

Advocate

GRADUATE STUDENT

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Free

Economics Terminates Black Third Level Student

By Christina Pretto
OF THE ADVOCATE STAFF

Amid charges of discrimination, the Department of Economics has terminated Michael Yomi, a Level Two student in the economics program until last August, on grounds that he failed to take and pass the department's Level

One examinations.

Yomi, a Doctoral students Co-Chair, has accused the executive officer of the economics department, Michael Grossman, of discriminating against him because he is black. Yomi has refused to take the exams

in micro and macro economics because, he said, Grossman writes and grades the exams.

Moreover, when the department sent Yomi a letter in August saying that he was "being treated as having withdrawn from the program," it violated termination procedure, Yomi said.

"I never withdrew from the program," Yomi said. "Anyone who reads a sentence like that will interpret it to mean I withdrew, that I took the initiative. I did not."

The real issue, Yomi said, is discrimination against minority students in the economics department. Between 1961 and 1989, the department has failed to graduate any black students,

Yomi said.

"That's absolutely not the case," Grossman said in a telephone interview. "That's factually wrong." Grossman said the department has graduated three blacks, three Hispanics, and seven Asian-Americans. Since 1983, Grossman said, an average of eight people have graduated per year from the department. Grossman added that many students from for-

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York College Obstructs Club Planning Anti-Reynolds Forum

SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE STAFF

Several student members of the political science club at York College presently face a disciplinary investigation for organizing a forum expected to be critical of Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds' management policies at CUNY.

York's director of student activities, Kieron Sharpe, initially signed approval for the forum in early October and then two weeks later vehemently opposed the event. On Monday, October 18, Sharpe ripped up a

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College Association Votes to Reinstate Student Stipends

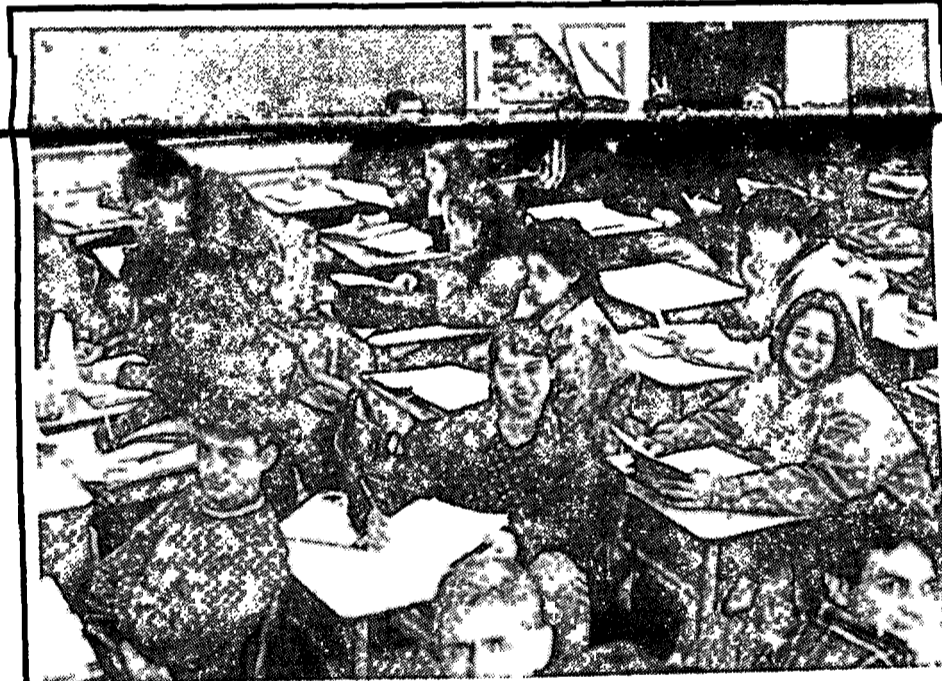
By Pam Donovan
OF THE ADVOCATE STAFF

On October 15, the College Association voted to urge the Graduate School administration to release stipend monies to three members of the Doctoral Students' Council steering committee: Jonathan Lang, Andrew Long, and Jarrod Hayes. The motion passed 8-3. It will now be considered by Graduate School President Frances Horowitz.

The stipends have been held back because CUNY by-laws state that student leaders may not serve in paid positions more than two years, and may not earn more than \$2,882. However, the rule has only been sporadically enforced.

