

CUNY Graduate Center  
33 West 42 Street  
New York, NY 10036

## Your Check is in the Mail: Students and the Research Foundation

by staff

# Many

students who receive money from the Research Foundation have experienced its labyrinthine check disbursement. Graduate students receive checks from the Research Foundation if they are being paid for their research through a grant, if they receive a fel-

lowship from money handled by the Research Foundation, or if they are adjuncts being paid by "soft money" lines which are budgeted by the Research Foundation rather than by campuses on which they work. While for most the checks arrive without too much trouble, when trouble occurs, it can be on a grand scale.

A student we'll name student X did research for a faculty member during the Summer of 1993, and time sheets were submitted on October 29 of that year. However, pay was not received until over four months later on the third of

The research for this article was done by Jonathan Hearn and David Kirschenbaum. This article is the first of two about the Research Foundation; the second will examine its workings.

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## DSC Allocates Student Funds Contrary to Court Findings

By Michael Weinstein

On October 12th, the DSC plenary voted to pay Pam Renner, former Advocate Editor, a sum of \$400.00, contrary to a Small Claims Court decision. Several DSC Steering Committee members, are calling for the intervention of the College Association, a DSC oversight board, to prevent "inappropriate stipend payment to a non-student," says Andrew Long, DSC Co-chair for Student Affairs.

Renner took the DSC to Small Claims Court this August to obtain funds she allegedly paid an Assistant Editor, Stefan Smagula, who was not paid for work on the Advocate because he was not a CUNY student. After the DSC plenary was informed Smagula was a non-student, Renner was warned that although he would be paid for the March issue he had worked on, he could not be paid for future work on The Advocate through student activity fees. The Fiscal Accountability Handbook specifically states that non-students cannot receive stipends paid through stu-

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## Access Denied: Full- Time need, Part Time Schedule

Susanna Miller and staff

With a full range of Doctoral and Masters programs squeezed into a dozen floors, including the two floors of the Grace Building, availability of space is going to be a problem. Add on to that the situation that our facility is opened less than most graduate facilities, and you begin to arrive at the crunch for space that exists here.

The problem of access at the Graduate Center has a significant historic context. The school was open in the early 70s full-time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, until 1976 when the City of New York collided with bankruptcy. "It was a major

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# ADVOCATE

The City University of New York Graduate School and University Center

Volume 6 Number 5

## LIU Strike: Adjuncts and Full-timers Go out Together

by Tom Smith

# Full

and part-time faculty went on strike September 12th, the day before the beginning of the Fall Semester, at the downtown Brooklyn branch of Long Island University. This, the first strike of the LIU Faculty Federation, was over low pay and poor benefits. A major issue was the plight of the part-timers who teach nearly 60 percent of the courses. The strike lasted little over a week, ending September 21st.

Although the strike left many feeling that only meager gains had been won, there were pay increases for both part and full-timers. Also, the union listed participation of 98% of the faculty and no scabbing

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## ¡Que Viva La Musica! Untimely Death of Sociology Professor

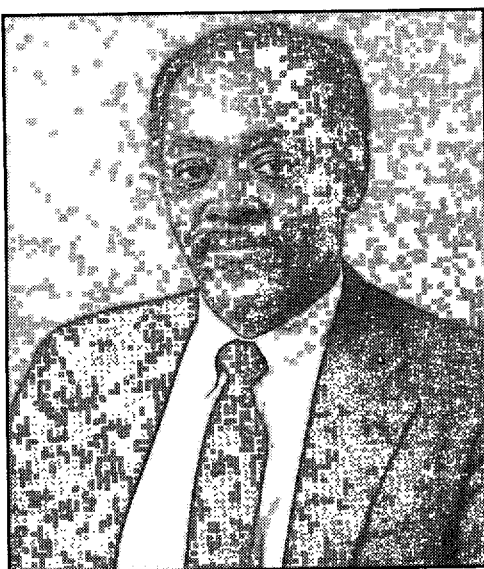
by Courtney E. Guthreau

CUNY students, faculty, and staff were shocked and saddened by the recent and unexpected death of Vernon William Boggs at age fifty-five. Vernon Boggs died on September 3, 1994 at Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan from acute pneumonia.

A professor of Sociology both at the GSUC and York College, Boggs was also a graduate of the GSUC (1979). Boggs was best known as an expert on Latin jazz. Also an ethnographer interested in urban ecology, deviance and crime, he lived in the YMCA in Times Square for a couple of years during the late 1970s. The result was published as "The Apple Sliced: Sociological Studies of New York City" in 1984.

His love for music led him to his most personally gratifying work Latin jazz. Boggs' fascination with music began in childhood. Raised in Atlantic City, his proximity to New York allowed him to visit clubs like the Palladium throughout the 1950's, seeking out the Latin beat in Black music.

His interest in music grew during visits to Cuba, Jamaica and Puerto Rico, while he was a US Naval Reservist in 1956. He was exposed to plenty of reggae, calypso and clave, his favorite, the rhythmic patterns of which he loved



Sociology Professor Vernon Boggs. Photo Wayne Geist

Continued on page 16

## New Latin American and Caribbean Studies Concentration: A Cause for Celebration and Concern

by Tracy Steffy

## Graduate Students, AIDS and the Silence at CUNY: Part One

Tracy Morgan

About four years ago an AIDS Task Force was convened by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. According to Floyd Moreland, about six members of the GSUC community participated. The Task Force focused primarily on preventing the spread

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On October 14th a reception will be held to celebrate the creation of an Interdisciplinary Concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies (ICLAC). Those involved in its creation see the interdisciplinary concentration as the initial step towards creating first a certificate and ultimately a doctoral program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Beginning in the Spring of 1995, courses from various departments will be listed under the ICLAC heading, with seminars to be developed and offered as soon as Fall 1995.

While many students and faculty members welcome the creation of the interdisciplinary concentration and look forward to the development of a certificate and doctoral program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, several students raised concerns regarding the level of student input and representation

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# Editorial

## Closing the Door on Academic Progress

The Graduate Center is unique in many ways, but there is one way in which it stands out even among CUNY schools. It's closed on Sundays.

No matter where you went to school before coming to the Graduate Center, it is highly likely you never went to a school that closed its doors overnight, and it's a sure thing that this is the first institution of higher learning that you've been to that closes on Sundays as well.

When the building is closed you can't use the Library, you can't use the Computer Center, you can't even go up to your office and use your computer (if you happen to be lucky enough to have an office much less one with a computer in it). Evidently the Graduate Center takes the biblical mandate of a day of rest seriously. Too bad students studying for their first exams, putting together bibliographies for their orals, drawing up dissertation proposals, or trying to obtain photocopies of library reserve articles for course-work don't seem to be quite so pious.

Most doctoral students here work on weekdays. What spare weekday time they have is spent in classes, colloquia, meetings, or at a second or third job, often teaching in some distant borough. Saturdays and Sundays are, in this academic faith, the days set aside for one's academic work, the days for research. Unfortunately for us, the GSUC house of worship closes on one of these crucial days each week.

It doesn't seem too much to ask, keeping this one building open to access. It may be that air conditioning in the Library is prohibitively expensive, and staffing the Computer Center would break the State Budget. But what about simple access to offices? It's only one building, with only one entrance.

Think what a difference it would make to be able to come here when there are no activities, few people, and fewer distractions. Imagine students (and faculty!) burning the midnight oil in the privacy of their own departmental offices after a long day of work. Sounds ideal, and it is.

It's just the way a university is supposed to operate. It's not that every student needs to use the building every Sunday, or needs to stay overnight every night. That one night in the week, that one Sunday in the month, when getting on the internet or accessing your e-mail would make all the difference in the world — that's when the closed door stands between you and academic progress. Other schools stay open twenty-four hours not because their students are all late-nighters. Those schools understand, as the Graduate Center administration seems not to, their commitment to their students and faculty. Those schools know that they are obligated to stay open overnight and on Sundays because a research institution should never turn its own away — ever.

— Robert Hollander, Linguistics

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## Letters

### No Price Tag on Good Health

To the Editor:

In a recent Advocate article ("Report on Health Services," September 1994), the cost of the Wellness Center was calculated by the entire operating cost being divided by the number of visits. With current costs by this calculation being \$200 currently and only hoping to go down to \$67, this facility seems inefficient. But is this an accurate way to regard the cost to the entire community? Does this acknowledge the Center's purpose and services rendered? Most importantly, this is a dangerously irresponsible approach to life at the Graduate Center, because it suggests the health of the community should be made to answer to "efficiency".

But how inefficient is it? Despite problems of under-utilization plaguing the

barely year-old facility, at a cost of less than \$6.50 per student, a facility is available three full days a week (25 hours total) in which students can get a check-up, treat many illnesses, and receive referrals, as well as get tests and screenings at cost. The delivery is immediate and free, and the location is convenient for the vast majority of students.

The article's focus upon current cost per visit to the Wellness Center suggests an abandonment of the very reasons why students worked hard to create health facilities at the campus. Several years ago, students brought a referendum to the student body, which was passed, to create a facility that would provide basic health services to all CUNY graduate students. The concept behind this was that for a very small cost per student, a healthcare safety net would be in place for the Graduate Center's students. The need for this is so great because so many of us are uninsured or underin-

sured and have no access to health care.

Not enough students are using it yet, and there is space for improvement. But this facility provides a cushion of security that our illnesses will not worsen to the point of needing hospitalization, or will create a dangerous, contagious environment right here at school! At the very least it ensures that we do have some access to health care, which many of us otherwise would not have except through emergency rooms. The DSC and this newspaper have to show a good-faith commitment to advertising the Center to the Graduate Center community. The administration which should be providing these services for us has made no real contribution to advertising its availability.

The "pro-efficiency" proposal is to have a voucher-fee system. A voucher-fee system would serve some students, but cannot serve basic needs of a community. In fact, it is ludicrous to suggest the student

# Opinions

## For a Fightback not a Task Force

Anthony Marcus

There are some among the students, including myself, who feel that the reduction of student wages for work study by 52 percent in order to adjust wages to the "going rate" may be part of the wave of neo-liberalism that is sweeping the world in the wake of the collapse of the USSR. In the name of neo-liberal market reforms the world wide, wages are being slashed to the "going rate".

It is true that student research can be done for less than \$25 an hour; students here will do it for \$12 an hour; and students in the South will do it for \$8 an hour. My teenage brother will do it for \$5. But if the standard for work study wages is to be the market rate, then, in this age of free commerce across the Mexican border, we can expect having our FWS wages reduced even further. We may even be threatened with our work being out sourced to low-wage research sites. Who knows? Maybe we'll soon see maquiladora research centers.

A far better plan would be to reduce the rent that students pay to the "going rate." For instance, in Detroit, \$300 a month rents a house. In rural Arkansas it is even cheaper. But cutting already struggling students' pay in the name of fairness to others who earn less, all in the name of setting "an appropriate wage" is a cynical way of disguising austerity, further immiserating students, and ultimately denying many access to graduate school.

The task force that Dr. Moreland is setting up will, according to him, be an opportunity to "take a fresh look at work study and see how it works in a graduate school." But will a fresh look be enough? When people are forced to take a 52 percent pay cut they need a lot more than a fresh look. They need a serious fightback.

## On the Notion of Representative Government

Robert Hollander

Time and again the charge is leveled against the DSC by its ardent critics (mostly administrators) that so long as no more than 20% of the student body vote in its election it cannot call itself truly representative. This argument is used for a variety of ends from justifying the appointment of non-DSC members to search committees to disregarding DSC resolutions and positions. It opens the door to a kind of opportunism, both personal and intellectual, by marginalizing the DSC as the ideological pole against which any opposition regardless of its substance or lack of it should be supported. But the complaint is a red herring conaling the trail of a canard.

### Red Herring

The notion of representation occupies a deep place in the political psyche of American-educated citizenry. It professes the credentials of American democracy construed by Americans as identical with democracy *tout court*, and viewed as virtually an uncontested, unquestionable good in itself. It is remarkable how little critical thought we apply to the notions we are taught in grade school. That rule by representatives of the people is a far cry from rule by the people is a truism that ought to be painfully obvious to every American from daily experience. Yet your average American, including your average graduate student, even your exceptional graduate student, still thinks we live in a democracy—under a government of and by the people.



DSC's Co-chair for Communications Robert Hollander. Photo: Michael Weinstein

Well, perhaps we do live in one, of sorts. But it's not a very good sort, or even, among democratic sorts, a very democratic sort. It is at best a kind of poor man's majority rule, and that is not, after all, rule by the people but rule by some of the people, the minority be damned.

