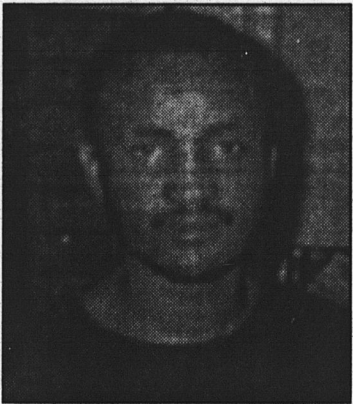


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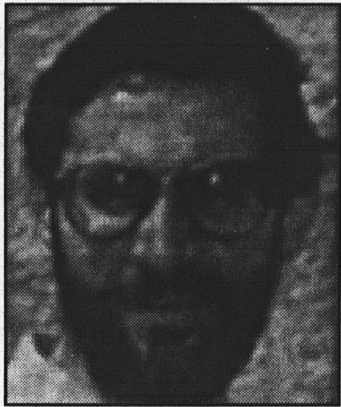
For Free Tuition and Open Admissions

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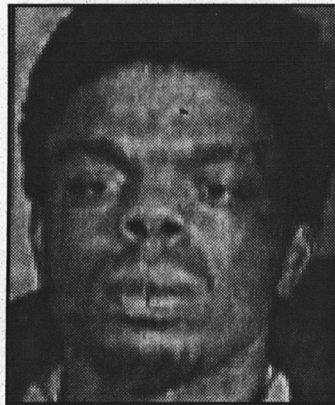
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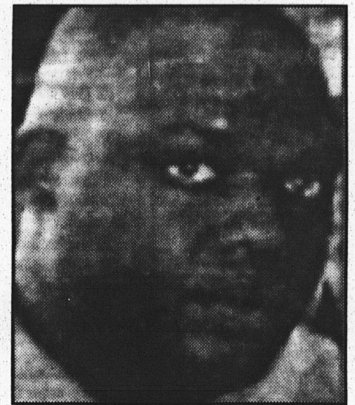
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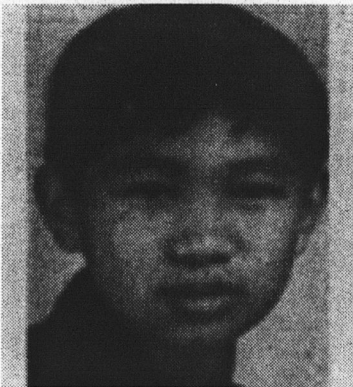
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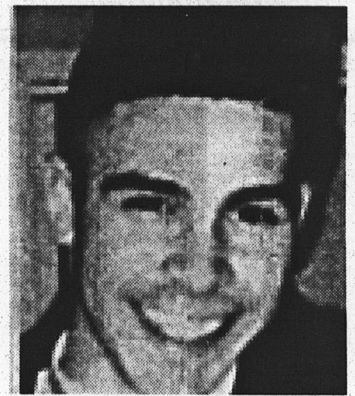


PATRICK DORISMOND



YONG XIN HUANG

ARE
YOU
NEXT?



ANTHONY ROSARIO

THERE IS NO JUSTICE IN THE CAPITALIST COURTS
ORGANIZE MASS ACTION TO SHUT THE SYSTEM DOWN

THIS SPACE CAN BE CENSORED

On March 29th a federal appeals court denied a request for an injunction that would have prevented the Student Election Review Committee (SERC) from canceling the student government election this year if the College Voice published candidate endorsements on our front page. The College Voice planned to publish our election endorsements on the front page but we will not subject the candidates we endorse to the threat of disqualification by the SERC or even a temporary suspension or disruptive on of the student elections. Please read our endorsements on page

In 1997 SERC canceled the student government election after the College Voice published front page endorsements and President Marlene Springer upheld the SERC's decision. The students endorsed by the College Voice were student activists who were building a student movement linked to the communities CUNY serves. The next year the President of City College used the same excuse to cancel the student government election at CCNY. The candidates that were disqualified at CCNY were also student activists who sued the college administration after they discovered a hidden camera disguised as a smoke detector at the entrance to the room where they held their meetings.

Ten CSI students, including several member of the editorial collective of the College Voice At a hearing on January 28th CUNY Deputy General Counsel Michael Solomon said that if the College Voice published election endorsements this year that were as prominent

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College as a Business Institution

MARCO SAINTE JR.

These days it's becoming harder and harder for working class people to gain the benefits of higher education. Between the rising of tuition and the lowering of financial aid, college learning is becoming more and more an unattainable dream for many unable to dish out the funds that are asked for it, dooming much of the unwealthy populace to menial labor. Adding to this unfortunate situation are the practices of registration and bursar offices, which seem to do everything in their power to make entering college a difficult and unpleasant experience for the aspiring student, if not bar them from the halls of learning outright. These set ups and practices are presented as necessary; something to make the college experience more efficient. However, the real truth of the matter is that college is no longer a place to achieve higher learning and to better oneself through knowledge. It has become a place of business: an institution where one pays large sums of money as well as 4+ years of their lives for a document that supposedly helps the buyer to enter the higher end of the job market. In other words, it has become a place where one is exploited one way, then pumped out and stamped suitable to be exploited by other institutions so that said individual can eat better. Depending on where one was so stamped determines how high on the job market s/he will climb. Those who can't get that stamp are barely able to make ends meet. The whole college process has become a money making racket, open only for those ready and able to pay it's steady increasing prices, while subtracting much of the essence that colleges originally stood for.

CSI has become a prime example of such a transformation. It has turned from a small CUNY institution into a rising business, even something of an amusement park, with shows and attractions, gym memberships for non students and Staten Island Yankee baseball games, all bamboozling the public and sucking their pockets. Meanwhile, the academics, the arts and sciences continue to suffer as department after department gets cut, classes and programs get canceled and professors are forced to retire early, bringing in less experienced adjuncts willing to accept less pay, causing the serious minded student to suffer as well. Despite the steady blows suffered by the schooling aspect of college life, tuition continues to rise, denying poor would be students the chance to better their lives. Any programs that would help them enter are constantly withdrawn, all while those in

charge of these colleges continue to lie about wanting to spread education. All they are interested in is how to make their new found and rising business more appealing.

As any student of economics can tell you, the more a product is in demand, the higher the price for it. With the high demand for college educated workers as well as those skilled in the aspects of computer technology, languages and sciences, higher learning continues to be sought out at an enormous rate. There was a time when a simple high school diploma would suffice in getting a good job, and college was for those who wanted to master a certain subject or field, to acquire a higher standard of knowledge. Those days are long gone, and a simple high school graduate is hardly considered for barely anything higher than fast food work. Even students with associate and bachelor degrees are having a difficult time of it. As more and more young students realize the importance of a good education, i.e., going to college, those controlling these higher halls of learning are seeing this as a great way to turn a profit, as well as keep certain undesirables "in their place".

There obviously are those who do not see things this way, and may think this to be a very cynical view of things. Surely no one could be devious enough to do such a thing to young students and their education. However, one must remember the fundamentals of this society. Recall that this is after all, a capitalist society; business and money are the highest standards of the land. Those who are doing well in this nation are selling something, and anything can be put up for sale, no matter what one may hold sacred. Sex, nourishment, health, mental well being, safety...everything comes at a price, and no matter what you will find someone who's willing to place the price tag. Education is no exception.

There is no such thing as "pity" when it comes to business. Either you have the money for the product or you don't. Who cares how much you need it, the object is to get paid. Charity is for those who aren't interested in money. This is why there is such a thing as cancer sufferers not getting proper treatment, or innocent people not being properly represented at trials, simply because of a lack of funds. If your health or your innocence was held to be important, money wouldn't matter as much. The same with education: if it's supposedly held to be such a high thing to obtain, something that everyone should have, money wouldn't be such an issue. We care about your education, they say. Anyone who has dealt with Bursar know

this is BS. Miss one payment, owe any amount of money from past semesters, and the reality shines through. The precedence of the dollar shoes itself at every opportunity, often in ridiculous ways. For example, during the beginning of this semester, a student found that there was a stop put on his registration because of money he owed from the preceding semester. The amount owed? 50 cents. They were willing to heckle a student over two quarters.

Just like many other businesses, colleges like to compare prices with others in the same field, often to mask the

continues to rake in obscene amounts of money, selling mandatory parking decal's to car owning students despite the fact that they do not guarantee a parking space, and ticketing all cars found without said decal's. The first year that they started this "service" they had raked in a little over a million dollars, money that supposedly went back to Parking Services, or so it was said. Who knows how much they are making now. The Sports Center also continues to take in revenue, receiving money from paid memberships to its facilities by non students, as well as from sporting events



true cost and/or quality of what they are offering. It has been argued time and time again that despite the cries of increasing tuition and how expensive CUNY has become, that compared to more "prestigious universities" they still retain the lowest prices. This may be so, but the fact remains that tuitions are being raised just high enough so that people with hardly any money can't get in. After all, if you are selling things to people who hardly have any funds, how do you expect to get rich?

Another business like practice that is done at college is the offering of loans to those who aren't able to pay with their own money (or if regular financial aid isn't enough), like when one wants to buy a car or a house. As we know, loans can really become a burden for many years, particularly student loans, and one tends to be constantly hounded by the college, even though the loan was given "in their best interest". The loan's interest, that is.

There are other money making schemes that have been concocted by CSI in order to increase revenue and bank accounts. For example, Parking Services

and tournaments. Money raising events like high society dinners and 50's theme sock hops are routinely held on campus, usually over the weekend and without the common knowledge nor desire of students. And of course, there's the Staten Island Yankee Stadium, catering to the minor league and it's fans, happily taking in the money asked to watch the games and generating noise that disturbs any classes that happen to be commencing at the time. A total disregard for the learning of students, in favor of extra money to line the pockets of those running the circus.

It's a sad thing when education is constantly being denied to hard working people who want to better themselves but don't have much money. It's even sadder when the experience is cheapened by philanthropy. Education is not only being used as a tool to keep people separated into social classes, but it is also being used to make a quick buck at the expense of the student. However, coming from a nation which idolizes such a philosophy, this should come as no surprise.

Pay Us or Get Out - Welcome to CSI

CARRIE COSSA

"Hundreds of tickets are issued incorrectly, but all you have to do is come to my office and we will fix the problem right away", said Barry Summers, who heads the Parking Services at CSI.

Students who only occasionally drive on to the campus with a friends or family members car are freely issued a "visitors pass" at the guard booth at the front gate of the campus. However, what many unsuspecting students and actual visitors to the campus find after they've filled out this "visitors pass" and left it on their dashboards is a CSI Parking ticket upon their return.

Aha! Says, the Parking Director, they have not read the official guidebook of parking propriety, which clearly states in paragraph twelve, section D, line 18 that you are a fool if you believe that the Visitors Pass is legit.

The student protests, but Mr.

Scummers, I don't know of any guidebook, I asked for a pass at the gate and it was issued to me no questions asked.

Well, my son, you seem to be a bright young man, the Director says with an air of ill fitting self-confidence, every student or visitor to this campus must familiarize themselves with all the important rules and regulations of the campus.

But you said, that the pass is really not valid, then why...

Now calm yourself young man, I have all day to talk you about this we don't have to rush. The student glances at his watch, reading 30 minutes since he had arrived at the office. The Director continues, the Campus Security is unaffiliated with the Parking Services Directorate. It's up to you to know that the Pass is not valid. If you feel it is not legitimate then you are free to drop in on me for a chat and if it is indeed an error I

will throw it out.

But sir, I work full time and have a family to take care of, I don't really have any spare time.

Now, now, young man, that is the wrong attitude. When you are issued a ticket by the NYPD, do you not go to the relevant office to pay it?

But, this is a university campus, I come here to get a degree so I can get a better job and improve my...

Now see here young thing, the Director thundered, blah blah blah blah. For another half hour the blab continued.

The student losing all hope in life, stabs the director in the eye with the directors gold fountain pen.

The student was arrested and sentenced to death by electric chair.

Immigrant - Give Me Your Money
When Arjuna Mahanama and Keiko Matsuda entered the Admissions Office at CSI they were full of hope, joy and

respect for the institution and the country.

They were told that they had to pay more than twice the fee of "resident" students.

Keiko, said, but we are residents.

Do you have proof?

I've lived in Staten Island for more than fifteen years, said Arjuna..

"Maahayname" and "Maatsubishi" how do you explain your names?

Keiko in a lightning flash cracks him in the face with her combat boot.

Fourteen members of the elite CSI

SAFE TEAM swoop in -

through the women's bathroom -

- of the adjoining building

- and discover President Springer.

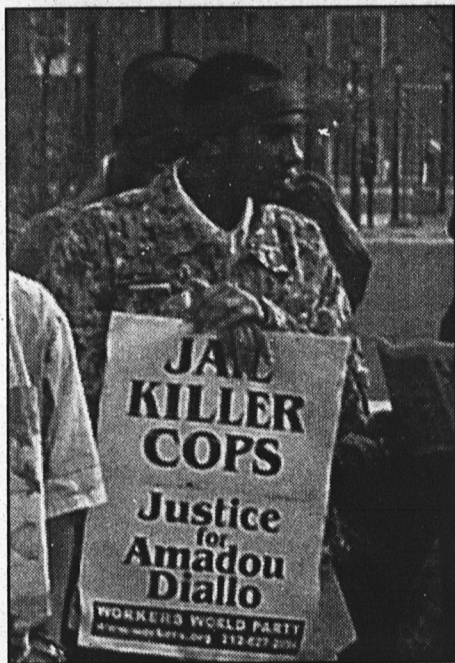
Arjuna and Keiko take the Presidents car and head west.

Mayor Giuliani declares that all women with "Chinese eyes" and "Indian men" are to be deported immediately.

CSI Students and the Community Express Outrage Towards the Diallo Verdict and Police Brutality

HOLLY LENAHAN

Two rallies, held on Staten Island, protested the verdict in which four police officers were acquitted for the murder of African immigrant Amadou Diallo. Students and community activists worked together to express outrage over



the acquittal of the murderers. One rally was held here at the CSI campus, while the other took place on Staten Island's North Shore.

