

Two Public Officials Support CUNY/SUNY Systems; Oppose Governor Pataki's Proposed 1997-1998 Executive Budget.



Assemblyman Edward C. Sullivan 69th Assembly District, NYS



Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes
Photo by Christopher Griffith

Conference Speakers Denounce Budget Cuts.

Higher education is a right, not a privilege. A conference held at the Brecht Forum on March 14th and 15th trumpeted this notion and lamented the recently proposed budget cuts that would increase CUNY's tuition by \$400. The conference speakers, among them Sandi Cooper, Chair of the University Faculty Senate, and Edward Sullivan, Chair of the Committee on Higher Education in the New York State Assembly, analyzed the political motivations behind the cuts. A student activist from SUNY New Paltz talked about how his fight against the cuts recently led to his arrest.

The Brecht Forum, located at 122 West 27th St., organized the conference to explore the reasons behind what it calls the recent attack on public higher education. On the first day of the conference, Assemblyman Sullivan chastised Governor George Pataki and other Republicans for making policies that attempt to reduce the number of students enrolled in CUNY schools.

"They want to take away education as a right; they want it to be a privilege or a gift or a handout," Sullivan said. "The intention here is to take the poor kids of New York City and instead of educating them, train them." While Sullivan blamed Republicans for trying to drive students out of four-year colleges and into vocational schools, he also criticized Democrats for

"sleeping" instead of trying to change society.

Sandi Cooper agreed that Democrats deserve some of the blame. Ex-Governor Mario Cuomo did not do that much more for CUNY than Pataki is doing, she argued. That is because both Democrats and Republicans in the New York State government focus too much on economics to be helpful to CUNY. "The only way you can defend yourself to Albany is to show how good you are for the tax base," Cooper said. In other words, CUNY schools have to justify their reception of state funds by showing, for example, that their students tend to stay in New York after graduation.

This economic focus is dangerous, said Steve London, the Brooklyn Chair of the Professional Staff Congress. "If you justify education only by an economic rationale, it leads to debasement of the liberal arts," he said. Other speakers elaborated on this point the second day of the conference. Camille Rodriguez, President of the Puerto Rican Studies Association, argued that people of color these days wind up in "dead-end jobs" because they tend to enter

Continued on p. 5

Higher Education Cuts Threaten State's Economic Vitality.

- Charles J. Hynes

Editor's note: Two of Mr. Hynes's children attend CUNY. One is a graduate student at the Hunter College School of Social Work, while another goes to CUNY Law School.

The recent appeal by the presidents of New York's 19 major public colleges and universities for a restoration of the cuts proposed in next year's Executive Budget should be a warning that our system of higher education is in danger.

Our public institutions of higher learning are a valuable asset. They help prepare tomorrow's leaders and enable us to compete successfully in the global economy. They need to be nourished, not neglected.

Reductions totalling \$136 million are being recommended in three major areas: general operating funds (\$77 million); capital construction (\$23 million); and community colleges (\$36 million). These cuts are significant when compared to other areas in the budget which propose substantial spending increases.

For example, an increase of \$626 million in capital expenditures for the State Department of Correctional Services is proposed. While some of this money may be necessary to improve the existing physical plant, the bulk of it is intended for the design and construction of nearly 7,000 new prison beds by the year 2000. New Yorkers may question the wisdom of spending \$90,000 per inmate to build new prison cells at the expense of state universities and community colleges.

The impact of the cuts would fall heavily on the middle class and working class families who are the backbone of our State's economy. The difference will be made up in part by a tuition increase, the sec-

Continued on p. 3



EDITORIAL PAGE



Losing Sight of Education's Purpose.

-Mark Petras

Sometimes I disagree with my professors. It is natural. We are different people with different opinions. When I hand in papers to them knowing they will disagree with the viewpoint I present, I do not worry about my grade. I believe my professors will grade me on how well I support my argument, not on whether they agree with it.

I went through my entire undergraduate and master's education with this mindset. During my freshman year in college, a student in my Introduction to Communications class once asked the professor if his grade in the course would be affected by the political views he expressed. What a ridiculous question, I thought. It seemed obvious to me that a professional educator would never penalize his students for defending their opinions. The professor confirmed my belief. He said, that in his class, students' political views would not affect their grades.

Recently, however, I talked to some students at the Graduate Center who said they take their professors' political opinions into account when writing academic papers. In other words, in their papers these students will not defend political views that contradict those of their professors. Instead, students' modify their arguments, so they do not conflict with those of their professors.

When I heard this, I could not believe it. I could not understand why intelligent, free-thinking students in an institution of higher learning would refrain from expressing their views if supported with sufficient evidence. The students I talked to, however, insisted that there are professors at the Graduate Center and elsewhere who automatically lower students' grades if they disagree with students' political perspectives.

One Graduate Center student told me he found it easier to get good grades in courses taught by conservative professors. The student, who is conservative, said he once refrained from taking a summer history course at Georgetown University because it was taught by a liberal professor. The student feared he would not do well in the course simply because his political opinions differed from those of the professor. Another Graduate Center student told me it is common in her home country of Argentina for instructors in graduate schools, colleges and high schools to let their political opinions affect their grading.

Not every student I interviewed on this subject said he or she has had professors who grade subjectively. Some students I talked to said their professors always have been completely objective and fair in their grading. Nevertheless, I am disturbed by the thought that some students at the Graduate Center alter their political perspectives to appease their professors. We are in school to learn, to think for ourselves, and expand our minds. Once we begin to suppress our views for fear of penalty, that is when we have lost sight of education's purpose.

The Advocate

The Graduate School and University Center
City University of New York, 25 West 43rd St., 4th floor
Rm 400, New York, NY 10036. Tel. (212) 642-2852;
Fax: (212) 642-2695 E-Mail
Advocate@bus.gc.cuny.edu Published 7 times annually. Subsidized by the Doctoral Students' Council.

Staff:

Andrea Zimmerman, Editor
Mark Petras, Managing Editor
Laura Brose, Layout and Production Editor

Contributors:

Alan W. Grose, Charles J. Hynes, Alan Moore, W. Ofuately-Kodjoe, Alex Vitale, Rob Wallace

Letters to the editor must be 500 words or less, summed on a diskette accompanied by a signed hard copy. Individual writers: please limit letters to one per issue.

The opinions expressed in the Graduate Student Advocate are those of individual writers and do not reflect the opinion of the Doctoral Students' Council or the Advocate Staff. We are not responsible for false advertising.

The Advocate Seeks to Organize CUNY Student Newspaper Press Corps at the GSUC.

-Andrea Zimmermann

The Advocate wants a few good journalists committed to serving on a CUNY-wide collaborative project. We want to organize the reporters and editors of CUNY's student newspapers into a bona fide News Service and Press Corps. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact our office (212) 642-2852 to discuss the role of student newspapers in framing issues that affect the future of the City University such as, for example, the cut backs to higher education - a devastating prospect for both the university and students. It would be nice to confer with student journalists about the viability of using our newspapers as a medium for defending CUNY in light of political and public vilification of its many fine institutions.

By organizing into "one big union" we can create an inter-communications network among all CUNY newspapers. In establishing a CUNY Central News Service and Press Corps, we could professionalize and lend greater credibility to the way in which we issue press releases to the mainstream broadcast and print media on matters affecting CUNY on the city, state and federal levels. Student reporters and editors would be encouraged to write analytical articles about various university issues - the new CUNY ID Card, for instance; and other events, student struggles, factions, organizations, and affiliations.

The Advocate aims to create a special office at the GSUC in conjunction with the

DSC with on-line capabilities to engage in a continuing investigation of: a) the Board of Trustees; b) CUNY Central and the Chancellor's Office; c) various college administrators and administrations; d) the activities of the University Student Senate; and e) the voting records of city, state and federal elected officials viz-a-viz CUNY's past, present and future situations. Through funding from internal or external grants, we might be able to establish an internship here at the Graduate Center for undergraduates who want to enhance their journalism experience. After all, we are all in this together!

CUNY Students on Public Assistance Should Do Workfare, Reports a Newspaper Poll.

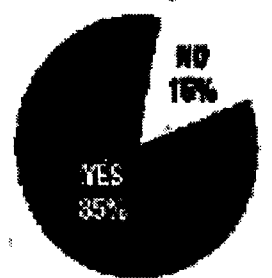
- Andrea Zimmermann

The free weekly newspaper, Our Town, which circulates around the posh Upper East and trendy West Sides of Manhattan, is known more among readers for its dial-a-sex "900" telephone numbers and erotic massage parlor advertisements than for any Pulitzer Prize winning journalism.

So, it came as quite a surprise that during its March 26th printing, Our Town editorialized on the benefits of workfare in general and for CUNY students on public assistance in particular. The call-in question of the week to its readership was: "Do you think that welfare recipients attending the City University should still be required to perform workfare jobs?" Our Town published the results of its thoroughly unscientific poll the following week on the 2nd of April.

Not surprisingly, only 15% called in to register their objections to workfare, while 85% of readers voted affirmatively that CUNY welfare students

Do you think that welfare recipients attending the City University should still be required to perform 'workfare' jobs?



should do workfare as a "public service" to the taxpayers who fund their "entitlements."

The poll results demonstrate an inherent contradiction, however. On the one hand, it is apparent that Our Town's poll taking methodology is flawed since it is not a random representative sample of East and West Side residents. On the other hand, it also seems that the callers' responses to the poll are indeed representative, if not quantitatively at least qualitatively, of the political climate of some Manhattanites fed up with exorbitant income, school, and real estate taxes. Moreover, if the poll by Our Town is any accurate indication, it will be quite some time in the future before workfare goes out of popular fashion. Nor is it likely that the Republicans, Democrats, or CUNY Central will be effective in exempting PA students from that onerous obligation - no matter how often the Ramirez-Marchi Bill is submitted to Governor George Pataki. He will simply veto the legislation every time.

Higher Education Cuts Threaten State's Economic Vitality.

Continued from front page

ond in two years. In 1995 tuition was increased by \$750 per year, and the current proposal calls for an increase of \$400 per year.

These increases should be carefully weighed against the proposed reduction of school property taxes for home owners throughout the State, which will increase State spending by \$3.68 billion in the next five years.

