureaucratic machine that runs rather unsmoothly. This should be juxtaposed with editorials that blasted Dinkins on things he had either no symbolic or political control over, such as the Verrazano one-way/two way controversy and, yes, secession. They would never consider editorially acknowledging, in the apologetic tone of the aforementioned "limits" editorial, that Dinkins himself had certain allegiances that "limited"

him. No, instead they relentlessly slammed him, believing he should act righteously, rather than politically. As I've said before, Dinkins was no great Mayor, especially to Staten Island, but other than a few, and very few at that, symbolic nods, one has no reason to believe Giuliani has been, or will be, given his budget, better. A glance at the February 14th *New York Observer* gives you a hint of that. Terry Golway (former *Advance* writer, Guy Molinari staffer and CSI alum) wrote an excellent account of Giuliani's hiring record thus far, which has embraced the Liberal party, and shunned Staten Islanders. As Golway writes "Liberal party boss Ray Harding has had better luck placing members of his own family in the Giuliani administration—his two sons were appointments—than have the Republican leaders of Staten Island, whose constituents rallied to Mr. Giuliani with fiery enthusiasm." A source close to the Staten Island GOP was quoted as saying, in the article, "...so far we have gotten zero." The article also noted that Giuliani has essentially snubbed CSI's own Michael Petrides, formerly a bigwig in Giuliani's circle, and still a Board of Ed member, but onlookers expected an appointment to the School Construction Authority. Don't read this stuff in *The Advance* do ya? Nor much about the human face of Reagan-esq "reinventing government?"

Finally, Fred Cerullo III, City Councilman got the call. As *Newsday* put it, "...sending mixed signals about the future of the City's Department of Consumer Affairs" Rudy selected Cerullo, "to take over the embattled agency and study whether to cut it back or ax it." Well, Rudy finally goes with an Islander, but this may mean Cerullo will resign his minority leader post in the Council, so even now Staten Island doesn't make out. And as for the Department of Consumer Affairs, once led vigorously by now-Public Advocate Mark Green, snuffing it out would be a horrid misjudgment under the guise of streamlining and may even be politically motivated. As Joe Conason pointed out in an excellent "Smoke-Filled Room" Column, in the excellent (as you can tell) February 7th *New York Observer*, this may be a move to discredit Green, who is on the ladder of upward mobility in NYC politics, and may even be the man the recapture the City's Liberal-Demo-

cratic base, perhaps in 1996. But if Consumer Affairs is snuffed out, as Conason points out, this discredits Green's fine work and leaves him with his Public Advocate accomplishments, another post that may be on the way out.

I'm digressing, but as for secession and *The Advance*, they are still touting it under the same soggy, rhetoric they did before the election. But a much finer picture, albeit pro-secession, was painted by Chip Brown in the January 30th *New York Times Magazine*. Brown, a contributing editor at *Esquire*, presented an honest, historical and entertaining (and to the credit of Jack Rosenthal and other *Times* editors, long) piece that dealt with secession in a much better way than the typical foreboding doom vs. utopia arguments: cheers to *The Times*, jeers to *The Advance*.

REFORM THEE, NOT ME. The January/February *Mother Jones* offered a fine examination of the forgotten promise of congressional reform. Steven Pizzo noted clearly that Clinton's lack of priority of this topic may hinder all of his future legislation. He offered the foreboding analogy of Jimmy Carter, who blinked at reform and then, when he presented the Hospital Cost Containment act of 1977, it was killed. Did anyone say "Health Care?" In addition, Pizzo noted that, while Hillary Clinton got health care, and Gore got reinventing government, a former Nader-raider got congressional reform. Did anyone say "priorities?" Pizzo's piece even transcended enough to bring down the seemingly well-meaning Congressional Black Caucus, which is now entrenched enough to pontificate about one thing, but fight to maintain the current system that rewards incumbents greatly.

A sidebar, also by Pizzo, noted that the S&L scandal, which benefited junk bonders and the congresspersons whose pockets they greased, (and screwed everyone else) could have financed every federal election, at the accepted \$500 billion price tag, for the next 1000 years. If you're against publicly-financed elections, understand, we're already paying for it! *Mother Jones* has done good work on this forgotten promise, symbolized by the great cover they had of Tom Foley decked out in Roman battle regalia with the headline "Killing Reform." With all this screaming for "welfare-reform," did anyone say "Look in the mirror!"?

Shooting the Philosophic Breeze

by Peter Simpson

What is this thing called philosophy? I ask this question, not just because the title of that song is echoing in my ears ("What is this thing called love?"), but mainly because it seems the appropriate question for me now to ask. For while some of my regular readers may know what philosophy is, and while others may not care very much anyway, others might be sorely puzzled. "What in the world is this guy up to," they ask, "spouting the way he does about beauty, trees, virtue, words etc. etc. without any seeming point and with only the barest relevance to the affairs of the day?"

Well, first off, philosophy is literally the love of wisdom, but that reply will doubtless be met with much scoffing and annoyance. Love of wisdom? No, you say, rather love of paradox and bafflement, an impish passion to make sport, just another case of fiddling while Rome burns.

Actually the one who did fiddle while Rome burned was not a philosopher but an artist, or an *artiste* as he would have preferred (he was a bit of fop, don't you know). I mean none other than Nero (no, not the guy who owns the pizza joint, but an erstwhile Roman emperor).

There is, however, a sort of connection between the frivolous Nero and philosophy. Both give evidence to the fact that the most important things are in a way too important to be stern and serious about. For to be serious about something is to convey the impression that one is oneself somehow important too. If one was not important, it would not matter to the important things whether one was serious or not. And indeed, the really important things are too important to be affected by, or to be bothered about, what we mere mortals do or do not do. They have a kind of serene indifference to us ephemera.

Of course, that does not prevent us being affected by and bothered about the impor-

tant things, but it does mean that, in our being bothered about them, we should not think that it very much matters to them that we are bothered about them. So while we treat them seriously we should not treat ourselves seriously. A certain lightness, a certain gaiety of spirit, indeed a certain frivolity is required instead.

What this means is that the important things are not the human things but higher and better than any human things. The apparent irrelevance and frivolity of this column (deliberately cultivated I assure you, though independently congenial, I must confess, to my natural temper) are meant to bear silent witness to this truth.

This truth, I would also say, is one of the great truths of wisdom and among the first that the lover of wisdom must find and ponder deeply. Others say that the first such truth, or the beginning of wisdom as it is termed, is wonder, and yet others that it is the fear of the Lord. But these are, to be frank, just other ways of saying the same thing.

Wonder is an entirely other directed attitude, betokening a sort of unconcern with self and a fascination with the thing wondered at. Why is the square on the hypotenuse equal to the squares on the other two sides? Why does the earth spin on an oblique axis? Why are babies born with sutures in their skull? Why do human beings even exist? Why, indeed, does anything exist at all?

Anyone fascinated by these and the like questions and fascinated enough to spend much time and effort trying to find the answers is already forgetting himself and his own concerns (like washing the car, winning the lotto, rushing to the January sales to get that great new outfit before everyone else does, winning the sweepstakes for a weekend getaway to Miami, and so on).

The fear of the Lord is the same thing. Fear means something like awe and reverence here, and indeed we should stand in awe of

nothing so much as the Lord of all the worlds. In comparison everything else, ourselves included, seems utterly trivial. When I consider the moon and the stars, says the psalmist wisely, the works of Thy hands, what is man that Thou thinkest on him, or the son of man that Thou dost care for him?

Philosophy, the love of wisdom, is the same as wonder and the same as the fear of the Lord (even if some would say otherwise). That is why it may seem, on the surface at least, so utterly useless and so utterly trivial. For all depends on where you put yourself, or from what vantage point you view things. The man in the valley, with his eyes on the road, hurrying to market, sees the donkey pulling his cart and the road stretching ahead as very large and very long and very important. The man on the mountain top sees both as very small and very short and very insignificant.

The philosopher is the man on the mountain, or the man trying to get there. He does not care that the market will soon be open and that there will be great bargains to be had in sheep and cattle and pots and pans. He wants something else, his passions drive him elsewhere, his yearnings strain for other and different worlds. The man going to market may think him a wastrel, a good for nothing, a hopeless and impractical dreamer. But the dreamer sees himself as answering the call of the divine.

I speak, of course, metaphorically. But the metaphor has a translation. College, I say, is like the mountain. It may need the market, indeed, and it may need the buyers and sellers who do the business there. But it only needs them as Michelangelo needed his brush and his paints and his ladder. They are its instruments only; they are not its point. It needs them in order to be able to do its job, but they are not its job. The job of college is to build Sistine Chapels of the mind; the job of the market is to give it the paint and brushes

to do so. For it is not the job of college to serve the market; no, it is rather the job of the market to serve college.

Welcome to college to see the Sistine Chapel and to climb the mountain. We come to college to be exposed to what goes far beyond the humdrum nitty gritty of the day to day. We come to college to discover, if only once and if only now, the great mysteries of being, the grand vistas of eternity. We come to college, in short, to be useless, as the world calls useless, but in reality to be serious in the only way it makes sense to be serious — by caring about something higher and far more beautiful than ourselves.

That is why the more useless, irrelevant and impractical a thing is the more it should exist and be honored and treasured in a college. That is why this column is so useless, irrelevant and impractical. Because, whatever else it does, the one thing it is not supposed to do is to give anyone the impression that what is most important and most worth caring about is the useful and the relevant and the practical.

This may seem an altogether bizarre and paradoxical lesson. Indeed it is a lesson which even colleges find it hard to learn. The demands of the market and of the practical are so imperious and shout so loudly that even here they make their din heard and their tyranny felt. We are forever on the edge of falling back into the abyss of the everyday.