The problem is that your vote is not the same as your voice. In writing this I exercise my voice. It will require of me an hour or so and some hundreds of words. By contrast, my vote requires one word—either yes or no—and at most a moment to make the necessary articulatory motions oral or manual. It is hard to imagine a creature on this earth (other than an American-educated child however old) that couldn't distinguish the physical and temporal differences between these two acts, to say nothing of their consequences. As a result of exercising my voice, my readers, few as they be, know at least something about what I think. The exercise of my vote results in nothing of the kind, and is lost among however many the voting pool may contain.

The above should not be taken as an objection to elections. It is an objection to holding the view that elections are anything but the cheapest sort of representation. There are plenty of virtues to holding elections; in particular, they are, the very best and perhaps

the only alternative to appointments. This is just why the argument over representation is a red herring: it distracts the discussion from the real virtue of the DSC which is simply that it is not an appointed body. It is elected. It is elected by a process in which every single doctoral student in the City University system receives a ballot and may nominate and vote for whom she please. Any student has a fair chance to serve and, with respect to the diversity of opinions represented, just about any student does. That's what is meant, if you please, by the DSC's representation. A broad range of views is 'represented' by our members because no one person determines the membership. That's what it means to be an elected body. Appointed bodies reflect one person's view, even if it's one person's view of alterity. Not so the DSC. That's why questioning the degree of representation is a red herring. The real point to be made is that regardless of our degree of representation, the DSC is elected, not appointed.

### A Canard

That we are elected seems not to satisfy some of our more tenacious critics. They object that only those who participate in our cabal vote in our election. They claim to justify their

complaint by the 'proof' that if you are not DSC-correct, the DSC won't allow you in on any part of governance. This is the canard. The DSC has no litmus test for involvement other than interest in being involved. Participation, like our election itself, is open to all students. We encourage involvement and welcome participation.

Why, then, do we have the reputation of being a cabal? The answer is simple and embarrassing. Whenever we are asked to nominate students to committees, we shift around for some volunteers, find none—too few students have time or money to spare for committees that don't pay—and then fall back on the usual suspects, those few friends whose interest in and dedication to student governance is a priority. In other words, we're caught in a catch-22: few students are willing to participate, so we succumb to the accusation of being an exclusionary group. This kind of game is not fair play.

### Hunting and Gathering

What the DSC requires is active participation. There is a sense in which the DSC is really a volunteer organization. The Steering Committee gets paid, sure, but without the help of the members of the student body we lose the appearance of legitimacy. And what the extremist-opportunist trades on who wants to bypass the DSC. The suggestion that the DSC rejects nominees that do not agree with its views is a pretense. The DSC doesn't have set views; its members represent a broad spectrum. It does have an agenda: advocacy for student interests to the betterment of the University. If that's not good enough for our charge, what is?

nurse is under-utilized and therefore inefficient, and then propose a voucher system as solution that depends upon low use for its very existence, since if it were broadly utilized, reimbursement would be next to nil. It is ludicrous to suggest the voucher system is an alternative to \$6.50 per student per semester—the equivalent of student lunches!

So who does support this vision of less access and lack of services to an entire community? The DSC? The writers of this letter are all members of the DSC. One is a Co-chair, one is on the Steering Committee and one is a plenary member. In fact, the latter is the author of the article under discussion, or at least the author of the article when it was still a balanced presentation of the fledgling Center's problems of under-utilization as well as of its potentials.

Tara McGann

Ph.D. student in Comparative

Literature

Anthony Marcus

Ph.D. student in Anthropology

Andrew Long

Ph.D. student in Comparative Literature

## What is the ISO Afraid Of?

To the Editor:

Last issue, The Advocate reported that "non-student" ISO members barred Spartacus League members from the GSUC building, for fear that the Sparts might attend the ISO's "public" meeting here. Something similar, albeit far less violent, happened to me. I am a registered student at the Grad Center. Last fall, I wandered into an ISO "public" meeting on "whether the Western work-

ing classes were imperialist." I was genuinely interested in learning about the topic. However, I was asked to leave. At the time I happened to be a member of yet another political organization: the "Trotskyist League" (Don't Laugh!)

I told this story to a few members of the ISO in the mall a few weeks later. One of them was someone I have known for years, from the CUNY strike of '91. They were there to advertise another "public" meeting, that night. I told them I would have liked to attend this meeting, too. I was told the following: it was a public meeting; it was a meeting to "build the ISO." The fact that I was a Trotskyist meant automatically that I had gone to the last meeting in order to disrupt it. If I wanted to learn about the issues raised at such public ISO meetings, I should just attend a meeting of my own group.

When the ISO first hit the GSUC, I

was actually glad. "Maybe they'll shake things up a bit. They're revolutionaries, not social democrats, after all," I thought to myself. But I have come to see the ISO as a centrist cult. The leaders obsessively desire to appear respectable in the eyes of liberals ("Proud to be PC"). They seek to recruit people into their organization without educating them politically. Who needs education when you want no democracy? They are terrified of leftists who are just as or more politically sophisticated than they. The last thing they want is for their competitors to debate them in front of their recruits.

The article reported that a DSC member, who has had "twenty years" experience in politics, had heard that the Sparts have engaged in similar actions in the past. I have heard this too. But, first, this is hearsay, and not even hearsay that the Sparts were allowed to challenge. Second, groups

can change over 20 years. And finally, two wrongs don't make a right.

I'm glad the DSC condemned this thuggish behavior. But I would go further. I want to ask my friends in the ISO student group a few questions. How do you feel about such behavior? Is your group, the ISO, really interested in the values of genuine socialism and university education: freedom to debate, to speak, to create public space? Or do your leaders just want to manipulate, exclude (by force, if necessary), and recruit as an end-in-itself? If the latter is true, why are you affiliated with such an organization?

Why not constitute yourselves independently of such cults, as a student group working for socialist revolution, open to anyone who shares the same ideals?

Tom Smith

Ph.D. student in Political Science



# DSC Allocates Student Funds Contrary to Court Findings

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dent activity fees.

Renner was informed to open a search to fill the position with a student. She contended she could find no one else at the GSUC as qualified as Smagula, a close, personal friend, and employed him to work on the May issue. However, Andrew Long and former Media Board member, Jarrod Hayes, contend the search was not conducted in good faith.

After Smagula was not paid for work on the subsequent issue, as the DSC plenary vote had dictated, Renner appealed unsuccessfully to the Media Board, the Steering Committee, and finally, Small Claims court. Renner claimed she paid Smagula out of her

pocket and sought to be reimbursed.

Robert Hollander, the DSC Co-chair for Communications, argued in open court that the DSC had no obligation to pay Renner. Hollander pointed to the fact that paying Renner directly contravened a plenary motion, a Media Board order, and Steering Committee instructions that non-students could not be paid salaries with student funds. The sentiment behind the plenary motion that denied future payment to Smagula was that students should be the primary benefactors of all student monies.

Hollander convinced Judge Nancy Brandel that the DSC had no legal obligation to pay Renner. Judge Brandel dismissed Renner's claim and refused any monetary compensation.

Despite this decision, at the October

plenary, Robert Hollander, DSC Co-Chair for Communications, introduced a motion onto the floor which provided for the reimbursement of Renner. DSC members Andrew Long and Wayne VanSertima were perplexed by this motion, believing that the motion ran counter to the DSC's previous resolution.

Argument over this matter was rancorous. G. Ganter, former Media Board member who admitted hiring Ms. Renner in a "less than above board search," suggested that the DSC pay Renner "strictly out of pity." On the other side of the isle was DSC Steering Committee member Wayne VanSertima, who argued forcefully against her payment given the findings of Judge Brandel. According to VanSertima, "I have no pity for Renner. She deliberately ignored the instructions of the DSC and Media board on this matter, which clearly stated her friend would not be paid."

The DSC voted 12 yea, 3 nay and 5 abstentions in favor of Renner's payment. Eric Marshall, Co-chair for Business Affairs, is currently waiting for clarification on the payment of Renner.

Andrew Long is calling for the College Association and Howard

Helfgott, Business Manager at the school, to prevent Renner's payment. He cites the court decision, previous warnings to Renner, and widespread sentiment at the GSUC against the payment of stipends to non-student students as reasons to stop payment. Tara McGann, member of both the Steering Committee and College Association, said that in paying Renner this \$400, "The DSC is, in effect, paying Renner

twice. She says she paid Smagula, but," argues McGann, "The DSC and the College Association need proof," that Smagula has been paid.

"The regrettable aspect of this case," according to Wayne VanSertima was that in these times of scarce financial resources, the DSC "gave money to one of Pam Renner's friends instead of hard-pressed Graduate Center students." V



Former Advocate Editor Pam Renner. PHOTO: Anthony Marcus

## Your Check is in the Mail

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March. For work which this same student performed during the Spring of 1994, time sheets submitted in June have still not been paid. This student could get no information on why the time sheets were not processed, and added that in phone conversations with the Research Foundation it seemed, "they'd never heard of you." A student co-worker on the same project refuses to work on the project anymore because of these difficulties.

Another student The Advocate spoke with, who also didn't want to be named, waited all summer to be paid \$4,000. The Research Foundation's explanations for this were various, ranging from improperly submitted forms to an admission that, "yes, we made a mistake."

Most students have only a vague idea of what the Research Foundation is. As the Research Foundation's 1993 Annual Report states, the University of the State of New York founded it in 1963 as an educational corporation. Its purposes, as listed in its charter, were threefold: first, to develop and increase CUNY's facilities through appeals for gifts, contributions, grants and donations; second, "To receive, hold and administer gifts or grants and to act without profit as a trustee of edu-

cational or charitable purposes and objectives of the City University of New York;" and third, to finance research and studies in keeping with CUNY's educational purposes. In other words, the Research Foundation solicits contributions and grants, administers grants and funds research within CUNY that has not been funded by outside sources. By state law the Research Foundation is the Fiduciary Agent and named awardee of any awards to CUNY; they are the fiscal agent for sponsored activities at all CUNY campuses. Thus the Research Foundation is intimately involved in the lives of graduate students. Graduate students have nominal representation through a DSC representative who sits on the Research Foundation Board, but in actuality this doesn't amount to much input over its structure and governance.

The large, somewhat autonomous organization is, as Jane Gentillini from the Office of Sponsored Research says, "in CUNY, but not of CUNY." One of the problems this creates for CUNY graduate students who are not getting the checks they need in a timely manner is that they have to negotiate with a bureaucracy that owes them nothing and can be unresponsive.

An example of this is the experience of another student, whom we'll call student Y, who was a research assistant for a professor. She submitted invoices last October and this May for a total of \$535, and to date only part of the invoices have been paid.

A May phone call from the college informed the student that she had not done the necessary paperwork; however, no one at the Research Foundation ever tried to notify her of the problem.

When she called the Research Foundation it turned out she wasn't even in their payroll system. Finally, when the home campus told the student the checks were ready, she went to pick them up, only to find they were not there. For now, the student has been paid for the remaining amount from the professor's own pocket

**...the vaunted  
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Attempts to work things out at the home campus were unsuccessful, and she was unsure how much of the problem lay at the Research Foundation as opposed to the home campus. She complained that the (mostly) student workers rotate often and are poorly trained. It is almost as if "every day is their first day," she added.

Student Z also pointed to having to deal with a home campus and the Research Foundation as the reason for delays in his payments. Although an adjunct, he was paid through the Research Foundation. The money for the course he was teaching came from

the REACH program, a "soft money" line that isn't part of the home campus' budget. He complained of weeks of run-around from home campus to Research Foundation trying to find out what information was missing that was holding up his checks.

Student Y commented, "I spend so much time tracking down my own money. There is no sense from the Research Foundation that as a graduate student I need this money." While the Research Foundation can't control what happens at the home campuses, Thomas Facciolo, the Vice President for Administration at the Research Foundation, acknowledged some problems. He cites the difficulties of rapid growth as the reasons why students experience difficulties with receiving their checks promptly. Since 1982 the Research Foundation has gone from handling \$25 million a year to \$175 million a year in grants, while the staff has only grown from around 82 to 102, he explained. This represents a 900 percent growth in revenues, but a less than 25 percent increase in staff size.

Facciolo also contended that a major difficulty with prompt payment is that most research is on a cost-payable basis, meaning that the grant agencies don't pay out until they get the specific receipts from the Research Foundation. As an example he cited the Summer Youth Employment Program, whose funds the Research Foundation manages. The Research Foundation was just paid in May of 1994 for bills incurred in June of 1993, almost one calendar year later. "My concern," Facciolo concluded, "is that this situation is not communicated

very well to students."

