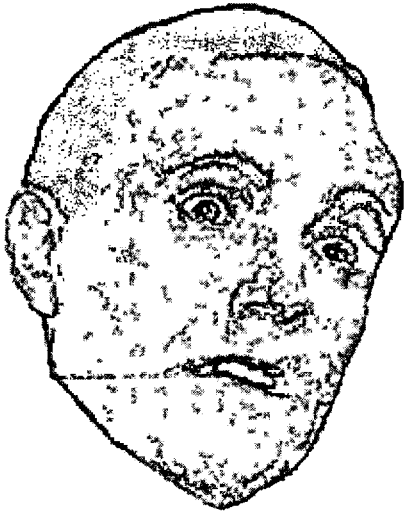


WELCOME BACK, SURVIVORS

SEPTEMBER 1995 VOL. 7 NO.3

THE ADVOCATE

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK GRADUATE SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY CENTER



WHISTLE



WHILE



YOU

BUTCHERY '95

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WORK



NO CUTS! NO CUTS! NO-AG

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EDITORIALS

FIGHT BACK!

ENEMIES LISTS. So-called "peace officers" with arrest powers, handcuffs, mace, and batons — maybe even guns at the Graduate Center. Summary disciplinary actions against student activists. Harassment and surveillance of faculty and students by CUNY officials. Retrenchment procedures without meaningful student or faculty input. Departments closed. Faculty fired. Adjuncts on the dole.

The Graduate School's last minute move to the scandal-tarred B. Altman building, a space which is woefully inadequate and will not allow us to consolidate the off-campus programs. Dreams not deferred, but shattered.

In spite of the destructive, pathological, and reactionary direction Chancellor Ann Reynolds and the Murphy-led Board of Trustees have taken this remarkable university, CUNY students continue to fight back for public education, with no apologies and no fear. Last spring Graduate School students pulled together and helped to fight off some of the CUNY cuts through a series of protests, demonstrations and direct actions which left the city and state power elite stunned, and Pataki and Giuliani apoplectic, sputtering in ungrammatical sentences. Indeed, *The Village Voice* reported, "a movement is born".

Graduate students also pulled together to stop the closing of the German and Computer Science programs, and those were only two on a long list of departments on the chopping block. Some GSUC faculty and even President Horowitz wanted to close these programs—just ask the students. So, these small victories were achieved without, or even despite, the CUNY faculty and administration. Remember, an ad-hoc group, the CUNY Coalition, organized the rallies on March 23 and April 4, and the DSC sponsored the fight-back against retrenchment and the Graduate Council resolution against its implementation.

The fact is that we are under attack as public graduate school students, as future teachers in the liberal arts- or any discipline which does not conform to a narrow instrumental vision of education- and it is critical that we continue to organize ourselves and push back and rout those in our midst who would destroy our university, our futures, our dreams. Moreover, this year we have to ensure that all of our faculty, administrators, including President Horowitz, are on our side, but first everyone has to be involved. So, come to meetings about budget cuts and retrenchment plans; talk to students in your program about the CUNY budget; persuade your faculty to publicly defend CUNY as "loud and proud" as possible. Hey, the barbarians are in our midst and they want to finish us off now so we have nothing to lose. So here's to those of you who defended public education in the past, and to those who will join us now. Organize! organize! organize!—**ANDREW LONG**

FREE LEVEL 3 DEFERRAL REVISED

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE for this plan only if you receive some form of financial aid. You should first refer to the "deferred payment schedule" with your registration packet and then go the bursars office. Inform them of your eligibility and pay only your student activity fee if you receive a tuition scholarship, a Perkins loan or a direct loan. For any other form of financial aid you must pay the activity fee and \$100.—**ANDREW LONG**