The student clubs and publications, Convergence, College Voice and Third

Rail, organized about sixty students and some community members in a protest on Thursday, March 9th. Protesters met during club hours in front of the Campus Center and marched in a semi-circular path around campus. The march ended in front of building 1P, where the rap group.... was waiting. After the young artists entertained the protesters, several student speakers took the microphone and expressed their feelings on the Diallo verdict.

Many student speakers gave passionate speeches on how justice should be administered. "When you live in the ghetto and you have to wear a bullet proof vest because the cops might shoot you justice is not being done," stated student organizer, Leslie Anne Alvaradous in an intense, militant speech. Bill Wharton, who was one of the primary organizers of the rally, called on students to network themselves into political organizations. He stated that students need to become more politically aware and organized in the fight not only against police brutality, but all injustices.

Two days later community members and students alike marched from Stapleton to St. George in a demand for justice. The protest was organized by a group called Staten Islanders demanding

Justice for Amadou Diallo Coalition. The group consists primarily of CSI students and residents of the North Shore community.

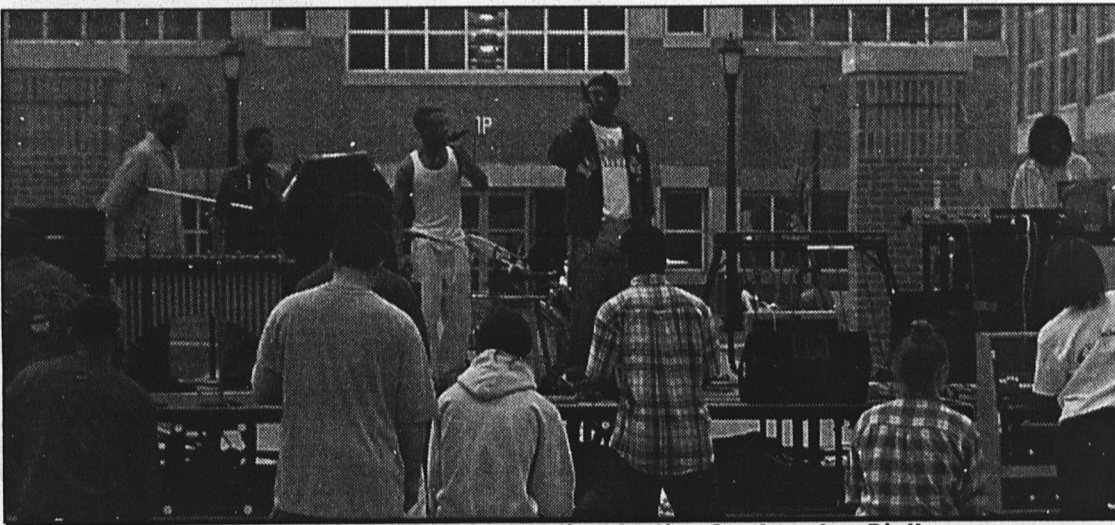
The morning of Saturday, March 11th the group met with other outraged citizens in Stapleton's Tappen Park and marched along Bay St. to Borough Hall. Although it was a cold, rainy day, approximately 80 people marched with their heads held high, in the demand for justice.

A series of speeches were given by both students and community activists. A sixty year old woman....spoke of how she was thrown to the floor, had a gun pointed to her head, and called a bitch by police officers, in her own home. The officers had entered the home while they were on a drug raid. Another speaker,

John Paul.... demanded that New Yorkers "shut the city down."

Although they were soaking wet and freezing cold in the wind and rain, protesters furiously yelled out "Police training 101 it's a wallet not a gun." In unison, they also angrily counted to forty one in representation of the forty one bullets fired at Amadou Diallo by the four acquitted police officers.

Staten Islanders Demanding Justice for Amadou Diallo Coalition, Convergence and the College Voice intend to continue being active in the fight for justice. Anyone interested in joining the fight may contact either group via the College Voice.



Students watch AquaVibe perform demanding Justice for Amadou Diallo

Vote New Caucus!

Defend Open Admissions and Liberal Arts Education

College Voice Endorsement

Students across CUNY are in hopeful anticipation that the New Caucus will emerge victorious in the upcoming elections to the CUNY faculty union - the PSC. The practice of narrow business unionism employed by the old guard leadership of Polishook and Boris has been totally ineffective in defending the faculty and students of CUNY against the vicious racist assault on Open Admissions. CUNY is being turned into an education factory by the Wall Street planners and their friends in City Hall and Albany. In the name of higher standards the racist Wall Streeter's are limiting access to students, infringing on faculty control over curriculum, beefing up security and turning the students, faculty and workers at CUNY into second-class citizens in our own university. Enough is enough! We have high hopes that the program of internal democracy and labor solidarity that the New Caucus is committed to will upon taking power begin to return CUNY to its mission of providing the highest quality higher ed to the working class, Black, Latino, Asian, immigrant masses that want it. Victory to the New Caucus!

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

THERE ARE REAL ISSUES FACING CUNY FACULTY AND STAFF. IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT WE TACKLED THEM.

In April ballots will be mailed for a critical election for the future of our union. For the first time in nearly a generation, our union will elect a new President and a new team of officers. After years of searing and destructive changes imposed on the University, the PSC must become more aggressive in defending CUNY and its faculty and staff. The New Caucus offers dynamic new leadership for this critical juncture in the history of our union and the University. Here is an overview of our four-part plan to resolve the issues we face in our professional lives at CUNY

PROFESSIONALISM

CUNY cannot hope to maintain its high professional standards if workloads continue to increase, academic programs continue to come under unrelenting attack and management continues the shift to part-time faculty. The PSC must be more outspoken in upholding the professional standards of CUNY's academic workforce.

The New Caucus will fight to increase the number of full-time faculty, to reduce the workloads of faculty and staff, to defend academic departments and programs, to protect the rights of faculty as new educational technology is introduced, and to defend CUNY's historical policy of inclusion. The New Caucus believes that HEOs, CLTs and other staff members who have been seriously overworked due to understaffing should have easier access to reclassification upgrades and better chances for promotion and job opportunity.

PARITY

Adjuncts and other part-time faculty now teach more than 60% of the courses at the community colleges and nearly half the courses at the senior colleges. Yet even when they teach a full load their salaries are below the starting pay for a full-time assistant professor. Many adjuncts do not have union health benefits, and those that do are saddled with a seriously under-funded program which not only limits their benefits but threatens retiree benefits as well. The New Caucus will work for pro-rated parity for part-time faculty, including the right to full benefits. Our goal is to increase management's incentive for more full-time hiring and decrease the university's dependence on a part-time workforce.

Disparity of funding and workload among colleges is a critical issue because it results in unequal faculty and staff workloads for comparable work, as well as unequal resources for students. As the New Caucus works for restoration of funding for all CUNY units, it will also seek to remedy the funding inequities between colleges.

PAY

CUNY salaries, once the envy of higher education, have failed to keep pace with inflation. With five years of 0% increases in the 1990s, CUNY lags behind salary increases won nationally. The New Caucus believes that the union's priority must be ending the CUNY salary slide, defending our salary steps, and negotiating a contract that fairly compensates the commitment and ability of CUNY faculty and staff. In a time of budget surpluses, there is no excuse for unjust salaries. The New Caucus also stands for true pension equity for TIAA-CREF participants and increased funding for the Welfare Fund for all members.

PARTICIPATION

For too long, union affairs, especially in contracts and other collective bargaining issues, have been conducted largely in secret with members kept in the dark. While the current PSC leadership has ignored the membership in the development of CUNY-wide policies, the New Caucus believes that the fate of CUNY and of union remains in the first place in the hands of the faculty and staff. Accordingly, the membership must play a role in every aspect of union affairs, including contract negotiations. Elected representatives from each campus, each professional group and retiree's should comprise a negotiating team that stays in close contact with members. A large research university, like CUNY, can also actively establish a union research center for use in collaboration with other city unions.

Since the 1990s, the New Caucus has brought two-party democracy to the PSC. We are the elected leadership of the six largest CUNY campuses and among the elected representatives to the PSC at ten campuses.

CSI Student and Bronx Resident, Gives a Few Thoughts on Amadou Diallo & Police Brutality

CLIFFORD TOLLES

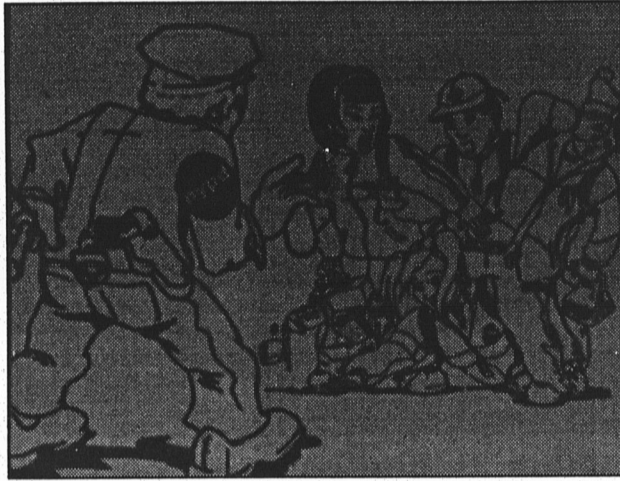
I'm writing this article to if nothing else present one persons view on the recent Diallo situation. By this I don't just mean the final verdict concerning the 4 officers, or the murder itself but the entire situation.

As an African American Bronx resident, I have kept very close watch on this case since it's beginning where a man was basically slaughtered by an unfathomable 41 shots. On the outset I expected to hear that he was perhaps a wanted murderer, escaping bank robber, maybe a drug lord who'd gotten himself into a fire fight, but no, sickeningly enough I found out he was just a young black man reaching for his wallet in the face of four white officers. Like many others I sought true justification for an incident so brutal but the answer that came back was one heard far to often in low income areas - "we thought he had a gun." Undoubtedly one could believe this if so many things didn't point to so much more - Why 41 shots? Maybe it's just me, but I figure it shouldn't take more than one bullet to wound an armed man. 2. If you really want him dead he's not wearing kevlar or anything. No 41 shots, this rings to me like a crime that they weren't even shooting at him, that they were shooting at everything they feared - everything they hated. The thing that kept them walking the streets late at night, the thing they hated to have to "protect". Funny seems like that "thing" looks a lot like me and my uncle, and my father. Not to comforting a thought considering those men and women are basically now paid to hunt us, paid to fear me, paid to kill me if they deem it necessary. Surprisingly, even in light of

all these things I still believed that this young black man's particular murder was beyond the realm of any justification that even the whitest court in the land couldn't legally find a way to make this logical. - Well I was wrong.

Despite countless opportunities for reasonable doubt these 4 officers were acquitted on all charges. They weren't even found guilty of something so obvious as reckless endangerment which would basically say they were careless or even manslaughter be it voluntary or involuntary. No, they walked out as happy as you please. A friend and I had remembered how this reminded us of the ad campaign for mentos candy - where you can screw up so royally and eat a mentos and come out perfectly fine, the only thing missing was for one of them to give the "thumbs up" in the courtroom and say "the freshmaker". All comedy aside, how should men as a race, as a people, as a city did with this. In my humble opinion it all depends on your state of mind and your sense of "justice". What do I mean? Well lets analyze "mind sets" if you will. If you didn't care before, or felt as though you couldn't relate, I doubt you'll feel much differently now. If you could relate but were the type to not get involved or not get "worked up", well then add another notch to your "cap of cowardice" because you've been shown injustice again the rest of us can only hope you finally wake up and seek the true

meaning behind these things. If like me you seek real truth and can relate as few other can, I have no easy answers for you all I an say is be heard get involved. I feel that even writing this article gets one persons' words out there not that I'll stop here but at least it's something. Then there are those of us who have already been soldiers in the struggle fighting for



justice in the world of the unjust for far too long. I say let this fuel you whether you call for reform or revolution you have that much more reason.

All my teenage years and even in the midst of this article I find myself asking the same question - why? The nearest I can come to an answer is the system doesn't see people. It sees numbers. When hiring a cop does the system care that he hates Asians? No, it only cares that the number of police officers just goes up by 1. When it sends cops out to

ghettos and low income areas, does it care whether or not the cops will be able to relate? Does it care if whether or not the cops will even care? NO. It cares that if cops kill off whomever they have to when they have to. Now as I mentioned before we must also consider an individual's sense of justice. What does justice mean to you? Now I can't answer that for you but I can give you my sense of what exactly justice is. Justice to me is punishment for a crime committed. A punishment no more or less horrendous than the crime, but at the same time in my view justice has no prejudices that actions are put on trial no matter what the people look or sound like. In my sense of justice people pay for the wrongs that they had a head in even on this basic level. No justice was served. Beyond a shadow of doubt they did in fact take a human life with some seriously malicious intent.

Once again here in the article I provide no answers or claim to be an authority or anything. I wasn't there the night this terrible incident happened so I can't give any eyewitness testimony. I just wanted to illustrate some of what was on the mind of one Bronx resident. Oh, and just for thought, in the time it took me to write this, another unarmed black man was killed about a block from Amadou Diallo's house and guess what the man was arrested at the protest 2 days earlier. Justifiable police force or murder of someone who dared to have a voice? Did I mention it was the police who shot him? At point blank range no less. Just something to think about. I thank you for taking the time to read this and I thank the Voice for allowing me their print space.

Amadou Diallo's Killing A Modern Day Lynching We Need A New Civil Rights Movement

BY ROHANA WIJEWEERA

There was a time in these United States not long ago when marauding mobs of racist whites would capture, hang, burn and shoot innocent Blacks. This practice of lynching was often aided and abetted by the authorities but was usually carried out by civilian white mobs. While this practice has declined over the years with the struggle of black people for equality, it still takes place. The dragging and decapitation of James Byrd, a black man, by a group of white racists in Jasper, Texas last year is still fresh on our minds.