Another thing that is causing delays to check disbursement is the new payroll system. ~~Payroll used to be handled by a service. Now it is done internally by the Research Foundation.~~ Since the switch, payment turn-around after time sheet submission has, according to one student interviewed, increased by two weeks. Thus the vaunted overhaul of the payroll system has worsened the problem thus far for graduate students, who live from hand to mouth.

With reference to the conversion to an internal payroll system, Facciolo said that his staff was increased from six to eight people, an insignificant increase when considering that eight people are managing the salaries and handling payroll for some 12,000 CUNY employees. Currently, it takes the Research Foundation a month to get someone new on the payroll, a length of time which may translate to another month of ramen noodles for many students living on the edge.

Part of the rationale for the Research Foundation, explained Facciolo, is that there are always complex strings attached to award money. The faculty should be focused on research, not on paperwork, he added, saying that that's what the Research Foundation is here to deal with. "We provide a structure for faculty to get things done on research grants. But as a public benefit organization, we are besieged by red tape—our job is to deal with it." The problem is that graduate students who rely on the Research Foundation for money also get tied up in that red tape V

# Access Denied

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turning point in terms of the GSUC's ability to leave the facility open all the time," says Vice President for Student Affairs Floyd Moreland. "A lot of the decisions were made at the time aimed at cutting costs without undermining the quality of academic programs. The Graduate School has never gotten back to the point where we can keep the facility fully open."

Competition for space is a big problem for those organizing events. It is often hard to find an appropriate room on the day and time desired. First priority for space goes for classes. Programs and DSC-chartered student groups can also try to reserve rooms, but entities that fall into neither of these categories, while having a right to reserve rooms for their use, can have real trouble getting them. For instance, the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS), neither a department nor a student group, had to resort to holding its series of monthly lectures in BM10, made available to them by the DSC, because they could get no rooms through Barbara Burkett, the Coordinator for Room Reservations. BM10 is a dimly lit, fairly small room with no windows directly off the student center; obviously not an ideal room for a lecture series.

*The need for better access to space*

at the Graduate Center, a pressing, school-wide concern, is particularly a problem when it comes to weekend access for special events. With the GSUC closed on Sunday, demand for rooms on Saturdays, particularly for large events, is great.

While competition for space is one problem that those organizing Saturday events at the Graduate Center face, the other is the cost of using certain rooms on Saturdays. A charge to cover overhead is imposed for the Saturday use of the Harold M. Proshansky Auditorium, seating 246; the Third Floor Studio, seating 130; Room 207, holding 90 people; and Room 1700 holding a maximum of 220, including capacity for a sit-down lunch. All other rooms are free of charge on Saturdays. For most student groups and even programs and centers the charge is prohibitively expensive. Total costs for renting the Auditorium on a Saturday from morning until evening can run about \$1600.

The crunch on weekend access and the high cost for using the rooms reduce the potential for holding events that greatly benefit the school, such as national conferences, which need to be held during the weekend. Another detrimental effect of these restrictions, according to Joseph Wittreich,

Executive Officer of English, has ultimately been to diminish the visibility of certain programs and their activities to a significant degree. "There's a way in which it's clearly a *Catch-22* situation," he says, "because to have the Auditorium closed works against the President's mission of establishing moorings in the community, since it's on the weekends that the community would have the time to participate in activities at the Graduate School."

Who should pay these weekend fees is a contested issue. Some contend that free Saturday access to space is a necessity the school should provide. "Any school-affiliated group that wants to use these rooms on a Saturday has to pay for services," says Andrew Long, Co-Chair for Student Affairs for the Doctoral Students Council, "and none of us has any money. These facilities should be fully available for GSUC students and faculty as a means of pursuing academic development in all its senses." Long sees the Saturday fees as a form of "privatization," and concluded, "the services of a public university should be publicly funded not funded through user fees paid by members of the community."

The administration claims the charge for Saturday use is merely an issue of available funds. However, Long

countered that, "You just can't reduce talk about public education to the terms of dollars and cents."

**"the services of a public university should be publicly funded not funded through user fees paid by members of the community."**

Bruce Kohan, Vice President for Finance and Administration, stressed that the administration is making no money from weekend use of the large rooms. Rather, large events require extra staff to be on hand and resources be made available that otherwise wouldn't, and the organizers of the event must cover the costs for these. For instance, organizers must cover the extra costs for any engineers, custodians, air-conditioning, security, audiovisual staff and equipment and maintenance staff who are needed. Another factor in the high cost is that personnel are paid at time and a half for Saturday work.

Outside groups are occasionally allowed to rent the Auditorium and other large spaces on Saturdays, at a total cost much higher than the cost list-

ed above. The sum of these rentals, which falls somewhere below \$10,000 annually, contributes to an income account which is turned over to the State of New York. Although Kohan states outside organizations are not usually allowed access to these spaces, exceptions are made for city-state agencies, charitable organizations, professional groups affiliated with GSUC or CUNY cooperative programs.

But Kohan stresses that discussion has been underway about how to free up funds for expanded off-hour building usage. What is needed is a determination of the exact costs necessary for extra labor hours, the probable expense of additional staff, and the way in which such a shift would effect coverage at other times. "The fact is," says Marilyn Marzolf, Executive Assistant to the Provost and Director of Academic Operations, "there are a number of events that we'd like to be able to put on during weekends as well. But if we did it, we would have to cut back from other costs."

But many in the position of having to pay for the cost of using these rooms on Saturdays feel the administration should cover the overhead. "We may have to cut corners somewhere," says Professor David Nasaw, Executive Officer for History, "but it would seem to me that in the long run the policy might be a foolish saving of money." Certainly, the Saturday fees limit the sort of events that can be put on at the Graduate Center. **V**

## LIU Strike: Adjuncts and Full-timers Go out Together

Continued from 1

as a success, according to Don Rogers, Strike Committee Chairperson and Professor of Chemistry. However, many, and in particular, part-timers, felt not enough was won. Walter Jacobson, an adjunct who was involved both with negotiations and the strike said part-timers felt disappointed that the bulk of their demands hadn't been met.

Adjuncts won a 6% increase for the first year, a 5 3/4% increase next year and a 5 1/2% increase the year after that. LIU adjuncts were paid significantly less than adjuncts at CUNY, making from \$1,620 to \$2,100 a course, depending upon numbers of years adjuncting. Though even with 17 1/4% raises over the next three years, LIU adjuncts will still make less than CUNY adjuncts. LIU adjuncts, who previously had no health benefits, will be offered the opportunity to join the university's HMO, though the university won't pay for it. In addition,

adjuncts will now receive evening lounge and office privileges.

Full-timers will receive a consistent 6% annual salary increase for the next three years. Their salaries had been \$12,000 below the state average, and were far less than CUNY professors.

**part-timers felt disappointed that the bulk of their demands hadn't been met.**

Another gain of the strike is that the LIU dropped its restrictions that new tenures could not be offered

until tenured professors left. Tenure selection will now be based upon qualifications only, and the university pledged to maintain a ratio of 62% tenured to non-tenured faculty. Also, the university has agreed that all full-time faculty should be tenure-tracked.

These, however, are not gains that directly benefit part-timers. Part-timers will still receive no preference for full-time hires, though many of these adjuncts have been teaching at LIU for years and are the backbone of their departments.

The union demanded that full-timers receive the same 19.5% increase they had received in their last contract, and a 36% salary increase for part-timers was sought by the union. The union sought more for the part-timers not only because of the extremely low pay that LIU adjuncts get, but also to close the gap between what part-timers and full-timers make for teaching a class. This demonstrates

how, for the first time, part-timers were active in their union's negotiations, and that the union was pushing their demands. The administration claimed they could not meet these demands, citing LIU's expensive health plan as the reason. However, the union countered that over the last four years, revenues at LIU's Brooklyn campus have increased from \$31 to \$59 million. Over the same period, tuition increased from \$7,000 to \$8,760 per year for a full-time student, and enrollment increased.

Despite this expansion, the administration did not increase its hiring of full-timers. It relied on part-timers, who are paid less than 50% of what a full-timer makes for teaching a class, to make up for the shortfall. In addition, Jacobson said classes were over-enrolled across the board. Although the official maximum of students per class is 35, during registration most classes have their registration over-tallied, according to the union. Neither large class size nor over-enrollment were addressed during labor negotiations.

Another success of the negotiations and strike claimed by the union was the closer ties forged between the full and part-timers. According to adjunct lecturer and Strike Headquarters volunteer Marilyn Boutwell, relations between full and part-timers have

been getting closer. All the adjuncts talked to were excited about the cooperation they were given by the full-timers.

A major reason for the short duration of the strike was the intransigence of the administration. On September 20th, Rogers said negotiations went from bad to worse and that the administration was digging in. The administration threatened to take away health benefits from the full-timers and to dock strikers' pay for missed classes, according to Rogers. This prompted the negotiating committee to take the current offer of the administration.

Jacobson says people had not expected to be out for longer than a week, perhaps two. Many faculty were frightened of alienating the students, and did not wish to sabotage the increasing popularity of LIU with a long, protracted strike.

The outcome of the LIU strike was disappointing for many who had sought a redress for their demands, but they hope the meager gains are a first step in increasing the union's power and making it take adjunct concerns seriously. Walter Jacobson concluded, "We need to be committed to this struggle. Either we build a union that can fight during the next contract period—or we don't have a union at all." **V**

# New Latin American and Caribbean Studies Concentration:

## A Cause for Celebration and Concern

Continued from 1

on the committee which is developing the program and regarding the future direction and approach of the program.

Last April, Professor Alfonso Quiroz (History) called a general coordinating meeting to discuss the possibility of creating a program which would in some ways fill a void at the Graduate Center. "Our major interest," according to Quiroz, "is to upgrade the quality of academic offerings [in Latin American and Caribbean Studies] through a better use of the institutional resources that we have available." He also hopes that the new program will help to overcome the "traditional lack of coordination between programs," facilitating communication and collaboration between students and faculty in the various disciplines that work in this field. In addition, Quiroz feels the program will "upgrade the prestige of the CUNY Graduate Center," especially in light of the fact that while Latin American and Caribbean Studies programs are in place at other CUNY campuses, no such program exists at the Graduate Center.

Many faculty members and students from the Graduate Center community turned out for the initial meeting of the Coordinating Committee of ICLAC and expressed keen interest in the creation of the program. At this first meeting, professors Quiroz and Raquel Chang-Rodriguez (Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Studies) were chosen as Coordinators. The committee is made up of faculty from various departments as well as three doctoral students: Ann Hayes (History), Patricia Tovar (Anthropology) and Adriana Moreno (Political Science). The students were not chosen as representatives of their respective departments, and in fact Tovar and Moreno were selected as representatives of AELLA, the Association of Latino and Latin American Students at the Graduate Center.

While the Committee is interested in ultimately developing a certificate and then doctorate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the members saw the creation of an interdisciplinary

concentration as a useful and necessary first step which would facilitate communication and coordination between departments. Admittedly, Quiroz notes the development of the concentration "has not been very hard, but it's the certificate that will be difficult. My sense is that it is possible [to do] in a year—more realistically it may be a couple of years." Another value of the concentration is that once the certificate program is approved, the structure and courses of a future certificate program will mostly be in place, easing the transition from concentration to certificate program.

As the Committee moves towards the creation of a certificate program, questions have arisen regarding student participation: what will be included in the Graduate Center's program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies; which faculty members will teach; how they will be selected; and where they will come from. Students also expressed the need for the committee to discuss thoroughly the various conceptions and approaches to Latin American and Caribbean Studies before defining what these will be at the Graduate Center.