Under the proposed School Tax Relief Program (STAR), a typical property owner would receive a \$30,000 tax exemption from the full value of his or her property, phased in over a three year period at \$10,000 per year. This could create a school tax exemption of 27 percent for a tax payer living in a median priced home. The estimated annual savings to a home owner would be \$160 in Queens County, \$230 in Chhattaqua County, \$450 in Albany County, \$680 in Suffolk County and \$1,130 in Westchester County.

It is apparent that for many families with one or two children in the state university system this cut in local school taxes will be offset by an increase in college tuition costs. For families who do not own their own homes, and especially for poor students, the proposed tuition increase is tantamount to a tax increase.

The reduction in spending for our state universities and community colleges is the wrong way to promote economic development in our state.

The Citizens Budget Commission, an independent organization that studies City and State Government, recently reported that New York State has fallen far behind other states in private job creation. Between 1990 and 1995 New York State's private sector jobs grew by 32 percent, compared to 150 percent for the nation as a whole.

One need only to look at the remarkable economic success story of Guilford County, North Carolina to understand the importance of education in promoting economic development. This county made impressive gains in creating jobs, raising per capita income and lowering unemployment by improving the quality of its two year community colleges and preparing people for jobs in business and technology. The presence of this skilled work force enabled the county to attract new businesses in telecommunications, auto parts, electronics, plastics, metal working, customer services and financial services, which more than offset a loss of jobs in textiles, furniture and agriculture.

North Carolina, with a population slightly more than one-third of New York's, appropriates \$549 million per year to its community colleges. By contrast, New York State will appropriate less than \$300 million under the proposed budget, with the remaining support coming from local governments, tuition and other sources.

New Yorkers should send a clear message to Albany: spending on higher education must not be cut. Our public universities and community colleges are vital to the economic health of our State.

Socialist Scholars Discuss Adjuncts, Importance of Student Activism.

—Mark Petras

The plight of adjunct professors and the importance of student activism in institutions of higher education emerged as two themes of the Socialist Scholars Conference, held at Borough of Manhattan Community College in late March.

In a forum called "Academic Labor on the March," full-time and part-time professors talked about the precarious situation educators find themselves in as schools become more prone to hire adjuncts. James Cascaito, an adjunct professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology and member of a movement there called "Adjunct Alert," said he has had a Ph.D. for 15 years and has not yet found a full-time teaching job. Cascaito explained that F.I.T. has 800 adjuncts and only 130 full-time professors. Most of the adjuncts teach one course then leave the school.

Mel Pritchard, an adjunct at Queens College, said the situation is similar to that of CUNY adjuncts, who often teach one course and are not re-hired. Pritchard discussed how adjuncts have come to outnumber full-time professors in the CUNY system. Citing a report by Sandi Cooper, Chair of the University Faculty Senate, Pritchard said that in 1975 CUNY had 4,900 adjuncts and 11,000 full-time professors. In 1995, CUNY had 6,300 adjuncts and 5,300 full-time professors. This proliferation of adjuncts leads to various problems.

One problem is that the administration considers adjuncts cheap labor and feels it does not have to give them any benefits, Pritchard said in a later forum called "CUNY's Crisis as Opportunity: Mobilizing for Change." Pritchard also pointed to the problem of privatization, saying that CUNY has been able to bring in private companies to run remedial services and language immersion programs because the majority of teachers at CUNY schools are adjuncts who have little power to change things at their respective institutions.

Adjuncts rarely receive benefits or increases in pay because institutions of higher education are increasingly using their funds to create new administrative positions, said an audience member at the "Academic Labor on the March" discussion. The audience member, a professor who teaches in Maryland, said that whenever a professor at his school retires or takes a job at another institution, the administration does not replace him with another professor, but instates a new associate dean or other such administrator.

Sandi Cooper, who sat in the audience during the discussion, said the same bureaucratization is happening at CUNY. "In the twenty-first century the university is going to be a collection of administrators and adjuncts," she said. Most full-time profes-

sors with tenure are unconcerned about this problem because they know their jobs are safe, the professor from Maryland argued. A full-time professor from York College agreed that the problems adjuncts face are ignored by most tenured professors, who simply "punch the clock until they retire."

Student Activism

Students who organize correctly can do more than they might think to bring about change at their respective colleges and universities, said Joyce Kim, a student at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Kim spoke at a panel discussion called "In Solidarity: Students and the New Labor Movement."

Kim encouraged students to keep close watch on their school's financial situation. Using the Freedom of Information Act, students can get copies of their school's IRS 990 forms. With these, students can look at how much their schools pay in taxes, how much they pay in salaries, and other financial information. Having such information is important, Kim said, because universities are not only educational institutions, but economic actors with boards of trustees often composed of chief executive officers of large corporations.

Kim is involved in Cornell's Organization for Labor Action, which recently started a campaign called "Justice for Cornell Workers." The campaign seeks to ensure that the university's 1,100 service and maintenance workers get a fair deal when they re-negotiate their contract with the school in the coming months. Students can do a great deal to help these workers because they can be more vocal, whereas workers put their jobs at risk by speaking out. "It takes a lot for students to get kicked out of school," Kim said.

To show the impact they are trying to make on their school, several student activists from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania gave a panel discussion called "Building a Campus Coalition of Progressive College Student Organizations: The Alliance of Progressive Student Organizations [APSO]." The students, each one a member of a different campus group, talked about how they have brought their respective organizations into an umbrella group called APSO.

Formed last fall, APSO contains 14 groups, including "Women for Change," the NAACP, Black and Latino groups, and Sociology clubs. APSO's purpose is to give strength to each group's agenda by providing the support of 13 other groups for that agenda, said Harvey Holtz, Professor of Sociology at the school and faculty advisor to APSO.

Holtz, who studied Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center, said the groups in APSO are small and do not have much power when they work alone. But when APSO sends a letter to the university's administration with 14 groups signed at the bottom, it makes a powerful statement. Maria Estrada, a member of the Latino Students Organization at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, agreed with Holtz, saying that her group has only about 20 members and it needs APSO to have a strong voice.

APSO's ultimate goal is to achieve "economic, political and social justice," Holtz said. It has no guidelines for membership

SPECIAL SECTION

and it will defend the agenda of any member organization. But Mary Koval, former president of "Women for Change" at the school, said she cannot expect the other APSO organizations to always defend her group's goals. If she wants to organize a pro-choice rally, for example, she knows some APSO groups might oppose it. In such cases, she does not expect the full-fledged support of all APSO groups. Instead, she uses APSO to contact individuals in other organizations who might want to support her group's cause.

Last fall, APSO organized a march against violence; about 300 people rallied at the local courthouse to protest hate crimes. APSO currently is organizing a counter-march to protest an upcoming Klu Klux Klan rally in Pittsburgh.

The most useful panels at the Socialist Scholars Conference were those in which young people spoke, said a man who attended the conference. The man, a graduate of Queens College who identified himself as Larry but withheld his last name, said he is 50 years old and has been coming to the Socialist Scholars Conference for 10 years. Every year the same people come and talk about the same ideas; the only new ideas he ever hears are from people aged 18 to 22, he said. Those who were activists during the sixties and earlier decades lack the innovation to revive the Left and solve the country's problems. "I think it's in the hands of the youth," he said.

But with the exception of two high school students who attended the discussion about APSO and three undergraduates who spoke at the forum about students in the labor movement, young adults seemed relatively scarce at the conference. To attend, high school students and undergraduates had to pay \$8. Those with low incomes had to pay \$30. All others had to pay \$45.

These fees are unreasonable, said Damon Morris, a Political Science student at the Graduate Center, who wanted to attend the conference but could not afford to go. Morris said he can buy nearly a week's worth of groceries for the money he would have paid to attend the three-day affair. Morris also questioned why graduate students had to pay more than undergraduates and high school students when graduate students are probably more interested in, and knowledgeable of, the conference's discussion topics.

Local/Global: A Symposium on the New Times Square.

- Alan Moore

First the long time shuttering and now the gradual emergence of new features in Times Square has been an on-going drama of modern urban renewal in the heart of New York City. Since the "newspaper of record" lives nearby, many who do not visit are perhaps over-aware of what has been going on, since the Grey Lady has taken pains to seal the identification of her neighborhood cleanup campaign with the very identity of the historical metropolis. One alarming aspect of the project to many adults is the heavy hand of the Disney Corporation.

Columbia University's Buell Center hosted a

day long symposium on March 8th, 1997, to consider this process. Called "The New Times Square: Local/Global", it was organized by Joan Ockman and Marshall Blonsky and presented a stellar line-up of architects, academics and cultural critics giving talks. This dilettante observer was lured uptown only after GSUC Political Science Professor Marshall Berman's keynote address and so cannot report on the thoughts of this renowned chronicler of modernity (All that is Solid Melts into Air) and virtual denizen of Times Square. I offer instead an episodic and partial account of this fascinating day.

In the first segment, "Times Square/NYC", Blonsky's remarks led the day's direct and oblique consideration of the district's association with pornography by noting the developers' unrelenting campaign against it: "to the point of obsession." Michael Sorkin continued the theme by inveighing against Milos Forman's film on Larry Flint for its easy equation of pornography and free speech and noted that the new conspicuous developers in Times Square had set up a new anti-monymy: "sex vs. Disneyland." In the new district, as Disney posits it, urbanites are to be replaced with the "universal tourist class subject."

Master Planner Robert Stern, the only figure on this panel with real power, entered like a nattily dressed lamb among wolves. He presented the master plan and the key concepts behind it - among them "aesthetics as attractions" - finally justifying it as an attempt to save the theater district from censure under pressure from the giant office towers still slated to be built in Times Square. Then novelist Samuel Delaney, an imposing white bearded figure, rose to speak. Using his own experience as a gay New Yorker, Delaney carefully detailed the difference between a life built up from meetings on the street and one constructed by "networking", social contact that is exclusively: "professional and motive driven." What is being done to Times Square, Delaney contended, reflects the: "small town terror of cross-class contact." It is part of a trend in urban planning to: "turn the great cities of the world into suburbs of the very small town notion of the global village."

Graduate Center Sociologist Sharon Zukin observed that one of Stern's principles, that "aesthetics as attraction" in the new scheme, is: "a discovery that the developers make very late in the game and then take as their own." She noted the aggressive policing of street musicians in the area and contending that the plan privileging loud signage allowed only for visual not aural noise. During the panel Stern described his Times Square as a: "temporary entertainment zone which we hope will be permanent," again emphasizing the contingency of the present scheme; that is be thankful for what little you got because it may be taken away to make room for giant office towers. During Delaney's descriptions of the now banned live sex shows and the sexualized street life of the old Times Square, Stern hung his head.