In NYC today, in the USA in general, lynching is making a comeback. Today the lynchers are not in majority bloodthirsty civilian mobs but institutions of the State - first and foremost the Police. An NYPD gang in street clothes was prowling around in a working class black neighborhood looking for some black man to accost. Poor Amadou Diallo standing outside the door of his building was not looking to die. He wasn't committing any crime. He was just alive. That was good enough for the NYPD gang that spotted him and moved in on him. With their guns drawn they approached their intended victim. A moment of terror as Amadou saw the cold steel pointed at him and the cold white faces mocking him and then an explosion of murderous hatred, 41 bullets, 19 tearing into his body and killing him. The only difference between the classic southern style lynching and this lynching was that these murderers

wore badges, were officers of the Law.

Black people and poor people have known for long that the Law didn't offer its justice equally but the Civil Rights struggle was supposed to have brought about some legal equality. Today the Law has declared that Amadou Diallo's murder was justifiable. Today the Law - the Courts, Giuliani, Pataki, Republican and Democrat - has declared that killing a Black man is not a crime. Murder is legal! Innocence is guilt! A dangerous moment has arrived. A specter haunts America - the specter of Fascism. When the law becomes an open instrument to legitimize the murder of innocent people - the law is no longer democratic. The KKK marching in downtown NYC last October 23rd was not a coincidence. This murdering racist scum knows when the time is right for them to make their entry into public life. Across the country it is not communists, black militants and the left that is carrying out direct action. It is white militia groups, skinheads, anti-abortion terrorists and the far right that are emboldened and committing atrocities against blacks, immigrants, gays and other targeted

groups. The program of the Republican/Democrat status quo has become since the late 70's has lurched to the right. Overt racist and anti-poor policies aimed at politically criminalizing and economically marginalizing the most vulnerable segments of the population became popular amongst the ruling class.

Overturning the Civil Rights Movement Across the country, the rights that African Americans struggled for and won for all minorities in the 60's are being rolled back. In California, this racist assault on civil rights has gone the furthest with the overturning of Affirmative Action and the imposition of vicious anti-immigrant legislation. Clinton and his Republican counterparts are in agreement that being poor is a problem of the individual and not a social problem and has slashed public assistance to the poor and beefed up policing in poor neighborhoods. Over two million people rot in American jails more than in any country in the world. Over 1/3 of all African American youth are sucked into the so-called US criminal justice system in which they are branded as criminals and targeted for the rest of their lives. The Republican and Democrat "war on drugs" and "war on crime" are

in reality wars against the black and the poor. What ghetto youth owns gun factories or planes in cocaine from Colombia? The ruling rich in this country are not interested in stopping violence or drug addiction. In fact they are the biggest promoters of it.

The Street Crimes Unit does not operate in white middle class enclaves. There is no question of a resident of Todt Hill being stopped and frisked in his own neighborhood. The massive reality of the police in poor black neighborhoods is only a television image of black men being arrested to the white middle class. The white middle class is confronted with a clear choice by the Diallo verdict - accept that the NYPD and the justice system are racist, unjust institutions that need to be gotten rid of or accept that all blacks are criminals that can and should be shot and killed (as the Diallo verdict now justifies).

A dangerous moment has arrived in America - a return to the dark days when lynching was as American as apple pie. The voice of the people needs to be heard again loud and clear as in the days of the Civil Rights movement. A new Civil Rights movement must come to the fore. This time around, the people must make sure that the movement remains independent of the racist two-party establishment. This time around, the people must make sure that we don't leave it up to the same racists and bankers to enforce civil rights but that the people take power in their own hands through their own independent organizations.



THE POLICE CANNOT BE REFORMED THE SYSTEM MUST BE CHANGED!!!

ROHANA WIJEWEERA

The usual lineup of politicians and wannabe politicians who leech off the people are mouthing the usual garbage. Fernando Ferrer, a prominent Bronx Democrat, calls the killers in blue - "our Police" - Al Sharpton as soon as the not guilty verdict is revealed to the public, preaches, "let us not be the first to throw a brick", and down the line, all the parasites on the payroll of the Man immediately go into action attempting to confuse the people about their just anger at the whole system of injustice. "All we need are more Black cops", we are told. Oh Yeah, what about Ernest Sayon of Park Hill, S.I., a 22yr old Black man who was pistol whipped to death by a Black cop? Are we supposed to be stupid or something? "We need residency laws for cops", we are told. Well, hell, I live on Staten Island, do I really want to be policed by the sadistic torturers of Abner Louima who live here also? Hell No! Every person who lives in a poor neighborhood, a working class neighborhood, a Black or immigrant neighborhood, knows what the cops are about. Some of us in poor neighborhoods may try to kiss ass but that is only for fear of having ones ass beat or shot. No, the people who are targeted by the police for their color, for their accent, for their neighborhood know that they are being unjustly targeted. The agents of the Man, the very same parasites, politicians, leaders, try to confuse us by saying its just a minor problem. Its just a few bad cops or a few white cops but the police are essentially good, they are there to protect us and Santa Claus is coming to town at a shopping mall near you.

The same politicians will say, well boy, you gotta vote. Now Brother Amadou

didn't get a chance to vote. Not just because the system killed him but because the system didn't let him vote because he was born in another country. Even if you are deemed worthy of voting, what choice do we have? Democrats? The same Democratic Party that has been trying to outdo the Republicans about being "tough on crime", waging a "war on drugs", limiting Habeaus Corpus, increasing the numbers and budgets of police around the country? Oh, y'all must mean some Democrats in Canada or something, sure, we got it. No, in this country even the basic democratic right to vote, has been turned into its opposite. We vote so we can give legitimacy to the rule of the superrich, the capitalist class, who own everything including the Republican and Democrat parties. In other words a democratic process - voting - is used to maintain a dictatorship - the rule of the super rich. Wow, them boys are clever. Let us not undermine an important right - the right to vote - by participating in a mockery of democracy - where two parties committed to the same interests - those of the superrich - is the only real choice offered. Let us, by organizing ourselves from community to community, neighborhood to workplace, develop our own party - a party of working and poor people - a party of the vast majority of us left out of the American Dream - a party of humanity and equal rights for all. This is where we must begin, through self-organization, at every level, we must form organizations that are controlled democratically by its membership, independent of any connection to the institutions of the Man - the cops, the courts, the government and the republicans and democrats. If the people



are organized then there is no need for a special body of armed men - like the police - the people will in effect police ourselves. We must make institutions of the man redundant, unnecessary, because they already are that way but the system has managed to suck us in through our disorganization, our atomization as individuals. The system has made us depend on it for justice, for economic

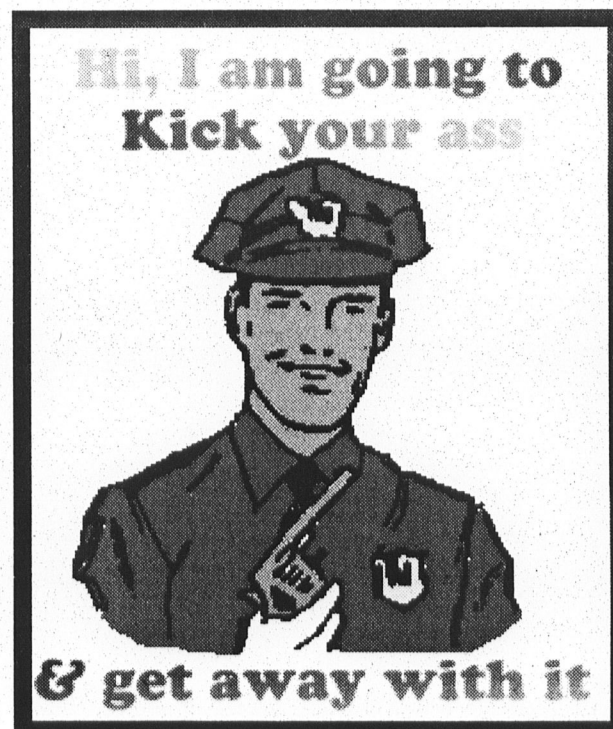
well being, for political rights. But the system only gives us police terror, injustice in the courts and economic misery. When the people are organized the system will become redundant. When those fake ass agents of the man come and tell you to vote, ask them for who? If they say Democrats or Republicans ask them where has that got us today?

Amadou Diallo, Malcolm Ferguson, Patrick Dorismond When is This Murder of Our Brothers Going to Stop?

AYMAN ELSAYED

People have been outraged about the recent Amadou Diallo verdict, which has been causing demonstration in all boroughs of New York. Now, unfortunately they have 2 more reason to be outraged. Two unarmed black men were shot dead for no reason. Actually there is a reason, poor communities have been under attack. Cops occupy poor neighborhoods and gun down people who live in these communities. The government calls shooting people protection. Instead of putting money to build schools, provide full employment and start putting money in these communities that desperately need it, they build jails, shoot people and allow poverty to roam the streets of America. That is why they have police, at the same time poverty roams the streets, they need cops to patrol the streets to keep the poor in line. When are we going to realize that police exist for one reason, to protect the rich folks property and money. There is so much wealth to feed the world 10x over. In these United States of America, 10% of the population own over 80% of the countries wealth while 35 million Americans live below the poverty line. Malcolm Ferguson lived one block away from Amadou, and was chased by a cop in his building. The cop shot Malcolm point blank in the head, almost 18 inches away. This was justified by saying he had a criminal record and was carrying drugs. First of all, his drugs was

hidden in his underwear, so the cops didn't know he was in possession. They found out after they shot him and



searched him. Second of all, even if he had possession of drugs that doesn't

mean you shoot and kill a man. It is all part of a systematic racist problem which targets Blacks, Latinos, Immigrants and poor people. Another victim of this systems brutality is Patrick Dorismond, a Haitian man who was walking home when an undercover cop came up to him and asked him if he wanted to buy any weed. Dorismond responded by saying NO. He was shot dead supposedly by accident. The cop claimed his gun magically pointed at this man and fired. Giuliani tried to justify this by releasing this mans juvenile records without permission. He had three arrests with no conviction. This man was shot dead because when he was a teenager he was arrested but not convicted for some crime. If we are going to shoot people because of past arrests and records I guess you can count me in and a whole lot of people. I was arrested for protesting the shooting of Amadou Diallo last year at One Police Plaza, does that mean I and the thousand other people who were arrested deserve to be

shot, or if one of us is shot is it fair to justify it by saying I had a past record? Police brutality will continue as long as the system remains the same. You can pack the police department with officers of color that won't make a difference. The police are the police no matter what color of skin they are. They have a job to do and that is to protect the status quo. The status quo is not working for us. More money is spent on prisons than higher education these days. The status quo has caused to much deaths and misery. We must realize that the cops are not protecting the people, if they were, Giuliani would be in jail right now, Amadou, Ferguson, Dorismond and hundreds more would be alive. Let's face reality, the police protect the wealthy from the workers and the poor. Perfect example, the transit workers last December wanted to go on strike for better health benefits, better working conditions and wages. The cops did not protect the workers who want to put food on their table, instead they were standing along the transit workers waiting to arrest anyone who shouted out the word "STRIKE". Let's unite and battle police brutality. Don't be foolish and selfish and wait until you are next to care or don't let someone close to you loose their lives by the police until you finally decide enough is enough, because enough is enough now!!

Living History

An Interview with Sonny Collins - Veteran, Black Panther, and Staten Islander

CV: When did you start becoming politically conscious?

SC: In 1954, when I was 17 and in the Air Force. It wasn't the first time I ran into discrimination. I was stationed in Idaho I learned a lot. Military people are different. There is a hell of a lot more discrimination than people admit. I had a reputation for standing up. If a Black soldier asked out a white woman all the Black soldiers would be called before the officers and warned not to approach white women. The insults were many. I try to forget these things. It's no different now people are still discriminated for the color of their skin.

CV: When did you join the Black Panther Party?

SC: I got involved in 1967. I heard about the Panthers when I was living out in California. I started going to meetings but I was kind of on the fringe. I had a full-time job so I couldn't be too involved. I was working as a firefighter, the first Black firefighter in my company. I came back to Staten Island in '68. Neil Smith opened up a Panther chapter on Staten Island and I got involved with him as Minister of Defense. We opened up a storefront at 232 Jersey St. in New Brighton. I hurt my back on the firefighting job so I became a full-time organizer. Our free breakfast program was started before New York State started theirs. The State wasn't interested in hunger. Here come a bunch of ragtag "negroes" providing free breakfast for kids. This must have embarrassed them.

CV: Was the Free Breakfast Program a national program of the BPP?

SC: Yes, we had it going in California, Illinois and other states. The breakfast program followed from the BPP's 10 Point Program.

CV: The full name of the BPP is the BPP for Self Defense. What did the party mean by self defense?

SC: It was more than just physical self defense but mental and spiritual as well. People started to understand their rights under the constitution. The police were harassing the black community and it was necessary to know the law. It's very dangerous to challenge a cops authority even if you know the law though. They make up the rules as they see fit.

CV: What was the political climate on Staten Island back then?

SC: Staten Island was a strange place, so secure in its conservatism, it takes a lot to move them. We became a focal point. I would talk soft and not give in to police provocations. This would drive them crazy. Once they found out I was a native Staten Islander, they eased up a bit. In fact I was probably accepted by the white establishment on Staten Island quicker than by the Black leadership. They were supreme ass-kissers. We had done more for black people on Staten Island in a short period than all of them had done till then. The BPP chapter on the island didn't last long however due to internal

conflict. I joined Staten Island Community College (SICC) in Sunnyside. I started an organization called the New People there. We wanted to start a daycare facility modeled on the one in Brooklyn. We had raffles and concerts to raise funds. We once held an all day concert at SICC which included major jazz artists. The assistant DA called the concert "jungle music" the next day.