But the mountain top is still there, serenely alone and silently beckoning. More over it is only from the mountain top that, as Moses and Martin Luther King knew, one can see the promised land. So those of you who feel the mountain somewhere in your bones, and want to taste the thrill of climbing it, close your ears to the Siren calls of those around you and care not for the plodders and the dullards. Come, use college for what it is for. Sell all to buy the pearl of great price. Love wisdom. Do philosophy.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

I JUST WANT A GREEN CARD.

by Agwekula Kwanzu

I am very happy that in America there is one whole month about African history. In Africa, we don't have enough money to spend to study our history. The brothers here study our history and relate it to theirs. It's great. I think that African Americans are very close to us, but a little bit far from us too.

I really like America because in this great country the culture of the minorities is respected. During the dedication ceremony of the College of Staten Island I had the honor to represent African students and foreign students in general. I wore my beautiful booboo which is our traditional outfit.

In America, many ethnic groups, with different cultural traditions, come together to constitute a rich culture by bringing the best of all these cultures together. For example, we can see that the Chinese, the Africans, the Jews, the Hispanics and others come together to constitute a richer cultural complex. The whole being greater than the sum of its parts. That's what I saw when I came to America two years ago.

I was very much amazed when I first got here. How could people of very different backgrounds live together without a major situation of conflict being their daily lot? It is very interesting how a democratic nation like America can include so many different views living in peace.

I know that African Americans suffered a lot before they got to where they are today, but I think that in general, the life of an average African American in America is better than the life of any citizen of the third world. Some African Americans are even very very rich like Michael Jordan, Michael Jackson and Oprah Winfrey. These rich Blacks are helping their communities. I think that in some very close future, the inequalities which existed in the past are going to disappear. Bill Clinton is reforming the health care system, and poverty in this country will not anymore be what it is today.

Another point I want to make is that Americans ignore what happens in the rest of the world. Speaking to people, especially at C.S.I., I noticed that they didn't know much about Africa. Even the African American students don't know much about Africa. It is very difficult to explain to people how life is back in Africa since they never had to experience the conditions we live under. It is sometimes very difficult to explain to people that Africa is not a single country like the United States, Britain or Japan, but it is a continent formed by more than fifty countries.

Africa is a very rich continent. The natural resources found in Africa represent an important proportion of the world resources. Unfortunately, Africans don't enjoy the wealth of their soil. It is sold to the developed countries at very low prices and transformed into machinery. The machinery is sold back to Africa at a very high price. That's why Africa is considered to be underdeveloped.

Another point I want to make is that in Africa there are

a lot of wars, and people suffer because of them. These wars are really stupid. Generally speaking, countries go to war against each other because their leaders are corrupt. They don't care about their people but only want to make money. Some wars happen within the same country. These civil wars are often due to a political struggle for power among different groups. They generally fight because they want to control the natural resources of the country. It helps them get the privilege of getting bribes.

In America it's very different because the country is democratic. Elections mean something. People have the choice between two different perspectives. Political parties are really representative of the people's opinions. It's a wonderful thing.

The American TV is very different from the TV in Africa. Here, one has the choice. In Africa, there is a minimal number of channels which are the official voice of the government. The fact that TV channels are privately owned shows that there is a real separation between the government from the major media which can influence the way people think. The same goes with the newspapers. The fact

that the owners of these media can influence the public opinion and the people's thought is a kind of conspiracy theory. There is no single ideology which controls the minds of the American people. The United States is a democratic state, and freedom of expression is at its basis.

The important issue of racism which plagued most of the history of the American democracy is no longer relevant. Racism is dead. Some people would argue differently, but they just have to see what kind of coverage African Americans get on TV. It's impressive.

To conclude, I would like to say that in this article, my aim wasn't to compare Africa and America, but to show an African perspective on the reality of American democracy.



The Post-Modern Campus Looks Can Be Deceiving

by MD Wijerama

One thing that the bureaucracy and its apologists have been pointing to, at least resort to defray student anger about consolidation, tuition, registration, expensive books, food and the host of daily indignities students are subject to has been the "beauty" of the campus. "Don't complain. After all don't you have a beautiful new campus now?" The student heroically fighting his way from 3North to 6South, through cold and snow can only spare a few choice expletives in response.

We are housed in the ever so staid and scholarly "neo-Georgian" buildings, apparently fit for the activities of the mentally challenged and the challenged mentality. This is not an inconsequential coincidence. Does not the fact that the Willowbrook facilities were the appropriate housing for the mentally retarded and subsequently for CSI have any significance?

The bureaucrat blushes as he refers to the "modern" flourishes added to these structures in the shape of the glass encased staircases at the end. These staircases were cleverly designed to cope with the much higher degree of traffic that college life brings to these buildings.

The crown piece, indeed the King and Queen structures are the library and cafeteria. These are two of the new additions to the Willowbrook family of stately neo-Georgians; these snazzy, pizzazy, glitzy glamzy thingies. Totally radicaall dude!! Our library itself is a marketing if not an architectural marvel. The modernist Miesian architectural adage "less is more" has taken on a whole new meaning. Beyond the Acme, instant chandeliers (For that Oxford effect. Or is it Sorbonne?) and the Barney's play room stairway and the high glass ceiling calling us to ponder the mysteries of the universe, we still have the same outdated collection of books and with the library closing at 9:00 p.m., no time to study in these stimulating surroundings. Once the library has whet your appetite, step into the "Food For Thought Cafe," where you can gorge yourself on those daily essential food groups: caffeine, sugar, fat and salt. Don't you dare smoke however, its bad for your health. One must sadly note that there is no attempt made in the design of this august gas station for the soul to recreate the ambiance of a bohemian coffee shop or Parisian cafe. The space barely exceeds that of a classroom. Interestingly, students studying overnight for finals last semester recreated the imagery of great food riots in the past and helped themselves to the mockingly encased drinks and food. The proprietors have responded by chaining the refrigerators shut. may we suggest that you hire someone, in fact a student in need for a part-time job, to keep the place open overnight during exam weeks. last but not least, we have our spectacular entrances, those great glass monuments to the courage of public toilet facilities. OH great bureaucrat in the sky...

JUST JOURNALISM?

by Cliff Hagen

Yesterday morning, January 31st, some time before 7 a.m., I was shaken awake by a horrific story spat from my alarm clock/radio.

Grizzly, quick and unsubstantiated, were the reports I listened to of American soldiers opening fire on Somali civilians. I was upset. So upset that I took a shower, ate my breakfast and went to work as I do each morning.

After work I spent two hours running errands: banking, laundry, shopping. After that I met with my girlfriend for two hours. Then I went home.

At home, I flipped open Staten Island's newspaper to read that indeed, five civilians had been shot in Somalia by U.S. soldiers. The shootings were yet unconfirmed, but this was a second source. It was a substantiation of the morning report.

For an in depth, more concise report on what had happened I turned on News4. I hoped that Chuck, Sue, Al, and Len would fill me in on this American hostility. To my surprise the shooting was not mentioned. Sue and Chuck were amazed by the immediacy of a Super Bowl commercial, spoke of a criminal ice-skater as if she were family and gazed stupidly at Al as he spoke of possible weather patterns. Yet there was no mention of Somalia.

The new team's World Report was briefer than their ice-skating story and consisted of thirty seconds devoted diligently to both Arafat and Bosnia.

Yet there was no mention of the Somalia shooting. The Emmy award winning News4 news team did not relate to their viewers that America had, without provocation, engaged in the act of War.

This is the age of hypocritical journalism. The supposed epidemic of violence and vice dismantling this country of ours has been sensationalized by the very same people

who refuse to report on true violence. American journalism shatters our sensibilities daily, creating in us, their viewers, chaos and confusion. This creative use of hypocrisy is the reason why I'm not watching anymore.

When our fathers decided it important to force history to accept the freedom of speech they, no doubt, did not foresee the critical discussion of issues and events eroding into what has become an entertainment industry. Journalism is as old as our constitution. Most of America's founders were critical writers, political pundits. They knew the power and pain of journalism, but they had common sense to grant freedom of speech. Unfortunately, financial Darwinism has corrupted much of journalism today.

Searching out a profitable market, network news, in journalistic garb, has sold itself to America as respectable. Intelligent smiles wishing to secure our attention, our adoration. The pseudo-journalists on network news teams try to befriend us more than they try to inform us.

The January 31st hostility is one, small, over-looked story. Every day network news censors history. It is a democratic nightmare fostered by the constitution itself. America Beware!

There is plenty of social issues out there that could be discussed, not in the least is the politics of everyday life. Let's not leave the political discourse in the hands of "experts."

Write your opinions to the Voice. Send to Bldg. 1c-rm 230; deadline 3/4.

A Letter Plea from the Arts Editor

It really is amazing how quickly time can pass. Here it is, the beginning of my fourth semester writing for *The College Voice*, and my third as editor of the Arts section. Perhaps what makes the time seem to fly is the repetition of writing a letter of this sort at the start of every semester. Each September and February I sit down and pen my little introductory paragraph telling about what the Arts section will cover and so forth. The truth is, I'm getting a little tired of it. Therefore, I'm not going to write my usual speech this time around. Instead, I'm going to address a problem that has plagued the *Voice* since its creation: lack of submissions.