IF MUMIA FRIES, WALL STREET BURNS

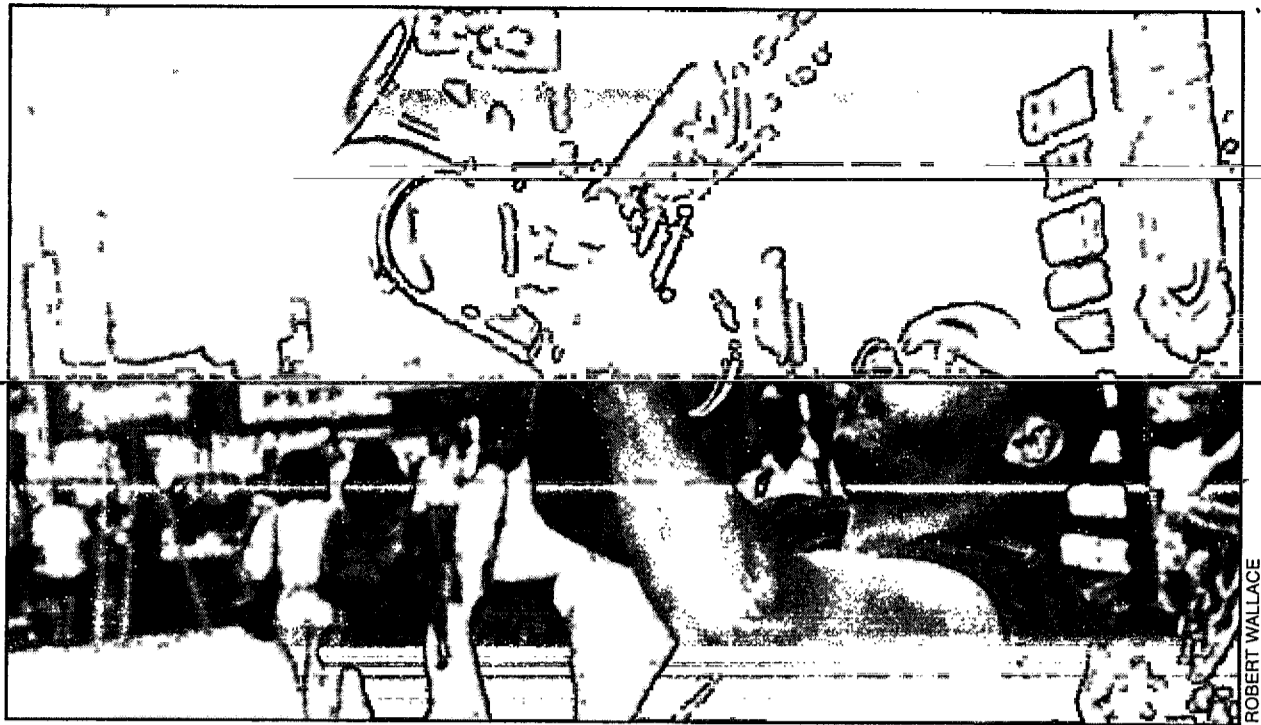
PEOPLE INTERESTED IN RIOTING if journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal is murdered in the first degree by the state of Pennsylvania; please do not burn your neighbors' homes. They are in the same boiling pot as you are. Don't fire-bomb the local precinct even if they are the order's shock troops. Take your response to the source: a subway ride later, direct your Molotov Cocktails at the windows of the New York Stock Exchange. Thank you.—**ROBERT WALLACE**

IN MEMORY

HELIO BELIK, a Ph.D candidate in Anthropology, at the Graduate School, died at home on August 9 of complications from AIDS. His partner, Marcello Marer, and friends were with him when he passed away.

Helio brought his experience as an international journalist and a United Nations radio correspondent, as well as his Master's in Communication to the classes he taught at Queens College and to his anthropological studies. Helio did fieldwork in Angola and Lisbon and his dissertation research work dealt with the postcolonial fragmentation of African states and the Lusophone world, and its representation in the urban geography of Lisbon.

A memorial is being planned by the CUNY Anthropology Program for this autumn.



ROBERT WALLACE

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

As the same-sex spouse of a graduate student, I must respond to the anonymous letter you printed in your May issue ("Domestic Partnership: What's Really at Issue").

The author argues that extending insurance benefits to domestic partners—and by this term to mean specifically gay and lesbian domestic partners—presents an undue burden to society. Extending insurance benefits to heterosexual, married partners, on the other hand, is a privilege granted by society to "acknowledge that married couples are performing a beneficial service to the state" by raising children.

Strangely, the author adds that granting these sort of economic privileges to straight married people who are not raising children is justified because "one could at least account for a percentage who are trying to save money before [having children]". He concludes that benefits granted to straight married partners should be seen as "supporting families rather than [as] policies aimed against other couples or social groupings".