I grew up on Henry St. in New Brighton. It doesn't exist anymore. Now the New Brighton projects are there. Across the street from us was a coal yard and right behind us was a chicken farm. We grew up poor. The neighborhood was pretty integrated back then. There was a Polish Butcher an Italian store and black residents.

Blacks knew their place. There were certain parts of Staten Island that blacks stayed away from. I used to get in fights in school for being called "n...r". I never used to call anyone anything because I understood how much words hurt. "N...r" is the worst word out there people died because of that mentality. Young rappers today don't understand that. Richard Pryor used that term in his comedy but stopped using it altogether after traveling to Africa and understanding that "n...r" had no meaning in that society.

Park Hill was supposed to be a transitional residence for young people just starting out. But it didn't work out that way. The American Dream wasn't available for everyone. The place went

down really fast. I worked there in the late 70's as a tenant organizer.

CV: What was SICC like?

SC: College was very different. Students were involved in peace, women's liberation and other movements. President Bierenbaum was also a progressive. The New People went after drugs on campus. We followed dealers and found their drop points. We would confiscate their drugs and drove them out of business. When we spoke to the Assistant DA about the drugs on campus, I felt I was dealing with a complete asshole. He would sit back in his chair, pull out his cigar and make careless remarks about our complaints. In practical terms we were organizing on a daily basis so we had to deal with the system.

A lot of people went to Cuba at the time, as part of the Venceramos Brigades to help the Cuban people in their struggle to build a new society. When I was a boy my step-father, who was from Colombia, would have many people from Latin America and Africa into our house and discuss politics

California

I took the test to be a firefighter and passed but they wouldn't call me even after I got my scores. They said that they had lost my application. It took a year before I was able to get hired. I learned about "n...r fishing" out there. Where you used some rudimentary items to make a fishing rod and tackle.

A Brief History of the Black Panther Party Its Place In the Black Liberation Movement

By Sundiata Acoli

The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense was founded in October, 1966, in Oakland, California by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. The name was shortened to the Black Panther Party (BPP) and it began spreading eastward through the Black urban ghetto-colonies across country.

In the summer of '68, David Brothers established a BPP branch in Brooklyn, New York, and a few months later Lumumba Shakur set up a branch in Harlem, New York. I joined the Harlem BPP in the fall of '68 and served as its Finance Officer until arrested on April 2, 1969 in the Panther 21 Conspiracy case which was the opening shot in the government's nationwide attack on the BPP. Moving westward, Police Departments in each city made military raids on BPP offices or homes in Philadelphia, Chicago, Newark, Omaha, Denver, New Haven, San Diego, Los Angeles, and other cities, murdering some Panthers and arresting others.

After I and most other Panther 21 members were held in jail and on trial for two years, we were all acquitted of all charges and released. Most of us returned to the community and to the BPP but by then COINTELPRO had taken its toll. The BPP was rife with dissension, both internal and external. The internal strife, division, intrigue, and paranoia had become so ingrained that eventually most members drifted or were driven away. Some continued the struggle on other fronts and some basically cooled out altogether. The BPP limped on for several more years, then died what seemed a natural death.

History will be the ultimate judge of the BPP's place in the Black Liberation

Movement (BLM). But in these troubled times Afrikan people in the U.S. need to investigate both the positive and negative aspects of the BPP's history in order to learn from those hard lessons already paid for in blood.

In particular we need to learn the reasons for the BPP's rapid rise to prominence, the reason for its ability to move so many Afrikans and other nationalities, and the reason for its demise during its brief sojourn across the American scene. It's not possible in this short paper, on short notice, to provide much of what is necessary, so this paper will confine itself to pointing out some of the broader aspects of the BPP's positive and negative contributions to the BLM.

The Positive Aspects of the BPP's Contributions

1. Self-Defense: This is one of the fundamental areas in which the BPP contributed to the BLM. It's also one of the fundamental things that set the BPP apart from most previous Black organizations and which attracted members (particularly the youth), mass support, and a mass following. The concept is not only sound, it's also common sense. But it must be implemented correctly, otherwise it can prove more detrimental than beneficial. The self-defense policies of the BPP need to be analyzed in this light by present day Afrikan organizations. All history has shown that this government will bring its police and military powers to bear on any group which truly seeks to free Afrikan people. Any Black "freedom" organization which ignores self-defense does so at its own peril.

2. Revolutionary Nationalist Ideology: The BPP was a nationalist organization. Its main goal was the national liberation of Afrikan people in

the U.S., and it restricted its membership to Blacks only. It was also revolutionary. The BPP theories and practices were based on socialist principles. It was anti-capitalist and struggled for a socialist revolution of U.S. society. On the national level, the BPP widely disseminated socialist base programs to the Afrikan masses. Internationally, it provided Afrikans in the U.S. with a broader understanding of our relationship to the Afrikan continent, the emerging independent Afrikan nations, Third World nations, Socialist nations, and all the Liberation Movements associated with these nations. Overall the ideology provided Afrikans here with a more concrete way of looking at and analyzing the world. Heretofore much of Black analysis of the world, and the society in which we live, was based on making ourselves acceptable to White society, proving to Whites that we were human, proving to Whites that we were ready for equality, proving we were equal to Whites, disproving racist ideas held by Whites, struggling for integration or equal status with Whites, theories of "loving the enemy", "hating the enemy", "they're all devils", spookism, and other fuzzy images of how the real world worked.

3. Mass Organizing Techniques: Another fundamental thing that attracted members and mass support to the BPP was its policy of "serving the people". This was a policy of going to the masses, living among them, sharing their burdens, and organizing the masses to implement their own solutions to the day to day problems that were of great concern to them.

By organizing and implementing the desires of the masses, the BPP organized community programs ranging from free

breakfast for children, to free health clinics, to rent strikes resulting in tenant ownership of their buildings, to Liberation School for grade-schoolers, to free clothing drives, to campaigns for community control of schools, community control of police, and campaigns to stop drugs, crime, and police murder and brutality in the various Black colonies across America. For these reasons, and others, the influence of the BPP spread far beyond its actual membership. Not only did the BPP programs teach self-reliance, but years later the government established similar programs such as free school lunch, expanded medicare and day care facilities, and liberalized court procedures for tenant takeovers of poorly maintained housing, partly if not primarily in order to snuff out the memory of previous similar BPP programs and the principle of self-reliance.

4. Practice of Women's Equality: Another positive contribution of the BPP was its advocacy and practice of equality for women throughout all levels of the organization and in society itself. This occurred at a time when most Black Nationalist organizations were demanding that the woman's role be in the home and/or one step behind the Black man, and at a time when the whole country was going through a great debate on the woman's liberation issue.

5. Propaganda Techniques: The BPP made significant contributions to the art of propaganda. It was very adept at spreading its message and ideas through its newspaper The Black Panther, mass rallies, speaking tours, slogans, posters, leaflets, cartoons, buttons, symbols (i.e., the clenched fist), graffiti, political trials, and even funerals. The BPP also spread its ideas through very

The Left and Lesser Evils... Desperately Seeking Democrats

ROY ROLLIN

For many, if not most, self-styled "socialists" voting for the Democrats as "lesser evils" to the Republicans has become almost second nature by now. Ever since the Stalinist Communist Party embraced the Democratic party of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1930's and helped co-opt mass industrial insurgency into the "New Deal Coalition," "popular front" politics, ie, class-collaboration come election day (and on most other days, as well), has been a rule of thumb for what passes for the "left" in this country. Social Democrat Michael Harrington, who described himself as a "socialist of the possible," even went so far as to say that he'd vote for Mickey Mouse if he were a Democrat. But what exactly have workers gotten for giving up on their own struggles for economic-empowerment in favor of putting Democratic party politicians into the White House, Congress, State House or City Hall? Has the abandonment of independent class politics brought any tangible gains to the working class as a whole, not to mention its most exploited and oppressed layers in particular? And is continuing this policy after eight years of a Democratic administration virtually indistinguishable from its Republican "rivals" on any and every issue of substance a "realistic" road for the trade unions, the Black community or the women's movement? Just looking at the drastic decline in real wages and living standards that most working people have experienced over the past decade in spite of all the economic growth the Democrats boast of should provide an answer as to just how successful the path of the "possible" has proven to be.

From the "New Deal"...

Fawning fealty to the Democrats on the part of the trade union bureaucracy has meant that labor reformism, ie, social democracy, has never gotten off the ground in the US the way it did in Europe. At every step of the way during the depression decade, AFL and CIO bigwigs made sure that significant sentiment in favor of a labor party never got very far just as they made short shrift of anything resembling workers control on the shop floor. In exchange, during World War II, they got dues check-offs and the closed (union) shop from enlightened exploiters like FDR; a steady source of money and members without their having to take the trouble to bother organizing them. In the hey-day of American imperialist hegemony that lasted from the end of World War II to the early 70's, the AFL-CIO bureaucracy at least got many a crumb off the bosses' table to make their craven class collaboration seem like a good deal. However the price they paid for higher wages (for some sections of the industrial work force, anyway) was abandonment of any effort to gain all American workers the kind of "welfare state" measures workers won in Western Europe, Canada and Australia. As a result, even at the height of the post-war "boom" years, 20% of the population still lived at or below the poverty level. Despite helping to elect Democrat after Democrat to the White House as well as helping them to control Congress for decades, labor's "legislative agenda" remained a dead letter and anti-union laws not only remained on the books, but multiplied. And since

organizing support for labor's "friends" in the Democratic party took top priority, organizing the unorganized, or keeping the organized organized for that matter, was pushed to the back burner so that the percentage of workers in trade unions went from a high of around 35% after World War II to around 13% today.

The Black middle class got its turn to take a piece of the pie for itself in the late sixties for steering the civil rights movement into the Democratic fold. Those

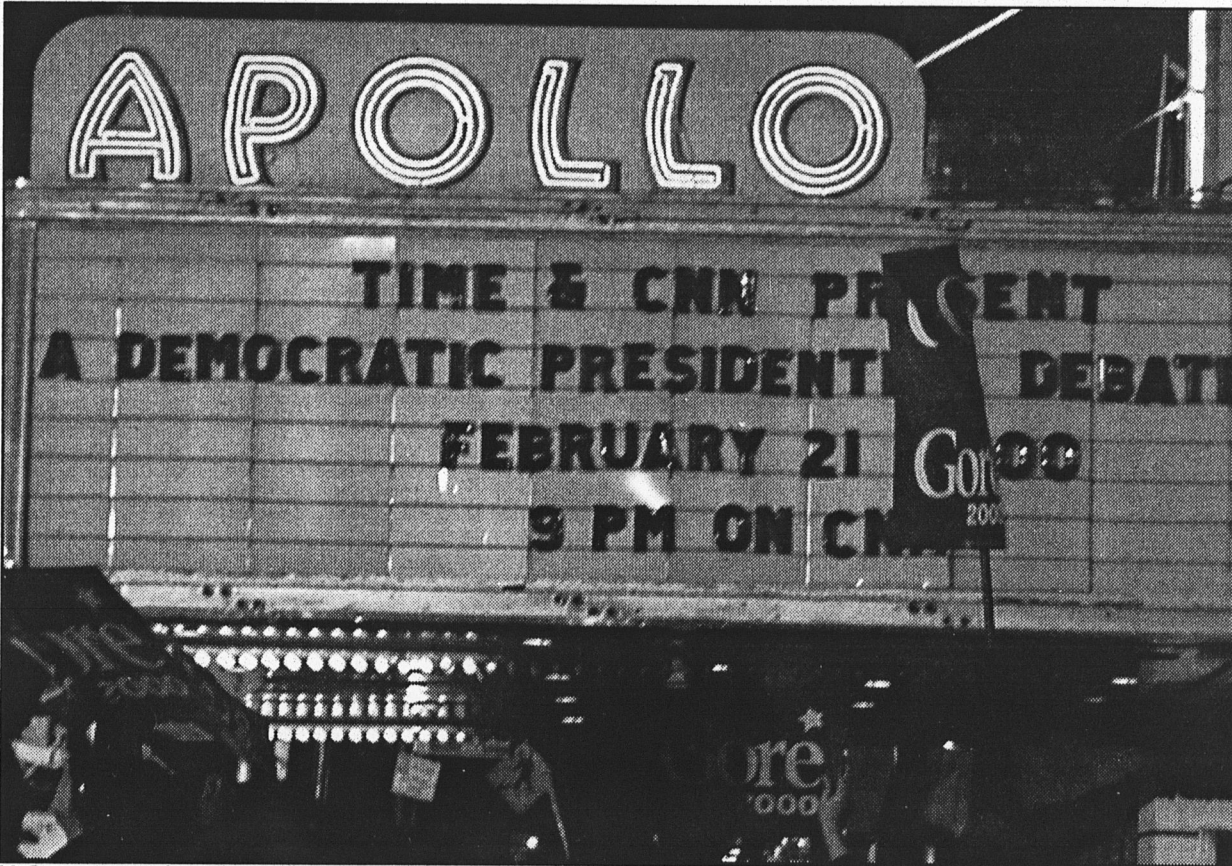
This has little to do with the failings of any particular politician, and a lot to do with the profit perspectives of America's ruling rich, which is why no matter who gets elected little seems to change, except for the worse, insofar as working people are concerned. Up to the mid-seventies, the US was the top dog on the imperialist world market and could afford the luxuries of social liberal largess. But since the second slump of the seventies, when both bosses' parties agreed on austerity as the

mainstream Black and women's organizations would stick with him through thick and thin...thick for the bosses and thin for their working class supporters, that is. Just as Clinton has been the most right-wing president in decades in terms of domestic policy, his foreign policy has been equally aggressive as American imperialism asserts its authority as the sole world power in the post-cold war world. That means showing not only "rogue regimes" like Iraq and Yugoslavia who is boss but reminding their European "allies," not to mention the Ruskies, of it as well.