My growing dissatisfaction as one of the editors of the paper is mainly due to the fact

that, aside from me, the entire Arts section is handled essentially by only one other person: Olli Siebelt, who covers the world of music in his column, "Music News and Views." As for myself, I tend to stick to reviewing movies with my column, "A Cinematic View." Keeping an entire section going with only two definite contributors isn't exactly easy, in fact, it can be kind of annoying. And so it is that I make my plea for submissions and dedicated writers. The *College Voice* was created not only to keep students informed, but to provide an avenue for them to express themselves. Got something you want to say? A gripe? A compliment? Write it down and send it in! Without a steady stream of submissions, the editors and staff are forced to fill the

entire newspaper ourselves; not an easy task in itself, let alone when added to the already burdensome responsibilities of classes and jobs. So give us a hand and send in some material! Seen a video that was so awful you couldn't sit through it? Warn people! Heard a song that could start a new trend in music? Share the news!

For those of you interested in desktop publishing, working at the *Voice* is tremendous experience. You'll get hands on training with state of the art computers and publishing software. Photography is your specialty? Our photo staff can always use more people. Not interested in writing about the Arts? The *Voice* covers news, sports, does features and commentaries, and has business and advertising depart-

ments — all of which would gladly accept new talent. You can't lose; you gain experience and it looks good on your resume as well.

Okay, I've said enough; if you just want to sit around and complain to a couple of friends about the way the school is being run, that's up to you; but consider: if your complaint is shared with the rest of the student body through *The College Voice*, doesn't it stand that much more of a chance of getting attention and being addressed by the administration? You never know, a simple submission could lead to a major improvement in school procedure. You may drop all submissions at *The College Voice* office, building 1C, room 230. End of plea.

A Cinematic View Romeo Is Bleeding

Stylish Film Revitalizes Film Noir

by Darrin DeRosa

Before I go anywhere with this review, let me make it perfectly clear that you have to appreciate films like *Romeo is Bleeding* to truly enjoy them. It should also be noted that I'm one of the nuts who enjoys movies like this, and if you're not a fellow nut, you're probably going to disagree with everything I'm about to say.

Deriving its strength from its stylish nature, the film essentially pays homage to the films of the forties and fifties that were grouped by the French and referred to as *film noir*, that is, "black film." These films, including such classics as *The Maltese Falcon* and *Double Indemnity*, represented a divergence from the "Classical Hollywood Style," which promised that the good guys would always win, that there would be a happy ending, and that the guy would always get the girl. Indeed, movies that fall into the category of film noir do so because of their somber mood, shadowy and mysterious lighting and the harsh message that the good don't always win; in fact the good aren't always good in film noir. The funny thing is, Hollywood didn't intentionally create this type of film, it just sort of evolved. Flash forward four decades, and you have director Peter Medak very intentionally crafting *Romeo is Bleeding* in the film noir fashion.

Centering around NYPD Sgt. Jack Grimaldi (Gary Oldman,) the film takes us through the worst parts of New York City, areas the Terminator would be afraid to go into, and involves us with the mob, cops on the take, cops getting killed due to the cops on the take, romantic affairs, romantic murders, and a psycho Russian hitwoman — there isn't much this film doesn't have.

Grimaldi is the anti-hero of the story, "anti" because while we feel twinges of sympathy for him now and again, it's hard to overlook the fact that he's cheating on his wife (Annabella Sciorra), and that he has a working relation with a crime boss (Roy Scheider) in which he discloses information on the whereabouts of hidden witnesses for the tidy sum of \$65,000 for each bit of info. He stuffs this money in a hole in his back yard, "feeding it" as his voice-overed conscience tells us. Unfortunately for Jack, his last tip to the mob didn't pay off, and now they want him to do a hit for them, or he'll end up dead himself.

The target of the mob is hitwoman Mona Demarkov (Lena Olin), a sexy and not too mentally stable villainess who is one of the

most indestructible and resourceful characters to come along in quite awhile. She uses her feminine charms to discredit Jack, cuts off human limbs with a circular saw, and laughs with glee as she tries to strangle Jack with her legs (her hands are cuffed). Finally — and you sure as hell can't beat this — she escapes from a crashed car by smashing out the windshield with her legs (by the way, she was shot in her leg earlier). Not only is she still cuffed when she does this, but she also manages to grab an envelope of money between her teeth, and then flip herself out the windshield and onto the ground, where she proceeds to kick off her high heels and sprint — yes *sprint* — down the street.

If this sound bizarre and far fetched, that's only because it is. The strange thing is it actually works in this film, thanks largely to its talented cast, particularly Oldman and Olin, but especially to its director. Medak wastes no time in letting us know that this will not be your average film. His stylish use of camera and lighting techniques takes the viewer out of reality and brings them into Jack's world; we're willing to accept what we see, and in a strange way actually become attached to the characters, who seem forced to suffer through the existence fate has planned for them. Medak also plays with voice-overs and flashes in time to shatter the audience's reality and create a new one for them.

Produced and written by Hilary Henkin, *Romeo is Bleeding* takes a stab at a dark world in which time marches on, leaving nothing but pain and despair in its wake. The story itself probably would not have fared as well as it does if it weren't for the work of the director and cast; the truth is, if you don't appreciate the way in which the film is shot, you may walk away feeling it was a poor film. What you have to do is give yourself over to the surrealistic nature of the story and its images; let yourself become absorbed in the characters, and just let the film take you where it will. I have to recommend this film to anyone interested in films of the forties, but also to those that appreciate the more recent psycho-sexual thrillers, for it is a fusion of the two. The film has an element of obscurity, but is also psychological, erotic, and downright weird at times; on the whole, provided you have a penchant for films of this type, it's also quite enjoyable, and guaranteed to make you leave the theater not quite sure of what you've just seen.

Rated: R

Film and Video Ratings Guide

****	Excellent — drop everything and see this film
*** 1/2	Great — a must see
***	Very Good — above average; see it in the theater
** 1/2	Good — nothing special, but not a waste of time either
**	Fair — you might want to wait for the video
* 1/2	Poor — <i>definitely</i> wait for the video
*	Very Poor — don't waste your money
1/2 *	Terrible — the producers should be shot
0 *'s	Atrocious — the producers should be hung <i>and then</i> shot



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CUNY-TV: BLACK HISTORY MONTH - FEBRUARY 1994

Mondays:

In Black and White: Profiles of African American Authors

- 1) Charles Johnson February 7: 11AM, 3PM, 7PM, 11PM
- 2) Gloria Naylor February 14: 11AM, 3PM, 7PM, 11PM
- 3) Toni Morrison February 21: 11AM, 3PM, 7PM, 11PM
- 4) Alice Walker February 28: 11AM, 3PM, 7PM, 11PM
- 5) August Wilson March 7: 11AM, 3PM, 7PM, 11PM
- 6) John Wideman March 14: 11AM, 3PM, 7PM, 11PM

Wednesdays

African-American Legends

- 1) Black Politics in New York February 2: 8:30AM, 12:30PM, 4:30PM, 8:30PM/Sun. Feb. 6: 8:30PM
- 2) The Negro Leagues February 9: 8:30AM, 12:30PM, 4:30PM, 8:30PM/Sun. Feb. 13: 8:30PM
- 3) The Tuskegee Airmen February 16: 8:30AM, 12:30PM, 4:30PM, 8:30PM/Sun. Feb. 20: 8:30PM
- 4) Blacks in Business February 23: 8:30AM, 12:30PM, 4:30PM, 8:30PM/Sun. Feb. 27: 12:30PM

City College President Yolanda Moses,

- Manning Marable: "Malcolm X" February 2: 8AM/Sat. February 5: 7PM
- Quick Flicks/Not Channel Zero February 2: 11AM, 3PM, 7PM, 1AM/Sun. Feb. 6: 9AM

Fridays

Spotlight: Blacks in the Theater

- Douglas Turner Ward February 4: 10AM, 2PM, 6PM, 10PM/Sat. Feb. 5: 6:30PM
- Charles Fuller February 11: 10AM, 2PM, 6PM, 10PM/Sat. Feb. 12: 6:30PM
- George C. Wolfe February 18: 10AM, 2PM, 6PM, 10PM/Sat. Feb. 19: 6:30PM
- Rosetta LeNoire February 25: 10AM, 2PM, 6PM, 10PM/Sun. Feb. 27: 10:00AM

Saturdays:

CUNY Showcase

- Yolanda Moses February 5: 7PM
- Goin' Platinum February 12: 7PM
- Hunter College Special February 19: 7PM

Saturdays/Sundays

Cinema Then/Cinema Now: Festival of African Cinema

- BLACK GIRL (1965, Senegal) February 5/6: 9PM/Fri. Feb. 11: 12 mid./Feb. 27: 2:30PM
- SAMBIZANGA (1972, Angola) February 12/13: 9PM/Fri. Feb. 18: 12 mid./Feb. 27: 4:00PM
- CEDDO (1977, Senegal) February 19/20: 9PM/Fri. Feb. 25: 12 mid./Feb. 27: 6:30PM
- FACES OF WOMEN (1985, Ivory Coast) February 26/27: 9PM/Fri. Mar. 4: 12 mid.
- YAABA (1989, Burkina Faso) February 26/27: 11:15PM

Cinema Then/Cinema Now: All-Black American Films

- BODY AND SOUL (1924, silent) February 5/6: 10:30PM/Feb. 26: 3:00PM
- MOON OVER HARLEM (1939) February 12/13: 11:15PM/Feb. 26: 5:00PM
- PARADISE IN HARLEM (1939) February 19/20: 11:30PM/Feb. 26: 7:00PM

CUNY-TV on CROSSWALKS, New York City's Cable Television Network

Paramount Set to Release *Blue Chips*

by Darrin DeRosa

Friday, February 18th is the day Paramount Pictures' is slated to unveil its new release *Blue Chips*. The film, which centers around a college basketball coach's struggle to get his team back in the national rankings, is directed by William Friedkin, the man who brought us *The Exorcist* and *The French Connection*.

