

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.

Continued on page 4

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-

Continued on page 4

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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

Continued on page 5

O C T O B E R



ADVOCATE

The City University of New York Graduate School and University Center

V o l u m e 6 N u m b e r 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

Continued on page 5

¡Que Viva La Musica! Untimely Death of Sociology Professor

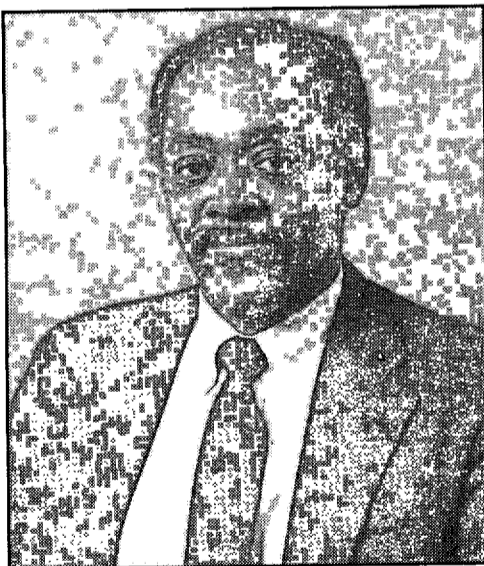
by Courtney E. Guthreau

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

Continued on page 8

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

Continued on page 6

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.

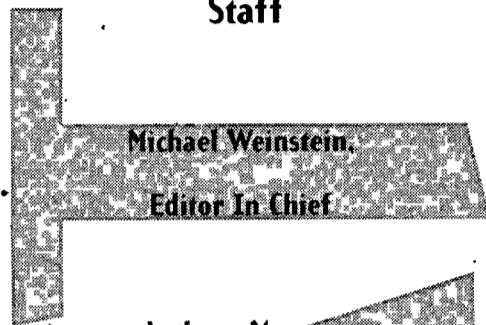
Think what a difference it would make to be able to come here when there are no activities, few people, and fewer distractions. Imagine students (and faculty!) burning the midnight oil in the privacy of their own departmental offices after a long day of work. Sounds ideal, and it is.

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.

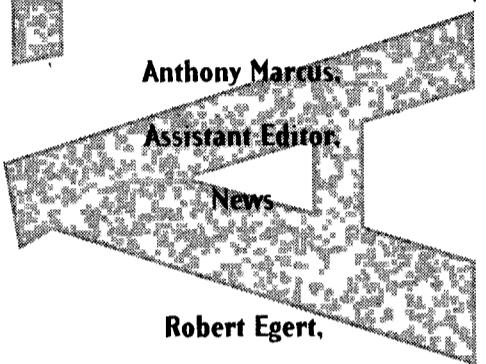
— Robert Hollander, Linguistics



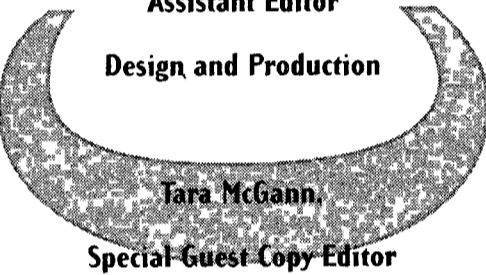
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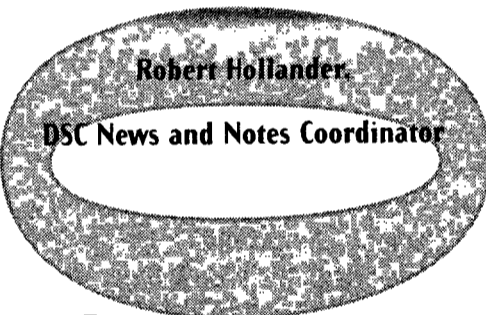
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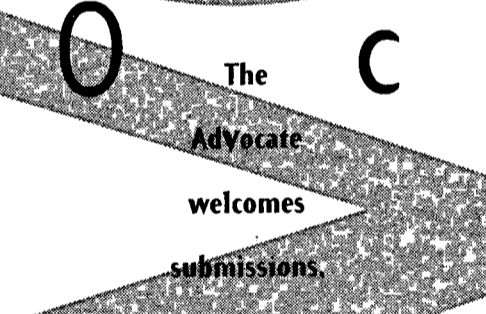
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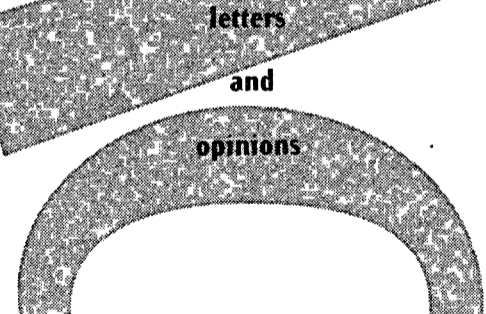
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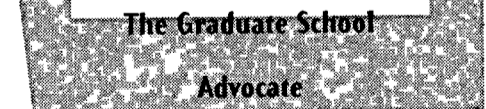
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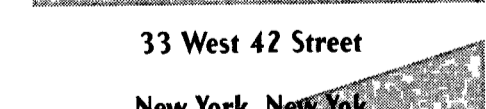
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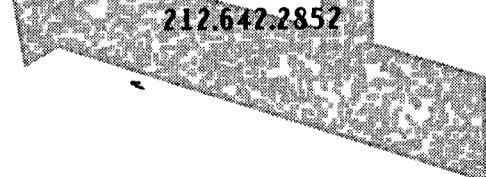
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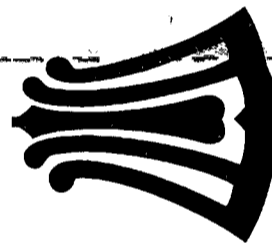
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O c t o b e r

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