Segment Two, "Times Square/USA", started with M. Christine Boyer, author of *Cyber Cities*, reiterating the loud knell sounded for Delaney's Times Square, "diagnosing" it as an instance of Freud's melancholy, a yearning: "for that which is no longer possible." Why, she wondered, "must cultural production remain alternative and resistant?" Einstein was Walt Disney's buddy, she said, during a period when Fernand Léger asked that the street be considered one of the fine arts (1928). Presently, Boyer contended, Andreas Huyssen carried on, critiquing the: "romanticization of marginality." The Nazis, he observed, banned Mickey Mouse. They detested his blackness. Times Square has always been the center for: "theater, entertainment and advertising culture," and "why is there any high culture in Times Square and why should there be?"

Venturi film partner Stephen Izenour, a co-author of *Learning from Las Vegas* (1972), gave a folksy phrased empirically rooted presentation on urban environments. He said he guessed he spoke for "the enemy" as the "only architect here who has worked for the Mouse." "Disney," Izenour said, "can't afford to be Disney anymore." The totally controlled environments they have long been constructing don't work so well anymore. He implied what many I feel long to believe - that Disney is here to learn from New York. Reviewing his antique slides of Las Vegas, Izenour pointed out how it has changed: "Not a bit of it exists today." The Strip has become a pedestrian space, like Main Street or a shopping mall, changed by: "the force of money

and taste....Money drives a frenzy of change." The more money is concentrated on an area the faster the rate of change. Surely speaking reflexively, Izenour warned of: "the trap of falling in love with a rapidly changing pop cultural object."

Stephen Pappson (Sign Wars) delivered a rapid-fire semiotic analysis of the "competitive discourse" of Times Square advertising singeage, asserting that the "sex industry signifies the freedom that urban life allows"

- it embodies "the sizzle." Martha Rosler demurely introduced herself as "an artist from Brooklyn," an outer borough where, in her neighborhood, the sex industry is relocating. Rosler's talk was punctuated by long silences during which her acutely seen slide images told the story of how in Times Square the presence of sex had been replaced by its signifiers, urban variety superseded by store gates painted in different colors. She concluded with a visual seal on Times Square as a landscape: "presided over by the Father"; a billboard of the naked Howard Stern standing King Kong-like amidst the New York skyline with the Chrysler Building as a fig leaf, an image mounted above a TV screen showing the Paramount corporation's mountain logo. Rosler detailed the evacuation of the homeless from Times Square by the uniformed agents of the Business Improvement District (TS-BID), and described the intensively policed New Year's Eve as proof that Times Square has become a "cordon sanitaire."

The final session, "Times Square/World", was dominated by the voices of political economy coming to grips with the situation. Architectural historian Kenneth Frampton detailed opposition - between center and periphery, king and jester, normalcy and transgression - that might describe the new Times Square. Urban planning critic Saskia Sassen (*The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*) said that Times Square is to be the "new nexus for the global entertainment industry." It is being refashioned as a site of consumption for the newly exotic urban experience, a new type of privatized public space for the bourgeois consumer. As a site for production, "everything that is standardized and routinized [in NYC] is moving out. It's the cutting edge of design that stays." Finally Times Square is a site of power, an ornament to a city dominated by "cutting edge corporate service industries" that serve the increasingly complex central functions of business.

London architect Nigel Coates observed that, unlike other world cities, Times Square was not a space for people. He presented a fanciful project for a sky platform plaza edged with giant TV screens that would allow the street to "reinforce its power." Masao Yamaguchi spoke on aspects of festival and public space in other lands including the "world turned upside down" in Lima, Peru, that might be seen as framing Times Square culturally as a public space. Yamaguchi broached aspects of connotation and history that escaped the tight circle of political and economic determinism woven by other panelists, but his talk was nearly inaudible. Like Blonsky earlier, Yamaguchi was a victim of a sound system that favors treble ranges and crystalline diction.

Political Scientist Benjamin Barber (*Jihad vs. McWorld*) concluded with a polemical account of the world wide corporate "campaign against variety and difference." Corporations are the "enemies of civil society" seeking to destroy the mediating level of urban social ties so that they may more effectively bring people under their totalizing systems of consumption. These "new totalitarians" are abetted by President Clinton who speaks of "democratic markets" as if these two terms were somehow to be equated. Barber reviled the "instant traditions" of Disney's Florida residential communities like Celebration, Florida and imagined Disney's Times Square engineers asking themselves: "How can we replicate disorder?" Izenour earlier inadvertently evidenced Barber suggesting "perhaps there is a whole aesthetic" that might be derived from the "complex urban environment" the company is engineering with municipal assistance in Times Square. I think Scott Bukatman in October may have said it better, that the: "imagineers" use the disorder of user response in their planning processes.

Barber again sounded a theme of the symposium - the suburbanization of the city - which is the most recent stage in a historical process that first saw an initial secession from the city to the suburbs and which gradually became infected with urban problems. Now

the middle classes are returning and as they do, push the poor out of the city. The "infotainment tele-sector", Barber said, is headquartered in Times Square as the best site to manufacture new needs. These are the people who own TV and are now buying up the internet. Times Square abroad is the image of urban culture and so it will be used conceptually in advertising, just as the idea of "athleticity" is used to sell shoes. Privatization, Barber said, is "a political disease." And so it must be fought as a political battle for democracy and public space.

During discussion Sassen alluded to the new conception of intellectual property purveyed by corporations. She contended that Times Square is being "encased" as an image and privatized. "There is a move to make private all sorts of public properties that we never bothered with before. I see in Times Square an enactment of these new types of power," Barber said, "What they want to do is can it and resell it, but it's easier to own it." Marshall Berman briefly injected a refreshing note of historicity into the air-tight maneuvers when he observed that Times Square had always been largely a zone of privately owned entertainment and that its image was imbued with a "nostalgia for privatization." Fond memories of the era of Guys and Dolls, of Lunt and Fontaine, mingle today with recollections of the "golden age of hustling" - that is Delaney's Times Square.

Conference Speakers Denounce Budget Cuts

Continued from front page

vocational schools instead of four-year colleges.

Malcolm Goff, former President of the Black Student Union at SUNY New Paltz, pointed to a recent decrease in the number of blacks enrolled at his school. From 1984 to 1994, the total number of blacks enrolled at the school has dropped by over 25 percent. From 1984 to 1996, the number of blacks in the freshman class has dropped by over 50 percent.

Goff also talked about the trouble that arose recently when police tried to stop a student march through the town of New Paltz, in Ulster County, to protest the proposed cuts to public higher education. The trouble began when a police officer told a student standing on the street to get on the sidewalk or he would be arrested. When the officer said this, the student held out his wrists, as if to say, "handcuff me." The policeman took this as a violent gesture and threw the student to the ground.

Falling to the ground, the student inadvertently knocked off the police officer's hat. One of the marchers grabbed the hat and threw it into the air. The policeman wrestled on the ground with the student whom he had threatened to arrest. When the officer was about to spray mace in the student's face, Goff walked up to the policeman, identified himself as an organizer of the march, and asked the police officer why he was using force on the student. The officer told Goff to get away from him or he would be arrested.

Goff stepped away, expecting a policeman to join him and discuss why a student was being subdued with force. When no policeman came to talk to him, he walked back to the officer and again asked why he was wrestling with a student. Several police officers again told Goff to get away from them or he would be arrested. When Goff did not leave, two policemen threw him

down. The police arrested Goff and the other student and took them to the station on a charge of disturbing the peace.

At the station, the police handcuffed Goff and the other student to a pole, saying there were no holding cells available. Meanwhile, the marchers had walked to the police station and sat on the ground outside the station to show their support for Goff and the other student.

The two students found a lawyer to defend them free of charge. When they went to court, the judge let Goff and the other student off with no fines and said the arrests would be deleted from their records if they did not get into any skirmishes with the law for the next six months. Goff said he felt relieved by the decision. "I need to be out organizing, not tied up in court."

Annals of Administration

CUNY Board of Trustees Appropriations and Salaries: At What Cost?

- Andrea Zimmermann

Have you ever wondered how much money the CUNY Board of Trustees spends on staff salaries? Read the following and weep. At its March 24, 1997 meeting the BOT approved the following salary for Genevieve Mullins, Board Secretary for many years. Effective the first of April, Mullins' annual salary was approved at the whopping rate of \$101,869. But Mullins' salary is not the only one to be questioned during this time of supposed fiscal exigency. Mullins' Executive Assistant, (also a clerical post), Hourig Messerlian's salary was approved for \$60,212. Just think. As demanding as their jobs are, the income for clerical work that Mullins and Messerlian, respectively, will earn during 1997-98 exceeds that which a full time tenured professor with a PhD makes at CUNY teaching three courses per semester at one of the community or senior colleges.

Furthermore, also at the March meeting, the Board of Trustees amended a resolution for the appropriation of additional funds for Trustee staff. It was resolved that an appropriation of up to \$1.0 million be allocated for the purpose of providing the Board Chairperson, James P. Murphy, and Trustees with additional staff to perform their "fiduciary duty efficiently and expeditiously."

The rationale for the appropriation specified that, "The Trustees require a small number of staff and/or consultants to conduct analysis in a number of areas including academic policy, finance, management and organization, legal and clerical. Efficiencies in the existing Central Office budget will be created to accommodate this appropriation, and the Chairwoman (Anne A. Paolucci) shall, after consultation with relevant committees and Trustees, present on an on-going basis proposals for specific expenditures under this appropriation."

It could be inferred that, due to the absence of additional funds, the Board of Trustees to date has not been able to perform their fiduciary duties as productively

as had been expected by certain important individuals and that the addition of extra clerical staff, more likely consultants who command even higher salaries than clerical personnel which partially helps to explain the million dollar appropriation request, will allow for the streamlining of the BOT's operations.

The Advocate intends to monitor if and when the appropriation request is approved to determine precisely who the Board of Trustees will hire to "conduct analysis" of operations and evaluate what the BOT expects to accomplish with this \$1.0 million dollars.

CUNY CLIPS

DSC NOTES

Budget Cuts

The State budget calls for significant cuts to CUNY. Graduate Students are facing a \$400 tuition increase, the elimination of the Graduate Tuition Assistance Program and an across the board budget cut which will mean fewer services.