Always with the War Deal

When it comes to waging wars abroad, the Democratic party has long been the preferred party of the ruling rich; from Wilson in WWI to FDR in WWII to Truman in Korea to JFK and LBJ in Vietnam to Clinton in Iraq and Yugoslavia. In addition to launching the "cold war" against the USSR after World War II, Democratic party politicians were behind most of the dirty deeds the CIA carried out to fight it during the sixties from the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba to "counterinsurgency" in Indochina to death squads in Central and South America. Since modern warfare requires mass support and the active cooperation of organized labor in the production process in order to succeed, the Democrats are in the unique position of being able to use the support given to them by the trade union bureaucracy and the middle class misleaders of the Black and women's movements to do so in a way the Republicans cannot.

From endlessly bombing and starving Iraq, whenever his sexual misadventures got him in hot water with Congress, to the terror bombing of Yugoslav cities last year, Clinton has had the staunch support of the trade union tops and the middle-class Black misleaders and even some of the left. An injury to one is an injury to all? Forget about it. From the top officialdom of the AFL-CIO to Jesse Jackson to almost the whole Congressional Black Caucus, there was a chorus of support for the bombing of Yugoslavia. This gave Clinton and Congress a free hand to up the ante for the war budget even more. The White House and the Democrats in Congress first proposed an immediate payoff of \$6 billion. The Republicans quickly doubled the offer. Yet every dime spent on bombing factories, schools, hospitals and homes in Iraq and Yugoslavia meant that less would be spent on building them in the US, especially in the economically devastated Black community. For this money was coming directly out of money targeted for public services, including Social Security. From supporting the extradition of Assata Shakur from Cuba to supporting the bombing of Iraq and Yugoslavia, these representatives of the Black middle class and of the AFL-CIO bureaucracy have shown that their true allegiance is not to the millions of trade unionists and Blacks who put them in office but to Wall Street, the White House and the vain hope of a few more crumbs off the plantation table for those whom Malcolm X aptly dubbed "house Negroes" and Daniel DeLeon labeled the "labor lieutenants of the capitalist class."



Al Gore and Bill Bradley, rich white men discussing African American issues at the Apollo in Harlem

Black leaders who couldn't be co-opted, like Malcolm X, the Black Panthers and eventually even Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were simply killed off. While many members of this "talented tenth" would come to run City Hall rather than fight it, most working class and poor Blacks have become far more familiar with the city jail. For instead of providing the schools, homes and hospitals that the Black community cries out for and creating decent jobs and economic opportunities for Black youth, both bosses' parties only offer more racist repression to reinforce the economic inequality their system remains based upon. Much of it is enforced by the same Democratic party politicians, including many Black ones, who the Black vote was key to putting into office in the first place. The anti-Vietnam war movement and the women's movement suffered the same fate as the Black struggle did as militant mass struggles that threatened the status quo were short-circuited into the campaigns of Democratic party politicians from Eugene McCarthy to George McGovern. Successive generations of radical activists, seeking the "realistic" route to social change on everything from abortion rights to gay liberation helped crash their movements into the dead-end of Democratic party politics with even less to show for their efforts than the AFL-CIO and the Black middle class were able to get for theirs. One can hardly fault the Democrats for fooling so many of the people so many times. They're just doing their job; that's what the whole two-party system was invented for in the first place. The problem is that the so-called left is not doing their job or rather they are doing the bosses' job for them!

...to the Raw Deal

only game in town, workers' living standards have been under constant attack and in constant decline. And all the while the trade union tops refused to lift a finger in response...out of fear of alienating their politician pals in the same Democratic party that initiated the attacks under Carter, aided them under Reagan and Bush, and carried them to new heights under "new Democrat" Clinton. Bradley, no less than Gore, took his marching orders from these same sources, so more of the same is would have been on tap for the next four years should he have come out on top. Yet so desperate for a Democrat were the lesser evil leftists that they searched high and low to try to find some semblance of a difference between the two, to justify their supporting one of them, just as in November they will do the same to justify supporting *whoever* the Democrats chose as a candidate.

Thus the last two times around, the left devoted most of its time, energy and resources to electing and then re-electing Bill Clinton. Getting Clinton into office and then keeping him there was supposed to be the "lesser evil" to the right-wing Republicans getting him out. Yet Clinton attacked social services and living standards, while beefing up the war machine and the repressive machinery of the state (the courts and the cops) to a degree that Reagan, Bush and the right-wing Republicans controlling Congress would never have dared to. The latter cried foul in 1996 when Clinton supposedly "stole" their anti-worker, anti-Black and anti-woman agenda to garner the white middle class votes necessary to defeat Bob Dole. Yet Clinton could do so only because he knew that the pro-Democratic party leaders of the AFL-CIO and the

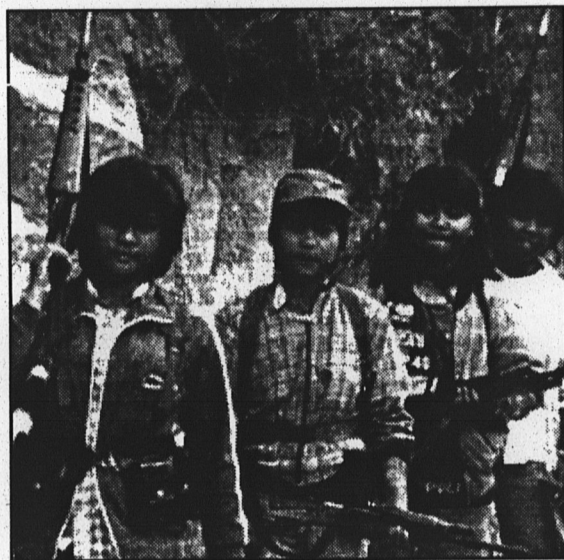
WOMENS'

RENEE MARHONG

We live in a society where women get no respect. Every sitcom, every movie proves this. Why is it that men don't read beauty magazines or wear make-up? Females still earn 70% of what men earn, you can't even find child care, prenatal care or adequate maternal leave. We have a president like Bill Clinton who signs the Welfare Bill that prevents hundreds of single mothers from getting support. Abortion providers are harassed, shot and killed. Birth control is not even covered under many HMO's (which 40 million people don't have anyway). A woman can't even walk down the street with out being, graded, analyzed and judged by a bunch of married men. Crooked cops and judges lock up or kill our fathers, brothers and sons making a mothers' job a million times harder. The cutting back of financial aid, the end of remediation and W.E.P (work experience program) make it almost impossible to get an education. The media presents females as a bitch, trick, ho, slut, basically a piece of ass. Thousands of women get killed by their spouses, 60% get killed after they leave their husband or boyfriend. We have to worry about rape, sexual harassment and domestic violence, and that's after we get our hair done, our nails wrapped, put on our make up and squeeze into those jeans. Is this fair? I thought sexism was over? It's still a man's world, well a rich, white man's world.

Most women already know this because they live in a world full of glass ceilings. But the response is always

"that's the way the world is, it's never going to change". Well thinking like that is what has us in this situation in the first



place for the past 1,000 years. Feminism has to constantly reinvent itself, it has to be proven time and time again that women are not equal human beings in society. All over the world their is consistent exploitation of women. What I can't believe is that much of this exploitation is condoned, supported and even carried out by the United States. Internationally America and

organizations like the WTO, enforce mass sweatshops that force poor women and children into slave labor and when they try to unionize they are tortured, raped and killed. The land of the free also supports countries like Saudi Arabia which restrict women from all civic rights, such as voting and government positions, bans girls from schools, and jobs and forces women to fully veil their whole body. Even worse, within the United States, racist and sexist institutions are created, funded and maintained by the US government. Everyday women are abused killed by their partners. Everyday women are raped and sexually

harassed. What does America do to try to stop this? Well, the state employs killer cops that

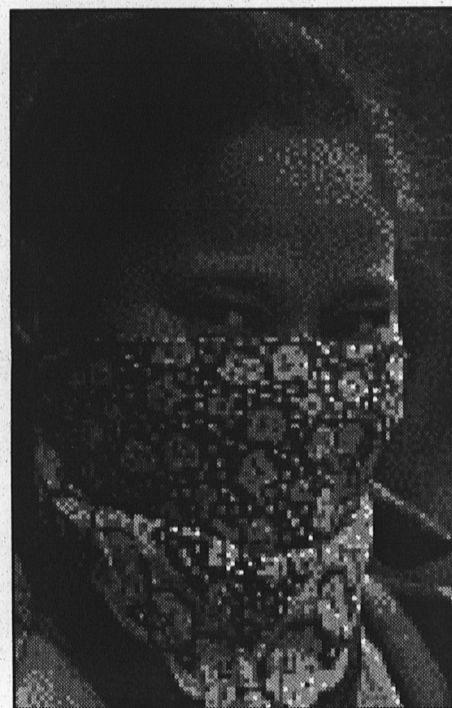
beat their own wives, ignore domestic violence calls and abuse women who call the police for domestic violence situations (2 cops were indicted for beating a woman after they responded to a domestic violence call). We have a president that starves women and children in Iraq because of a barbarian embargo, denying children from getting basic medicine and ridiculous items such as tissues. There are men running for president that want to eradicate abortion rights, never realizing that they don't know shit about being pregnant. The senate and congress vote down healthcare, child care, things that would greatly help women and their careers. How is it that in the richest country in the world programs like WIC which provide basic food such as milk and cheese are being

eliminating.

How do we resolve these issues? The only women in the government are women who look out for the interest of men anyway, like Madeline Albright. Voting for women does not make much of a difference because they do not recognize women's interest and even if they do it is only for the benefit of wealthy women (which there are very few of). Women have been forced into a position of inferiority because they have no power to voice their opinions. Power in this country comes with money and women are the poorest people in the world. Only when we live in a society where class does not dominate a persons influence on institutions, will women be able to provide an adequate atmosphere for equality. Poverty has bound females into spots of weakness and desperate situations. Women stay in abusive relationships because they are socialized to be under men, and they are scared to leave because many of the times the man is the main provider in the family. Prostitution, drugs and theft are directly related to the social problems poor and working class women have to live with from birth. Living in a society a capitalist society issues such as sexism and racism are woven into the fabric of this country. Every single institution has a bias against women. Also racism and sexism are

perpetuated by the government so that people do not work together, do not organize, unionize or even realize that we live in an unjust society.

Women can only pursue full liberation in a society where money is not king (or queen). The largest gains in women's emancipation have occurred in socialist /communist countries. In 1920 the USSR became the first country to legalize abortion and birth control, the first country to give women the right to vote and acknowledge and reward women for being mothers. It was not until the communist government took power in China did the horrible torture of footbinding end. In Cuba, such problems such as prostitution and inadequate child care etc., have been greatly reduced. The first and most important step towards equality is eliminating the oppressive system of capitalism. This system invents and continues new ways to exploit women everyday. Only when we live in a economically just society will women be able to tackle the problems of global sexism.



Women are one of the main forces in the peoples' war in Nepal. Here is a guerrilla warrior.

Stand Up Against Domestic Violence

MURDER . Every day four women die in this country as a result of domestic violence, the euphemism for murders and assaults by husbands and boyfriends. That's approximately 1,400 women a year, according to the FBI. The number of women who have been murdered by their intimate partners is greater than the number of soldiers killed in the Vietnam War.

BATTERING . Although only 572,000 reports of assault by intimates are officially reported to federal officials each year, the most conservative estimates indicate two to four million women of all races and classes are battered each year. At least 170,000 of those violent incidents are serious enough to require hospitalization, emergency room care or a doctor's attention.

SEXUAL ASSAULT . Every year approximately 132,000 women report that they have been victims of rape or attempted rape, and more than half of them knew their attackers. It's estimated that two to six times that many women are raped, but do not report it. Every year 1.2 million women are forcibly raped by their current or former male partners, some more than once.

THE TARGETS . Women are 10 times more likely than men to be victimized by an intimate. Young women, women who are separated, divorced or single, low-income women and African-American women are disproportionately victims of assault and rape. Domestic violence rates are five times higher among families below poverty levels, and severe spouse abuse is twice as likely to be committed by unemployed men as by those working full time. Violent attacks on lesbians and gay men have become two to three times more common than they were prior to 1988.

IMPACT ON CHILDREN . Violent juvenile offenders are four times more likely to have grown up in homes where they saw violence. Children who have witnessed violence at home are also five times more likely to commit or suffer violence when they become adults.

IMPACT ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES . Women who are battered have more than twice the health care needs and costs than those who are never battered. Approximately 17 percent of pregnant women report having been battered, and the results include miscarriages, stillbirths and a two to four times greater likelihood of bearing a low birth weight baby. Abused women are disproportionately represented among the homeless and suicide victims. Victims of domestic violence are being denied insurance in some states because they are considered to have a "pre-existing condition."

LEGISLATION . In 1994, the National Organization for Women, the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, and other organizations finally secured passage of the Violence Against Women Act, which provides a record breaking \$1.8 billion to address issues of violence against women.

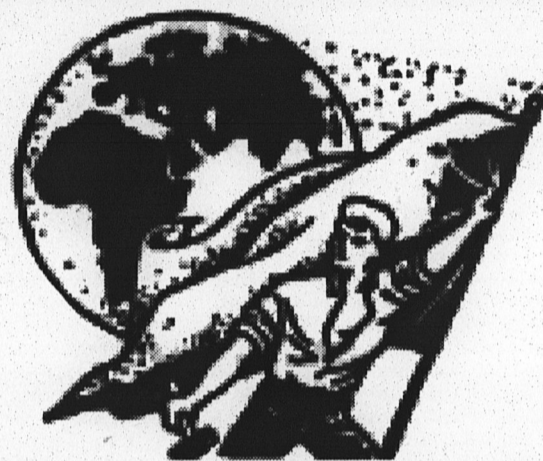
LIBERATION

For centuries religion has been responsible for the global subjugation of women. From Hinduism to Catholicism there is no exception, male supremacy is the consistent theme underlying all forms of theology, government and life itself. As a society, women and men alike have to recognize and combat all forms of sexism, even if that means changing our own beliefs

'Your women are your fields for you to cultivate, so go to your fields as you ill' -Koran 2:223

'I thank thee Lord, that thou has not created me a heathen, a slave, or a women.' Orthodox Jewish Prayer

'A woman must never be free of subjugation.' The Hindu Code of Manu V



'Women have weak memories, are undisciplined, impulsive and dangerous hen given authority over anything.' Catholic Church's Edict Against withches

'God formed her body to belong to a man, to have and to rear children. Let them bear children until they die.' Martin Luther

'In pain you shall bear children, yet your urge ill be for your husband and he shall rule over you.' Genesis 3:16

END THE EMBARGO LET IRAQ LIVE REPORT BACK FROM IRAQ

AYMAN ELSAYED

In January 21, I joined a delegation of 60 led by Ramsey Clark (former attorney general) to deliver desperately needed medicine and school supplies. Because of the embargo and the war, airplanes are not running. Instead we flew to Jordan and had to get on 2 buses for a long and exhausting ride to Iraq. In Iraq the people welcomed us well, knowing that we are there for good reasons. They understand that it is the American government that does not care for human life, they know that the streets of the United States is full of poverty. If the US government doesn't care for it's own citizens why would it care for Iraqi's.