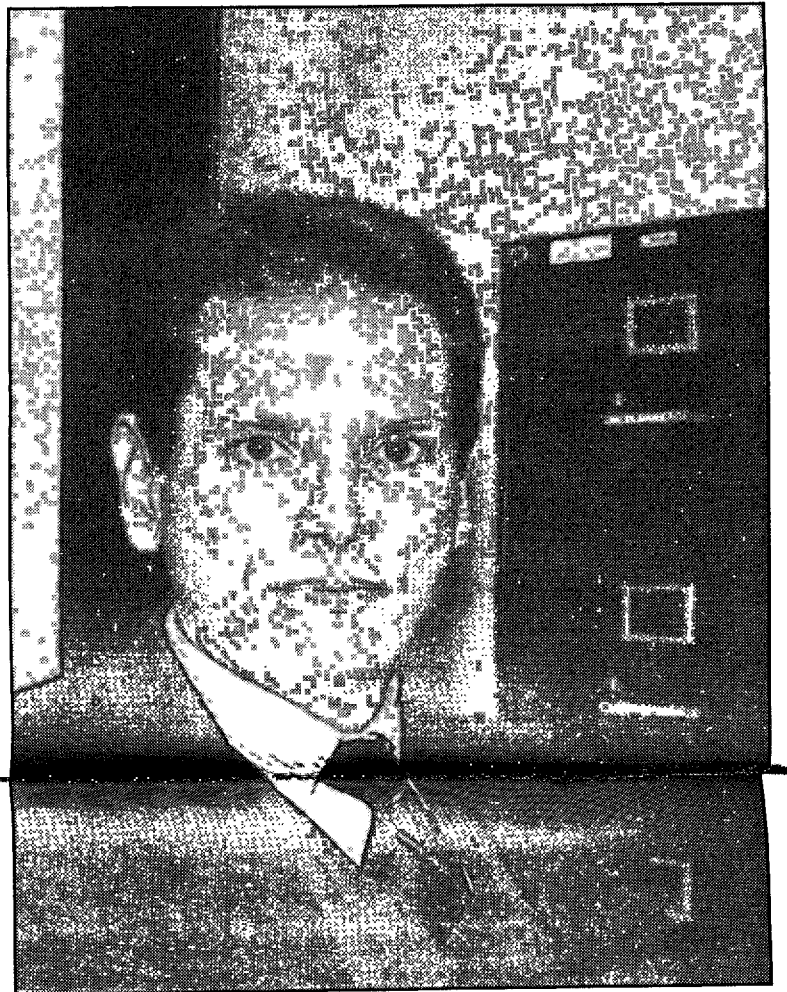
One immediate concern about student participation is that while there are faculty representatives from the various interested programs, there remain only the three student representatives, who do not necessarily represent their respective departments. Furthermore, just how much say the students already on the committee have is unclear. While Quiroz stresses that the committee "needs" and "encourages" student input, when asked about the possibility of increasing student participation by having a student representative from each department, he said only that it "might be possible." His primary reservation, as he put it, is that "we don't want to have an inordinate number of people in the meeting because it's too hard to get work done with too many people."

While Quiroz describes the committee decision-making structure as consensual, it was recently proposed that the three student representatives

votes be counted as only one vote, further limiting their input in the committee decision-making process. Quiroz downplayed the importance of this move because as he put it, "we do things by consensus, so voting is not critical." While this issue has yet to be fully resolved, the degree of student participation remains a concern.

**Students also expressed the need for the committee to discuss thoroughly the various conceptions and approaches to Latin American and Caribbean Studies before defining what these will be at the Graduate Center.**

Obviously with the development of a new program which will benefit students already here and hopefully attract new ones interested in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the input of those concerned is vital. As Adriana Moreno, one of the student representatives from AELLA, said, "it's very important that this [program] gets started; we as Latin American students need it and want it to happen. In our school and in New York City it's missing and it's very important." However, she is also concerned that students and their interests "be taken seriously." Patricia Tovar, also a student representative from AELLA, agrees, stressing that, "we would like



Latin American History Professor Quiroz. PHOTO: Anthony Marcus

to participate more in the decision making process—that's the main thing.

Both Moreno and Tovar were also concerned that there are professors who have not as yet been invited to participate or become involved in the process. Says Tovar, "we are suggesting that people be brought in from the other CUNY schools." It is also unclear at this point how faculty members will be selected to teach under the new program and the extent to which an effort will be made to reach out to professors at the outer campuses who do not already have a connection to the Graduate Center.

The Committee is continuing to move towards the development of new interdisciplinary seminars in Latin American and Caribbean Studies which would be team-taught by faculty members from various disciplines and would hopefully combine approaches from the Humanities as well as the Social Sciences. While courses will begin to be listed under the concentration beginning next Spring, more than likely the new interdisciplinary semi-

nars in Latin American and Caribbean Studies will not be offered until the Fall.

Beyond the development of new courses, the Committee looks forward to sponsoring not only the inaugural reception but also seminars and other events in the future. Another goal of the program is the development of resources to fund student as well as faculty research. Ultimately, says Quiroz, "we want students to be able to get a minor in Latin American Studies in order to have better job opportunities—to get a certificate that might mean something."

While there remains considerable work to be done in terms of further specifying the parameters and aims of the program, developing the courses, selecting the faculty, and defining the role of students in the process, at this point both Tovar and Moreno are hopeful that whatever issues may arise can be addressed and resolved by the committee. Ultimately says Tovar, "we really want the creation of a Latin American department. We're very excited about it; it's been missing from the Graduate Center." **V**



# CUNY Adjuncts SUPPORT Striking Legal Aid Workers

by Anthony Marcus

A small but vocal contingent of CUNY adjuncts joined 1,500 striking lawyers, secretaries, social workers, and other office workers from Legal Aid. We took to the streets on October 5th to protest Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's extraordinary and possibly illegal meddling on behalf of the management of The Legal Aid Corporation and against striking workers who provide legal council and defense for New York City's poor. These adjuncts all mentioned one reason for joining the striking lawyers: these lawyers are facing nearly the same struggle that the adjuncts face. Being at the bottom of very respectable high-status and financially remunerative professions, both adjuncts and Legal Aid lawyers are underpaid and overworked. "We are both responsible for service to the poor and working class in our respective professions," said Andrew, a CUNY Sociology instructor. "We are the ones who do the day-to-day, dirty work at the CUNY factory." "And they are the ones who get to defend our students," rejoindered a John Jay History adjunct. Tom an instructor of Political Science at City College said, "I came out here, because I believe the old saying that an injury to one is an injury to all." He added that he could relate to the

struggles of the Legal Aid workers, because, "the whole thing just smells the same to me."

Facing a cut in pay, 20 percent increases in cases, and major increases in the workload, demonstrators from the two striking unions, 1199, and The Association of Legal Aid Lawyers, supported by contingents from Communications Workers of America local 1180 and The Chinese Staff and Workers Association, tried to take the steps of City Hall, but were stopped by police. After halting the striking lawyers, Giuliani's police turned around and penned journalists and other members of the news media into the City Hall steps area, preventing them from talking to striking workers. Demonstrators chanted, "free the press" over and over again, but with no response from police, no doubt acting on orders from above. "It is no surprise that Giuliani is trying to bust up our union", said one demonstrator, "but trying to keep the press from properly reporting what he is doing is a serious breach of the Constitution."

This use of the police to impede freedom of the press came less than twenty-four hours after Giuliani had terminated the contract between the city and Legal Aid, in an attempt to force striking workers back to their jobs. "He canceled the contract, which is basically union busting," Karen Moulding, a criminal defense attorney for Legal Aid and the woman who was responsible for legal council for Stonewall 25 and The Gay Games, pointed out, adding, "It is illegal for the government to intercede on behalf of the management of Legal Aid, which is a private corporation." A striking Legal Aid clerk named Robert said, "Giuliani should sit down and talk to management about negotiating instead of canceling the contract."

By canceling the contract between the city and Legal Aid, Giuliani is in effect de-chartering Legal Aid and eliminating the jobs of all the striking workers. While no client has yet gone without legal council because management has been carrying the cases, Giuliani has set up a dangerous precedent, effectively dismissing all the striking workers and potentially incurring huge bills for non-Legal Aid, private council who would be brought in as replacement workers.

**"It is no surprise that Giuliani is trying to bust up our union", said one demonstrator, "but trying to keep the press from properly reporting what he is doing is a serious breach of the Constitution."**

While Legal Aid plays a central role in the New York City criminal justice system, it is staffed by only 1000 lawyers and 500 support workers and may seem like an easy first target in a City-wide attack by the Giuliani administration on organized labor. "This is a very big step that the mayor is taking" said Elisa Riordan Assistant

to The Vice President of Communications Workers of America (CWA) local 1180, one of the unions that is helping organize support for the striking Legal Aid workers. She went on to say that "Giuliani has been boasting about his role in the PATCO firings. This is a clear threat. When the mayor of New York City attempts to bust a union every union should respond with support." "We don't want another PATCO here," said a telephone operator from CWA who was walking the picket lines with striking workers. "Giuliani is going to attack all of us and this is just the first shot," she said. Legal Aid workers rejected the new contract that was offered to them right before the October 1st negotiations deadline. While it provided for a two percent raise, employees would have to pay for the increases in the cost of health benefits, effectively canceling the raise and turning it into a pay cut. This was only weeks after management had voted themselves a 4.5 percent retroactive pay raise with no cut in benefits. "We have had no contract for a year now and they are trying to take away our benefits. If the supervisors can get a pay raise so should we. We're the ones who keep Legal Aid running" said a young woman who works there as a switchboard operator. Also, many of their other concerns were not addressed, such as the increases in work load. Also, several strikers mentioned that tensions have been increasing between the City and the Legal Aid lawyers because of complaints against the City that Legal Aid lawyers lodge when their clients are not arraigned within twenty-four hours, which is their legal right. Strikers said the City warned Legal Aid to lodge no more complaints.

Giuliani has tried to deflect sym-

thy from the strikers by presenting them as lawyers who want more money. But Legal Aid lawyers are among the lowest paid attorneys in the nation, earning average salaries in the thirties, and they carry huge case loads which were increased this year after Legal Aid accepted 20 percent more cases. This 20 percent increase represents some of the fruits of the Dinkins/Giuliani war on crime, that has sucked up public money for everything from health care to housing and education to rat extermination, pumping it all into the law enforcement fund. Legal Aid, a private company, has seen none of this boom. It has only seen the belt tightening that the rest of the public sector has experienced. This has led to a very high rate of turnover among employees at Legal Aid, which keeps salaries down and reduces the quality of services. Quality of service is one of the many reasons that lawyers and support staff say they have gone out. "Giuliani is a prosecutor. He hates poor people. We are trying to provide good legal council to poor New Yorkers. He doesn't want that. He just wants them to live in fear."

Asked how she feels about being a Legal Aid attorney, when there are so many lawyers who makes hundreds of thousands of dollars, Donna Lee, a recently hired attorney at Legal Aid said, "This is the kind of work that I want to do."

*Postscript: the strike has been lost. Mayor Giuliani advised the union that if strikers did not return to work, Legal Aid would have its contract terminated, and strikers would be barred from further legal work for the city. PATCO writ small. The union returned to work with no improvements in the contract. In addition Giuliani revoked the 4.5 percent increase for the supervisors.*



Legal Aid Workers on the March. PHOTO: Anthony Marcus

# Graduate Students, AIDS and the Silence at CUNY: Part One

Continued from 1

of the disease among students, staff and faculty, and putting condom vending machines in men's and women's bathrooms throughout the campus. Since then, the Task Force has been dormant

**...the fact that there are scarce resources at the Grad Center creates a competitive climate for the pursuit of the Ph.D. When funds are limited, it becomes important to admit no weakness, to highlight your strengths and make sure that you are seen as "a good investment risk."**

Imagine this scenario: no one in your department knows that you are HIV+. You experience your first AIDS-defining illness—PCP for example—two weeks before the end of the semester and all of your papers are going to have to be turned in late. What would you do? Call your professors and tell them you've been ill? Would you tell them with what you are ill? And, what would you anticipate the response of your fellow students to be? Of your department secretary? Your mentor?

When I was assigned to write this story—a story about graduate students with AIDS—I initially thought that I would interview some HIV+ GSUC students and then the story would write

itself. However, when I tried to find students who would speak about being HIV+, and how this has affected their graduate studies, I was only able to locate two students who would speak to The Advocate, and one of them is out of the country for a few months.

I asked Andrew Long, Co-chair for the Doctoral Students Council, if he knew any CUNY graduate students whom I might interview. He paused and then recited a list of GSUC students who were dead from AIDS: Jerry Leo from Comp Lit, and Nick Madorno and Craig Owens from Art History. "I can't really think of anyone," said Long, "who would speak with the newspaper about their situation as HIV+ graduate students."

Although AIDS is not a gay disease, estimates place about 50% of gay men living in New York City as HIV+, so I contacted Terrence Kissack, one of last year's co-chairs for QUNY, the campus Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual student organization, to see if he knew any HIV+ students I could interview. He informed me that he has not met a single student at the Graduate Center who has been open about their positive HIV status. Patrick Moore, former QUNY co-chair for many years was unable to put me in contact with anyone either. I called the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS), a research center on campus, to see if they knew of any students who were positive. They knew of none. Rather than interview one person with AIDS at the GSUC and build the story from there, the editors decided that it should be run in two parts—the first part being a speculative essay exploring some of the reasons for the silence about AIDS at CUNY, and the second, hopefully, focusing on issues of importance to HIV+ graduate students.