The motion to urge release of the stipends specifically called on the administration to continue paying the salaries this fall until the Board of Trustees addresses the ambiguities in

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Are these students waiting for you? How to navigate the intricacies of the New York City Board of Education. Story Inside.
Photo by Michael Weinstein-Mohammed

The forum, scheduled for November 3 at 6:00 p.m. and entitled "Chancellor Reynolds and the Liquidation of CUNY," is slated to feature speakers including: Professor Leonard Jeffries of City College; Dhoruba Bin Wahad, former political prisoner and member of the Black Panther Party; and Viola Plummer, member of the December 12th Movement.

The students have not been informed why they are under investigation and the administration has not stated what the complaints against the students are.

What is clear, however, is that the York administration is attempting to cancel the forum—a violation of the students' right to free speech—and it has obstructed the activities of the political science club. The club frequently organizes speak-outs at the student cafeteria and conducts other educational events.

Amid Student Concern, History Courts Caribbeanist Colin Palmer

By Michael Weinstein-Mohammed
OF THE ADVOCATE STAFF

In an effort to attract a "top flight faculty," the history program is courting historian Colin Palmer for a distinguished professorship at the Graduate Center. Colin Palmer is a Jamaican scholar and University of the West Indies graduate who specializes in Caribbean Basin and United States slavery. If he chooses to accept the center's offer, he will be teaching American History. He may also be available as an advisor to students who are working in the area of Caribbean studies.

Colin Palmer was a finalist three years ago in a department search for a minority faculty member. At the time he chose to teach at the University of North Carolina, where he was chair-

person of the history program. Three years later, he decided to take CUNY up on its past offer, claiming that his personal commitments had changed. He now had plans to settle in New York.

Many students are pleased that the program has decided to add new faculty to the program, especially black faculty who make up less than 1% of the program's staff. However, there were complaints from students and faculty on this appointment.

Some students wondered why the program failed to open a new search after Palmer turned down the school's original offer. Moreover, some question the thoroughness of the search. But Stuart Prall, executive officer of the history program, said that the

money for Palmer's position was linked to the results of the original search. Furthermore, Prall said, a new search would be very time consuming and costly.

Both students and faculty members have also criticized a presentation that Palmer gave in September called "Rethinking American Slavery". One student said, "Palmer has misrepresented the slavery literature".

The student criticized Palmer's depiction of the slave family. According to Palmer, the family was not a site of resistance during slavery, but rather just an institution people entered. Moreover, on the question of why were slave revolts less prevalent than one might expect, Palmer contended that

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Stuart Prall and Colin Palmer

ACTION on CAMPUS

Latin American Program Formed

The executive officer of the history program, Stuart Prall, said that a significant institutional commitment will be made in the area of Latin America History.

Prall has informed the Advocate that as of Spring 1994, the program will offer two courses in Latin American history every semester. Students specializing in the field say this is a significant step forward since it makes possible a serious program of courses in a traditionally underserved field of study. The program will also provide four professors for student advisement in this area.

Laird Bergad, Jay Kinsbruner, Alfonzo Quiroz, and Hobart Spalding are the four Latin Americanists currently based in the program. Their interests are socioeconomic in orientation based on their past publishing records. Students regard colonial economic history, Caribbean slavery, 19th century economic development, and the 20th century labor movement as the program's strong points.

The weak point of the program, some students say, is that it is anti-Marxist in orientation with the exception of Spalding. Additionally, some students criticize professors for depicting the market as an arena which most colonized people embraced and freely participated in. Structural factors which coerced indigenous participation in the economy are not central to the program, the students say.

Regardless of the programs ideological shortcomings, many students said they are glad to see serious institutional commitment to the field. Next semester, Spalding will teach a labor history course. Additionally, Quiroz will teach a colonial history course.

—Michael Weinstein-Mohammed

Need More Library Hours?

Access to open stacks is a top priority for graduate school students, but cutbacks at the Graduate Center have seriously hampered the ability of graduate students to do research.

One way to break the cycle of austerity is to use other major libraries. The New York University Bobst Library is one place which CUNY students can use if students do not want to fight over Mina Rees resources. However, to use NYU's library, you must first know their procedures.

Two types of CUNY researchers can use the Bobst Library: Students who take classes under the consortium agreement, and researchers who seek day-to-day access. Students participating in the consortium arrangement are entitled to use NYU's facilities at any time and take out books.