The screenplay, written by Ron Shelton (*Bull Durham*, *White Men Can't Jump*), tells the story of Western University Dolphins coach Pete Bell (Nick Nolte). Bell's team, former national champions, have slipped out of the national rankings, putting Bell under pressure to get the team back to champion status. Assisted by the school's athletic director (newcomer Bob Cousy) Bell goes on a search for "blue chips"—the best of the best in high school basketball. These blue chips come in the shapes of Neon Bodeaux (Shaquille O'Neal), Butch McCrae (Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway), and Ricky Roe (Matt Nover).

Director Friedkin was determined to have realistic action in his film, causing him to seek out actual athletic talents with some acting ability, rather than hiring professional actors to fill the roles: "I wanted to look at the players in this film and know that these guys are really playing. I wanted there to be no doubt that you are watching great athletes in competition."

That competition needed to be realistic, forcing Friedkin and Shelton to find teammates and opponents that could play in the same league as O'Neal, Hardaway, and Nover. As Shelton explains: "The competi-

tion in this movie had to be at a very high level; we couldn't settle for average athletes. We needed college players who could hold up their end of the game against Shaquille O'Neal. The result was that some of the best basketball played anywhere this summer was played for our movie."

In order to provide those capable players, Friedkin assembled UCLA alumni Nigel Miguel, Richard Petruska, Mitchell Butler, and Kevin Walker, as well as USC graduates Phil Glenn, Dwayne Hackett, and others. Former college stars also included NBA rookies Bobby Hurley (Sacramento Kings), Rex Walters (New Jersey Nets), Ed Stokes (Miami Heat), Calbert Cheaney (Washington Bullets), Chris Mills (Cleveland Cavaliers), Greg Graham (Philadelphia 76ers), Thomas Hill (Indiana Pacers), Alan Houston (Detroit Pistons), Eric Riley (Houston Rockets), Rodney Rogers (Denver Nuggets), George Lynch (L.A. Lakers), and Adonis Jordan (Denver Nuggets).

On the acting front, Nolte prepared for his role by spending time with Indiana basketball legend Bobby Knight, as well as studying the motivational style of the late Jim Valvano. Pete Newell, the film's technical advisor, also gave Nolte tips on coaching.

"Coaching is really a moment by moment decision-making process; there's no blueprint," says Nolte. "The key to coaching is being able to use your imagination. Read, react, create. You also have to prepare, do your homework, get the basics down. What separates the master craftsman from the average coach is his creativity; it's a thinking man's game."

The film's basketball coordinator is Rob

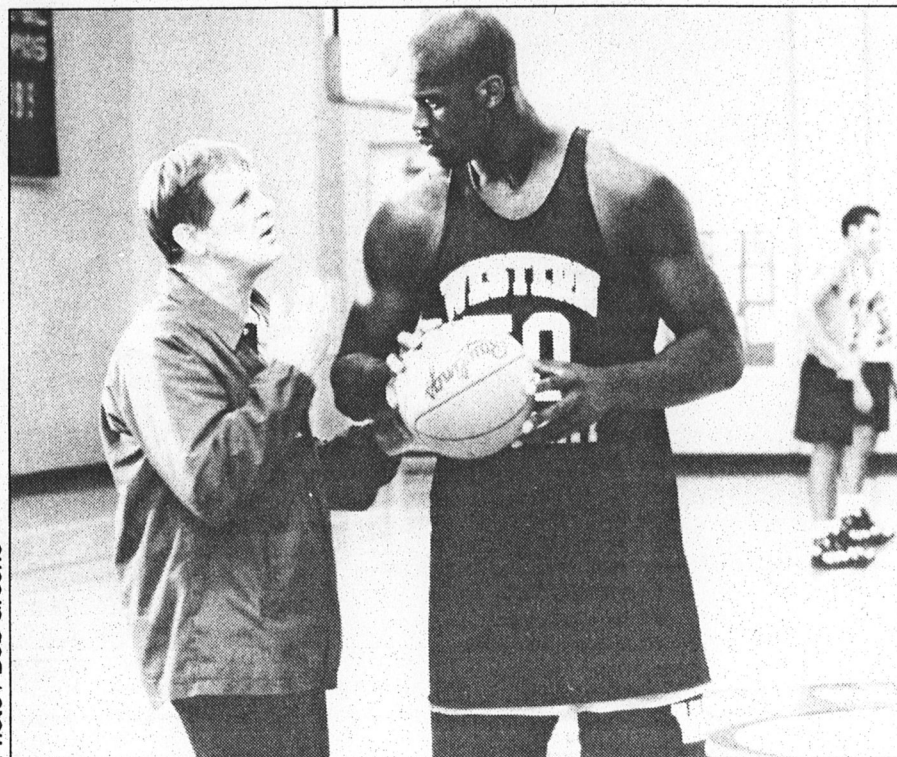


Photo / Bob Greene

Nolte and Shaq in *Blue Chips*

Ryder, who coordinated the basketball action on Shelton's *White Men Can't Jump*. Ryder also appears in the film, portraying an assistant to "Coast Cutters" head coach George Raveling.

While the film's subject matter could come from today's sports pages, the script was actu-

ally written by Shelton 12 years ago. Director Friedkin comments: "The story is probably timelier today than it was when Ron first wrote it. The competition for these athletes has become much sharper as the price has gone up, with television revenues and product endorsements being so lucrative."

On Deadly Ground Opens February 18

The latest Steven Seagal film, *On Deadly Ground*, will be released by Warner Brothers this Friday. The film marks Seagal's directorial debut.

Filmed on location in Alaska and northern Washington, the film centers on the efforts of Forrest Taft (Seagal) in his fight against Aegis Oil. The company, under the control of Michael Jennings (Michael Caine), is attempting to drill on native Alaskan (Inuit) land. Taft teams with Inuit activist Masu (Joan Chen) to protect the people and the environment from the drilling being done by Aegis, sparking a fight between Jennings and Taft that culminates in an explosive battle of wits.

The film is written by Ed Horowitz and Robin U. Russin, and produced by Steven Seagal, Julius R. Nasso and A. Kitman Ho.

Upcoming Video Releases

<i>Strictly Ballroom</i>	Feb. 23
<i>Boxing Helena</i>	Feb. 23
<i>The Good Son</i>	Mar. 2
<i>Striking Distance</i>	Mar. 2
<i>Needful Things</i>	Mar. 2
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Mar. 2
<i>So I Married an Axe Murderer</i>	Mar. 9
<i>Manhattan Murder Mystery</i>	Mar. 9
<i>Gettysburg</i>	Mar. 16
<i>Undercover Blues</i>	Mar. 16
<i>The Fugitive</i>	Mar. 22
<i>Whats Love Got to Do with It</i>	Mar. 23
<i>Fatal Instinct</i>	Mar. 23
<i>My Boyfriend's Back</i>	Mar. 30
<i>The Joy Luck Club</i>	Mar. 30
<i>A Bronx Tale</i>	Apr. 6
<i>The Age of Innocence</i>	Apr. 6
<i>Carlito's Way</i>	Apr. 13
<i>Malice</i>	Apr. 13

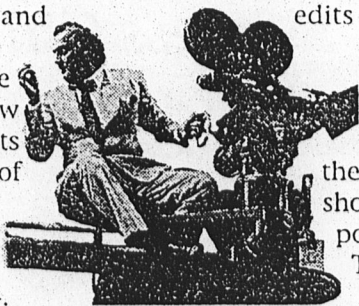
PRESS RELEASE

WIN \$4000 FILM SCHOLARSHIP

The New York Film Academy, located in New York City at the Tribeca Film Center, is sponsoring a contest for college students offering a free \$4000 scholarship for its 8-week total immersion film making workshop. In this intensive film making workshop each individual writes, directs, shoots, and edits their own short film using 16mm Arriflex cameras.

Second and third prize grants toward tuition at the New York Film Academy.

We are asking college students minutes or five page treatment of materials to be returned, they self addressed envelope with submissions is March 15, 1994. be announced on April 30, 1994.



contestants will receive \$1000 to submit a VHS tape of up to 10 their work. If students wish their should also enclose an appropriate postage. Closing date for The winner of the contest will

This scholarship is being made available through the generosity of the Robert K. Hartman Foundation in order to promote film making.

Please do not hesitate to contact the New York Film Academy for further details on this contest or information on the New York Film Academy.