Although some levels of stigma against people with AIDS may have decreased in this, the thirteenth year of the AIDS epidemic, there is no reason to believe that professors, administrators and graduate students are "more enlightened" than the non-academic population regarding this disease and the socio-sexual issues that surround it. Possibly, given the now age-old association of homosexuality and HIV in this country, an analysis of what it is like to be an out lesbian or

gay man on campus might shed some light on being an HIV+ student. Given that the Graduate Center is home to the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS), which is unique in North America, it might not be too surprising to find a greater acceptance of lesbians and gay men here at the GSUC than in many other work or study environments. It might then make sense to read decreases in homophobic feelings as indicative of decreases in AIDS-phobia. But, such an association can also be misleading. Just what kind of gay people are welcome at the Graduate Center, anyway?

Most of the gay students I know at CUNY, like most of the heterosexual students milling about, appear to be middle-class in demeanor, deportment and sensibility, while working poor in pocketbook. It is unclear how having a sometimes chronic, potentially fatal illness fits into this composite, but I know that it changes it, albeit rather imperceptibly thus far. I have the creepy feeling that some of the gay men I know as friends and colleagues might be positive but dare not tell me or anyone else for fear of what it might mean to their standing in their departments. There is, after all, a story about the student who had AIDS and was so ill that he failed his orals. He never got his Ph.D. Would he have been "politely" passed if he were struggling against brain cancer or leukemia, life threatening diseases that lack the stigma associated with AIDS? Who knows, but Routledge, the academic press, is about to publish a collection of his essays.

In this moment of "good gayness", when happy, healthy, white, gay people are considered appropriate next door neighbors in their IKEA-decorated living rooms, is the "diseased homosexual" also a desirable neighbor? The "new homosexuality" pushed most vociferously by Stonewall 25 and the Gay Games is the least "deviant" of all homosexualities: it promises to fit into the "liberal", "tolerant", possibly "communitarian" echelons of higher education. This "new homosexuality" does not force the university to reorganize its priorities as much as demonstrate its capacity for pluralism: all identities can and will be tolerated on campus—just don't ask for the kind of recognition

that might actually make some members of our "beloved community" uncomfortable—like leveling a lawsuit against the professor who deserted the dissertation committee of one student with AIDS in the Social Sciences.

It is fast becoming clear to me that the silence about AIDS at the Graduate Center is probably a partial result of the do-it-yourself, rugged-individualist ethic that predominates here. It is not safe to be HIV+ at CUNY. At the risk of being redundant, the fact that there are scarce resources at the Grad Center creates a competitive climate for the pursuit of the Ph.D. When funds are limited, it becomes important to admit no weakness, to highlight your strengths and make sure that you are seen as "a good investment risk." Is a student with AIDS seen as a "good investment"? The two examples cited above, of the student who was not passed on his orals and the student who lost members of his committee, indicate that students with AIDS are receiving less support than they need as graduate students. In fact, according to the guidelines of the Federal People With Disabilities Act, they were discriminated against.

Finding out that you are HIV+ fosters awareness of your own mortality. Interestingly, as we inscribe ourselves into history via publications and research, we are also producing artifacts of ourselves which posthumously represent us for all time. There is a student who received his Ph.D. in Anthropology at Columbia writing about black, gay men and their social networks. His dissertation is one-of-a-kind and extremely important to students in Black Studies: he died from AIDS a few years ago. Thinking about this student, I am haunted by the stories that permeate the GSUC about HIV+ students who drop out before writing up their research. While some people probably become too ill to go on, I have to ask about those students who have lost committee members, funding and mentors as a result of having HIV? Are your thoughts worth less in the world of higher education if you have AIDS? The next question I have to ask is: as the GSUC has taken some action to prevent the spread of the disease, what can be done in terms of preventing AIDS-related discrimination?

Vice President Moreland, when presented with information concerning AIDS-related discrimination, expressed his concern. When asked what he thought his office might do about these problems, he thought that meetings of EOs might be held or that maybe the AIDS Task Force should be reconvened. He also said that the stories I conveyed were probably only "the tip of the iceberg." I imagine that he is right. The issues pervading the lives of students with HIV at the Graduate Center are yet to be explored. V

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standing in  
their departments.**





"There's a great deal of confusion on the Left right now. The Soviet Union has crumbled..."—ISO's Michael Spear. PHOTO: Michael Weinstein

# The International Socialist Organization

Advocate reporter Tracy Morgan interviewed ISO members Bilal el Amine, Michael Spear and Leigh Wengraf in late August.

**TRACY MORGAN:** Why is the ISO at the Graduate Center?

**MICHAEL:** The ISO is on the Grad School campus, because we're interested in getting involved in struggles that students face around budget cuts, curricular issues, racist attacks by the faculty, etc. We are also here as a socialist organization attempting to bring socialist politics onto the campus.

**TRACY:** Why does the ISO organize on campuses rather than in factories?

**LEIGH:** The ISO is focusing on building clubs on campuses because at least at this point that's where there's the largest amount of openness for debate and discussion exists. That's where you find young people interested in politics and activism who have the time to do so. This is particularly true coming out of the 1980s, a very conservative era in this country. Campuses still retained little pockets of left activism and we see them as important places on which to build. This is part of our national perspective as an organization.

**TRACY:** Which campuses in the city are you on?

**LEIGH:** NYU, Columbia. We're starting one at Lehman College, Hunter, Brooklyn College, and Long Island

University. We had a club at New York City Technical College and The New School. We're also starting a club at City College. The Grad Center was the place where we really started building in New York City. The GSUC was seen as a very important campus because of prominent student activists around here. Also many graduate students are very open to Marxist thought.

**TRACY:** How do you see the relationship between the growth of the ISO at colleges and universities and the rise of identity politics, so popular amongst college students?

**BILAL:** I think that identity politics was not just on campuses in the 80s; it was the predominant type of activism in the 80s. But obviously a large section of that was done on campuses. Campuses tend to be very ideological places, where people have the time and interest to deal with ideas and try to understand situations. Because the level of class struggle remains fairly low in the US, the ISO still deals largely on the level of ideas. That's why we have meetings where we discuss ideas more than we get involved in activities. We do get involved in activities to the extent that we can and we initiate them to the extent that it's possible. As a small group we are limited in what we can initiate. Campus activity is something that we can initiate. Anything larger than that is still out of our reach.

**TRACY:** It seems the ISO is one of the fastest growing groups on the left. Why do you think this is so?

**MICHAEL:** There's a great deal of confusion on the Left right now. The Soviet Union has crumbled and the Eastern regimes have crumbled, and unfortunately a lot of people on the left in this country looked to those places as socialist democracies, where the workers were in control. But because we did not look to those countries as examples of socialism, we didn't fall into ideological disarray when these regimes collapsed. Hence, we maintain a level of confidence and certainty that socialism is still a project which we consider important to explore. If you look at many different left groups, you see that a lot of them have moved into the Democratic Party. They've given up the whole concept of fighting for socialism.

**LEIGH:** Maybe part of our growth can be attributed to the kind of politics that we do. We relate to political questions that people are currently engaging. For example, right now we are having meetings which focus on Clinton's crime bill and also on domestic violence. But we also initiate activity. We had a picket against police brutality in Harlem in May when there was a lot of discussion about police department corruption. We are issue-oriented because we don't see building a socialist movement or class struggle in a very mechanical way. We understand this as an historical process, where people's consciousness are uneven. We have to start where people are at. For example, many people are wondering why Clinton's health care plan is unsatisfactory. There's anger about this, and I think the ISO has been quite successful at understanding that

building a socialist movement and raising the level of class struggle are a process that come from raising the level of confidence in the struggles that people are involved in. It involves both meeting people where they're at but also giving them a direction in terms of going forward. You can't see the quest for socialism as divorced from contemporary struggles. You know the old question: do you fight for today or do you fight for tomorrow? We see them both as very much connected. We fight for health care today. We fight for abortion rights today. These struggles also give people the necessary confidence to fight, and I think that makes a lot of sense to people.

**BILAL:** While I agree with Leigh, I wouldn't underestimate what Michael said. The socialist left, the Trotskyist left, and communist groups saw the collapse of the Soviet Union as part of a worldwide crisis that stretched across the US, Japan, and Germany. One of the results of this crisis was the collapse of an economy that couldn't survive, because it was an economy that was bound by national limits. Meanwhile, other economies can stretch out all over the place to survive. This economic crisis provided us with an opportunity. Not only were there massive upheavals and revolutions in Eastern Europe but there was anger at the economic situation, the gulf war, and the intensification of imperialism, etc. All of these things created opportunities for socialists to intervene. At that time, other people who thought the Soviet Union was socialist were thinking, "Well there it goes; we have nothing more to do." They didn't think that this was actually an opening for socialists.

But the other reason our numbers are growing is because of how we relate to people. We try not to be sectarian. At least our paper doesn't spend its time attacking other groups on the left. We also understand that people are not going to be full-fledged socialists tomorrow unless they get involved in struggle. Our popularity might have to do with a difference of style.



The ISO's topology of printed matter. PHOTO: Michael Weinstein

Continued on page 16

# DSC NOTES OCTOBER 94

## The September Meeting

**A**t our first meeting of the semester, twenty agenda items were discussed, concluding in 11 resolutions. Besides the motions that were passed, a variety of matters were brought forward including: meetings with GSUC students located at other campuses; organizing adjuncts into the PSC (the union for full- and part-timers); election reform for DSC officers; purchasing an additional copier for DSC and student use; formulating a policy regarding disciplinary hearings and the current disciplinary panel; and the renovations in the student center and possible further changes to it.

The photocopying subsidy and other information regarding non-CUNY library use will be presented in a report to the DSC and advertised in the elevators and in *The Advocate*:

- A questionnaire on the Nurse Practitioner will be mailed to the entire student body.

The DSC will fund *The Advocate* towards the purchase of a new computer pending a second approval vote at the October meeting:

The annual budget was approved with three changes: The *Advocate* budget was increased by \$7,500, from \$14,500 to \$22,000, to meet mailing expenses and salary raises; the NYPL photocopy subsidy was increased \$1,500 from \$2,500 to \$4,000; and the Travel and Research Fund was reduced \$10,000 from \$25,000 to \$15,000 to leverage the administration to contribute more to the fund:

The Co-chair for Student Affairs is mandated to do whatever necessary to reinstate tuition deferments for Level III students:

The DSC requests that the President include students in the search for a new home for the Graduate Center as well as any similar future structural projects affecting students:

The DSC's subsidy for photocopying at the New York Public Library and the Museum of Natural History will be increased to \$.15/copy so that photocopying will cost \$.10/copy:

The Co-chair for Student Affairs will draft a letter of support for the staff on strike at Long Island University.

The Steering Committee will convene an open forum to discuss what to do about the cut in College Work Study:

The DSC requests that the President admit an elected student to participate as a member of her cabinet:

The DSC will send a letter to Executive Officers asking them to support our opposition to the cut in CWS grants.

The plenary also elected Diana Agosta and Tara McGann to the Media Board

(oversight body for the student newspaper, *The Advocate*, consisting of the Co-chair for Communications, two members elected by the student body, two by the DSC, and the Editor (non-voting member) of the newspaper):

G. Ganter, Tara McGann, and Catherine Sears to the College Association

(oversight body for expenditures of student funds consisting of 4 faculty, 3 administrators, the 3 Co-chairs, and 3 students elected from the DSC):

Robert Hollander and Anthony Marcus (alternate) to the University Student Senate

(the representative student body of the entire CUNY system including community colleges, senior colleges, masters divisions, and the Graduate Center):

and Laura Whitaker to the Research Foundation

(the controlling body for research funds).

## NEWS

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## NOTES

## The October Meeting

**A**t its October Meeting, the plenary moved on four areas of concern to students:

**S**unday and evening access to the Graduate Center Building: we will engage the process of getting the administration to commit to allowing students access to offices in the building twenty-four hours-a-day, including Sundays:

**E**xpanding health services at the Graduate Center: we resolved to address letters to the University

Student Senate, to Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs Elsa Nunez-Warmack, and to President Horowitz recommending that the Central Administration foot the bill for medical services at CUNY campuses, including the Graduate Center's Nurse Practitioner, so that we can afford free testing and enhanced office facilities for the Nurse and make her services more useful to the student population here:

**E**xpanding health coverage: the DSC will address a letter to Vice Chancellor Nunez-Warmack request-

ing that domestic partner coverage be included in any future health insurance plan negotiated by CUNY:

**T**he College Work Study Task Force: the DSC will send, in addition to Tracy Morgan, Robert Saute, and Wayne VanSertima, a fourth student, Esther Rister, to sit on the CWS Task Force in accordance with our request that a fourth student member be included to constitute a student majority on that Force.