This whole war with Iraq, just like all other wars initiated by the US was totally unnecessary. They try to twist views by saying "well Iraq invaded Kuwait and that is a sovereign nation". That is false, Kuwait is a British made government. Kuwait is 30% Kuwaiti and 70% non-Kuwaitis who work for the Kuwaiti Monarch. Kuwait was divided from Iraq by the British to assure their interest in the region. Their interest being oil. Kuwait has access to the sea. Iraq doesn't now because of this division. In 1990, before the first war, Kuwait serving US interest began to side drill, which means instead of drilling straight in the ground, it drilled from the side stealing oil from Iraq. Besides that, Kuwait was pumping out oil more than was needed so the oil prices on the market will go down. All this was done to provoke Iraq. This is a tactic the US uses to justify declaring war on innocent people. The US did the same thing in the Gulf of Tonkin, Vietnam, to provoke a war. The US basically provoked Iraq in occupying Kuwait and told Iraq to go ahead. After Iraq occupied Kuwait, the US now had the perfect story for the blind American public that it is very necessary that we have war with Iraq. The provocation worked well because Iraq had just come out of a long war with Iran and was desperately seeking every cent made from oil. Also, Iraq needed access to the sea to import and export oil which the Kuwaiti kingdom was refusing to give.

The US did not bomb Iraq because she invaded Kuwait. Iraq was a Bourgeois nationalist government which was playing both sides of the card, with the Soviet Union and the US. After the Soviet Union collapsed the US like beasts attacked Iraq full force. Iraq was not a

socialist economy but Iraq was not a Monarch either. The US had it's filthy puppet monarchist dogs in power in both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Iraq was an advanced Arab country. Iraq was advanced in a sense that workers had some benefits American workers only dream of. Almost all workers were unionized, workers enjoyed medical and dental care, free education for all students whether Iraqi or not. These programs were all available before the war and embargo. Now Iraq suffers from a genocide embargo that kills 6,000 babies a month because there is no medicine. Hospitals are in shambles, proper sanitation doesn't exist anywhere in Iraq. Water is a thing of the past. Who suffers from this embargo? Not Saddam Hussien or the Iraqi government but the majority of Iraqi's. The workers of Iraq suffer from this embargo, programs they enjoyed before the war don't exist anymore. All professional workers have abandoned their jobs to find other means of making money like selling cigarettes or becoming cab drivers.

My point in writing this article is to explain what I learned from my trip to Iraq. I learned and observed that the whole point of this war is to end these



Iraqi babies must suffer because of US war and embargo, which is not allowing food and medicine supply to go into Iraq

the US doesn't give a damn about ethnic cleansing or weapons of mass destruction, it cares about these societies. These societies need to be backward in order to control and subjugate them. The US can't have other nations with better working conditions. The US, the richest

innocent babies are dying. Many of us don't care because we don't feel it. Just stop and think for a moment, what if this child was yours? What if your family lived in Iraq? Does anybody deserve to suffer like this? Shouldn't everybody have a right to live. If you take this as a joke, you will regret it because you or somebody you know might be next. Who hasn't the US had war with? Vietnam, Iraq, Yugoslavia, Lebanon, Japan, Grenada, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Chile, Korea, Who is next? Colombia, China, Russia, Zaire, Nigeria, Brazil, India. You better start caring! On my trips to Yugoslavia, Iraq and Lebanon I see what the US is truly doing, I finally understand what imperialism is. It is one thing to talk about it but to see it is something different. It is necessary to join forces and stop this military industrial monster from killing, raping and polluting our world. There is so much more to write on Iraq, but I will stop here and continue in the next issue. I saw horrific things in Iraq that I hope no one has to see even in a video or picture. By horrific I don't mean bloody, but the living conditions have been made so that no one can survive.

Let Iraq Live!!
Arab, American and Jewish Unity
against Imperialism!!

In Iraq the people welcomed us well, knowing that we are there for good reasons. They understand that it is the American government that does not care for human life, they know that the streets of the United States is full of poverty. If the US government doesn't care for it's own citizens why would it care for Iraqi's.

programs. The reason they declared war is because the workers of Iraq did not have full power but were a strong body that were a threat to that whole region in the middle east. Iraq was also advanced culturally and education wise. Unlike the backwardness of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, Iraq was advancing more than the US wanted it to. We must realize that

country in the world, leads the world with the most deaths of workers at the work place. This is not considered murder. It should be because the reason workers are dying is because the selfish bosses doesn't give a damn about the workers, they only care about the workers labor.

The US has transformed Iraq's living conditions the way it was 1 century ago. Iraq has a long time to recover unless people start taking action all over the world to make sure things like this only happens in the movies not in reality. After the Embargo is over, Iraq will still suffer of economic backwardness and depend on IMF shark loans, which will help the economy for the rich while the average Iraqi gets more poor. Iraq will have to take out loans from the World Bank until the whole country is privatized. The US will not be happy until all of Iraq is transformed to be an obedient sick dog, like Israel, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan. We have got to all open up our eyes and see that



CHECK OUT THE COLLEGE VOICE

A Socialist Program for the 2000 Elections: Working People Keep the Country Running Working People Should Be Running the Country

ROY ROLLIN

If you listen to everything the mainstream media tells you, not to mention the Democrats, the economy has never been better. For the top 1% of the population, whose income has more than doubled, this is undoubtedly the case. And let's not forget those who do the dirty work for that top 1%; the incomes of CEOs have not only doubled as well but are now more than 116 times what the average working person makes. For the rest of us, who still have to work more hours to make either the same or less than a decade ago, however, everything isn't exactly coming up roses under the "miracle" economy. And since both bosses' parties take their marching orders from Wall Street, even more belt-tightening remains the only item on the menu regardless of who comes out on top this November. That is for those of us not making millions of off stock market scams or get-rich-quick schemes over the internet. So instead of fighting poverty, Democrats and Republicans will only help to create even more of it. For Gore and Bush both agree that insofar as the majority of the population which creates all the wealth is concerned, more of less is better. They all also agree that for the tiny minority which creates nothing, but takes everything, there needs to be even more taken...out of the pockets and paychecks of the poor. Socialists, on the other hand, say enough is enough; the rich are raking in the dough, working people are not, so it's time for us to make the bosses take the losses. Our program thus calls for:

- No more layoffs, plant closings, "restructuring" or "downsizing." Repeal NAFTA and GATT, abolish the WTO; organize the unorganized: unionize the south (and south of the border as well) so there's no place left for sweatshops to run to. Open up the books of the corporations to representatives of the trade unions so

working people can see just where the money is and where it goes. If companies can't cut the mustard then they should be nationalized under workers control.

- For full employment at wages workers can live on. Raise the minimum wage to at least \$12.50 an hour and keep it pegged to the cost of living. Reduce working hours with no loss in pay (30 hours work for 40 hours pay) so that jobs are available to all who need them. No

the Pentagon war budget or for aid for anti-working class regimes or counter-revolutionary cutthroats abroad.

- End racism and police brutality: no more prisons, killer cops or legal lynchings. Abolish the death penalty instead of expanding it. Free Mumia Abu Jamal, Leonard Peltier and all political prisoners. Smash the prison-industrial complex: Use the money to build hospitals, housing, schools and mass

rights for gays and lesbians.

- US out of the affairs of other countries once and for all. Independence for Puerto Rico. Dismantle all US bases in Vieques and around the world. Abolish NATO. Hands off Cuba, Iraq and Yugoslavia; end the embargo and all the sanctions, withdraw all troops. Full diplomatic and economic relations with Cuba; trade with Cuba means jobs for American workers. Return Elian Gonzalez to his father.

Since the Democrats and the Republicans are private parties for the ruling rich, the implementation of such a program requires that working people have their own political party, based on their own organizations, the trade unions, to fight for it. The newly-formed Labor Party is a step in the right direction but it still has a long way to go. It can start by breaking with the Democrats altogether and beginning to fight at all levels, from the polling place to the picket line for the interests and needs of all working people. That's why workers need a revolutionary party based on a program and perspective of class struggle, not compromise, with their exploiters and oppressors.

Obviously the bosses will never accede to any demands that threaten their power and privileges...no matter how many votes any party may get. Indeed, power, and freedom for that matter, are not routinely given by the powerful to the powerless, they need to be taken from them. Workers need to take the power to remake America so that the interests of the majority who work for a living are finally addressed. That requires a workers government, that democratically plans what is produced, how it's produced and where and how it's distributed after it's produced. That means expropriating, ie, taking back, all the wealth the workers, who do everything, created and the bosses, who do nothing, appropriated. And that's what a socialist revolution is all about!

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divide-and rule: equal rights and wages for all immigrant workers and their families. End slave-labor "workfare." Rebuild America's cities through a massive public works program at union wages and under union control.

- Make the rich pay for it all: Raise taxes on corporations, cut them for working people and the middle class. Cancel the debt and expropriate the banks. Not one dime, not one man or woman for

public transportation instead.

- Extend and expand all social services. End hunger and homelessness by providing free quality housing, healthcare, child care and higher education and job retraining with state stipends to all who need them. End sexism and homophobia. Extend affirmative action. Equal pay for equal work for women workers. For women's right to choose, for free abortion on demand. No discrimination: equal

continued from page 6

skillful use of the establishments t.v., radio, and print media.

One singular indication, although there are others, of the effectiveness of BPP propaganda techniques is that even today, over a decade later, a large part of the programs shown on t.v. are still "police stories" and many of the roles available to Black actors are limited to police roles. A lot of this has to do with the overall process of still trying to rehabilitate the image of the police from its devastating exposure during the Panther era, and to prevent the true role of the police in this society from being exposed again.

The Negative Aspects of the BPP Contributions

1. Leadership Corrupted: COINTELPRO eventually intimidated and

corrupted all three of the BPP's top leaders: Huey P. Newton, Bobby Seale and Eldridge Cleaver. Each, in their own way, caved in to the pressures and began acting in a manner that was deliberately designed to destroy the BPP, and to disillusion not only Party members but Afrikan people in America for years to come. COINTELPRO's hopes were that Afrikans in America would be so disillusioned that never again would they trust or follow any Afrikan leader or organization which advocated real solutions to Black oppression.

2. Combined Above and Underground: This was the most serious structural flaw in the BPP. Party members who functioned openly in the BPP offices, or organized openly in the community, by day might very well have been the same people who carried out armed operations

at night.

This provided the police with a convenient excuse to make raids on any and all BPP offices, or members homes, under the pretext that they were looking for suspects, fugitives, weapons, and/or explosives. It also sucked the BPP into taking the un-winnable position of making stationary defenses of BPP offices. There should have been a clear separation between the above ground Party and the underground armed apparatus. Also small military forces should never adopt, as a general tactic, the position of making stationary defenses of offices, homes, buildings, etc.

3. Rhetoric Outstripped Capabilities: Although the BPP was adept at the art of propaganda and made very good use of its own and the establishments media, still too many Panthers fell into the habit of making boisterous claims in the public media, or selling "wolf tickets" that they couldn't back up. Eventually, they weren't taken seriously anymore. The press, some of whom were police agents, often had only to stick a microphone under a Panther's nose to make him or her begin spouting rhetoric. This often played into the hands of those who were simply looking for slanderous material to air or to provide possible intelligence information to the police.

4. Lumpen Tendencies: It can be safely said that the largest segment of the New York City BPP membership (and probably nationwide) were workers who held everyday jobs. Other segments of the membership were semi-proletariat, students, youths, and lumpen-proletariat. The lumpen tendencies within some members were what the establishments media (and some party members) played-up the most. Lumpen tendencies are

associated with lack of discipline, liberal use of alcohol, marijuana, and curse-words; loose sexual morals, a criminal mentality, and rash actions. These tendencies in some Party members provided the media with better opportunities than they would otherwise have had to play up this aspect, and to slander the Party, which diverted public attention from much of the positive work done by the BPP.

5. Dogmatism: Early successes made some Panthers feel that they were the only possessors of absolute truths. Some became arrogant and dogmatic in their dealings with Party members, their organizations, and even the community. This turned people off.

6. Failure to Organize Economic Foundations in Community: The BPP preached socialist politics. They were anti-capitalist and this skewered their concept of building economic foundations in the community. They often gave the impression that to engage in any business enterprise was to engage in capitalism and they too frequently looked with disdain upon the small-business people in the community. As a result the BPP built few businesses which generated income other than the Black Panther newspaper, or which could provide self-employment to its membership and to people in the community. The BPP failed to encourage the Black community to set up its own businesses as a means of building an independent economic foundation which could help break "outsiders" control of the Black community's economics, and move it toward economic self-reliance.