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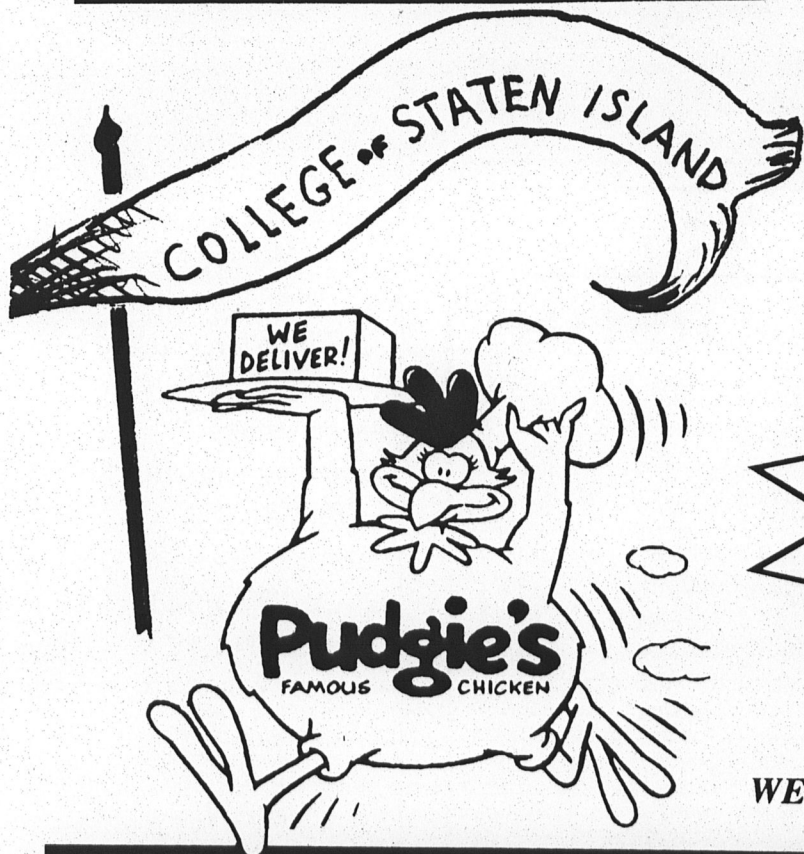
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 Pudgie's famous Fish Filet sandwich
- 4. The Admiral's Catch Deluxe 3.45**
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In the Name of Ireland, the IRA, and the Troubles

by Thomas Deignan

Despite the comparisons—ubiquitous recently as attempts at a settlement grind along—one difference between the divisions in South Africa and the Middle East, and the divisions in Ireland is U.S. governmental prioritization, hence U.S. press prioritization. Of course the big announcements are granted coverage, simply because an end to sectarian violence in the North of Ireland would be as improbable an historical event as any, it being the longest running war in the Western world. But the mundanity of the day to day negotiations,

Book Review

The IRA. A History by Tim Pat Coogan
510 PAGES, PHOTOGRAPHS, ROBERTS RHINEHART PUBLISHING

and the minor ups and downs that these negotiations yield, rarely, when Ireland is involved, make more than the "News in Brief" section of the paper. In fact, the latest killings at the hands of the IRA or the UVF are likely to receive mention, before, say, the decision to end the television ban on Sinn Fein in the Republic of Ireland.

If you've had your eyes on the news lately, you know that proposals presented in the last six months have resulted in a frenetic flurry of pain and possibility. Leaders from London, to Dublin, to Belfast have what are being called unprecedented proposals to chew on. And while the press spotlight has been there, more important, and perhaps more constructive in reaching a conclusion, since it transcends bland foreign policy coverage, is the level of Irish affairs-oriented material flowing from other media outlets. From a highly-acclaimed motion picture, to Gerry-mania, to the first American printing of likely the most authoritative book yet about "the Troubles"—which is how the largely frightened populace of Northern Ireland quietly and vaguely refer to the murderous turmoil—the American public is receiving an unusual dose of Irish politics, a dose that may further its understanding of the situation and its causes, and prepare it, and its government, for a level-headed, substantive discussion hopefully resulting down the road in a cessation of violence. The book is "The IRA. A History" by Tim Pat Coogan, and Coogan's pragmatic, authoritative command of this subject makes it a vital, if not historical work, now available, and updated, at a critical time in Irish, and indeed, in world history.

If one judges this book by its title alone then the worth of

"To understand the IRA is to understand Ireland and the Irish; their past, and regrettably, their present."

this massive work is missed. As he writes in the book's excellent introduction, Coogan eventually proves to the reader, that "To understand the IRA is to understand Ireland and the Irish; their past, and regrettably, their present."

The title is also telling because the book's name needles to the root of much that is misunderstood about the Irish-English conflict. The IRA, indeed, are a big part of this out-of-control, perhaps unsolvable mess, however, to many, they are the ones causing *all* the tears and pain. If they'd just stop, the misconception goes, life would go on, just as, to a similar extent, if the Palestinians stopped in the Middle East, and even if blacks in America stopped. However, Coogan's book, and its analysis of Protestant death squads, miscarriages of justice and historical bigotry, debunks all of this. While clearly not his only mission, (there are many ambitious aims in this work with more words than "War and Peace") perhaps "The IRA. A History's" most valuable, is to place in perspective the sociological, economic, and even geographical conditions which have pitted Catholics against Protestant, and English against Irish. Examining the simply brutal abuse of the 1800's, when Britain occupied and controlled Ireland, to the "white nigger" attitudes of the early 1900's, when Ireland was partitioned, 26 counties becoming the independent Republic of Ireland, and the six counties in the North remaining in the U.K.—thus under the control of Britain—to the abuses at the hands of British military and police forces to this day, in the name of national security, Coogan's portrait is frank and thorough, and, yes, quite Republican. (Republican meaning he is in favor of Britain pulling out of the six Northern counties, as peacefully as possible, so that Ireland may be, in the words of the old rebel song "A Nation Once Again.")

So, yes, Coogan agrees with the dreaded IRA. Does he advocate the bombings and the shooting and the kneecapping? No, of course not. Yet his portrait of the roots of the Troubles is vividly painted, and written cleanly in

journalistic prose, so that one sees it is not wrong to have the same cause as the IRA, the same enemy (the English, and its military presence in Northern Ireland), and not be a murderous, unfeeling thug. Coogan's message essentially is, "It's time to talk, and end this thing, and this is how I believe it should be done."

And he does offer solutions (Basically, as he writes in the all-to-relevant epilogue, a gradual British withdrawal, a U.N. presence and perhaps a U.S. envoy.) but first, an examination of the conflict, which is clearly the more interesting and telling part of Irish history, and as a result, of this book as well.

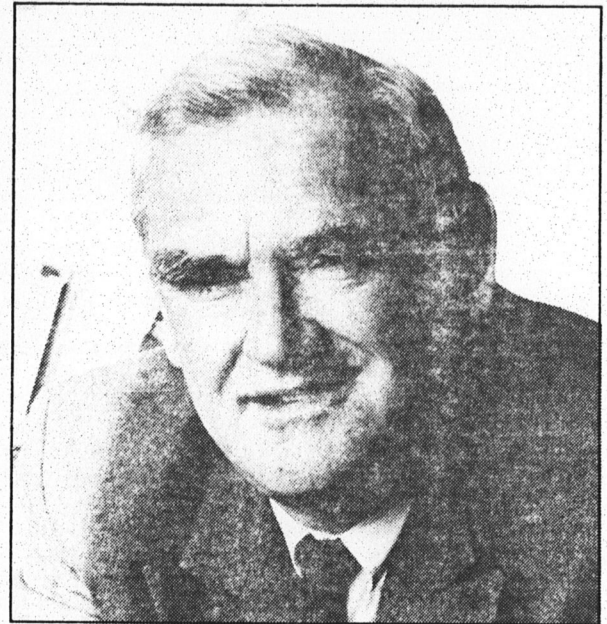
Coogan, in a thick, breathless first chapter, breezes through 150 or so years of English and Irish history, presenting a clear pattern of English domination over Irish affairs that heavily favored Protestants, and injured Catholics. Another common thread we see among the Irish is a propensity to rebel, whether it be Wolfe Tone's in 1798, or the event that is mostly credited with breathing life into a heretofore unknown group called the Irish Republican Army, that being the 1916 Easter Rebellion. The Tone-led rebellion led to the 1800 Act of Union, of which Coogan writes, "Ireland could no longer legislate for herself under the British crown, and the hundred or so members that she sent to Westminster were able to make very little impression on an assembly of 670 when it came to matters affecting British interests. Irish trade and industry were discriminated against in favour of British interests..." He goes on to examine how Ireland's land-parceling system was an atrocity, leading to an abused and ignorant population which, in the 1840's faced horrid famine. As Coogan writes this was "...a new chapter of horror in Irish history..."

From here, Coogan pointedly and briskly dissects the ultimate resolve of land issues in Southern Ireland, resulting in relative peace there. However, wealthy Protestants went North to industrialize and Catholics dire for employment followed. Anti-Catholic bigotry, as well as job-hungry Protestants, pit each against the other. The "anti-Papist" propaganda of figures such as Reverend Henry Cooke led to insurrection and violence and a total polarization of religion, with jobs, homes, and quality of life in the middle of the ugly stew. A statue of Cooke, by the way, still stands in Northern Ireland, giving one a sense of the constant tension that exists there. There are too many swooping passages from this area to pull out, but some of it sounds blood-boiling and radical, compared to the rest of Coogan's mostly measured prose. As a result, we gain an appreciation for what must be a worthwhile representation of reality.

Ireland, at this time, was still under British control and whispers of Home Rule—parliamentary independence for all of Ireland—were snuffed out by the creation of the Ulster Volunteer Force (a paramilitary Unionist group desiring Ireland's link to Britain), exploitation of Protestant fear and pride, and the dreadful decision to partition Ireland, 26 and six in 1921.

From here, briskness yields to precision that only the most inquiring of historians could crave. More is better than less, and on details of the Irish Republican Army, Coogan has no peer. His research and contacts are simply astounding. And beyond the fine details of the Army, Coogan presents Irish history as a whole, at least concerning the North, through the ups and downs of the IRA. Those ups and downs include all the great stuff of rebel myth and melodrama: jail breaks, hunger strikes, midnight raids and martyrdom for the cause.