President Horowitz addressed the DSC at our February 21st Plenary and encouraged students to get involved in writing letters, lobbying and other activities. In addition, we co-sponsored a Community Meeting with the President on Wednesday, February 26th, and are still planning others.

City-wide meetings occur each Tuesday night at 7:30 around the CUNY system. You can call the DSC for the latest location. The first city-wide student mobilization was March 27th at City Hall. Around 500 students attended and future actions are being planned.

To disseminate information quickly to students, we have set up permanent literature tables outside the dining commons and near the entrance to the library. We are also going to set them up in the Greybar and North Buildings. These have fact sheets about the cuts, announcements of upcoming meetings and activities and sign-up sheets to get involved.

Student Center

The New Student Center on the 4th floor of the North Building now has its own computer hub with a PowerMac, 2 PC's and a laser printer. The Student Center can be accessed 24 hours a day with a key which can be obtained for \$1 from the DSC office.

Adjunct Organizing

On March 20th, the Adjunct Project held first of a series of public events around CUNY, on the state of teaching at CUNY. The forum was at Bronx Community College and featured a debate between the two candidates for the Professional Staff Congress position of Vice-president for part-time affairs Mel Pritchard and Susan Prager. The DSC has also decided to host this Fall's national adjunct and part-time teacher's conference.

CUNY Card

The administration has informed us that we are scheduled to get the CUNY Card when we move into the B. Altman Building. The card will serve as both an ID and library card CUNY-wide. In addition it will have option of being used as a Citibank ATM card and an MCI phone card. The logos from each company appear on the cards whether you use their services or not.

The DSC at its January Plenary voted unanimously to "deplore the implementation of the CUNY Card." Representatives pointed out the card generates profits for Citibank which has opposed increased student financial aid and has worked to break labor unions. Representatives also felt that the use of electronic security systems undermines the privacy and free travel of students and centralizes authority in the hands of 80th Street. The DSC formed an organizing committee to resist implement-

CUNY CLIPS

DSC Notes Continued

tation of the Card.

Several student governments, the PSC, and faculty senates have raised objections to the card and intend to resist its implementation and the University Student Senate has set up a CUNY-wide student task force to investigate the Card. The DSC will be participating in that effort. On April 3rd the President of York College moved back implementation of the program after a resolution by their combined faculty/student senate was passed and a large community meeting was held.

Health Care

The DSC is continuing to investigate possible alternatives to the current nurse practitioner. We are looking a number of clinics that would offer a fuller line of services and would be open more hours. It appears that these services would be less expensive than the current system as well. If you have opinions about the current or possible future health care services please contact Jean at the DSC office.

Library Services

Starting in May students can purchase copy cards in the library for \$20 for copoes at 6 cents a piece. There will also be a new machine with a sheet feeder.

Subsidized copying at the New York Public Library has also been restored. The DSC with help from the CUNY Research Foundation has restored a 10 cent per copy subsidy. We have learned that in the past some students have used this subsidy when doing work as a research assistant for faculty members. This is not a proper use of the service and it reduces the ability of the DSC to support student needs.

CUNY Hispanic Students Debate Workfare Reform and Rent Control in Model Senate in Albany.

- Andrea Zimmermann

According to a recent undated press release issued by CUNY Central's University Relations Office, more than 50 outstanding Hispanic students from 16 CUNY colleges debated two "hot button" issues in the first college level Model New York State Senate in Albany on March 8, 1997. Initiated by the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force of the New York State Legislature, the session took place in the State Capitol Senate Chamber in conjunction with the Task Force sponsored Somos el Futuro Conference.

The students debated two bills that could have a direct effect on their lives: rent control and approving public colleges as work sites under workfare. Assemblyman Roberto Ramirez, who heads the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force, introduced the workfare bill into the last Legislative session and reintroduced it this year. Senator John J. Marchi introduced it in the Senate.

"Working on a legislative agenda is a wonderful opportunity for students to pursue their interests in public service, develop their leadership skills, and become more involved in the governmental processes that affect them and their communities," said CUNY Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds.

"While this conference is about state policy in 1997, it is also about preparing the bright young students from CUNY and SUNY to be leaders in the next century," said Mr. Ramirez. "If we can show these young men and women that they can make a real difference working within the system, then we will have done a great deal toward strengthening our community for years to come."

Recommended by their college presidents, students participated in preparatory seminars with Senator Ephraim Gonzalez, and Assemblyman Vito Lopez, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Housing. Students played the role of a Republican or Democratic State Senator from an actual electoral district with its particular characteristics. In some cases that meant arguing views contrary to their own.

In the training seminars, students studied the Senate legislative process and rules as well as bills, memoranda and other materials on selected legislative issues; explored member district characteristics

and their importance, and learned about lobbying strategies. Many of the students are political science majors and some are eyeing future careers in government, said CUNY coordinator Professor Edward Rogowski, who developed the program.

Third Regional Plan Colloquium Held at the GSUC.

A one day colloquium entitled, "New York City: A Region at Risk," was held at the Graduate Center on February 18, 1997 to coincide with the release of the recently published Third Regional Plan for New York-New Jersey-Connecticut. The plan describes a range of serious problems that confront the area and offers solutions to these problems.

Organized by Graduate School Professors Roslyn Wallach Bologh and Cindi Katz, the colloquium provided CUNY administrators, faculty and students an opportunity to meet directly with the Plan's authors, influential policy makers, and relevant community organizations in an open forum. The colloquium set the stage for the Graduate School to showcase the expertise, interests, and commitments of its faculty, and students in relaying their ideas and concerns about issues highlighted in the Plan.

Besides the Plan's authors, the list of distinguished speakers included the Honorable Jerry Nadler, a New York Congressman, and GSUC Associate Provost Pamela Reid, as well as a number of experts in various fields concerning urban issues.

The Third Regional Plan suggests five critical areas of policy intervention and investments for developing the region: work force (employment and education), mobility (transportation), greensward (environment), centers (central business districts, art institutions, downtown and community renewal), and governance (intra-regional cooperation), and also proposes a range of programmatic and policy responses to address issues of concern. "Many members of the faculty and students of CUNY share the concerns voiced in the Plan about the problems facing the region in general, and the city in particular," said Professor Katz. "This open and frank discussion was fruitful for the development of meaningful strategies to confront the region's serious problems and help ensure that changes undertaken in the future make New York viable for all its diverse constituencies," she added.

The colloquium organizers see this event as a stepping stone toward developing working relationships between CUNY faculty and students, and members of various community organizations who responded to the Plan. "It is the hope that the issues raised in the colloquium will be addressed by the Regional Plan Association and will inspire the development of alternative plans for the region," said Professor Katz.

The first two Regional Plans were produced in 1929 and 1968. Each had an enormous impact in influencing the direction and nature of investment, policy, and development in the area.

Sociology PhD Student to Serve Another Term on National Muscular Dystrophy Association.

- Andrea Zimmermann

Chris Rosa of Flushing, New York has been reappointed to serve a new one year term on the Muscular Dystrophy Association's (MDA) National Task Force on Public Awareness, reports the April 1997 issue of New York Able, a newspaper devoted to individuals with disabilities. Rosa, 30, is the Director of the Office of Special Services for Students with Disabilities at Queens College.

Working toward his PhD in Sociology at the

GSUC, Rosa is writing his dissertation on "Disability Rites: The Construction of Disability Culture." In 1996, he authored a chapter in "The Road to College," published by Simon and Schuster, advising students with disabilities on how to choose a college. Rosa graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Queens College with a double major in Sociology and Philosophy.

The MDA National Task Force is composed of 14 adults affected by neuromuscular disorders who help educate the community about MDA's programs and advises the association on issues affecting people with disabilities. The group also communicates its position on national issues to government leaders and public policy makers.

Rosa also serves on the Disability and Employment Concerns Committee of President Clinton's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. As a member of the New York State Independent Living Council, Rosa is involved in making policies for state agencies serving people with disabilities. In addition, Rosa serves on the Board of Directors of the Queens Independent Living Center.

Rosa was named an MDA National Vice President in 1994. In 1992, he received MDA's regional Personal Achievement Award, and he was profiled on the national broadcast of the 1993 Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon.

Afflicted with Becker muscular dystrophy, a slowly progressing, muscle wasting disease, Rosa's condition was diagnosed when he was nine years old. Yet his activities include teaching at CUNY and coaching basketball for the Catholic Youth Organization.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association is a voluntary health agency working to defeat 40 neuromuscular diseases through programs of world wide research, comprehensive social services, and far reaching professional and public health education. MDA maintains several clinics for adults and children affected by neuromuscular diseases in the metropolitan New York area. The association's programs are funded almost entirely by private contributions.

Recent GSUC Graduate Directs the Grand Central Partnership Neighborhood Social Service Corporation.

Jeffrey Grunberg, who recently received his PhD in Sociology from the Graduate School, is the Executive Director of the Grand Central Partnership Neighborhood Social Service Corporation (GCNSSC), located at 152 East 44th Street, NYC 10017. Grunberg's dissertation, "Statue-Centered Outreach," was based on the treatment of the homeless as consumers.

Grunberg incorporates his theory into his work at the GCNSSC through programs like the Network Fair, where the homeless have an opportunity to review and choose programs they feel will be of benefit to them. He said that by placing the decision making power with them; much like the consumer in a store, they will be more likely to stay with a program and progress from the street to self-reliance.

The GCNSSC is a not-for-profit corporation which provides single homeless adults with meals, counseling, job leads, and housing. Anyone interested in obtaining further information about the GCNSSC can call (212) 681-1478.

Conference in Honor of Arthur Schlessinger, Jr. Slated for May.

The GSUC's Center for the Humanities will sponsor a Conference in Honor of Arthur Schlessinger, Jr., entitled "Liberalism at the Crossroads", to be held on Friday, May 16th, 1997 at the Graduate Center. For further information, please contact Susan Fox at the Humanities Center at (212) 642-2684.

NEWSBRIEFS

The Multinational Watch Tower: Examples of Bad Corporate Behavior.

- Andrea Zimmermann

What kind of moral and ethical examples are big corporations setting for American families these days? Pretty poor ones.

That is if you consider what Multinational Monitor writes in its 1996 list of the nation's ten worst corporations. According to the March 1997 issue of Solidarity, the two United Auto Workers' (UAW) employers, Caterpillar and Mitsubishi, are on the list of companies with highly questionable practices.