## Memoranda

The following are three memoranda sent by the DSC, two to President Horowitz and one to Vice President Moreland. As of October 20, we have received no replies, although they were sent on September 26. We publish them in accordance with the September Plenary mandate.

### Memorandum

**Date:** September 26, 1994  
**From:** Robert Hollander, Co-Chair for Communications, Doctoral Students' Council  
**To:** Frances Degen-Horowitz, President  
**Re:** Representation on the Cabinet

The recent brou-ha-ha over College Work Study cut-backs has aroused some concern among students over just how such Cabinet decisions are made. Although students have occasionally attended Cabinet meetings, our presence has been restricted to invited addresses. In response to our concern and to our lack of representation, the Doctoral Students' Council unanimously resolved at its September meeting — with 42 members present of a 72 member body — to request that you admit an elected student delegate to your Cabinet.

We feel that a student delegate should be welcomed as an asset to your Cabinet not only for the sake of the crucial input s/he would bring to Cabinet discussions, but also for the added legitimization s/he would afford to Cabinet decisions.

For our part, having a DSC member in the Cabinet would be a step towards removing one more of those "impediments to the flow of information" I referred to in my Orientation Day address.

c: DSC reps

### Memorandum

**Date:** September 26, 1994  
**From:** Robert Hollander, Co-chair for Communications, Doctoral Students' Council  
**To:** Frances Degen-Horowitz, President, GSUC  
**Re:** B. Altman's

That the State Assembly has passed a plan calling for 100,000 sq. feet of additional space for the Graduate Center and that the Graduate Center is looking to the Altman Building for its wish-fulfillment, has by now pretty generally been circulated around school. The Doctoral Students' Council feels that the time has come for students to be officially involved and consulted in the decisions regarding this major step into the future. Not all of us by any means agree that the Altman Building provides the ideal arrangements we need: the neighborhood is more congested and business-oriented than our present location as well as being less central; the Altman Building can secure us leg-room for perhaps only fifteen years — not the permanent home we should be looking for; the presence of the Science Library is of little value since our science programs are located largely at other sites anyway.

At its September meeting, the Doctoral Students' Council voted unanimously to request that you involve students in this search for space, as well as in any other projects of structural change to our campus. Our absence till now has been an understandable oversight, but should be corrected swiftly.

c: DSC reps

### Memorandum

**Date:** 9/26/94  
**From:** Robert Hollander, Co-chair for Communications, Doctoral Students' Council  
**To:** Floyd Moreland, Vice President for Student Affairs  
**Re:** CWS Task Force

We are happy to hear that you have decided to include students in developing CWS policy. However, since determinations of the Task Force will affect the financial welfare of students and of no one else, we feel that the constitution of the group should be weighted towards students by having a student majority. We do not object to the presence of Executive Officers — they too are involved in the distribution of funds — but we would appreciate having some say regarding the choice of EOs. In addition, we would like the Task Force to define for itself the "scope" of its charge.

Finally, the Task Force, as restructured along the above lines, would provide well for discussions of the future, but still would not address the current unsatisfactory state of affairs: the unannounced cut in wage for those who would have received \$25/hr and who are now receiving, since the Cabinet's blunder, \$12/hr. We cannot proceed further in helping you remedy the problems with financial aid until we have a good faith return to \$25/hr for those whose wages were cut back and a return to the policy of distributing those grants to 2/3 of all CWS recipients.

Once these stipulations are met — a student voting majority, a student voice in the choice of EOs on the Force, "scope" of the Force to be determined by the Force so constituted, a return of the \$25/hr wage and its distribution — we will gladly participate in the Task Force.

c DSC reps

## Correction

In our article on Travel and Research Grants (September, 1994 Advocate, page 5) we stated incorrectly, as pointed out to us by Dr. Schneider of the Alumni Association, that the Alumni Phonathon was responsible for "about \$9,000" of the total Travel and Research Fund. It is the Alumni Association itself, and not the Phonathon, which gives generously to this fund each year, and which has raised the level of its donation to \$5,000/semester making a total of \$10,000 for the year. We are, as always, grateful to the Alumni Association for its generosity, and to Dr. Schneider for her correction.



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## What Is a Metrocard and How Do I Get It?

by staff

Though the collections of the Mina Rees library may not suit everyone's needs, CUNY students do have limited access to other university libraries in New York City. With the Metrocard, students can be referred to a number of area schools' libraries, most notably Columbia's and New York Universities'. There are two types of Metrocards, with one being for a longer period of time so you can research a specific subject in which the institution has a very strong collection, and the other for a day at a time.

Metrocards can only be obtained from your home library's reference desk. The privileges are good for a specific resource which must not be available at the New York Public Library or within CUNY's libraries.

The only other way for a CUNY student to use NYU's library is to become a paid member of the library. The cost is steep and depends upon where you live, with the fee being \$100 up to 14th Street and \$150 above 14th Street, and is good only for one August to August academic year.

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## Moreland Sets Up Work Study Task Force

by Staff

In response to the front-page headline in last month's Advocate, Dean Floyd Moreland is planning to set up a task force to investigate what can be done about the 52% reduction in wages that was imposed, by the President's Cabinet, effective this September, for students involved in research under the Federal Work Study (FWS) program. Citing the article by The Advocate's own Tracy Morgan, as proof that there is widespread discontent among students and faculty over having their ability to earn a living imperiled, Moreland said, "a lot of people are unhappy about this." While this task force has not been set up yet, Dean Moreland hopes to have six people appointed and begin the necessary research by the end of the month. Of the six people, three will be Executive Officers and three will be students, with Janet Finello and Jane Foreman of Financial Aid acting as consultants.

The Doctoral Students Council responded to this initiative by Dr. Moreland with a letter that criticizes the structure of the task force on the grounds that, "since the determinations of the task force will affect the financial welfare of students and of no one else, we feel that the constitution of the group should be weighted towards students by having a student majority." In addition, they believe that it is the right of students to exert an influence over which EO's are on the task force. Until these conditions are met, the DSC is withholding participation.

According to Moreland, the mission of this task force will be to "look at the regulations and see what are the needs of the students and the school and how they can be met without violating the regulations." This phrase "violating the regulations" refers to the original reason cited for cutting in half students' hourly wages: they claim work study must pay wages that are equal to the going rate for the work that is being done. Further, they pointed to how our wages were far greater than what most other universities paid for work study.

The cost of living in New York City, the highest in the entire country, was never taken into consideration by the Cabinet.

When asked why, if wages have been too high for years, this initiative was taken here and now, Moreland said, "it is something that has been discussed for years." But for many that does not answer the question.

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## Adjunct Pay Delays May Be Illegal

by Eric Marshall

Monday, August 29th began the Fall semester at Queens College—a commencement much like all others throughout CUNY. Eager students over-filled sweltering classrooms during the first week. Latecomers continued to drop in through the second. By the third week roster sheets arrived, and by the fourth paychecks... didn't. If you are an adjunct at Queens, or just about anywhere else in CUNY, you probably did not receive a paycheck on the first scheduled payday, September 29th, one month after the first day of classes. Most of you waited six weeks from the time you began teaching before seeing a dime for your efforts. That is outrageous. It's unethical. It's a breach of the "gentleman's agreement" between the union and management. And it may be illegal.

Setting aside the question of ethics—i.e. how our university thinks we can get by for the first month and a half of every semester, during which our tuition bills come due, without an income—New York State labor law stipulates that workers in our category be paid "not less frequently than semi-monthly, on regular pay days designated in advance..." (Title 30, Article 6, section 191, subdivision 1d). Although the article does not provide for when the first payday must occur, to satisfy the semi-monthly provision it ought to fall two weeks after the commencement of employment. A six-week waiting period would seem in clear violation of the law.

According to the Professional Staff Congress (PSC), our union, a "gentleman's agreement" has long

existed with management which stipulates that adjuncts be paid in nine equal paychecks spread throughout the semester. However, whenever budgetary delays prevent a college from meeting its first scheduled payday, that delay is routinely passed on to adjuncts. Nine equal paychecks quickly become eight, or seven. An excessive month-long delay becomes a thoroughly exploitive six to eight week period of impoverishment.

By the time that first blessed paycheck does arrive, the college will already owe you six weeks of back pay—perhaps as much as \$1,600 net plus interest. You will have noticed, however, that your first paycheck was nowhere near that figure. Instead of paying you what it owes you, the college typically spreads its debt to you evenly over the eight (or seven) remaining paychecks. By so doing, the college collects, and keeps, the interest on the money it owes you. You will eventually receive full repayment of the principle of what is effectively a loan to the college, but no more. This is the thanks you get for your Spartan patience. And it is outrageous. Whether we are talking about five dollars or five thousand doesn't matter. It's yours, not theirs.

Ironically, when you receive an advance on your first paycheck—not available until you've missed a scheduled payday, i.e. the month-long wait is mandatory—the college will eventually reclaim the money in lump sums. A \$500 advance, for example, will be collected toward the end of the semester in two \$250 lots. They do not offer us the same convenient repayment schedule which they unhesitatingly reserve for themselves.

So what can we do about this institutional robbery? Can we demand an earlier first paycheck? Will the PSC enforce its "gentleman's agreement" with the colleges? Can we demand lump-sum repayment of back wages? And can we demand repayment with interest? Adjunct organizing is going on currently, here at the Grad Center, and at many of the campuses as well. Take part. Join us in our efforts to improve the working conditions of the under-represented adjuncts system-wide. Together we can make a difference.

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## Dining Commons Takes the Grad Center for a Cool \$2,400

by Robert Hollander

Restaurants Associates, the catering service which runs the Dining Commons, arranged to cater an Orientation Day party for an estimated \$1,200 including food, drinks, and service. They then billed the Graduate Center \$3,600, three times the original estimate, claiming that beer consumption had run beyond expectation.

Despite their estimated expectation, the Dining Commons appeared to have been well prepared for the additional volume, since there was never a time during the party at which beers were not available. There seems to have been a discrepancy between their estimate and their preparations. The low estimate they had offered was the basis on which the Dining Commons to cater the party. Had the DSC known the final cost, they would have catered it themselves at a substantial savings to the university.

The party was largely paid for by the Office of Student Affairs. Sharon Lerner, the Vice President's Assistant, had been advised by the Dining Commons that the fee for drinks might go over the estimate agreed upon. However, she was not warned that the estimate might be off the mark by 200%. The shake-down took Floyd Moreland, the Vice President for Student Affairs, by surprise too: "We didn't expect the bill to be so high," he explained, while asking the DSC for help in paying it.

The Doctoral Students' Council had arranged to pay only a \$250 toward the party, the fee for the DJ. However, the Council agreed to pay an additional \$500. The DSC had always paid roughly \$1,000 when it had entirely run and sponsored the orientation party for new students, and so agreed to give half of this amount to the Vice President's Office to help defray costs.

The DSC Steering Committee feels the Graduate Center was taken for a ride by Restaurants Associates and wonders what other ways the Graduate Center is being gouged by them. Restaurants Associates has an exclusive contract with the Graduate Center, catering all events funded with University monies.

# Cheaper Copies at 42nd Street Library

by David Kirschenbaum

Have you been lamenting the expense of copying archival materials at the New York Public Library's main branch? Hey, at a quarter a copy who can blame you. But there's a remedy which the DSC has been providing students which you may not be aware of.

The DSC subsidizes copying at the 42nd Street branch's copy desk. Here's the way it currently works: you bring your material to the copy desk, present your Graduate Center Identification card and give them the material to be copied. The savings for you—a nickel a copy—mean you pay 20 instead of 25 cents.

But there's more good news. The subsidy has now been increased to 15 cents per copy, meaning Graduate Center students will now pay only 10 cents a copy. This was done by a resolution passed at the September DSC meeting.

Many students haven't been aware of the subsidy, which also effects copying done at the American Museum of Natural History. "That's the problem," said Robert Hollander, the DSC's Co-chair for Communications. "You have to know about it to use it. Nobody will tell you about it at the library." Hollander continued that the DSC must also do a better job of promoting the service so students are aware of its availability.

To that end, the minutes from the DSC's September meeting stated that this, and other library services, be "publicized in The Advocate, and advertised in the elevators."

S

# FOUND OBJECT

## Across the Black Atlantic

Paul Gilroy

Tommy Lott

Robert Reid-Pharr

Howard Winant

## Before and After Stonewall

Tony Kushner

Penny Arcade

Joan Nestle

Tracy Morgan

## A Tribute to Melvin Dixon

Jeffrey Escoffier

and more...