But there is also a bumbling side to the IRA, recently noted as the most "sophisticated" Guerrilla Army in the world by *The Village Voice*. They are notorious for botching missions and there were times, as Coogan notes, that the IRA was floundering, or just plain non-existent. But rebirth and ensuing rebellion, as noted previously, is a constant in Irish history, and for a people who have suffered bitter discrimination and ghastly living conditions (and in the North still do), when things get too bad, depraved youth turn to the "IRA," reinvent it, and reinvigorate it. The most recent example of this is found in the late 1960s as battered Northern Catholics, taking a cue from America and Martin Luther King, set out on their own Civil Rights crusade. It is here that the latest incarnation of the Troubles began. When it is noted that 3,100 have died in the strife, this is the accepted starting point. Because prior to this, the IRA were literally dead. Not 10 people were killed in all of Northern Ireland in 1964 or 1965. But as Catholics marched, tension and conflict grew, and finally, British soldiers were sent in and things simply spun out of control. And Coogan's account of recent events are the book's most engaging simply because they are the most relevant, as most of the figures he discusses are the ones involved in the negotiations today. (This book was originally printed in 1970 and has been updated several times since. This version contains information on events up until mid-1993.) Most worthwhile and timely is his telling portrait of one Gerry Adams. Part prophet, part pariah, Coogan's view of him is vital and much more subtle than the image one receives if we simply listened to John Major or watched Larry King. Most importantly, we are left with the sense that Adams has a brilliant political mind, and that he is needed



Tim Pat Coogan

to resolve this conflict. Similar worthwhile analysis is granted to Ian Paisley, John Major and John Hume, all major players in the delicate peace game.

Finally, to return to the point with which I began, that through increased imagery Americans will finally grasp the intricacies of this conflict, Coogan's book achieves in this area also, although not like "In The Name of The Father," which finally showed people, on a mass level, that the IRA aren't the only bastards fighting a dirty war here, and indeed, may even cause some to question who is truly to blame for this. Coogan does, however, discuss the flimsy British legal fumbblings, brutal Protestant paramilitaries, the shoot-to-kill policy which saw suspected IRA members shot on sight (of which, among others, Margaret Thatcher had knowledge) and, perhaps most important, the depths of religion, romanticism and conviction, that leads one to join the IRA, and live to die for this cause. In this day it is difficult to believe people can have the belief in cause that Irish Republicans do, and few reject the soggy patriotism often attributed to any cause or struggle like myself. But while Coogan, throughout the book, takes this for granted, in the chapters "Republic and Republicans I & II," he proves, even in this cynical age, that somewhere out there are a group of people who are literally dedicated to cause and death. It is a presentation of a sub-culture of song, violence, codes and history that the most passionless observer cannot deny the legitimacy of. In short, after reading these two chapters, whether you agree with these people or not, you see that their beliefs are deep and come with a heavy price.

A symptom of that cynicism was a recent article in *Harper's* magazine that essentially said that there is no more religious or historic cause in either Protestant or Republican camp, only mafioso-type control over Belfast business money. This being the case, the article argued, the groups supposedly fighting for a solution, actually have a vested interest in no solution. It was a very good, well-researched article, which made, stronger still, allusions to simmering cracks between the IRA and Sinn Fein. Adams' conciliatory (by Republican standards) tone while in American only furthered my suspicion that these are fragile times in the IRA's corner. And Coogan does allude to this practice, but probably not as much as he should. Like a prominent Washington journalist, Coogan, because he's on the inside, has access to a vat of insider talk, but he also must withhold much he knows, to maintain his relationship and contacts (and, since this is the IRA we're talking about, to stay alive.) So Coogan may miss a bit here, as he may also miss by not discussing the deep ambivalence felt towards the IRA presently in the South. But the *Harper's* article, especially after reading Coogan's book, was simply too much of a debunking panacea to swallow. Sure I believe that there are factions in the IRA which would rather stay in the racketeering business than the uniting business, but it's not among people like Bobby Sands who die in hunger strikes. The point of the *Harper's* article should not be lost, however, even a breeze of Coogan's work (which by the way works extraordinarily as a reference work, as proven by the fact that I skipped around when I read it) presents one with too much blood, sweat and tears to believe that people in Ulster are now really fighting so that the struggle can continue.

Coogan is perhaps a bit too quick to jump on the Republican side, and he doesn't acknowledge that people really do have a right to despise the IRA, given the number of people that they have killed. But small flaws like this, if they are even that and not ambiguities, simply drown in the well-documented history of the Irish and the IRA. If this current spate of talks produces any glimmer of hope, I will remember the release of this book as the point in which Irish affairs returned to the American and international agenda.

Music News and Views

By: Olli Siebelt

Hi everybody. Welcome yet again to another fun-filled edition on Music News and Views. Another Spring semester has started here in CSI and I'm sitting here on my computer trying to fight a rather annoying cold and listening to Earache's Grindcrusher compilation. If any of you are feeling under the weather (and what lousy weather it's been) may I suggest picking up a copy of the February 1994 edition of Details magazine. You'll notice on page 52, columnist Cary Baker has a wonderful article on Homeopathic medicine. I strongly suggest picking up a copy. (Listening to bands like Repulsion, Intense Degree and Mighty Force also is good for clearing the sinus cavities.) But classes have begun yet again, and even though most of my classes in Building 1P have no desks, it still means lots of stuff to tell you about. The new year has begun and the record companies are getting set to bombard us with thousands of new bands. It's always funny how in the beginning of December, things slow down to almost a standstill, and once the week of January 20th or so starts, Boom! Hundreds of new releases per week. Anyway, here's

the current rundown on what going on: Died Pretty has just finished inking a deal with Columbia Records and will have a full-length record out on Feb. 22 called "Trace". Teen Beat records, having just released both its retrospective "Teen Beat 50" compilation and "Fuck Pussy Galore", The Unrest 7" Compilation, are releasing a new Unrest 7" entitled "Animal Park" on 21st. A full album is due sometime this summer. Trance Syndicate records will be releasing a debut album by Crunt next month, which features Kat Bjelland of Babes in Toyland, Russel Simmins of The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion and Stu Spasm of Lubricated Goat. Spin-Art records will be releasing a new Sneetches album sometime in April and New York Based Seed Records has just signed three new bands: Fuzzy, Ivy and Inch. Fuzzy features ex-Lemonhead Dave Ryan. All have 7" singles and Lp's due out in Spring. Indie rock Gods Pavement release their new album on February 21st on Matador. British Techno wizards Orbital are set to release a new EP on Internal Records on March 7th. It will be a "Peel Sessions" EP and it was recorded for John

Peel and the BBC last September. Courtney Love's band Hole will be finally releasing its long awaited album on March 28th. Tentatively titled "Live through this" it was produced by The Robb Brothers (most noted for their work with The Lemonheads and Buffalo Tom) and will feature remixes by REM producer Scott Litt. Madder Rose will also be releasing a new album towards the end of March on Atlantic records. My award to busiest band of 1994 goes to The Orb, who are back and in a big way. First, (take a deep breath) having just signed to Island records, after their falling out with Big Life, they are set to release a new single on March 14th, titled "Pommes Fritz" which incidentally is almost German for French Fries. They also have a double live CD due out stateside in a couple of weeks. Titled "Live Orb '93" it was recorded at Glastonbury, Copenhagen and Japan's Yellow Club throughout the summer of 1993. I got my hands on the vinyl copy for \$27 which features not two, but four records. Grab it if you can, because it's destined to become a collectors item. The Orb will also be releasing a brand new studio record in

April which features Sun Electric and Black Dog Productions. They also have a collaboration record due out on R&S records with Robert Fripp this summer. On top of all that, they are re-releasing their debut CD "Adventures in the Ultra-World" and by popular demand they are also re-releasing the single of "Perpetual Dawn" with new remixes by Youth and Andy Weatherall. No tour plans until April but they are expected to play the Glastonbury Festival in June and a stateside tour this fall. Finally, (Get ready for this!) The Stone Roses are BACK! This time it's official. After 4 producers, 5 years since their last album and numerous failed attempts at recording, they have just signed a deal with Geffen Records for £20 Million. Their long anticipated second album will be due out sometime this Spring. No title or tour plans are available at press time, but I'll keep you posted. That's about it for now. See you next time.

(Olli Siebelt can be heard every Saturday night on WSIA 88.9fm hosting "The New Music Cafe", showcasing new alternative music from around the world. All of the releases reviewed here can be heard on WSIA 88.9fm by calling the request line at 718.982.3060.)

Record Reviews

By: Olli Siebelt

At the start of every semester, I like to take the time out and explain to you what exact this column is all about. I've been the Music Director for the better part of the past year and a half at WSIA and every week I hear about 30 to 40 really great new bands from all over the world that almost nobody has heard before. This column is for you the average college student who's only source of new music is either MTV or if you're lucky, college radio. My job is to keep you guys informed on stuff that's outside the mainstream. There are practically millions of great bands out there that you've never heard of. Why? There are lots of reasons. Some are foreign, some don't fit in to what's considered acceptable to today's music media, some just are starting out with a demo or a 7", or some just get passed by. We only review good new bands or releases because I'd rather not waste space and tell you how bad a band sucks when I could be telling you about a cool band instead. All of the releases here can be found at any Alternative music outlet (Bleeker Bobs, Vintage Vinyl, Our Music, etc...) unless otherwise noted. Also, you'll also notice that under the New & Noteworthy column I don't have reviews for those bands. That doesn't necessarily means they're not as good, it's just that I don't have the time or space to write 30 detailed record reviews per issue. So enjoy the reviews and if you have any comments, suggestions, complaints, etc.. please feel free to contact me through The College Voice or WSIA. I'm always looking for new bands, either local or international. It doesn't matter what style music it is, I listen to almost everything. So if you're in a band, why not drop me a demo, 7" or CD? Here are the reviews for this issue. Enjoy.

Meathook Seed: Embedded (Earache U.K.)