Caterpillar was "honored" for its blatant union-busting attack on the UAW. Mitsubishi drew criticism for policies that have led to the destruction of tropical rain forests and for sexual harassment charges made by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The UAW initiated anti-harassment training programs are now in place there.

The other eight are: 1) Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), which paid a \$100 million fine after pleading guilty to price-fixing in the lysine and citric acid markets of the world. 2) Daishowa, the Japanese based multinational corporation that is using the court system to stifle a boycott over its plans to cut down 4,000 square miles of Canadian timber. 3) Daiwa Bank Ltd, a Japanese based bank that pled guilty to 16 federal felonies and paid a \$340 million criminal fine - the largest ever imposed in the US - for misappropriating over \$1 billion, obstruction of justice, and concealing the crime from federal regulators. 4) Freeport McMoran, a mining conglomerate, that has been sharply criticized for human rights violations and polluting the environment in Indonesia. 5) Gerber, which has used trade sanctions to override Guatemala's infant health laws and has been charged by the Environmental Working Group with marketing some baby food that contains pesticides that could cause cancer. 6) Seagram's, which broke the liquor industry's 48 year voluntary ban on broadcast advertising for liquor with a TV ad campaign for Chivas Regal scotch and Crown Royal whiskey. 7) The Walt Disney Company, which markets children's clothing like Mickey Mouse shirts and Pocahontas pajamas that are made by Haitian workers who are paid just twelve cents an hour. This is less than half of Haiti's minimum wage. 8) Texaco, where high ranking executives responded to a race discrimination suit filed by minority employees, with blatantly racist comments about African-Americans.

Apparently, none of these multinationals can be remotely construed as socially and environmentally conscious. Such obvious examples of corporate greed, exploitation and racism warrants immediate stockholder divestitures. Yet, why has there been no public outcry in the US and abroad against these multinationals? Maybe a phone call to supermodel Jacqueline Smith and talk show co-host Kathy Lee Gifford can accomplish what President Bill Clinton and AFL-CIO chief John Sweeney can not.

Government Does It Better.

- Andrea Zimmermann

As some states consider turning over the administration of welfare programs to private for-profit companies, they may want to study what happened in Orange County, California last year. The federal government ran the welfare program in half the county, a private company in the other half. The government workers found jobs for 3,679 welfare recipients, while the private company found only 2,473 jobs. Taxpayers who foot welfare bills can end up paying more under privatization, because the companies expect a profit of at least three to four percent of the contract value per client placed, according to the Los Angeles Times. No further information is available as to the kinds of jobs welfare recipients obtained, their hourly wages or if medical benefits were included in their employment contracts.

Classified

ENGLISH THIS SUMMER!

Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, TOEFL, Study Skills, American Culture, Internships, Two+ weeks. Live in the cool Mts of Maine, hot activities, great teachers. ENGLISH CAMP OF MAINE; Toll free (888) 226-7468; ecmaine@ix.netcom.com; www.ecmaine.com.

OBITUARIES

In Memory of Robert L. Lindsay.

Editor's note: Early this Spring Robert L. Lindsay, an outstanding doctoral student in Political Science, and an Associate of the Howard Samuels State Management and Policy Center, passed away. One of the GSUC's MAGNET Fellowships has been designated the Robert L. Lindsay MAGNET Fellowship in his honor. Political Science Professor W. Ofuatey-Kodjoe offered a tribute at Lindsay's memorial service.

I have known Robert for only a few years. I do not know very much about his earlier life, and his many accomplishments. So, on the one hand, I am under no pressure to eulogize him. Therefore, I have not come to praise Robert. Rather, I have come to deliver a message from him. I have come to say what I think Robert would say on such an occasion.

And yet, on the other hand, I feel cheated by his death. I feel cheated because I was just getting to know Robert, as it were; finding out new and wonderful things about him on a daily basis. I feel cheated out of the opportunity to fully enjoy the blessing that Robert was.

I learned two things from Robert. First he had an acute sense of the connection between the present and the future, and how what we do today will affect what we have in the future. He had a sense that in order to produce a particular future, we had to work for it in the present. He knew that we must do the future's work NOW!

Second, Robert understood that an important part of the work of the future involves nurturing people. He knew that we have to take the time to pay attention to people. He also knew that the most important part of the work of the future involves taking care to build relationships, and nurturing people. He understood that we have to take the time to pay attention to people.

As many of you know, I spent some time in the hospital last year. After I came out, Robert and I had one of our long conversations. Soon, the conversation drifted into a discussion about people's reactions to death. I remember saying to Robert that the only thing that I would worry about is "unfinished business."

I remember Robert saying that no one should worry about unfinished business. There is always unfinished business. The important thing is to leave behind someone or some people to finish the business for you. I asked him, how do you do that?

After a pause, he said to me, "There are no guarantees. The only thing you have to do is to grow people with the skills, the sensitivity, the love and the commitment to finish the business for you."

Robert knew that one of the most important things one can do in this world is to nurture people. He also knew that this takes time, that it takes effort, that it doesn't just happen.

What is more important is, he didn't just say it. He did it. He took care to nurture people. The children he left behind, and the many people who he recruited and mentored here at the Graduate School, are compelling evidence of that.

Robert, wherever you are, please be assured that we pledge to work hard to finish your "unfinished business". Rest in peace.

Professor Marx Wartofsky

- Alan W. Grose

The Philosophy Program at the GSUC lost one of its distinguished professors this semester with the sudden death of Marx Wartofsky. Professor Wartofsky was many things to many people and will accordingly be remembered in many ways. He was a fine scholar and writer. His curriculum vitae reveals impressive publications including his definitive study Feuerbach; his volume of essays Models: Representation and the Scientific Understanding; and numerous other papers, conference presentations and invited lectures. This is not to mention his vast work as an editor, including in 1976 with Carol Gould, Women and Philosophy: Toward A Theory of Liberation, one of the first volumes in feminist philosophy; over 100 volumes with Robert S. Cohen in the Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, and over 25 years at the helm of the quarterly The Philosophical Forum. And Marx Wartofsky will also be remembered as a man who took great pride in his political engagements and even greater joy in his family.

Along with the GSUC community, I want to remember Marx Wartofsky for the legacy which he leaves us as an educator and a philosopher. Out of the stunning breadth of his writing and teaching, interests there emerges a central unifying focus: to understand many and diverse objects, from scientific theories to trends in politics and society to the production and appreciation of works of art, not to mention the work of major figures in the history of philosophy, as a part of the distinctly human and social activities of our coming to know ourselves as human in all of the richness that this involves. And even at his highest levels of philosophical abstraction, he remained acutely aware of the place of ideas in our daily practices and lives.

But what is more, Wartofsky's philosophical perspectives coincided most happily with his work as an educator and an editor and a colleague to other thinkers. In a place and at a time when many professors of philosophy (i.e. many who profess philosophy) resort to ridicule and bureaucratic means as ways to advance their own ideas, Marx Wartofsky was the uncommon mentor and friend who remained generous and sometimes even courageous in his willingness to read and listen to the views and interests of others and to lend his considerable creativity and intelligence in helping to recover the power of ideas in reading and critical reflection in bringing those ideas to fruition in philosophical expression. In this vein Wartofsky not only professed philosophy, but was a philosopher in the best sense of the word, a philosopher in the sense of a friend of wisdom, one who chooses for its own sake the activity of nurturing ideas and assisting them to blossom and flourish as a salt which gives our lives their distinctive savor.

For those of us who care about ideas and placing them positively in the world, the legacy of Marx Wartofsky is poignantly rich and one which we at CUNY, a public university in the service of the public, ought to cherish and honor. What surer way is there for us to help the future than to show up as a better and brighter world?

SPECIAL REPORT

The Pawn Broker:

Citibank Never Sleeps When Gouging Students with CUNYCard; CUNY Administrators Defend Racist, Anti-Student Bank and Privacy Violations

- Robert Wallace

Editor's note: The new CUNY ID Card is tentatively scheduled for implementation when the GSUC moves to the B. Altman building in the Fall of 1998. Robert Wallace is an activist in the City College Coalition against the Budget Cuts.

Perhaps some *Advocate* readers have already heard about CUNYCard, the new CUNY-wide ID card administrators are attempting to implement here at CUNY for students, faculty and staff. Even so, a relatively complete survey of the card has been lacking as administrators, for reasons we will consider in due time, have been anything but forthcoming about the new ID card. In digging into the card, I have been time and again astonished—shocked!—by the depravities of the card and its proponents. Anyone still entertaining bright visions of CUNY's immediate future and its current caretakers should be forewarned about reading on.

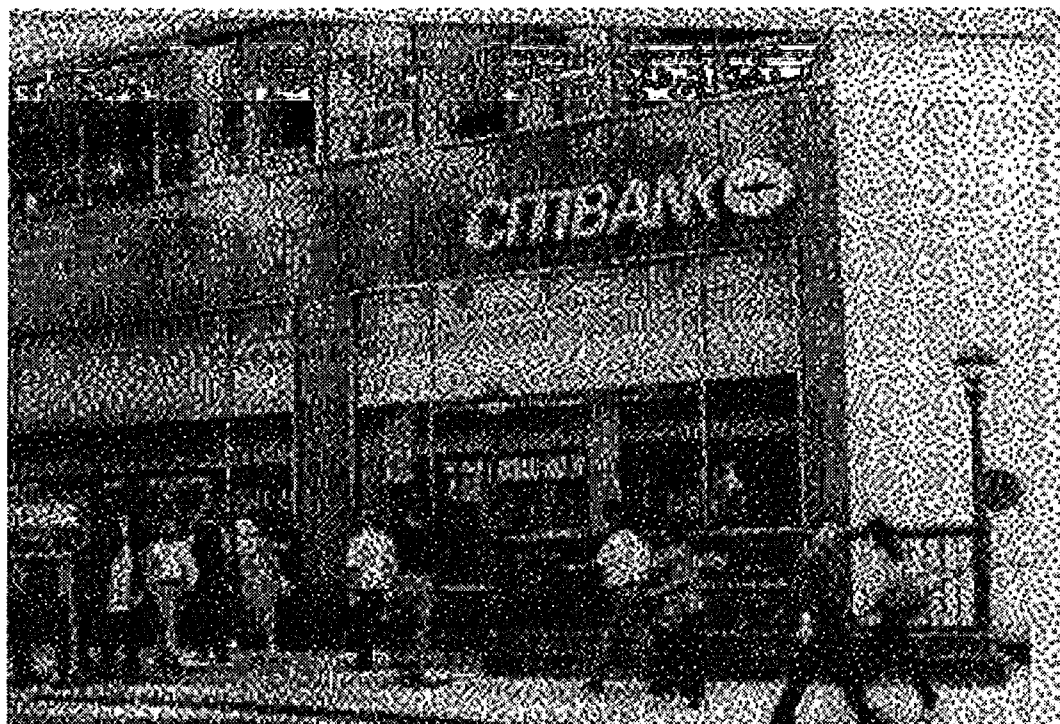
For those of us not yet aware of the card, CUNYCard is produced by Citibank and its subcontractors—MCI, Diebold Incorporated, and Digital Equipment Corporation. CUNYCard is supposed to act as students' ID card, library card, and, if students so choose, as a bank and phone card. The bank portion of the card would act as a debit card from which students could only deduct money they actually had in their accounts. The card could in the future be reformatted to act as a building access card, a xerox card, and a vending machine card as well. The card is currently in place at Baruch College, LaGuardia, Queensborough, and New York Technical College.