Day-to-day access is granted to students who seek to use one of the many archives that exist in the Bobst library. This is the pretext that you should use in order to receive a day pass to the library. The system works as follows:

A researcher goes to the library and says that he or she wishes to do research in an archive, say the Tamiment Labor Archives or the N.Y.U. archives. The hours of these facilities are roughly from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., but you must call for specifics.

The guard at the desk will give you a temporary pass good for the day that theoretically lets you go in and out of the archive. Technically you are only allowed in this archive. However, a guard does not escort you up to the facility, which in the case of the Tamiment is on the tenth floor. At this point you have two options: go into the archive, stay for a while and leave, or go directly to the stacks. The key to this process is to look like an

Notes of a Radical, Post-Haste

What if earth can clothe and feed

Amplest millions at their need, And power in thought be as the tree within the seed?

—Shelley, "Ode to Liberty"

I think that the conservative cause she espouses, politically speaking, is dreadful, and that she is badly misguided. But some things which Elizabeth Power wrote in the last *Advocate* resonate with my own opinions. So I think there's a basis for dialogue.

The most resonant note was struck when Elizabeth wrote that "Liberals don't love the world: they're always thinking about how to fix it." Substitute "people" for "world" in that sentence, and no one could tell us apart.

But Elizabeth, how can you love the *world* today: Its racist, exploitative, sexist violence toward the human being, its "austerity," which means intensifying misery and poverty for billions, its descent into various fratricidal wars, its ecological nightmares, etc.? The world doesn't need my love. It deserves my rage: a good swift working-class revolution in the pants.

The conservative view is simply an older version of the liberals' "moral reform." It runs like this: "Love the market; the market is good for you; it's you who are causing yourself problems if you can't 'get along and adapt' with the market." But I don't *want* to adapt. Whatcha gonna' do about *me*?

N.Y.U. student when you are in the facility. As long as you get into the facility before the archive closes, you can stay until the general library, which closes at 11 p.m..

If this is too cloak and dagger for you, you ought to consider fighting against the administration for extended hours at the Mina Rees library. —Michael Weinstein-Mohammed

You say you're into freedom and happiness. But you don't want to hear us when we say it isn't happening through the institutions you cherish: private property, the market, the nuclear family, organized religion, the incredibly shrinking educational system, the State. What's your response? Elizabeth infantilizes "liberals" (by whom she means the Left in general) "who always let you know, at all times, in every situation, what they think. [But] conservatives state their position and leave it at that." What, you think this is a virtue, Elizabeth? I see it more as a cop-out

who make the "wrong" free choice (All the while, of course, condemning the *liberals* as the sole source of such interference!). Deep down, like liberals, conservatives believe that ordinary human beings really can't be trusted with power. Though why it is that the State should be trusted, since It, after all, is also only human, has always remained a complete mystery.

For an example of this conservative double-talk, take Reynold's "Consolidation" (austerity) plan. She talked a good game about how "Con-

TOMFOOLERY

By Tom Smith

and a cover-up: "If you can't love the world/my beliefs, I don't have to defend them. Just leave me alone: there's something wrong with *you*."

At bottom, as Elizabeth herself reveals, it is inequality that conservatives aim to conserve. But that's a little hard to swallow for the rest of us, no matter how you sugarcoat it. So the arguments of conservatives, the ones in power, anyway, are continually tinged with paternalism. The tacit assumption of conservatives (also revealed in their anti-abortion stance), the assumption which completely contradicts their "support" for individual freedom, is that the State has the right to interfere with the lives of those

solidation" would help minority and working class students prepare for the World of Tomorrow. But always underlying these arguments was her view that such students weren't really capable of or interested in liberal arts—whatever they themselves might think about the matter. Now she is using her powers to punish anyone who opposed ~~the plan~~. And the Board has given her dictatorial powers to implement it anyway.

Enter our own Administration. After the current student government made its anti-Consolidation, anti-Chancellor views known,

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Engineering Student From Serbia Killed In Car Accident; Driver Arrested

Valentina Popovic, 25, a graduate student at City College's School of Engineering, died on September 24 after being struck by a car in upper Manhattan. Ms. Popovic came to New York from Serbia to study electrical engineering. The driver of the car was fleeing police on Amsterdam Avenue when he hit Ms. Popovic at 110 Street. She was dragged several blocks and died at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital from internal injuries. The driver, Moses Rodriguez, was charged with vehicular manslaughter.

—Pam Donovan

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