When I had first heard rumors about this joint studio project between Napalm Death and Obituary surfacing last year, I merely dismissed it as another side project to add to the already over saturated Grindcore/Death Metal scene. Not that I don't like the bands, I was always a big fan of Napalm Death and Obituary was always fair game, but it wasn't until I actually heard it, that I realized just how wrong my initial assumption was. Meathook Seed can only be described as a brilliant experiment in merging traditional death metal and Grindcore power riffs with avant garde jazz rhythms, industrial dance and some of the most interesting production techniques I've heard in quite a while. Embedded owes more to Godflesh and early 80's Swans than any progressive death metal outfit out today.

Another interesting thing here is that the project is the brainchild of Mitch Harris, drummer of Napalm Death, but here he plays bass and guitar and even handles production. Donald Tardy never really caught my attention as a drummer who stood out in Obituary, but here he explore a variety of rhythms, alternating between drum machine sequences and complex live fills. Even the guitar riffs are out of the ordinary. Harris instead of choosing the power chord crunch method, opts here for lots of harmonics and alternate tunings giving more heavy tracks like "Famine Sector" and "A Fumed Grave" a very unique sound. The production is top-notch, seemingly 24 or 48 track with lots of sample triggers, loops and effects. The key track on here however is the final cut, "Sea of Tranquility" clocking in at an astonishing 13 minutes and 43 seconds, it samples everything from Detuned Pianos, Gregorian Chants and even the Cocteau Twins! Even if you're not into this kind of thing, you should pick this up for the beautiful packaging. The CD booklet is a masterpiece of printing, covered in vellum and printed with 4 color ink on glossy paper. For any fan of guitar laden music, this CD is a must have, if not for the music, then for the booklet alone. If this CD is any prediction for the future, we should be seeing a lot more of Mitch Harris and Meathook Seed in 1994. Get it. (Note: After this was written it was confirmed by Earache that Meathook Seed will be engaging in a small European tour this summer. No Stateside tour information has been available at presstime.)

Seefeel: Quique (Too Pure UK)

I was first introduced to Seefeel on a 12" that I had picked up back in November. The Aphex Twin had done a remix of one of their songs and I found it immediately to my liking. So, obviously the next step was to go out and buy their CD and enjoy hours to techno bliss, right? Not quite. Seefeel's debut CD "Quique" sounds a lot like what would happen if My Bloody Valentine did an Ambient dub record. Techno, you ask? Well, not really. Guitar loops (and lots of them) float freely about intermeshed with lots of reverberated drum loops as well as reggae and dub influenced bass playing. It's really a hard album to describe. Vocalist Sarah Peacock doesn't even sing in the traditional sense using lyrics or words but rather sings small melodies or phrases to further layer the music. My favorite tracks on here are "Plain-song" and "Charlotte's Mouth", two very dreamy tracks which reminds one of standing on a tall mountain watching clouds float by. Sounds crazy? It is. You've probably never heard anything like this. Even the comparison to MBV doesn't really do this band justice. I like

this a lot, and even though I think it will appeal most to those into music like My Bloody Valentine, Loop or Slowdive, if you try hard enough I think you'll find these songs will have an amazing influence on you. I really like this band and I think you will as well. Give it a shot. Also, try the Plainsong 12" on Too Pure. The Remixes by Aphex Twin and Sine Bubble are wonderful and even though they are a lot more dance oriented, they still retain a lot of this band's truly unique sound. (Note: I had a hell of a time finding this CD. As of February 3rd, it's available on Import only through Too Pure. It will be released domestically around early March on Caroline records.)

Pavement: Cut Your Hair / Crooked Rain (Matador)

"Indie Rockers watch out. One of the coolest records you'll ever hear is about to hit the stores and become a national sensation. This record will change your life!!!" 4 stars in Rolling Stone! Green light in Spin! Select Magazine says it's a "delightful Surprise". Amazing. 3 major music magazines in a row have declared this a big winner, so I naturally, had to go and check it out for myself. Being a Pavement fan for about 2 years now, I'll never forget the first time I heard their classic "Summer Babe" off the 1992 album Slanted and Enchanted. Well, Pavement are back and with this new single, they're out for blood. The sound is amazingly the same as most of their other stuff, yet with a lot of catch hooks. "Cut your hair" is one of the catchiest songs I've heard in quite a while. In fact, I went to bed last night with the goddamned chorus stuck in my head for about 6 hours. Sure, you can draw your comparisons to Dinosaur Jr., The Fall, Velvet Underground or any other indie guitar band out right now, but Pavement have always had that special something which separated them from the rest. This CD is fantastic. Stockton, California will never be the same. A highly recommended purchase.

The Other Two: The Other Two and you (Qwest / Reprise)

Since the disappointing release of New Order's last album "Republic" (Hey, I loved Regret, but lets face it, it wasn't anywhere near Substance or Technique) the band have seemed to do almost anything to keep from playing together. After the short tour following the release, Bernard Sumner quickly immersed himself in the studio with Neil Tennant of The Pet Shop Boys to record another Electronic Album, Peter Hook dropped out of sight and then suddenly popped up saying that he was in the middle of recording the new Revenge Album. What about Gillian Gilbert and Stephen

Morris? Well, after also dropping out of sight, and not wanting to be outdone by their contemporaries, they suddenly re-appeared in the summer of 1991 with a new side project of their own: The Other Two and a glorious single entitled "Tasty Fish". After it's release they dropped out of sight again. Fast Forward to February 1994. The full length album is finally here and it provides the essential missing link, bringing back the spirit of New Order which hasn't been felt since 1987. ...And You could fit it in perfectly with any tracks on Substance or Technique. Shimmering Dance Pop perfectly layered with a touch of acoustic guitars, synthesizer pads and wonderfully energetic drumbeats. Gillian Gilbert also proves that she's much more than just a keyboard player by exhibiting a wonderfully angelic voice. It's a shame they never let her sing on any of the New Order albums. For all of you die hard fans of New Order or mid-80's Alternative dance, you will adore this. This brings back a lot of great memories of High School and it's one of my favorite releases of 1994 so far. Grab your boyfriend or girlfriend and call up your favorite radio station and demand they play "Innocence", "Movin' On" or "Tasty Fish." A Masterpiece.

WSIA TOP 10 for February 8th 1994

- 1: Swervedriver: Mescalhead / Last Train
- 2: Twitch: Beaten senseless and giddy with love
- 3: Prong: Snap your fingers...
- 4: Jawbox: Savory
- 5: Tad: Leafy Incline
- 6: Life of Agony: River runs red
- 7: October Project: October Project
- 8: Beck: Loser
- 9: Farside: Rochambeau
- 10: Alice in Chains: Jar of Flies

New and Noteworthy: (Records you should go out and buy! No review necessary!)

- 3 Phase: Schlangenfarm (NovaMute)
- Therapy?: Troublegum (A&M)
- Carter USM: Post Historic Monsters (IRS)
- Martin Bisi: All will be won (New Alliance)
- Autechre: Incunabula (Ai/Warp)
- Rollerskate Skinny: Shoulder Voices (Beggars Banquet)
- Lotion: Full Issac (Spin Art)
- Bailter Space: B. E. I. P. (Matador)
- Low: I could live in hope (Vernon Yard)
- µ-Zig: Tango 'n' Vactif 12" (Rephlex)

Crashing Jets Make Changes

by Tom Krasniqi

Does this scenario sound all too familiar Jets' fans? Another promising season turns into another big disappointment. The New York Jets were very active during the off-season last year by acquiring Ronnie Lott, Leonard Marshall, and Eric Thomas through free agency and trading for Boomer Esiason and Johnny Johnson.

Going into the season, Jets looked like a different team than other Jets teams in the past. But the 1993 New York Jets season can be summed up this way: a year of missed opportunities.

The Jets blew big leads against Philadelphia and the Raiders. They also lost to the pitiful Colts and kicker Cary Blanchard missed three field goals in a devastating 16-14 loss at Buffalo.

The Jets still had a shot to make the playoffs during the final week of the season when New England knocked off Miami. The Jets had to win at Houston to make it to the post-season. Granted, it was a difficult task but the game meant nothing to Houston who had Cody Carlson at quarterback.

The Jets were crushed by Houston 24-0. Ouch! They were humiliated on national TV by Carlson and wide receiver Gary Wellman who the Jets made him out to be Steve Largent. So this team which was put together to make the playoffs this year fell flat on their faces. Changes had to be made.

The Jets offense struggled big time down the stretch by scoring only 36 points in their last six games. Then head coach Bruce Coslet was to blame. He handled the offensive play-calling for the Jets and did a terrible job.

One call stands out the most in my mind: Coslet ran a reverse on a 2nd and 6 play from the Colts' 21 with the game tied at six apiece. What!? Where did that come from? Rob Moore lost six yards on the play and Blanchard missed a long field goal. The Jets lost 9-6 and there's goes your season right there.

General Manager Dick Steinberg asked Coslet to get an offensive coordinator to take over the offense. Coslet refused. He was then fired by Steinberg and replaced by

defensive coordinator Pete Carroll.

The Jets new head coach promoted defensive line coach Greg Robinson to defensive coordinator. Carroll will also look for an offensive coordinator. And it had better not be Walt Harris who coaches the quarterbacks.

This guy is Bruce Coslet #2 in my mind. He'll definitely run the ball on 3rd and 12. Coslet had to go and his reluctance to get an offensive coordinator cost him his job. Bruce was supposed to be a strong motivator and yet couldn't get his team ready to play in the biggest game of his coaching tenure versus Houston. His cheap play calling was the final nail in his coffin. Carroll now takes over and I think it's a good move.