In return for allowing Citibank and MCI exclusive access to a market of 206,000 CUNY students, the CUNY campuses receive a cut of the revenues generated from the bank and telephone portions of the card. So CUNY gets some needed cash and students get these neat services. Sounds cool, right? Wrong!

The CUNY Card will: 1) Shift funding for CUNY onto the backs of CUNY's poor and working class students; 2) Generate profits for racist, anti-student corporations like Citibank from a largely minority student body; 3) Invade privacy by permitting corporations access to student and faculty social security numbers and home addresses, and possibly phone numbers, even those of individuals who don't use the companies' services and; 4) Undermine campus democracy by completely barring students, staff and faculty from deciding whether the card is necessary to begin with.

How did CUNY get involved in this boondoggle?

In June 1996, the CUNY Board of Trustees authorized the University Contracting Office to enter CUNY into the CUNYCard contract with Citibank. The deci-



sion piggybacked CUNY upon a contract the State University of New York (SUNY) negotiated in April of 1995. The contract SUNY negotiated for its own card, SUNYCard, has a provision allowing CUNY and Cornell University to take part. The Board's approval consigned CUNY to a contract SUNY administrators negotiated.

The April 1996 contract shows CUNY's participation comes at a price. According to an "Affiliated Institution Election Agreement" the contract claims CUNY must sign in order to participate and partake in the card, wherein CUNY must come to an agreement "with SUNY concerning the distribution of certain commissions to be paid in connection with the Service..." These "certain commissions", their amounts unspecified, are exemplary of how CUNYCard will drain money away from CUNY and its students.

Sleazy Fees for Students.

Any student who chooses to take part in the Citibank portion of CUNYCard will be socked with a series of fees. According to a confidential Campus Procurement Document provided to each campus's administration by Citibank and CUNY Central, there are two alternative regimes of cardholder fees from which campus administrators may choose for students. Notice administrators choose the fee structures, not students.

The first alternative includes a \$3-a-month account maintenance fee, a \$1 fee each time students use the ATM machine, and 80 cents each time an electronic transfer between CUNY and students' accounts occurs. The transfers will primarily consist of students' financial aid checks. The campuses would take 50 cents of every maintenance fee and 10 cents for every ATM charge.

This first alternative reveals much about the flavor of a contract CUNY administrators agreed to for their students. It provides administrators—again, not students—with the option of waiving CUNY's portion of the royalties from the \$3 maintenance charge. But either way, CUNY gets screwed. If the administration chooses to waive its 50-cent royalty, then CUNY doesn't get money, one of the supposed benefits of CUNYCard. But if administrators opt for their portion of the banking royalties, then that means administrators made a decision that forced students to pay more when they didn't have to. The contract is written in such a way that any way administrators choose their royalties, Citibank takes in \$2.50 of the maintenance fee.

The second alternative, which a recent *New York* magazine article on CUNYCard indicates many campuses are choosing, would likely rob students at a slower pace. The option eliminates the maintenance fee for student accounts that receive financial aid from CUNY. And students receive 4 free ATM transactions a semester when their financial aid is deposited. Administrators have also apparently renegotiated the contract in such a way that the 80-cent transfer charge has been eliminated.

Still, it reeks. The other fees remain and the campuses accumulate royalties only after \$2.50 is siphoned off by Citibank. With such a royalty

arrangement it would be to administrators' advantage to encourage the extraction of more fees from students beyond the \$2.50 cut-off point. After all, it is only then that the campuses start to accumulate royalties. (It is unclear whether the \$2.50 threshold holds for each month or each semester.)

Administrators make such a big deal over the 8—count them, 8!—free ATM transactions. But if students use their ATM cards twice a week, that's 104 transactions a year. So Citibank would be charging such students \$96 a year to get to their own financial aid. Citibank doesn't even charge its regular customers such ATM fees.

Other fees appear to be in store for students who agree to pen up a Citibank account on their CUNYCard. There are the standard fees for over-drawing an account. Another includes a \$2.50 service fee charged for "dormant accounts". A May 14, 1996 Citicorp memo to William Anslow, SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and Management, defines dormant accounts as "cardholder accounts which show no activity for a consecutive period of three months."

Why charge \$2.50 for these accounts? According to the Citicorp memo, "The objective is to stimulate account transaction activity." In other words, the aim of the charge is to push students into using the ATM machines, a service for which Citibank will charge \$1 fees. Moreover, any interest dormant accounts earn will apparently be taken from the student accounts and given to the campus. "Balance earnings, if any, on such accounts will be paid to the campus," reads the memo.

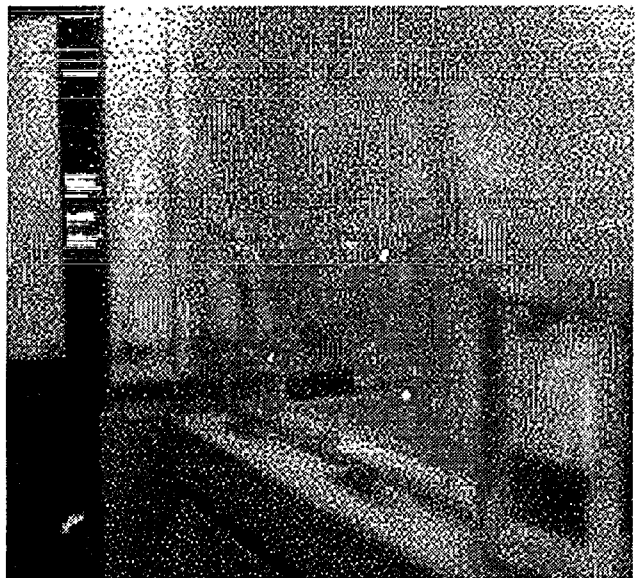
Administrators' Push-in Robbery.

The litany of fees are particularly disturbing because up until only last year a part-time branch of Chemical Bank operated in the basement of Shepard Hall on the City College campus. Until 1990, the bank was full-time. Since 1990 it opened only 8 to 10 times a year to cash students' Pell Grants and other student aid checks. Just last April, the branch was robbed of at least \$600,000 by two daring bank robbers who pulled off a push-in robbery early one morning. The bank was subsequently closed for good.

The kicker about the Chemical branch is that it cashed student aid checks *without charge*, according to several students who receive financial aid. The state presumably paid Chemical Bank for the service. With CUNYCard, the charge for cashing financial aid checks will be pushed off onto students.

We need to ask, Why was the bank closed? Because of the robbery? Or because CUNY terminated its agreement with Chemical knowing full well CUNYCard was coming in and Citibank would have exclusive access to CUNY students. Recall, CUNYCard has been in development behind closed administrators' doors for two years.

Another suspect characteristic of the card's fees is that terms of the contract can be renegotiated. The contract reads, "At either party's request...the parties shall negotiate in good faith a different Royalty and fee structure." Since students have had



Now-closed Chemical Bank branch in City College's Shepard Hall from which students were once able to cash their financial aid checks without charge. Photos by R. Wallace

no input on CUNYCard at all so far, they should be wary of any efforts by the two parties of the contract to restructure the fees.

According to Mark Piotrowsky of the Center for Campus Organizing, a national clearinghouse for information about student organizing, administrators pursued a gradual implementation of additional fees for a similar bank-sponsored ID card at his alma mater, the University of Florida. "It quickly became clear it was a scam to steal money from students. The administration would force students to get a new card every few years because they would introduce new features to the card. They'd charge students \$10 each time," stated Piotrowsky in a phone interview. The technology for CUNYCard and SUNYCard was developed at nearby Florida State University by the MCI-operated Card Application Technology Center (CATC). CATC provided SUNY administrators consulting services for SUNYCard.)

Citibank's proposal for SUNYCard lays out a similar implementation strategy for the card, one that maximizes money-making. "The objective of this strategy is to distribute the card to every user and begin a user stream to fund additional applications and equipment," the proposal reads. "The next step would be to arrange the banking applications with the users and establish a means to efficiently penetrate the user discretionary income market. Again this service will not impact current services and provides an additional revenue stream to the individual university at no cost."

The fees are exemplary of the sleazy nature of the CUNYCard contract. It's a no-lose situation for Citibank. The bank invests practically nothing into the project. The contract shows the CUNY campuses need to provide Citibank and MCI precious space on campus at no charge so the companies can produce CUNYCard. Contrary to the proposal's assurances that costs are to be minimized, the campuses must pay for all the computer equipment and software for the card system, the maintenance of the hardware, the labor the companies provide, and additional stock for the card, among other expenses. Of course, when the contract says "the campus" pays, it ultimately means students do from the bank and telecard royalties the campuses accumulate.

CUNY picks up the charges for the card implementation and gets little of the profit. The money CUNY does take in comes from the pockets of some of the country's poorest college students. "Access and excellence" indeed! CUNY's motto now only applies to corporations who now have been provided by administrators access to an excellent way of making profits off the poor and working class.

Soaking the Fringe Economy

But why does the world's second largest bank, with approximately \$200 billion in assets and already raking in \$1.5 billion a year, want to get involved with a university whose students are poorer than their national counterparts? According to *Merchants of Misery: How Corporate America Profits from Poverty*, a new book edited by Michael Hudson, Citibank—like its financial comrades Nationsbank, Bank America, American Express, and Western Union among others—have entered the poverty industry.