7. TV Mentality: The 60's were times of great flux. A significant segment of the U.S. population engaged in mass

struggle. The Black Liberation, Native American, Puerto Rican, Asian, Chicano, Anti-War, White Revolutionary, and Woman's Liberation, Movements were all occurring more or less simultaneously during this era. It appears that this sizable flux caused some Panthers to think that a seizure of state power was imminent or that a revolutionary struggle is like a quick paced TV program. That is, it comes on at 9 p.m., builds to a crescendo by 9:45, and by 9:55 — Victory!; all in time to make the 10 O'Clock News. When it didn't happen after a few years, that is, Afrikans in the U.S. still were not free, no revolution occurred, and worse, the BPP was everywhere on the defensive, taking losses and riddled with dissension, many members became demoralized, disillusioned, and walked away or went back to old lifestyles. They were not psychologically prepared for a long struggle. In hindsight it appears that the BPP didn't do enough to root out this TV mentality in some members, but did in others, which is an aspect to ponder on.

Although the BPP made serious errors, it also gained a considerable measure of success and made several significant new contributions to the BLM. The final judgment of history may very well show that in its own way the BPP added the final ingredient to the Black Agenda necessary to attain real freedom: armed struggle; and that this was the great turning point which ultimately set the Black Liberation Movement on the final road to victory.

Marion Penitentiary, 4/2/85

REVOLUTIONARY ART

BY KARIN PETERSEN

Garbage thrown onto spirit sucking concrete parking lot floor
he hops out of the car
I kindly say "hey, looks like you dropped something"

he looks me in the face
feels no disgrace
and proceeds to harass me

I briskly walk away
say fuck you i'll let you stray

I wonder what will it take
the sea
the sky
the earth filled with rejection,
opening its boughs
cleansing itself of your disconnection

unable to lock me down
unable to choke the rhythms of the earth
you throw angry words
an effort that destroys your very hearth

that's right!
Your hearth, your fire
your very source of life,
extinguished
your umbilical cord cut with a knife

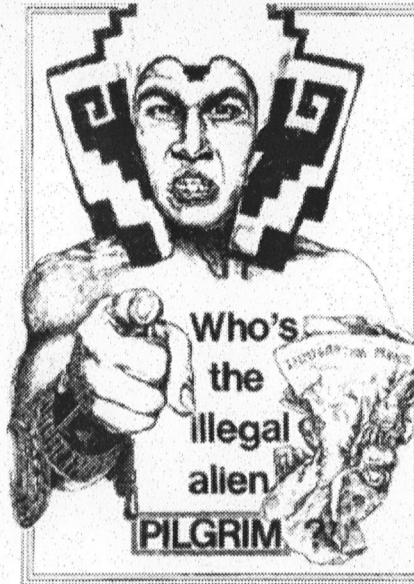
as you fall down
you try to knock me a step below,
i'm a woman
this gaia
I hope you survive reality's blow

we all have illusions
some are well defined
yet others have curved
but you just see society's lines

so you miss it
the who we are and why we're here
a world desperate for meaning
full of false realities that you hold dear

you don't feel her rivers
course through your blood, you don't see that collectively
we're as powerful as the flood

the hurricane
the tornado
it all whips your world around
build your concrete palaces,
you can always kick your garbage around.



RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE HOLDS A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

RAGE REVIEW

Rage Against The Machine's new album "The Battle of Los Angeles" is an extreme asset to anyone who has ever heard Rage Against the Machine. The two songs released which are "Guerrilla Radio" and "Sleep Now in the Fire" are just the icing on the cake of this extremely great album.

The album features songs like "Mic Check" and "Testify" reminds us of the power and intensity Rage creates, and with songs like "Voice of the Voiceless", a song for Mumia Abu Jamal and his struggle to get a fair trial which still continues, shows how free we really are. "Born of a Broken Man" is another great song to listen to. The guitar riffs on this album created by Guitar Genius Tom Morello continue to inspire young guitarists. The unmistakable drumbeats Brad Wilks pounds out shows his unique style of playing, while Tom Commerford's bass lines confuse you, but gives the song a sense of power. Zack de la Rocha spreads the message throughout this album with his undeniable voice which will not be stopped from being heard. "The Battle of Los Angeles" sold 6 million copies in its first week and continues to sell very well.

SPD

Voice of the Voiceless

Through steel walls
Your voice bastin' on
True rebel my brother Mumia
I reflect upon
You be the spark
That set all the prairie fires on
Make the masses a mastodon
path
To trample the fascist on
At fifteen exposed Philly's finest
killing machine
With boots and mad gins
They tried to pacify you young
Cause and effect
Smell the smoke and the breeze
My panther my brother
We are at war until you're free
You'll never silence
the voice of the voiceless

You see the powerful got
nervous
Cause he refused to be their
servant
'Cause he spit truth
That shook heads
And burned like black churches
Prose and verses
A million poor in hearses
Watch the decision of Dred Scott
As it reserves
So long as the rope
Is tight around Mumia's neck
Let there be no rich white life
We bound to respect
Cause and effect
Can't ya smell the smoke in the
breeze
My panther my brother we are
at war until you're free
You'll never silence
the voice of the voiceless
And Orwell's hell
a terror era coming through
But this little brother's
watching you too

The College Voice welcomes your poetry and

COLLEGE VOICE WHO WE ARE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THIS ISSUE OF THE COLLEGE VOICE IS DEDICATED TO OUR
BROTHER, FRIEND AND COMRADE, ROB LAURO
WHO HAS AFFECTED THE LIVES OF MANY IN CSI.
WE LOVE YOU AND MISS YOU
REST IN PEACE
THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES**

EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

EDITORS: Renee Marhong,
Ayman Elsayed, Manjula
Wijerama

STAFF: Holly Lenahan, William
Wharthon

Contributors: Roy Rollin, John
Smolny, Europa McGovern,
Kyoko Matsunaga, Mumia Abu-
Jamal, Kwan Burton, New
Caucus, Dionne McLaughlin,
Karin Petersen

Design & Production: Kyoko
Matsunaga, Ayman
Elsayed, Renee Marhong

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Media Advisor
Voice: 718.982.3091 Fax: .982.3098 E-
mail ollegevoice@usa.net

**We welcome readers' views
and criticisms.**

Police Invasion

DOW K. BUFORD

The home of Community Activist and elder, Margie Garvin was raided by police on the early morning hours of Friday, November 19, 1999. Police from the Narcotics Squad approached the residence at about 12:30 AM. They burst into the house through two doors causing significant damage. The first person that the police encountered once inside the house was Ms. Garvin who was awakened by the noise that the police made while breaking in. According to Ms. Garvin, the officer said to Margie "drop to the floor bitch of I'll blow your brains out." Margie, who is 59 years old, put her hands in the air and explained to the officer that she could not "drop to the floor" because of her physical conditions. Ms. Garvin has suffered from a number of strokes in recent years. The officer then threw Ms. Garvin to the floor, handcuffed her, put a gun to her head and said "this is a raid." The police searched the entire residence although they never produced a search warrant. The police removed a powder like substance that they claimed was cocaine. However, the lab report showed that the substance was simply soap powder. Ms. Garvin's granddaughter, who is 16 years old, was awakened with a gun in her face, handcuffed and then taken into custody. Her picture was taken and she was finger printed. Subsequently she was released from custody without being brought before a judge.

As a result of the police raid Margie Garvin and her grandchildren have trouble sleeping. Nightmares are common and there is always a fear that someone is breaking into the house.

REPRINTED FROM THE BLACK
AGENDA.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as the ones published in 1997 "The election results would be voided."

After Magistrate Pollak recommended an injunction, CUNY went into retreat. On March 17th a CUNY attorney wrote to District Judge Nina Gershon to say that this year's SERC repealed an election rule that prohibited candidates to use student newspapers as posters on walls or bulletin boards or to insert campaign flyers into newspapers.

The students attorney, Ron McGuire said that the rule applied to candidates and had nothing to do with the decision by SERC and Springer to cancel the 1997 election. At a hearing on March 21st CUNY's attorney, Assistant Attorney General Steven Banks admitted that a promise by President Springer could not bind the SERC. CUNY Deputy General Counsel Jane Solomon wrote a letter to the judge the next day in which she said that President Springer "will not prohibit any College student activity fee funded publication from being used as campaign flyers or posters." Judge Gershon then denied the injunction.

Mr. McGuire said that any promise by President Springer would not be binding on SERC which suspended the 1997 election on its own and could do the same thing this year. However, a court ruling would have established the legal rights of CUNY students on all the campuses and CUNY has now avoided a court ruling. The College Voice planned to print election endorsements on our front page this year but we will not subject ourselves to censorship by SERC. Even if President Springer agrees to overrule SERC, our freedom to publish should be a constitutional right and not subject to the whim of a college administrator.

More importantly, President Springer's convenient change of heart is just an excuse to avoid a judicial ruling that would have affected the rights at every CUNY college.

MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES

The CSI Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program invites qualified students to apply for entry into their Master's degree program. The curriculum consists of interdisciplinary courses in the social sciences and humanities and is designed for students with a bachelor's degree not only in the humanities and social sciences but also in science, business, and professional studies. For information contact Prof. David Traboulay, Coordinator.

Commentary by Mumia Abu-Jamal: Public Servants of Paid Predators?

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

When are you Black folks gonna throw off the KILLERS that are JAILIN' YOU for murder?

-John Africa, from "On the MOVE!", Philadelphia Tribune, July 26, 1975, p.6

The Amadou Diallo trial of four white cops charged in the firestorm slaughter of the West

African has ended in the predictable acquittal of his killers. When is a killing not a killing? Apparently, this is so when the victim is someone slain by the police.

When police kill, it is an accident, a "mistake," an "oops!"

Let us examine how the police achieved this judicial sleight-of-hand. As soon as the case arose, the legal forces defending the state fled the very area that the police claim to be "serving."

Why is it okay to enforce the law in a given neighborhood, yet automatically wrong to have citizens of that same neighborhood try to enforce (as jurors) some of that same law when it comes to these particular public "servants"? Those four cops fled the jurisdiction as quickly as possible, showing their continued, naked contempt for the people that they

say they were sworn to "serve."

Amadou Diallo was "served" by the state, and his name has now become a dark example of the paramilitarism of police power; the deadly wages of the so-called "oops factor."

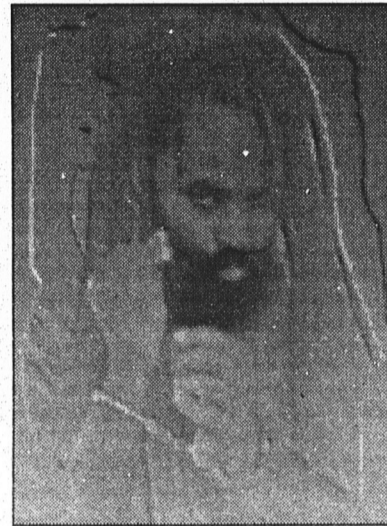
In New York City in recent months, Black and Latino men have been shot for having keys, candy bars, wallets in their hands. This deadly rain of "accidents" is an official expression of Negrophobic oppression, and it can only escalate after this unholy acquittal of the four killercops from the Bronx.

When the case began, the police

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immediately opted for a bench trial, before a judge, not a jury. When an African American jurist was selected, they put in a change of venue motion that put them on the first-thing-smoking to Albany, in upstate, white-bread New York. So much for the "community" that they "serve!"

The service that the state delivers is death! What of the recent case of the



Orthodox Jewish

man, Gidone (né Gary) Busch, who was cornered by four cops in Boro Park, New York City? Busch, a Ba'altshuva (newly Orthodox Jew), was shot 12 times outside of his home.

Immediately, New York's mayor, Rudolf Giuliani, and Police Commissioner Howard Safir attacked the dead youth, and painted him as a "fanatic," whose shooting was "justified." Key to their justification theory, was their claim that Busch "attacked" an officer with a hammer.

Eyewitnesses uniformly disputed this claim, but nonetheless three months after the August 1999 shooting, a Grand Jury exonerated all four cops, and pronounced

the killing "justified."

Welcome to the Terrordome.

The vile and violent attacks on Black and Puerto Rican life in the nation's capital of capital cannot long be limited to their communities. Consciousness does not obey the laws of geography, and repression, like water, seeks the lowest level.

A conservative, pro-Giuliani, Orthodox Jewish community is still, essentially, a Jewish community. And the social forces that truly run New York regard them as another flavor of difference.

Busch's life, like Diallo's life, was expendable in the larger interests of the consolidation and projection of state police power. Both men were gentle souls, who couldn't fathom the hatred and vehemence with which they were perceived by the police.

Both men were executed twice, once in the streets near home, and next in the court system, where their sacrifice was deemed acceptable to the larger political interests of the status quo.

According to published reports, one resident of Boro Park confided to a Black reporter, "Yesterday I believed that when the police would shoot down a Black man, they had a reason. Now I realize that the police can be animals-and they have the power to cover it up at all costs. The next time a Black man gets shot, I'm marching with you." (Village Voice, Feb. 29, 2000, p.42.)

Let us hope that really happens, so that a vast movement can be built.

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What Diallo Really Means

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

The doorway execution of Amadou Diallo, and the subsequent acquittal of the four killer cops by a distant jury in Albany, New York in late February, 2000 is contributing to a firestorm of controversy and community outrage in New York, and in other parts of the country.

Perhaps the most interesting responses have been the political ones, which seem to suggest that the tragedy could somehow have been averted, if only the city had been led by a democrat. While it is undeniable that the repressive regime of Torquemada Giuliani has contributed to the aura of police aggression against the people, that is not a distinct feature of Republicanism, as it is statism, for the two faces of the state wear Republican and/or Democratic garb.

The interest of the state are power, and conservation of the status quo, no matter how unjust the status quo happens to be.

When one considers the behavior of the police under the democratic Dickens administration, one finds the same kind of brutality, of racist anti black police terror, and indeed, as the infamous Police Riot in front of New York City's City Hall demonstrated, where the target cop ire was the Mayor himself!

There, memory recalls, hundreds, if not thousands of cops likened their "commander in chief" (the Mayor) to a washroom attendant! No mayor can claim an administration where there was a true dearth of police violence against the poor, and the powerless, and against

the Black and Latino communities.