Carroll is a defensive genius, emotional, and he already has the respect of his players who like to play hard for him. I think he can do for the Jets what Bill Cowher has done for Pittsburgh and what Dave Wannstedt is doing for Chicago.

Pete Carroll is in that same mold. An emotional defensive genius who demands respect from his players and will not be afraid to chastise a player when he does something wrong. However, Carroll will be under the microscope and under a lot of pressure being a head coach. He will probably need a couple of years to adapt as life as head coach so don't expect a quick turnaround. But in time, I think he'll be a fine head coach.

So what do these Jets need to make the jump into the elite group of teams? They could use a top flight wide receiver to go along with Rob Moore and the explosive tight end Johnny Mitchell. Want some names? There are a few big names out there in the free agent market like Tim Brown, Michael Haynes, Haywood Jeffries, and Anthony Miller. The Jets will actively pursue Haynes and Miller in particular because of their ability to get deep with their blazing speed.

Another need that Carroll wants desperately is an impact player with pass rushing ability on the defensive line to go along with Jeff Lageman and Marvin Washington. Those type of players don't grow on trees but there are

some available through free agency such as Clyde Simmons, Sean Jones, and Henry Thomas.

Look for Jets to make big pitch for Henry Thomas of Minnesota because Carroll was a defensive assistant in Minnesota for a few years before he came to the Jets. He's very familiar with Thomas and Henry Thomas would fit in nicely on that Jets defensive line in between Lageman and Washington. Free agent signing period begins March 1.

QUICKOUTS: Despite the 44-3 smacking by the Niners, the Giants still had a great season and give Dan Reeves all the credit in the world. He turned this team around from that Ray Handley regime (more like a Communist state).

As many have speculated, Lawrence Taylor announced his retirement after 13 great seasons with the Jints. He's the greatest linebacker ever in my opinion and I wish he would have went out on a winning note. Thanks for the memories, LT!!

Gotta love that Knicks trade for Derek Harper. This guy is a good defensive player who can shoot and distribute the ball on the offensive end. Plus, they got him for the cheap price of Tony Campbell and a 1997 1st rounder. Harper is also a leader and is very hungry to win that NBA title he could never get with Dallas.

Charles Oakley should be an All Star. 'Nuff said...Nets should get rid of Derrick Coleman while he's still around. This guy needs to grow up and for him to turn down \$69 million from the Nets, that's ridiculous.

If the New Jersey Devils, who are in second place behind the Rangers, can trade for that dominant goal scoring center (Steve Yzerman?), things can get interesting around here come April.

Finally, My "Loser of the Month" award for January goes to Buddy Ryan, defensive coordinator of Houston Oilers. This jerkie clocked offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride during the Oilers-Jets game. He embarrassed himself, his team, and the league and it was totally classless. I hope Gilbride gets back on him by choking out that fat troll after Houston's loss to Chiefs in playoffs. Ryan deserves it.

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Athletic Goings-on Intramural Tournaments

Activity	Last Date Sign-Up	Contest Date	Time	Place
Table Tennis	Feb. 17	Feb. 17	1:45 pm	Student Center
Chess	Feb. 17	Feb. 17	1:45 pm	Student Center
Foosball	Feb. 17	Feb. 17	1:45 pm	Student Center
Schick 3 on 3 Basketball	Winner only	Feb. 20	9:00 am	Columbia Univ.
Badminton	Feb. 24	Feb. 25	1:30 pm	Sunnyside Gym
ACUI Region III Recreation Tourney	TBA			
Billiards-Mens	Mar. 3	Mar. 3	1:45 pm	Showplace
Billiards-Womens	Mar. 3	Mar. 3	1:45 pm	Showplace
Trivia Contest	Mar. 10	Mar. 10	1:30 pm	Student Center
Wheel of Fortune Game	Mar. 17	Mar. 17	2:00 pm	Rm. TBA Student Center
Frisbee Golf	Mar. 17	Mar. 17	1:30 pm	Outside Student Center
Tennis	Apr. 14	Apr. 14	1:30 pm	Sunnyside Courts
Mr. C.S.I.	Apr. 28	Apr. 28	1:30 pm	TBA
Run for Fun	May 5	May 5	2:00 pm	Outside Student Center
Golf	May 26	May 26	8:00 am	Silver Lake

Intramural Scedule

Activity	Day	Time	Begins	Place
Bowling League Meeting	Sunday	12:00 pm	Feb. 13	Country Lanes
Bowling League Meeting	Sunday	12:30 pm	Feb. 13	Country Lanes
Basketball 5 on 5 Meeting	Thursday	3:00 pm	Feb. 17	Student Center
Basketball 5 on 5 Starts	Thursday	1:45 pm	Feb. 24	Sunnyside Gym
Softball League Meeting	Thursday	1:45 pm	Apr. 7	Student Center
Softball League Starts	Thursday	1:45 pm	Apr. 14	Sunnyside Field

xx Captains of teams entering leagues or toumney must attend meetings as are individuals who want to join a team.

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DOLPHIN SPORTS

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HEY FOLKS, LET'S CALM DOWN

by Ed Hicks

The Knicks are 34-14 at the All-Star break and New Yorkers aren't happy. So the question remains; Why aren't they happy? The Knicks lose a game and every acting general manager and rotisserie expert has the "aging" Patrick Ewing on the block.

Let's just stop this nonsense and examine some facts. Fact #1: Patrick Ewing is playing great basketball. Robert Parish is

Editor's Notes

40 years old and Patrick is 31, so let's get off the age thing.

Ewing can play with any center in the NBA and you know that he is looking for Hakeem Olajuwon after that embarrassing effort at the Garden earlier this year. Shaquille O'Neal won in Orlando, 106-103, but Ewing came up big at the Garden and left O'Neal complaining about the officiating, which solidifies the fact that he was outplayed by Ewing.

Fact #2: Derek Harper and Greg Anthony are a solid duo. The Harper trade really gives the Knicks an outlet that they needed; an outside shot. If Ewing starts getting double-teamed in the crunch, then it's up to Harper to make the opponent pay.

Anthony has really played well the last few weeks and seems to be finding his place in Pat Riley's system. He provides quick hands and good ball-handling off the bench. These two together can really give teams fits with their different strengths. Another bonus is that Harper has rejuvenated his former Dallas backcourt mate, Rolando Blackman.

Fact #3: John Starks could be a Michael Jordan-type of game breaker. Now it's true that some nights that Starks couldn't hit water if he fell out of a boat, but at the same time, he can be unconscious and carry the Knicks.

Starks shows no fear when he takes the ball to the hoop and that is one of his strengths. If Starks can use the rest of the season to find his flow and take it to the next level, he can be devastating. But please John, no headbutts.

Fact #4: Charles Smith is arriving. After coming back from knee surgery, Smith has been great. He has taken the ball to the hoop and finally is shaping up to be the third go-to guy with Ewing and Starks.

Knick fans are still hurting over those four rejections against Chicago last year in the playoffs. But those rejections personified Smith's game last year: not strong enough. This year is shaping up to be quite different for Smith.

Fact #5: Charles Oakley is a beast. That fact is good for Knick fans. Oakley has been a team player all season and has been the main cog in a defensive machine. Throw in his hustle and his intimidating presence into the mix and his back door entrance to the All-Star game proves that fans shouldn't vote.

Fact #6: The Knicks have great depth.

This could be the largest factor heading into the playoffs. With the exception of Phoenix and Seattle, nobody can go deeper into his bench than Riley.

You have Harper, Anthony, Blackman, Starks and a healthy Hubert Davis at the guards. Davis could be the sleeper guy in the playoffs. He was just starting to excel for the Knicks when he broke a bone in his hand, so you know he is hungry.

Smith, Oakley, Anthony Mason and Anthony Bonner give them good depth at forward. Mason has been slowed a bit by injuries, but his ball-handling skills are an intangible that hurts an opposing teams press. Bonner has shown impressive offensive skills and his defense is top notch.

Throw in Ewing and Herb Williams and the Knicks are deep. If all of these players are playing well, the Knicks could go all the way.

Here is a quick wish list for Pat Riley as the season bores on. 1) Please get Hubert Davis those minutes he needs to get that

beautiful stroke on target. 2) Reduce Charles Oakley's minutes down the stretch so he is not dead in the playoffs. 3) Get Anthony Bonner some extra freethrow shooting practice.

Hey, live and let live, I always say and if Michael Jordan wants to play some baseball, well then, have a blast, big guy. But Mike, you can't hit a curveball and that has ruined careers a lot more promising than yours.

Jordan's baseball career should last about as long as his exile from the media headlines, but Mike will have the last laugh (as usual) when Pete Myers is throwing up bricks in the playoffs.

Just for principle, nobody should watch Nancy Kerrigan or Tonya Harding skate in the Olympics.

The Anaheim Mighty Ducks, as of press time, have lost 16 games by one goal. That

makes for a lot of Grecian Formula being used in Anaheim.

The Yankees get Terry Mulholland for Bobby Munoz and some minor-leaguers and when you think about it, it was really the best that GM Gene Michael could do.

You can't scorn a quality left-hander in Yankee Stadium (see Jimmy Key) and Mulholland's ability to keep runners close at first makes Mike Stanley's job a lot easier.

Throw in that Mulholland has been a 200+ inning pitcher in the past and the Yankees have certainly helped a need. One request of Michael is that he keep the left side of the infield dream duo of Russell Davis and Derek Jeter a potential reality.

I don't believe in jinxes or hexes. The New York Rangers have the talent to win the Stanley Cup this year. Let Rangers fans hope that this fact is not ruined by the Hot Goalie Theory, which has ruined many a promising playoff run for many teams.

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