Sixty million Americans are basically shut out of conventional banking venues. These Americans must instead engage the services of pawn shops, check-cashing outlets, rent-to-own stores, and high-interest mortgage lenders. As the economy drives more Americans into destitution—the *New York Times* reports personal bankruptcies have skyrocketed to 1 in 100 families—the market of individuals seeking loans balloons. Citibank is attempting to tap into this \$200 to \$300 billion-a-year fringe economy. There's money to be made ripping off the burgeoning classes of poor and struggling working people who have no choice but to engage in such services when food needs to be placed on the table or a tuition bill paid.

Citibank is in essence positioning itself as a high-end pawnbroker. As tuition increases, more students seek recourse in financial aid either from the state or private sources. According to a report issued by the office of Congressman Charles Schumer, the debt burden on CUNY students has increased 34% from 1990 to 1995, twice the inflation rate. Says Schumer, "As tuition costs continue to skyrocket, graduates are completing school with crushing debt burdens which now equal over half of their likely starting wages."

If Governor Pataki's proposed budget is passed, CUNY students will face a \$400 increase in tuition to \$3600 a year and \$175 million cut in TAP, the state's financial aid program. That would increase pressure on students to seek private loans. Presumably, as CUNY's approved financial institution, Citibank would have an inside track in getting CUNY students to take its loans over those of other banks.

According to 1995-96 edition of *City Facts*, a compendium of statistics about City College put out by CCNY's Office of Institutional Research, 70% (!) of City College undergraduates already receive financial aid at an average of \$4,559 per student. Suppose that only 40% of CUNY students received such financial aid, at a conservative \$3500. Well, you do the math: 40% of 206,000 students is 82,400 students x \$3500 = \$288,400,000. That's an annual student financial aid economy of nearly \$300 million from which Citibank is trying to gouge big pieces. Again, it's a conservative estimate only.

In other words, with these CUNYCard fees CUNY administrators are helping transfer millions of dollars from the poor to the rich. "This [card] is taking money out of poor people's pockets," says Terrence Podolsky, CCNY Day Student Government Vice President for University Affairs. And some serious money at that.

According to *City Limits*, Citicorp is implementing a similar debit card for welfare recipients. The bank is equipping a consortium of seven northeast states, including New York, with an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) system at a cost of \$1 billion. Citibank will impose 85-cent fees on welfare recipients for each account transaction that exceeds four free withdrawals per month.

Apartheid's Bank

CUNY's choice of Citibank is particularly disturbing as the bank is a racist, anti-student, union-busting corporation. Citibank's record reads like a prospectus for a company that should not be associated with CUNY.

In October 1995, the Campaign for an America that Works awarded Citibank its "Hog of the Month" award for the bank's lobbying efforts to kill direct student lending. The federal loans permit students to access loans directly from the government without fees or immediate interest. Citibank lobbied against these education-saving loans because it wishes to force students to receive federal loans through commercial banks. That would allow the banks to gouge students with fees.

In 1989, Citibank tightened credit for students seeking to obtain U.S. guaranteed loans through the bank. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Citibank drafted guidelines to deny loans to students at schools whose default rates topped 25%. Wrote the Journal, "[The policy] would potentially hit hundreds of trade schools and colleges that cater to low-income students and minorities. Federal surveys have shown that several branches of the City University of New York... have default rates above 25%." In other words, Citibank created a policy that discriminated against CUNY students.

In 1988, Citibank denied some University of California students credit cards because of the students' ages and majors. According to the *Oakland Tribune*, Citibank had a policy of denying cards to humanities majors because these students supposedly had poorer credit histories, a policy other banks at that time did not have. "They've targeted [their services at] student groups they think will have higher-paying jobs, such as MBA students," the *Tribune* quoted a Stanford business professor.

Such discrimination extends to Citibank's lending practices. A December 1994 study from the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs found black applicants were rejected four times more often than white applicants. A 1992 Federal Reserve Board study broke down the lending rates by state. According to the Board, whites were granted loans 4.2% to 30.6% more often than blacks. In New York, whites' applications were accepted 87.9% of the time, blacks' only 69.3%, a differential of 18.6%. The California-Nevada Interfaith Committee on Community Reinvestment gave Citicorp, Citibank's parent company, a grade of "F" for its home improvement lending and refinancing policies for low-income residents: African Americans and Latinos.

This discrimination is part and parcel of

Citibank's corporate practice. In the past five years Citibank has undergone massive restructuring, firing thousands of employees and closing down hundreds of data centers. Branch closings were also pursued and particularly hit New York City's lower-income Black and Latino communities. One Bronx Councilwoman accused Citibank of "total insensitivity" to the neighborhood she represented.

New York City Public Advocate Mark Green issued a report just last May declaring that Citibank's recent spate of branch closings disproportionately hit poor and lower-income neighborhoods. Green accused Citibank of "financial segregation". CUNY's involvement with Citibank is akin to assisting a company which still operates in apartheid South Africa. Interestingly enough, Citibank was the last American bank to divest itself of apartheid South Africa. The bank didn't leave until 1987, years after an anti-apartheid divestiture campaign had begun.

Privatized Eyes are Watching You.

How will Citibank, MCI and CUNY communicate information about students' accounts and IDs? MCI has created a common database. Under a section called "Creation of Database," the procurement document reads, "[CUNY is] required to provide MCI with the population (various pieces of data) that will be carded at the event; students, faculty and staff". The "event" refers to the days on which students on a particular campus are "required" to hand in their old ID's in exchange for the CUNYCard.

What kind of data did CUNY give MCI? According to the procurement document, student and faculty Social Security numbers and home addresses were required to be reported to MCI. Home phone numbers were "optional," as was "PIN Verify" which the document listed would be received from "Bank". That these corporations have access to this information and gained it without student or faculty consent is disturbing.

Also disturbing is that CUNY administrators and security may have access to a database which could hold students' bank records. CUNY Security has within the last several years been trained by the NYPD Disorder Control Unit to arrest and deter student demonstrations, conducted surveillances of CUNY students at off-campus demonstrations, monitored "key" activists, arrested students demonstrating peacefully on their own campuses, brought guns onto campuses against the wishes of campus presidents, and kept speakers invited by students from entering their campus. CUNY has also requested that the NYPD notify East 80th Street anytime university employees are arrested off-campus. A racist record.

Given CUNY Security's record, students should be worried that CUNY will use CUNYCard to monitor and harass them. Moreover, given Citibank and MCI's records for scamming, for union-busting, and for pursuing discriminatory practices against selected classes of individuals, no one should be surprised if these companies accommodate CUNY's desires to monitor student accounts. Such accommodation might conceivably include the divulging of student banking records, the slowdown of loan processing or the addition of fees.

In fact, Citibank has earned a record in this regard. An August 1996 *USA Today* article details how Citibank divulged confidential customer information to Nevada law enforcement. A December 1994 *American Banker* article reports that Citibank kept "suspicious" accounts open while law enforcement monitored them for money laundering.

(Something not done however for now disgraced Raul Salinas, brother of former Mexican president Carlos Salinas. Brother Raul laundered hundreds of millions of dollars of cartel drug money through Citibank.)

Sometimes Citibank takes the violation of privacy entirely into its own hands. In August of 1993, Citibank guards at an Austrian branch detained and strip-searched 21 Taiwanese tourists who were mistakenly suspected of holding counterfeit credit cards. As CUNY has fundamentally equated activism with criminality, its partnership with these companies will be an unholy alliance indeed.

CUNY officials deny any malevolent intent. "That is a combination of paranoia uninhibited by a lack of knowledge, and an example of no good deed going unpunished," *New York* magazine quoted Jay Hershenson, CUNY's Vice-Chancellor for University Relations.

The university claims the contract provides for

protecting student and faculty privacy. The contract declares that the school alone owns the information in the database. The "Contractor acknowledges it is not permitted to use or permit others to use any of said information for any purpose except directory information as defined in the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act," the contract reads.

But how would one enforce such a provision? And why should CUNY have the right to provide these companies' student and faculty "directory information," which presumably includes addresses and phone numbers? When asked for CUNY's plans to enforce Citibank and MCI's compliance with the Privacy Act, CUNY Central responded that no such document exists.

Problems with administrator assurances extend beyond lack of law enforcement (CUNY could never or would never police a contractual partner). As reported by Chris Day in the Hunter Envoy, a Hunter Senate sub-committee issued a withering report on CUNYCard. The report criticizes the financial aspects of the card, noting debit cards do not have the same consumer protections as credit cards. (If a debit card is stolen, the cardholder is liable for the costs incurred by the thief.)

The report also describes how the card actually operates at Baruch College: "the CUNYCard is required for entrance to the buildings, the libraries, the washrooms and the offices. Each use is instantly recorded on a computer and appears in real time on a screen in the security room. This means that anyone can be tracked in, out, and around a building complex by administration." Day correctly calls the description "chilling".

The Citibank proposal for SUNYCard calls the tracking capacity "User audit trail" whereby "the system...tracks operations performed by all system users." Moreover, "Audit trail reports can be formatted by user, date, time or features accessed. Audit trail reports can be printed out or viewed on the screen." (Emphasis added.) "Formatted by user" indicates that the administrations can have certain individuals segregated in CUNYCard's computer system for monitoring.

The technology has developed to the point where science fiction paranoia à la 1984 can no longer be dismissed out of hand. Newsday recently reported Citibank is working on ATM cards without PIN numbers. Instead, accounts will be accessed by scanning card holder "eye-prints". The system would presumably work by scanning the individual's eye and matching it with the "retinal template" stored in the Citibank computer. It's not so far-fetched, folks. The Citibank proposal for SUNYCard—and by extension, CUNYCard—includes a possible "Biometrics login" where "the user enters a logon name, and then the system prompts for a signature or a fingerprint." The proposal declares "fingerprint scanners are the only fully supported biometric devices." But, "if appropriate hardware and software were provided, voice recognition or retinal scans would also be possible."

"Okay, the technology's there, but so what?" a skeptic might ask, "Does that show the administration would use it for any evil use?" Besides, the anti-student histories of CUNY Security and the CUNY administrations—enemies lists and all—such bank-sponsored university cards already have a record of privacy violations.