No. 4



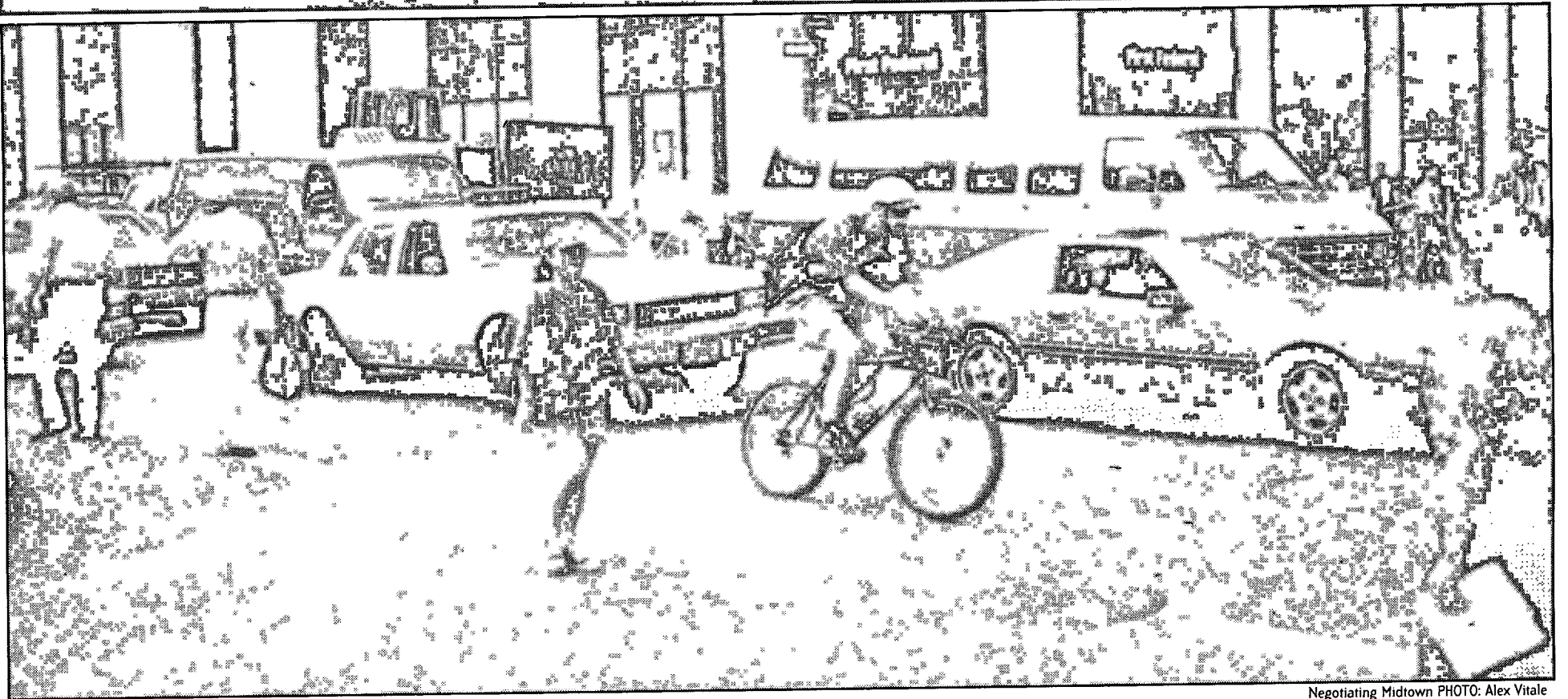
B A C K I S S U E S		
<b>No 1</b>	<b>No 2</b>	<b>No 3</b>
J. Blessing	bell hooks	Noam Chomsky
Todd Ayong	Slavoj Zizek	Jürgen Habermas
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Negotiating Midtown PHOTO: Alex Vitale

# Urban Guide to Biking

by Alex Vitale

I have a vivid memory of my first ride over the Brooklyn Bridge into Manhattan. I had just moved to New York after having lived and bicycled in Houston, Boston and San Francisco. It was time to try out New York.

Biking is never about just getting from one place to another; it's a way of being in the city. And each city is different. They all have a character that envelopes the rider, that is inescapable. Being an urban bicycle commuter requires the rider to adjust to this character and find a way to negotiate it.

New York has a character consistent with its being the center of world commerce—the king of capitalism. Everyone is an individual trying to be number one in the never-ending struggle for success. This character doesn't just happen spontaneously. As with any society, there are institutions and specific policies that create an environment, often hazardous, that we have to negotiate as best we can.

As every bike rider knows, the greatest hazard of New York City's road environment isn't pot holes or road construction; it's taxi-cabs. Many people see the craziness of cabs as caused by recent immigrants who don't necessarily know the city or American traffic customs well. But there is another and better explanation that also fits the character of New York: deregulation.

In 1979 the city began to allow the leasing of taxi licenses, creating a com-

modity market which caused the price of operating a cab to skyrocket. Whereas previously, drivers could support a family in five, eight to ten hour days, now they have to work that long just to cover the up-front leasing cost paid to the investor/owner of the license.

There are positives to biking in New York. Central Park is now closed to cars each day at 7pm and during the weekends, thanks to the work of bicycle activists. Similar restrictions are in place in Brooklyn's Prospect Park. There are also safe and scenic rides on the East and West Sides through Riverside and East River Parks. And for adrenaline lovers, there is always the thrill and challenge of heading downhill on 5th Ave from Midtown, zipping through the tourists in Times Square on the Broadway bike lane, or racing bicycle messengers between lanes up Madison Avenue. Finding the route that suits your personality best is a matter of experimentation.

Professor Rolf Meyerson (Sociology) describes his commute from the Upper West Side as "luxurious." He generally rides through Central Park but often takes diversions into other areas. Biking provides him with access to the "intervening spaces that are lost in the subway." He prefers to see the city as a geographic whole and not as a series of disconnected subway stops.

Several bike advocacy groups have been working hard to improve condi-

tions. New bike lanes, safe parking and expanded car-free hours in Central and Prospect Parks are some of the major issues being pursued by Transportation Alternatives, a community-based advocacy organization founded in 1973. It also played a major role in getting the city to open the new Lafayette Street bike lane that offers riders a standard size bike lane with an additional two-foot buffer zone. They can be contacted about the location of other bike lanes, plus they offer advice on good commuting routes. Their newsletter, *City Cyclist*, is a great source on advocacy activities and bicycle recreation, including group rides in and out of the city.

**As every bike rider knows, the greatest hazard of New York City's road environment isn't pot holes or road construction; it's taxi-cabs**

The environmental group Time's Up has been sponsoring weekly rides on Monday and Friday afternoons in Central Park, in order to get the Park closed to cars earlier and to make sure that police enforce the current 7pm closing time. These groups are always looking for new members and people to get involved in creating a more bicycle-friendly city.

Grad Center students are also involved in these efforts. Joanna Sharf (English) is a member of TA and has attended some of the organizing events in Central Park. Like most bike commuters she supports any effort to carve out more car-free spaces in New York. She regularly commutes to both work

and the Grad Center through Central Park, saying the ride "softens part of her day." She also notes that "you don't have to wait for the subway or deal with delays, and it's cheaper."

Bike parking is a major issue for any biker. Fortunately, the Graduate Center offers monitored parking for bikes. In the past couple of years, however, according to DSC Co-chair and bicycle commuter Robert Hollander (Linguistics), students have complained that the racks were often overcrowded, in part because of non-CUNY people parking their bikes there. As a result, the Security Office established a bike decal program to identify which bikes belong to CUNY students/staff/faculty and which don't. It also allows them to contact owners if their bikes are left in the racks for an extended period or if they need to be moved for special events.

Security Director Joseph Schaefer says the program has been very popular. "In the past some students had been opposed to registration, but now the plan has actually come from student

demands." Hollander agrees and notes that the racks have been less crowded as a result.

While access to the racks is monitored by the guards, there have been some thefts in the past, though the only thefts in recent memory were of bikes with thin cables or no lock at all. Mr. Schaefer says that the decal program is giving security officers an opportunity to explain to bike riders the importance of using either a Kryptonite-style "U" lock or motorcycle-grade chain and lock even when parking at the Grad Center. However, this reporter wasn't so informed when his decal was issued last semester.

Bicycling in New York City may not be for everyone but for those whose personalities mesh with the character of New York streets, it can be a rewarding way to get around. **V**

Transportation Alternatives  
(212) 475-4600  
Time's Up (212) 802-8222



Grad Center bike racks PHOTO: Michael Weinstein



# Manhattan Restaurants:

## An Opinionated Survey

by Julia Miele Rodas

**Dining** out is one of New York City's great opportunities, unless, like most graduate students, you have no time and no money. But while we may be forced to forego the pleasures of the Russian Tea Room or Bouley, there's no reason we need be reduced to that great culinary equalizer, McDonald's or to that yet more infamous eatery, Tad's Steaks.

We may have to eat quickly and we may have to eat cheaply but we can still keep our pride. Fortunately, there's no need to start scarfing down cardboard-burgers or charcoal broiled mystery meat as long as even one of the following restaurants remains open.

Focaccia Fiorentina is edible proof that kiosk food is in recovery. Located just north of the New York Public Library main entrance, this little stand delivers a freshly made focaccia sandwich for about five bucks. If you're only going to take a ten minute study break, this is definitely the way to go. Judging from the taste of the Classico imported prosciutto, fresh mozzarella, tomato, fresh basil, extra virgin olive oil), and the Impruneta (grilled eggplant, fresh mozzarella, tomato, extra virgin olive oil), Focaccia Fiorentina uses only fresh, high-quality ingredients. And a peek into their working area shows that "the kitchen" is kept nice and clean. This is truly excellent food at a great price.

If you're looking for something a little more conventional, try exiting the Graduate School or the Grace Building on the north side. Le Mirage Cafe, a new deli located at 20 West 43rd Street, has a full selection of typical New York deli food (hot & cold) at very reasonable prices. Sandwiches are in the three to four dollar range. Salad platters and overstuffed sandwiches are slightly more. Again, the chief attraction is quality. The Manager brags that all the prepared food Mirage serves is made from scratch, including the soups. They don't use any of those cut-rate cold cuts that use fillers and meat by-products: it's Boars Head all the way. The place is

a little antiseptic, but what the bright lighting and shiny formica lack in coziness, they make up for in cleanliness. You don't get that creepy crawly roach-y feeling at Mirage, as you might if you ate across the street at the dimly lit Grace Coffee Shop & Delicatessen where all the food looks as though it was freshly cooked last Thanksgiving.

One of my personal favorites is a Japanese noodle shop just west of Sixth Avenue on 43rd Street. For around six bucks, Oishi Noodle serves a tasty, homemade-style soup with Japanese noodles, fresh veggies, and your choice of chicken, beef, pork, or seafood. It makes a great lunch or dinner, especially when the weather starts to get a little cooler. The wait-people are extremely friendly and they mostly leave you alone. I have been known to sit there over a bowl of noodles for more than an hour grading papers or catching up on my reading, all the while having my teacup re-filled by the accommodating staff. This is a cozy little place, warm and friendly, with good food at a good price.

One door down from Oishi, sushi addicts on a budget can satisfy their cravings at Teriyaki Boy. Typical of New York's new Japanese fast food craze, Teriyaki Boy offers a decidedly mediocre product, but still—it's sushi! My advice is to steer clear of the hot dishes, particularly the soups and noodles which, often as not, are a gooey mess. The cold vegetable dishes are probably the most appealing but even the sushi is not half bad, if you don't mind eating it about fifteen degrees below ideal serving temperature. The absolute best deal at Teriyaki Boy, provided you like things Japanese, are the rice balls or onigiri. Sort of like little prepackaged sushi sandwiches, these rice and seaweed treats cost only a dollar and a half each, they keep and carry well, and they have many of the virtues of a real meal but take only about ten seconds to consume.

Now, I'm afraid, it's time for a little proselytizing. If you're not afraid of the big bad bullies in Times Square and if you're brave enough to try a new restaurant, instead of eating

at that same tired-out, old joint you and your pals have been frequenting since you first set foot in midtown, here are two tried and true eateries that are perfect if you are dining en masse.

**We may have to eat quickly and we may have to eat cheaply but we can still keep our pride**

Carmine's (200 West 44th Street, just west of Broadway) is nothing less than a shrine dedicated to good Italian eating. Don't let the seemingly high prices (fourteen to twenty dollars per pasta entree) scare you away. Each entree—and I'm not kidding—will serve four or five people without a problem. Don't try eating here alone unless you want leftovers for the month. The real trick is to get as many people as possible to go with you so you can try more than one dish. If you're a meat eater, I especially recommend the pasta ragu (your choice of pasta served with a red sauce containing giant meatballs, Italian sausages, and braciola). Although I've never ordered the seafood, I once salivated over the grilled swordfish steaks which diners at the next table were unable to finish. They (the steaks, not the diners) looked and smelled like the perfect meal. For those of you who only want to act as bystanders, Carmine's has a big, beautiful, dark-wood bar and serves up a martini in what appears to be a small swimming pool (actually an eight ounce martini glass). Carmine's doesn't take reservations, but getting a table should be no problem if you avoid lunchtime and the pre-theater crowd.