The dangers presented by the Diallo killing are twofold; 1) It is a harbinger of greater violence against unarmed black and nonwhite life by the cops; and 2) It will be used to mobilize Democrat political campaigns for mayor, the senate, or the presidency.

The first of course, is self-explanatory, but as to the second, the danger lies in the illusion, that perhaps black life will somehow be safer in the city with Democrats in political control.

The depth of that illusion is illustrated by the tepid and weak comments that are uttered by many major white candidates for political office on the Democratic side.

The Democratic senatorial candidate, Hillary Clinton, in the aftermath of the Diallo's killers acquittal, issued a statement to the effect that "police officers should work to understand the community, and the community should understand the risks faced by police officers." This, in the afterglow of a whitewash quasi-prosecution and acquittal of four cops who glocked Diallo to death in his doorway, for committing the capital crime of "standing while black" (SWB)! This, in studied political reflection of a case where cops fired 41 shots at an unarmed man!

Do you really think that this is a promise of safety if and when she gets elected? If this is what she says when she wants and presumably needs Black and Puerto Rican votes, what will be said after the election? This then is the voice of the "New Democrat." One that sounds suspiciously like the Dixie Democrats, the

voice that protects the status quo, changing nothing, and promising to change even less.



The legendary R&B singers, the Temptations, used to sing, in "Ball of Confusion," about the politicians who say "vote for me, and I'll set you free!" "New" politicians don't even promise freedom. They promise tolerance. As if the poor are beings of pestilence, who are

to be "tolerated." They can't even promise "freedom" in this, the Prisonhouse of Nations, where 2 million souls groan in the American Gulag. Indeed they cannot begin to promise this, for they have been pivotal in the very construction, and the consolidation of the Prison Industrial Complex.

They are not the solution, for their only claim to fame is to bring in some black management to this Menagerie of Pain. A few high appointees. Some cabinet members. A new diversity over the same system of repression. It is time for us there for our political solutions.

We need to think in terms of new political configurations, that speak to our deeper social, racial, ethnic and class identities. For, clearly, this has not, and does not promise to work. The objective of all politics is power. No major political power in America can even begin to promise black folks in America the power to stand on their own doorstep, or ride their own car, or walk the streets of the urban center, without the very real threat of being "accidentally" blasted into eternity. A politics that cannot, or will not control the agents of that polity (that is, the police) is unworthy of our support.

WHUT DA DEAL IZ?

WILL THEY DO ME LIKE DIALLO?

RALLY DIGITAL

"I'm thinkin' 'bout takin' my own life, I might as well, except they might not sell weed in hell.

And thatz where I'm goin' because the Devil is inside of me,

That makes me rob from my nationality. Thatz kinda ignorant, but yo' I gotta pay the rent,

So yeah, I'll stick a nigga most definite.

The degenerate, if I get caught I'm innocent,

Because I don't leave any stick fingerprints.

Yo, itz has been a hot minute since I wrote anything. The past events of not only my life, but also of the lives of so many like me, have thrust me into the writing arena again. You know the reason that I write. I'm giving you the perspective that no one else can. A voice from the streets will keep you aware of what is really happening on the evil streets of NYC.

Damn! In the past thirteen months the NYPD has killed three unarmed citizens. Does it matter that these citizens were Black? You are damn right that being Black had something to do with these crimes, and all the other crimes committed by the various police departments all over this country. In New York City, along with most other parts of our society, being a young black male is probable cause for most officers to stop, question, harass, and entrap these likely law offenders. This is something that is reflected in only a few cases.

On the REAL, these cases happen everyday. You only experience this type of degradation if you are BLACK. I think that if similar situations happened to young white males [Italian, Irish, German anything other than Black] the tables would not be faced in the same direction. That's not even the point at this time. The point of the matter is that three black men in the past year have died suspiciously by the bullets of NYPD police officers. Black Man, it is open season on your ass and you aren't even aware of it. The young black American male is quickly becoming the most endangered species in America. Well at least that is the way I feel being a young black male.

How much will people take? How much will one generation consent to? Will it take a revolution of great magnitude for people to realize that things are not right in our present society? Or will people finally recognize the fact that Black people are still alienated in more than one way? I'm going to continually "Keep iT ReaL" with everyone, and you know this! If something doesn't get started in the name of JUSTICE, we, as a race are doomed to constantly fail. We have to stand up and unite to reform this society before we become extinct. I can not get any more serious than I am at this very moment.

Patrick Dorismond was the last victim of tragedy in New York City. Well, the way the story goes, undercover narcotic officers, referred by the NYPD as Operation Condor, attempted to purchase a bag of Weed [marijuana] from Mr. Dorismond. When he took offense, (as anyone who does not participate in the use, sale, or promotion of drugs would) a fight incurred and Mr. Dorismond ended up dead. See, it does not really matter whether it was an accident or deliberate, Patrick Dorismond's family doesn't have Patrick with them any longer. Is it me, or do people agree with me when I say that, I think that the officers of this elite crime

unit have killed too many innocent black people.

I would like to know WHUT DA DEAL IZ? Can anyone answer me this question? I would like to know how long will it take for people to organize and take political aim at these rude tyrants of our government. Maybe the Black people of this land are at a disadvantage when it comes to many things in this country. That shouldn't matter too much though. Anyone from the GheTTo knows that things ain't easy at all, and itz definitely REAL on the BATTLEFIELD. You never know when you're gonna go. In the meantime, you just gotta handle your business the best you can. The present situations have propelled many people to assume several different responsibilities.

Whut position do you play? Whut can

you do to help? Whut don't you want to see in your community/ society? It is so much to ask and answer! Everything starts slowly through organization. If you really give a damn you'll try your best to improve the structure of America, and correct whut you see is wrong. Everybody plays a significant role in the reform process. Believe me when I tell you, we need reformation in our city of New York, the country of America, and in the world in general. As I tell so many people, Do You and I'll do me [translation: do whut you have to do, whutever it may be], it'll get done soon enough.

There are many individuals, organizations, and affiliations (BiG uP to a few assisting in the struggle here @ CSI, MANJULA, AYMAN, LESLIE ANN,

PETE the UNABOMBER, ReNee, all of the CoNVerGeNcE Team) assisting so many Black people in the day to day struggle of being Black in America. In a greater aspect, Black people should look to outside agencies and supporters as a secondary mean of assistance. The Black community should start doing for itz damn self. Lets not get it twisted, meaning not to be misconstrued, I know that there are very few Black people trying to find refuge in the motherland of Africa. Since going back to Africa isn't a feasible option, let me tell you, Black Man and Woman you better start taking care of business here in America, I'm telling you!!!

On Some Next Level...

I can't even start to begin on how I feel right now about the whole situation. I can only say DAMN! I'm not one to instigate or agitate an already delicate matter, but THE HELL WITH THAT! It just ain't right that my mother has to worry about me the way she does. Itz a damn shame that every woman who knows me tells me to be careful when I depart from her company. Itz truly f#\$ed up that my true friends tell me to "Be Safe" when I'm in the streets. Why is it that the Black community has such an undying, subconscious love for their males?

I can answer that in only one way. The mothers, the fathers, brothers, sisters, friends, wives, children, the whole entire black community understands that no one is promised tomorrow. Anything can happen to anyone at anytime. Usually, unfortunate incidents happen far too often in the Black community. For someone to be shot in the face, or stabbed in the neck, or strangled by a police officer are just some things that you have to try and avoid in "the hood". These everyday obstacles are, at times, more than frightening. At times, these nightmares become reality.

At this time I want to SHOUT OUT all of my peoples who care enough to make sure that R.DiGiTAL is safe, mind, body & soul. All my peeps who call me and come by the fortress to make sure that I'm still alive. These people know who they are. THANK YOU! Anytime you need me I'm here, AK, banana clips and all. Itz nothing that I won't do to liberate my people.

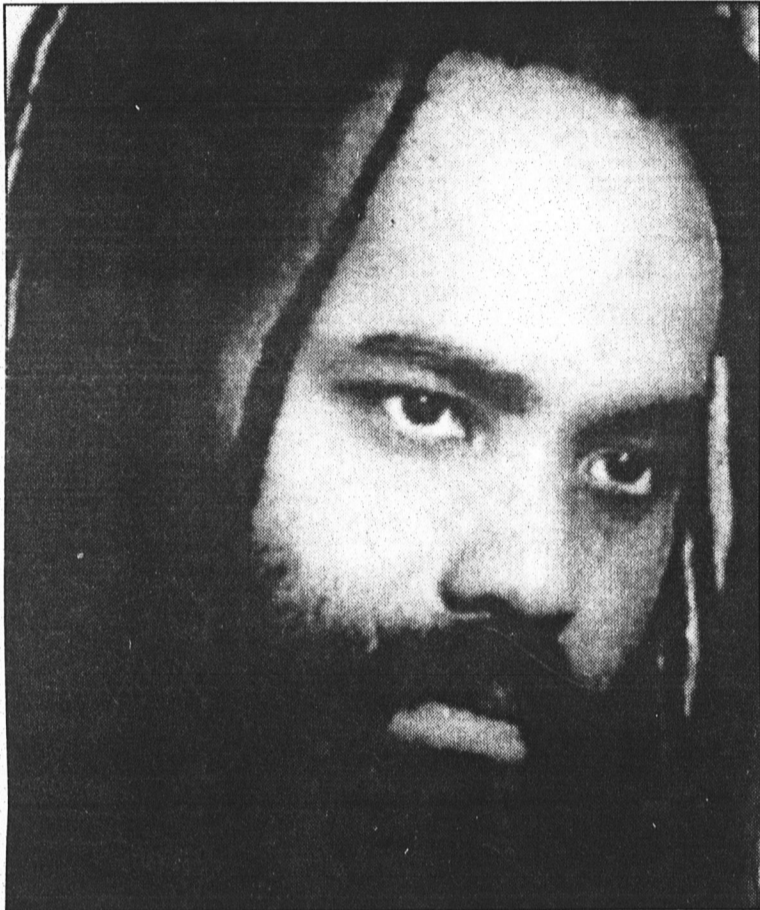
Itz A DAMN SHAME that I feel like that little boy in that drug commercial. Running home the long way to avoid confrontations. The disharmony isn't between me and the drug dealers, they know who I am and they know whut I am about. The reason I take the back alleys, and the side roads when I go home to my little cut in the G-hEttO is because I don't want the crooked cops to mistake me for someone else. Everyone knows that "we" all look alike, and "we" all fit that same description to police officers. You know the description, be on the look out for a black male, approximately 410-6'4", weighing about 120-300 pounds, hooded sweatshirt, wearing Nikes. Who doesn't this fit?! But that's who the police say they were looking for. So rather than prove my innocence, while some overweight desk jockey of a cop runs my fingerprints through the system to see if I have any open warrants, I'll gladly take an extra few minutes to get home. Sometimes you gotta do whut you gotta do, Black man, realize that.

**I pledge allegiance to the streets, and blame God for the creation,
Of this pitiful earth that is filled with temptation.
It was my invitation, won't be my initiation,
Nahhhhhhh, I just got off of probation, so that means
Congratulations.
But I'm under investigation, for psychic evaluation,
Facing incarceration, Isolation knows no color
discrimination.
So I need some participation in the Caucasian
assassination,
Time is wastin', itz a sticky situation.
Tryng to stop my reproduction, to kill off my population
And itz no exaggeration, so who is in association?
With the nig- - - retaliation, I need your total
cooperation.
We're in the hour of desperation0
And for your information, the confrontation will be fought
by younger generation.
'Cause we got determination, now all we need is some
organization
so we use my concentration, with a Jim Crow education
because
if history repeats itself your destination is the
plantations.
To overcome this observation, it depends upon the
communication,
And then, without an explanation or hesitation
You have a reservation, to retrieve our declaration.
Because of altercations, we need to make some
alterations
Let us begin with the manipulation, of this whole got
damn nation O' LIES! ! !
But since I'm under medication thatz the end of this
conversation.**

RaLLY Time

This is the hip-hop quotable for this issue of the CV. Read the words carefully and you will appreciate the lyrics to the fullest extent.

GET ON THE BUS FOR MUMIA



From death row, a message from
Mumia Abu Jamal . . .

**ALL OUT
FOR MAY 7!
Todo poder para
la siete de Mayo**

**What have we learned from the whitewash of the
Diallo murder?**

**The lesson sent to the entire world was that the
courts of this land are still no place for Black justice,
and that Black life remains an overwhelmingly cheap
commodity.**

**When the courts have become halls of injustice, the
people must fight for justice in the streets!**

**I welcome you all for our mass gathering on May 7,
for if justice can't come from the courts, it must come
from the people!**

**I welcome you again
and I thank you!**

On a move!

**Long live
John Africa!**

Abolish the racist death penalty!

Mumia Abu Jamal

GUEST SPEAKERS WILL BE:

*OSSIE DAVIS - SUSAN SARANDON - DAVID DINKINS - RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE - EDARD ASNER -
GLORIA STEINEM - DICK GREGORY - ANGELA DAVIS - MIKE FARRELL - ALICE WALKER - INDIGO GIRLS
TOM DUANE, STATE SENATOR - MONICA MOOREHEAD - JOHNNIE COCHRAN, Esq. - PAM AFRICA -
REV. AL SHARPTON - JOHN CONYERS - RAMSEY CLARK Esq. - LESLIE FEINBERG - LEONARD WEINGLASS, Esq.
BISHOP THOMAS GUMBLETON & THOUSANDS MORE*

**ON SUNDAY MAY 7, 12PM, A BUS WILL LEAVE CSI
TO MADISON SQUARE GARDEN TO ATTEND A DAY FOR MUMIA.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THIS EVENT PLEASE CONTACT
THE COLLEGE VOICE AT 718-982-3091
CSI STUDENTS ARE FREE, PLEASE CONTACT US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO
RESERVE YOUR SEAT
DON'T MISS THIS GREAT EVENT**