Jeremy Smith is a former coordinator of the Center for Campus Organizing and currently works for the Boston-based Immigrant Workers' Center. While a student journalist at the University of Florida, where a CUNYCard-like ID is in place, he was busted for covering a student take-over of the administration building. Students of color had taken over the building in response to race problems on the Gainesville campus. Soon after the take-over ended, he received a letter from the University of Florida Registrar: "They informed me that the state Attorney General, investigating the take-over, requested and received a computer file of my ID photograph," said Smith in a telephone interview.

The CUNYCard ID photographs, signatures and fingerprints can be saved as TIFF, EPS, or JPEG files, among other formats. Anyone who knows much about computers would realize that such files can be easily used and moved across many computer programs.

The Invisible Government.

As the "carding event" draws closer on any one

CUNY campus, a policy of stick and carrot is pursued.

Students are barraged with marketing for CUNYCard from campus administrators, Citibank and MCI representatives. The contract requires CUNY administrators to help Citibank and MCI market their products on campus. According to the procurement document, "In accordance with the CUNYCard contract, the Implementation Team will propose marketing plans for telecommunications and financial service options approved by the designated campus contact. The plan will include suggestions for promotional and awareness materials for publication across various media," including student newspapers.

The document continues, "Use of such marketing material will have prior campus approval." Unlike the tabling done by credit card companies just outside CUNY campuses, this attack on student wallets will be launched on campus, inside the buildings, and with the integral support of CUNY administrators.

One leaflet to be passed to students on the carding days strikes a golly-gee-whiz tone. For example, "Station 3. Line for getting picture taken. Patience! Read the Citibank literature!" In a devious move, the leaflet asks students to "fill out the Citibank application," at Station 5 before informing students the Citibank portion is optional: "Station 6. Give back the clipboard and your Citibank account information (if you are signing up)." Students are more likely to open up a Citibank account if they've already filled out the application.

Gifts are promised as well. "MCI staff will soon...give you your CUNYCard and some information about MCI's calling card and home long distance service features. They'll also tell you about a terrific gift that is part of the card!" exclaims the leaflet. A Citibank gift is promised as well.

"That's it! Not bad, huh?" the leaflet ends. Gosh, that's soooo cool, huh? The procurement document shows a layout of the carding event floor plan. Some of the stations are called "capture stations," where MCI and Citibank reps can "capture" old ID's and begin the ritual of fleecing students.

The stick portion of the implementation campaign includes placing notices around the campuses warning students that the new card is required. "All students are required to have in their possession the new ID Card," one Medgar Evers flier reads. A York College poster warns, "There will be NO validation of I.D. cards for the Spring 1997 semester. York College & The City University of New York will issue a CUNYCard to all registered students in April."

The administrations at Queensborough and Medgar Evers have used the stick on adjuncts. Adjuncts who refuse the new card are not allowed to pick up their teaching pay checks. "You can't collect the money you've already earned," says Terrence Blackman of the Grad Center's math department. "They sent out memos saying 'You won't be able to pick up your check.' They were really serious. I was forced to get the CUNYCard because I've got a little baby at home and I don't want anyone messing with my money," he adds.

Though students and faculty are hit with an advertising blitzkrieg and threats only days in advance of the final implementation of the card, decisions about implementation are arrived at by administrators months before and without student and faculty input. An attendance list for a November 12 meeting of the City College "implementation committee" lists a sales rep from MCI along with CCNY administrators like Director of Security Timothy Hubbard, Anne Ryan from Finance and Management, and Wendy Thornton of the Finely Student Center, the administration-run office of student events. Other attendees included representatives of the Bursar's office, Telecom, the ID office, the Registrar, and the library. No students or faculty.

This invisible governing indicates that the process of introducing the card to CUNY campuses does not involve educating students, faculty and staff. That would entail providing information about CUNYCard so students, faculty and staff can decide on their own whether they wish to have the card in the first place. Instead, the implementation process involves domesticating students and faculty to the dictates of a CUNY contract. After two years in hidden development by cabals of administrators, campus technocrats and corporate goons, CUNYCard is being introduced to CUNY students as a magnificent *fait accompli*.

Students and faculty have reacted strongly

against the card. "I'm not getting this card. And I advise everybody else not to get it either," says Terrence Podolsky of City College's Day Student Government. "There is no reason why we need to get this card," he adds. This past December, the DSG passed a resolution against CUNYCard. The faculty senate at City also passed a resolution as have the Hunter and York faculty, the University Faculty Senate, the Hunter Student Government, the Doctoral Students' Council at the Graduate Center, and the United Students Senate (the university-wide student government).

CUNY has already braced itself for such adverse reactions. In a November 19 memo to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Elsa Nunez, Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Robert Diaz declares any students or faculty who refuse the card are breaking the law and will be dealt with accordingly. Diaz cites the Henderson Rules of New York State's Education Law which declares members of campus communities must present ID to college officials upon request. Diaz continues, "[S]tudents who refuse to present their CUNYCard (identification card) when requested may be subjected to disciplinary charges." Such charges might include anything from suspension to expulsion. Diaz makes no mention of the type of discipline CUNY has reserved for faculty who refuse to comply.

CUNY's contractual obligations to promote the bank and telecard portions of CUNYCard and Diaz's punishment proclamations clearly exemplify how the state and its laws are used to protect the interests of the rich against the majority of the poor and working class.

Giving Notice.

Clearly, if one or a few students refuse to turn in their old ID's for the new CUNYCard, they will likely be swiftly made an example of by CUNY administrators. How, then, would any concerted effort by student activists to stop CUNYCard from infecting all the CUNY campuses be accomplished?

"The best thing to do is to keep doing what we've always been doing here at City College—try to organize students and faculty against the card, hold forums and spread the word about CUNYCard. That's what has made the administration give pause and delay implementation," responds Keeanga Taylor, a history major at City and a member of the International Socialist Organization. The card implementation for City College, previously slated for March 17, has been postponed by CCNY administrators until next semester. The card implementation has also been delayed at York College because of student and faculty outcries.

"In the long run though," Taylor continues, "we need to take collective action against an administration which declares that if you don't use [the Card] then we're going to dump you out of school, we're going to give you hell if you don't comply with a contract CUNY negotiated with Citibank without any student input whatsoever."

"This may be a dangerous first step in the privatization of our public institution," says Professor William Crain of City College's Psychology Department. "Private corporations don't have the needs of all students at heart. Their main concern is profits. I hope students, staff, and faculty will speak out against the CUNYCard."

What do local administrators think of such efforts to stop CUNYCard? On the possibility of stopping CUNYCard altogether, CCNY Vice President for Finance and Management, Nathan Dickmeyer, stated in an interview in The Campus, a City College student newspaper, "There are questions about the choices of Citibank and MCI...[but] [w]e cannot eliminate, discriminate against suppliers other than [by] substantive or financial means. To do so is illegal. The procedures to choose the supplier is done at the state level with state lawyers."

It's the usual administration excuse that "Our hands are tied. There's nothing we can do." But there are always ways to kick racist, anti-student, anti-union companies off-campus. It's just that Dickmeyer and other administrators embrace Citibank's agenda and have no intentions of bouncing their invited guest.

In fact, the contract allows several ways to escape. For example, a section entitled "Participation" proclaims, "Affiliated Institutions within the State of New York may elect, but shall not be required, to participate in the SUNYCard System..." An "Affiliated Institution" is defined as "an institution of higher edu-

cation, public or private, multicampus or single, located in the State of New York...which elects to implement on its campus...the SUNYCard System..." The definition seems to allow each CUNY campus to opt-out of the contract if it so chooses.

Under the "Termination and other remedies" section, the contract reads, "SUNY [and-by extension CUNY] may also elect, at its sole option, without liability: (1) to terminate this Agreement and its obliga-

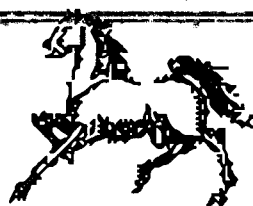
tion hereunder, in whole or in part, by giving Notice..."

Sounds good. Let's give them notice: Get out you racist, thieving bastards! What these sections of the contract show is...that all those bleatings from CUNY administrators claiming that there's nothing they can do



Your
Classified
Ad here!

PUBLIC POLICY SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT



WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FORMING AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PUBLIC POLICY ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS. THE FOCUS OF THIS GROUP WILL BE ON PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES - URBAN, COMPARATIVE, CATEGORICAL. THIS ASSOCIATION WILL:

- ◆ SUPPORT AND COORDINATE MONTHLY SEMINARS ON CURRENT OR ONGOING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES BY DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS (beginning Fall 1997)
- ◆ ACTIVELY NETWORK AND INCORPORATE CUNY CAMPUSES WHICH SUPPORT GRADUATE LEVEL DISCIPLINES SO AS TO ACCESS RESOURCES AND INPUT FOR A COHESIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF PUBLIC POLICY
- ◆ PROMOTE OTHER RELEVANT SEMINARS AND PUBLICATIONS THAT ADDRESS PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES
- ◆ FACILITATE A FORUM FOR PUBLIC DISCOVERY, LINKAGE AND DISCOVERY OF INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES GERMANE TO PUBLIC POLICY

All Graduate students are welcome. For more information on the Association and on upcoming planning sessions please contact:
Yvonne Reynolds 718-267-1788; e-mail yreynold@gmail.gc.cuny.edu OR
Christina Katsanos 212-488-2304

ATTENTION CUNY GRADUATE STUDENTS!!

GET MORE DONE, HAVE MORE FUN.
HELP FORGE A CUNY COMMUNITY.

ARE YOU AWARE THAT THERE IS A PLACE YOU CAN GO FOR 24 HOURS A DAY,
7 DAYS A WEEK?

25 WEST 43 STREET, NORTH BUILDING
4TH FLOOR, ROOM 400

A cool air conditioned place to study during hot summer months.

Three brand new high tech Web connected PC and Mac computers, CD-Rom, and state-of-the art laser printer and scanner.

Photocopies at three cents per page.

Half priced tickets to Sony or Cinneplex movie theaters.

Free coffee, tea, and "Poland Spring" water.

Offices of the Doctoral Students' Council, student organizations, and The Advocate.

For 24 hour access, please pick up your key for \$1.00 at the DSC Office Monday through Friday, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm .
Call (212) 642 - 2851 for further information.