If you don't feel like eating Italian, Ollie's, a Chinese noodle shop and grill, right next door to Carmine's, is a good choice. Fairly

typical of Chinese fare in New York City (though a little less greasy than most), Ollie's offers the traditional New York interpretation of Cantonese and Mandarin fare at reasonable prices (fried rice dishes from around six dollars, chicken dishes from around eight dollars, vegetable dishes from around seven dollars). If you want to eat alone, expect to pay around six dollars for a bowl of Cantonese wonton soup with roast meat or around five dollars for the luncheon special (take-out only). Ollie's is certainly a reasonable option, but if you're a true lover of Chinese food, hop the D train down to Chinatown. It's a very short trip for lower prices, higher quality, and a much greater selection.

If you're just looking to grab a little something on your way to class or if you're on a quick break between classes, Le Croissant Shop at the corner of 42nd Street and Sixth Avenue has long been the standby. Le Croissant Shop does not offer sandwiches or soups worth bragging about, but their baking is actually quite good. For coffee and a muffin or for a buttery palmier, they are definitely worth checking out. A little more upscale, in both price and quality, the new Coffee Beanery (11 West 42nd Street) offers a huge selection of coffees. If you have any money left over after purchasing your dollar-sixty-plus cup of coffee, the Beanery also offers a small selection of muffins, sweets, sandwiches, and other food for nibbling.

Also in the new coffee bar motif, but with a disarmingly different approach, Crossings (4 West 43rd Street), which opened this past spring, is the special domain of an earnest husband and wife team who run the donations-only shop for the Unification Church next door. This intimate spot, with its fresh-smelling coffee, its peaceful air, and its cozy decor is certainly an inviting coffee-and-study site and the proprietors made it clear that students would be welcome to sit and do their thing without pressure to consume, consume, consume. The hitch, of course, is the anxiety many people

feel about exposure to followers of Sun Myung Moon. My fellow investigators, upon discovering Crossing's connections, beat a hasty retreat, later suggesting that perhaps the coffee would be laced with some kind of mind-altering drug. But if you're willing to take your chances, this quiet cafe could easily become a new hangout.

There are several salad bars in the neighborhood, the closest being the 500 Cafe (9 West 42nd Street, right across the street from the New York Public Library side entrance). Frankly, I don't recommend eating at salad bars at all. I've heard stories about salad bar patrons being exposed to hepatitis and incurable parasites, but even those who might think I'm an alarmist must confess that food left out uncovered for hours on end, and handled by dozens of strangers is a likely source of unwelcome bacteria. For what it's worth, the 500 Cafe looks clean and well cared for but if you want a snack, I'd suggest an orange or a bag of potato chips. The 500 Cafe is also an almost ideal spot for picking up a beverage. They carry an almost bewildering variety of sodas, iced teas, fruit drinks, and warm beverages, but at roughly a dollar and a quarter a pop, they're certainly no bargain.

Finally, a word about the GSUC's own cafeteria. If you enjoy eating in cafeterias, the GSUC Cafeteria certainly holds its own. The food is a far cry from the slop they served as school lunches back in high school. And a whole meal, with all the food groups, while not something to celebrate in culinary terms, is usually at least affordable. It's a great spot to meet other graduate students and on rainy or snowy days, when you don't even want to leave the building, of course this is the place to eat.

**Carmine's has a big, beautiful, dark-wood bar and serves up a martini in what appears to be a small swimming pool**

One word of advice: don't be a dweeb! Get out and try new restaurants, new food, and new people. The Cafeteria is safe, but it can also be too much of a cocoon. Remember, you weren't born at the Graduate Center, and you don't have to live here. **V**

# I.S.O. Interview

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**TRACY:** What do you plan for the Fall at the Graduate Center?

**MICHAEL:** It depends on what's going on. One thing the ISO does at the CUNY Grad Center is work within coalitions that are willing to fight around whatever the issues are. Leigh mentioned earlier that you were thinking about organizing a food-stamp teach-in, and that would be a wonderful thing to get involved with as a way of politicizing people and pointing out what students are going through. Also, we want to create a fightback over Giuliani's budget, which is going to be cutting CUNY.

**BILAL:** At this point we're reorganizing. We're soon going to have branches in all the boroughs except Staten Island, which has taken a lot of work. Then each individual branch will decide how they're going to conduct their various activities. Because the people who have joined the ISO at the Graduate Center are very advanced intellectually and are long-time activists, they are doing a lot of work off campus. For example, Joan Parkin is building the organization in Queens. This Fall, we will still do our basic routine, selling papers and having meetings around various issues.

**TRACY:** Why wouldn't the ISO take up the food stamp idea and just do it?

**LEIGH:** I think that we do actually initiate things. Last semester we initiated a Take Back CUNY campaign which culminated in a demonstration at Hunter. We also see our meetings here at CUNY as very important, because they are a place where activists can come together and talk and discuss the relevance of socialism. I think that Giuliani is going to become more and more of an issue in the Fall. I think it's important that we see ourselves at CUNY as very much a part of the public sector in the city that is under attack. I think that's going to be a large part of the activities that the ISO is involved in here at the Grad Center and in CUNY schools in the Fall.

**BILAL:** There are issues where we would initiate the fight. If there's a case of racism or sexism on campus and no one takes up that campaign, we would, regardless of whether there is sentiment out there or not. But this food stamp campaign or even health care concerns, while we might initiate them, we want to make sure there's sentiment out there so that we're not the only ones saying let's do this. If no one is interested in it, it would be an abstract demand.

**TRACY:** What is the structure of the ISO and how are decisions made?

**LEIGH:** That's a very appropriate question, because we're leaving the day after tomorrow to go to a National Committee meeting in Chicago. We have elected representatives from each branch who go for two days of discussions. The branch is the primary unit of decision making, but we also have a Central Committee and we have a Steering Committee which is located in Chicago, with five members who are elected every year at the October convention. Now we're also introducing District Organizers here in New York to coordinate the activities of the branches in the area. We have Regional Organizers, and we're also part of an international tendency of organizations that are structured very similarly.

**BILAL:** What we have on campuses are clubs. Then we have branches which could have two or three campus clubs affiliated with it. Branch meetings are separate from club meetings. Clubs are fairly loose structures where there is mostly a discussion of ideas.

**TRACY:** How do you become a member of the ISO?

**MICHAEL:** There are people who join on the street. We have paper sales, and somebody will come up and talk to us, and we'll talk with them about many issues, including what it means to be a socialist; they'll say, "that sounds great," and we'll say "you should join the ISO." And they can join right there. When they join the ISO the most important thing is that they've decided to take an active role in building the organization, which entails selling the paper periodically, talking about socialism at their work places and with their friends, and getting involved in demonstrations. It also means paying dues which aren't that high, depending on how much money you make a year. It's not a situation where we expect someone to be on top of Trotsky's idea of permanent revolution before they join the ISO. We just want them to become activists.

**BILAL:** In order to become a member, you have to be anti-sexist, anti-homophobic, and anti-racist and that's it. In our paper there's a list of where we stand. We argue for revolution and not reform. We fight for reforms but don't see reforms as ends in themselves; they are ways of improving people's lives. Revolution is a way of changing things. So we've really opened up membership and basically say to people, "Come in, try it out, see what you think." The real challenge

for a socialist organization like ours is to what extent we can retain people. Being a member does not mean I'm this individual carrying around these ideas, but I'm going to be part of an organization, and I'm going to get involved in struggle in a systematic way. It means I am going to become a participant in this organization, bring my ideas into it, get ideas from it, and start building it.

**TRACY:** A lot of left groups have a bad reputation regarding their treatment of lesbians and gay men. How did the ISO come to include anti-homophobia as a main tenet of the organization.

**LEIGH:** Gay men and lesbians see the ISO as a really good organization to be in because while we take the fight against homophobia very seriously, we also put it in an overall framework. Homophobia is part of a whole system of oppression for which we have a compelling explanation that makes sense to people. We also have meetings on gay and lesbian liberation.

**TRACY:** How long have you been a member?

**BILAL:** In October it will be two years.

**LEIGH:** I joined last year

**MICHAEL:** In October it will be one year.

**BILAL:** Furthermore, I think if you were a serious activist of any sort throughout the 80s and you didn't get involved in gay and lesbian issues you were in outer space. Many gay men and lesbians we came in contact with, who agreed with the socialist analysis of gay and lesbian oppression, ended up joining the ISO and becoming socialists. The ISO always attempts to relate to contemporary struggles: abortion, AIDS, gay and lesbian liberation.

I met a guy at Stonewall during one of the demonstrations, and he said that our sister organization in England, which is the biggest and most influential section of our tendency, was always involved in gay and lesbian issues, more so than the other left groups in Britain.

**MICHAEL:** You don't go to a WAC meeting and stand up and start rambling on about socialism. Socialists shouldn't do that. They should talk about a socialist analysis of women's oppression. On the other hand, we have also avoided what is called movementism. In the 70s and 80s you saw a lot of left groups throw

themselves into activity and just get very involved in fighting for black rights or lesbian and gay rights and stop talking about socialism. We don't stop talking about socialism.

**TRACY:** What about red baiting at the Graduate Center?

**LEIGH:** I think that relates to the way that identity politics and its academic manifestations has really had a grip on graduate scholarship. Also the defeats of the left in the 80s coupled with the pessimism that entered the academy about social or revolutionary change has led to a certain amount of red baiting and wrong assumptions about what Marxism can and can't say. At the Graduate Center, I see this as something that we all take up in our classes. It's important to be really specific about what Marxism is and what kind of tradition it is that we stand for. People think Marxism does not really speak to certain kinds of oppression, but Marxism has an analysis of where all these oppressions came from, and we're very proud to stand in this tradition. Marx was one of the first people to talk and write about slavery in the US and to talk about its relationship to capitalism.

**BILAL:** When we first started here we carried with us the reputation of all the socialist groups on the left that have sectarian reputations. But I think there is a certain amount of respect for us now. People see we are genuine; we do try to fight around issues that are here. I think the red baiting comes from a lot of misunderstandings that we are in some way an anachronism. If people look through our theoretical journal, they see we have attempted to yield to new trends and new ideas. We haven't simply dug in our heels; we are dealing with identity politics and even post-modernism, trying to deal with them on their level, not just saying they're silly, ivory tower things.

**TRACY:** What's the relationship between your pursuit of a Ph.D. and your socialist politics?

**BILAL:** The professors look at you in a specific way. The subjects you choose to write on are always suspect, because they may be propagandistic. There are some tensions there, but there are lots of academics in the organization and I don't see that there should be a real problem.

As a socialist I don't feel it's enough to just be an academic. It's an ongoing difficult balancing act that we go through. One of the reasons that

I remain an academic is because I find it possible to do academic work which in some ways does inform my activity as a socialist. That is one reason I remain in the academy instead of going to a factory floor.

**TRACY:** Any last words?

**BILAL:** People shouldn't feel wary of us even if they don't want to join. We're open to debate and discussion. We want to be as open as possible. I've seen that people think it's a little weird when we sell our paper outside. They scurry by. There's no reason to be wary of us. **V**



## Untimely Death of Sociology Professor

Continued from 1

most of all. Back in New York City in the 1960s, his social life revolved around music.

Though he traveled and studied extensively, in Sweden and Denmark throughout the late 1960s and early 1970s, producing a dissertation based on the experiences of Black servicemen in Sweden during the Vietnam era, an offer to deliver a lecture on Salsa music for a colleague teaching the sociology of music led Boggs to link his love of music with his academic work. Over the following decades, he developed the field of Salsology — the study of the origins of music popularly referred to as Latin jazz and salsa. He examined the class and race dynamics of the music's evolution and traced the links between American and Caribbean musicians.

On September 11, a memorial service was held at St. Peter's Church at 54th and Lexington. In addition to a number of moving tributes, Joe Cuba and his orchestra performed in his honor. A Sociology student from York College shared how Boggs helped and motivated him in his scholastic endeavors; in return, the student became the teacher and had recently begun giving Boggs drum lessons.

Vernon William Boggs is survived by three children: Vernon Jr. of Pleasantville, New Jersey; Dan of Malmo, Sweden; and Johanna of Stockholm.

Though his passing was untimely, he had the good fortune to know the special bliss of combining work and pleasure. **V**