In your haste to defend heterosexual privileges, Mr. Anonymous, you have relied on some pathetically muddy reasoning. If the goal of extending benefits to married partners is to support couples who raise children, then such policies are quite discriminatory, since they are not granted to the partners of tens of thousands of gay and lesbian parents who right now raise children in New York and the rest of the country.

Indeed, by your own logic, heterosexual couples known to be infertile at the time of their wedding should, like childless gay and lesbian couples, be denied insurance or other benefits, since they will never need them to alleviate the burden of raising a family.

Gay and lesbian "domestic partners"—I prefer to call us "spouses", since that is what we are—do not have the option of getting a marriage license, Mr. A. "Domestic partnership" is a half-baked idea that I abhor, but for now it is the only legal recognition our families—gay and lesbian families—can obtain. Frankly, I think heterosexuals should be denied registration as domestic partners, since

they have the option to marry if they want the economic privileges of that status.

If you feel that granting privileges to domestic partners will open the system to undue strain and abuses, Mr. A, then restrict such benefits to marriage—but allow us gay and lesbian couples who do raise children, or plan to, to get married. If you will not let us marry, then the only fair alternative is to grant us benefits through domestic partnerships. Meanwhile, if you do not wish to exclude childless heterosexual couples from benefits programs, then do not exclude childless gay and lesbian couples, either.

As a separate issue, I would like to address Mr. A's outrageous proposal that the "critical primary care" of AIDS patients—and by this I am not sure if he means CUNY students with AIDS, or simply students' domestic partners who have AIDS but who are excluded from extended insurance coverage—be covered by a sort of charitable donation! Would you, Mr. Anonymous, propose that the medical care of people with other costly, often fatal diseases, such as cancer, also be covered by such "optional" spare-change funds? (Mr. A generously suggests that such funds could also be used to "boost the morale" of AIDS patients. Well, whoopee! Lord knows, under such an arrangement, they'd need it!)

The tone of Mr. A's letter presents a false front of reasonableness and goodwill. His words, not his, on the other hand, betray his (and yes, I have assumed he is male) profound ignorance about gay and lesbian people as well as of the reality of gay (and straight!) New Yorkers with AIDS. To Mr. Anonymous, we who belong to these categories are "special interests," outsiders whose needs are peripheral to the rest of society.

To me, Mr. A, straight males like you are the special interest group, and I find your "generous" consideration of my needs as a gay "domestic partner" to be presumptuous, ignorant, and repugnant. As your letter demonstrates, people with prejudices never hesitate to use flimsy, illogical excuses to justify continuing discrimination against gays and lesbians as being in the best interest of what you presume to define as the "common good."

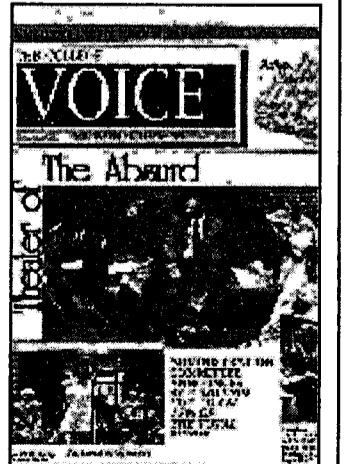
Rick Loftus
Manhattan

FEED MEDIA

VOICE-LESS?

IF YOU THOUGHT retrenchment wasn't bad enough, now student governments are getting in on the act. The new student government of the College of Staten Island is in the process of defunding one of CUNY's best and most outspoken local college newspapers, the College of Staten Island *Voice*, claiming fiscal constraints do not permit two papers on campus. Campus publications are funded through student activity fees which are unaffected by state and city budgets and budget cuts.

Despite the claims of financial constraint the student government has approved a twofold expansion of the *Banner*, a non-political campus paper. The student government nevertheless claims that politics were not a motivation behind the cut in funding to the *Voice* and the concomitant expansion of the



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Letters to the Editor: *The Advocate* will publish all letters, but they must be 500 words or less and they must be signed. We will withhold a writer's name upon request, but, again, they must be signed.

The opinions expressed in *The Graduate Student Advocate* are those of the individual writers and in no way reflect the opinions of The Doctoral Students' Council or its officers.

■ MEDIA CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE