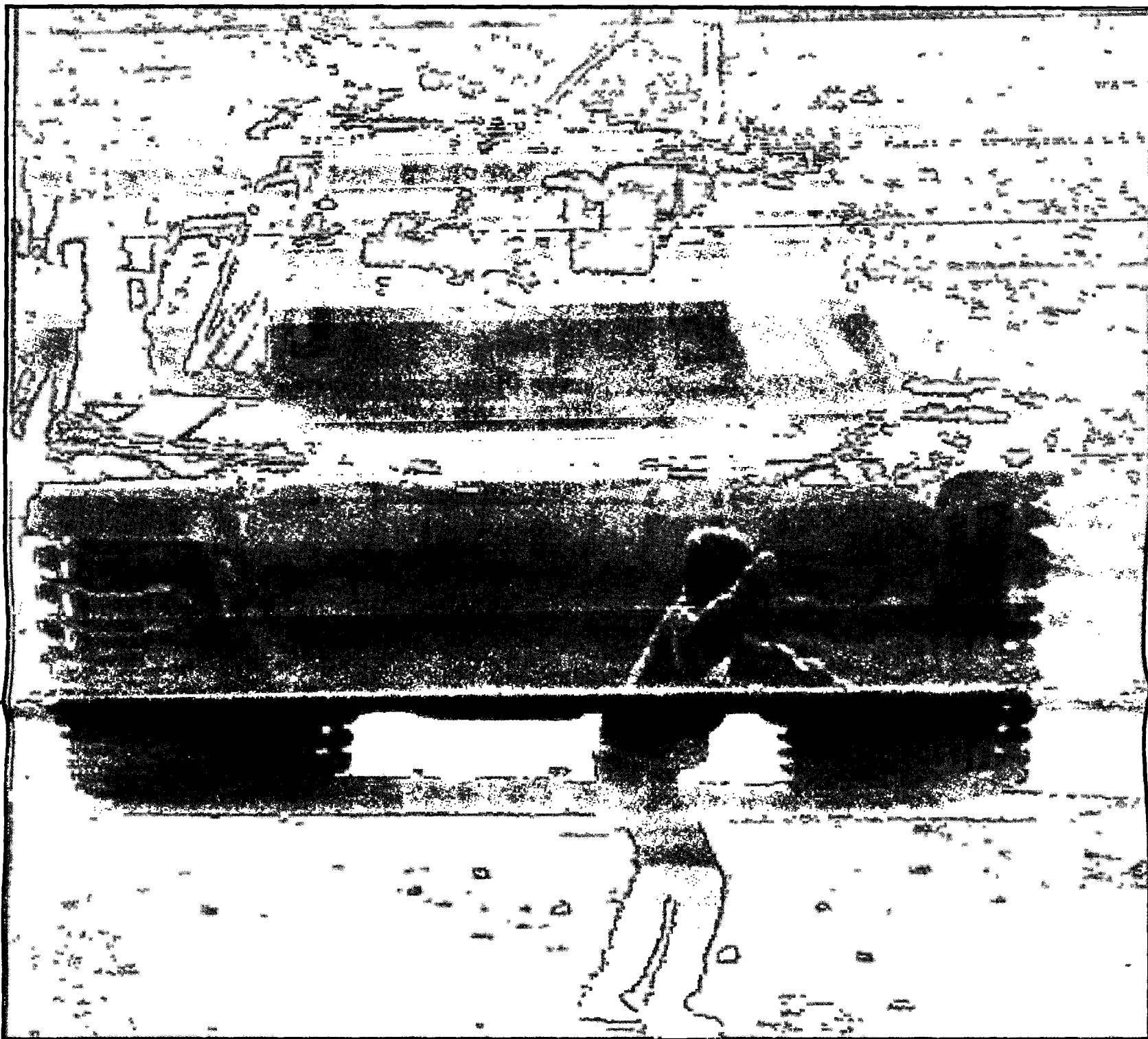


# ADVOCATE

CUNY GRAD CENTER

12/2000



INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTER

## U.S. Corporate Media Distort Realities of Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

media critique by Andrew Kennis, p. 14

CUNY students defend the "people's lawyer", p.11

**THE ADVOCATE INTERVIEWS NOAM CHOMSKY, P. 7**

## TO THE READER

By Mark Petras

Regarding Nassima Abdelli's piece in the November/December 1999 issue of the *Advocate* titled "Conspiracy at CCNY: A Case of Forgery, Defamation and Fallacy," it recently has come to the attention of the *Advocate* staff that one of the people named in the article -- Stephen Leberstein -- denies Ms. Abdelli's claims about him. Mr. Leberstein denies that he ever said the quotes Ms. Abdelli attributes to him, he denies Ms. Abdelli's claim that he coerced her to give certain grades to certain students, and he denies having taken part in any "conspiracy" against Ms. Abdelli. The *Advocate* fully acknowledges Mr. Leberstein's position, and the *Advocate* does not take a stance on whose version of events is correct. All pieces in the *Advocate* reflect the views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Advocate* staff or the Doctoral Students' Council. Moreover, the *Advocate* consistently has allowed and encouraged anyone who objects to the content of any *Advocate* piece to write their own article or letter to the editor. The *Advocate* is dedicated to fairness in publishing a wide range of viewpoints. Lastly, in September 2000 Ms. Abdelli was hired as the *Advocate*'s managing editor. In the interest of all due objectivity and fairness to Mr. Leberstein, Ms. Abdelli did not participate in the writing of this message to the reader, nor was she consulted during the writing of this piece.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CCNY MESSENGER

By Mark Petras

This past May the City College *Messenger* received acclaim from the Campus Alternative Journalism Project Awards when it was deemed the best campus publication with a budget of under \$10,000. The *Advocate* applauds the *Messenger* for this significant achievement, especially considering that the *Messenger* receives no school funding. Ever since City College unjustly defunded the paper in 1998, the *Messenger* staff has paid all publication costs. This dedication to student expression is admirable, and the *Advocate* wishes the *Messenger* well in its ongoing effort to provide a student voice in the face of budgetary obstacles.



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WRITE FOR THE ADVOCATE

## PUB CRAWL

By Mrs. Eleanor B. Tippler, M.Sc.

**E**ditor's note: The following piece provides reviews of the various bars in the Graduate Center neighborhood--essential information for students, professors, and all others looking for a place to relax after a hard school day.

**The Ginger Man**

11 East 36 Street

Beer prices range \$4 - \$9 and up

Overall Grad Student Grade: INC

**G**o at the right time, and this bar with its warm, wood-paneled walls, leather sofas, velvet curtains and extensive beer list is a quiet haven and could easily become your favorite mid-town place just to hang out, celebrate passing your second exam, or even meet a prof for a civilized drink. Go at the wrong time and you'll be thrust into a stentorian, smoky purgatory crowded with corporate suits and the drunk babes who haunt them. While we're tempted to keep it our little secret, it would be nice to run into a friendly face here from time to time. We've beaten the after-work rush for wonderful weekday afternoons and we're told that Saturday nights the place is dead until about 11 p.m., making it perfect for that post-library beer. Unless, of course, having to choose from the 66 beers on tap is simply too much for your Schopenhauer-addled mind.

**The Catwalk**

2 West 35 Street

Beer Prices: (are you kidding? shell out for a pretty drink when among the pretty people \$6 - \$13)

Overall Grad Student Grade: C+/B-

**W**hile our primary association with the Catwalk may be that of Graduate Center students turning a cold-and-dismissive shoulder to it as they hurtle past to the subway, we recently ventured there with a colleague on a rainy evening. After the post-work crowd empties out (and, perhaps, particularly on a rainy and forbidding night), it's tolerable and even peaceful. The atmosphere tends to the sterile and self-conscious, but the bartender and wait-staff were very friend-

ly. The prices are a little stiff, but then most are the people who hang out here. When sparsely populated, the place has a sleazy, over-the-top feel to it that is not impossible to appreciate and, if all else fails, one can always divert conversation (which is usually possible) from the dissertation-route by commiserating on how miserable the suits and haute-couture types, that usually fill the place, must be.

**Howard Johnson's**

1551 Broadway

Drink Prices \$3.95 - \$5.95

Overall Grad Student Grade: B+

**Y**ou're more likely now to get robbed by Mickey Mouse than a transvestite hooker in Times Square. Junkies have been chased out of Port Authority. And, gosh, there's a multiplex (sans porn!) on every corner. You know, New York just ain't what it used to be. Howard Johnson's, though, harks back to a seedier day without the nostalgia, ersatz gushiness, or middle America kitsch of the "new Olde" places in the neighborhood. Skip the tourists eating shrimp platters in the front and saddle up to the "cocktail" bar in the back. The regulars there are pleasantly soused, despite the free little noshes (pigs in a blanket are our faves!) put out in chaffing dishes to help soak up the cheap liquor. Prices here during happy hour are the cheapest around, and so must be the bartenders. We once asked for their house scotch and soda and spat out Coke and a turpentine-like liquid. Stick with simple drinks and you'll be singing HoJo's orange praises until the wee hours.

**O'Reilly's**

21 West 35 Street

Beer Prices \$3.50 - \$5

Overall Grad Student Grade: A-

**T**here are really few requirements for a favorite bar, but alas, like finding the perfect pair of jeans, actually finding one is pretty darn tough. O'Reilly's comes oh-so-close, with decent beer prices, good beer on tap, and a guarantee of a seat just about anytime. But it lacks that je ne sais quoi that makes a really good

neighborhood bar great. Really, would you go out of your way to go to O'Reilly's? Bring out-of-town guests there to show them how cool you are? Maybe we've been spoiled by Jimmy's (140 West 44th Street) with its divey air, its handpicked jazz, soul and blues jukebox, and Jimmy's jovial flirtations which somehow seems more innocently charming than those of drunken Mr. O'Reilly (perhaps because Jimmy's wife always keeps a hawk's eye on him). With the sexiest bartenders in New York and a parade of the buff young boxers Jimmy trains, there was always plenty of eyecandy to savor. O'Reilly's may be clean enough to take your professors to -- and indeed, we know of one seminar that actually meets upstairs -- it still feels like a place to have just one (ok, maybe two) drinks before moving on, perhaps even to Jimmy's.

**Caridad Restaurant**

18 East 33 Street

Sangria prices: \$3

Overall Grad Student Grade: B

**G**od bless the Spanish--as colonizers they might have been somewhat less than gracious, but as bar-keepers they sure know how to make us drinkers feel right at home. Order a cold fino in a bar a hot afternoon in Andalucia, and like magic a kind waiter will bring you a little pincho to tide you over til supper. We don't have any idea whether or not the culture of tapas, those yummy little morsels the Spanish serve with their drinks, have anything to do with the way Dominicans drink, but we do know that Dominican restaurants have that same Spanish hospitality. Caridad, just around the corner from the Graduate Center, is just such a place, and a lot cheaper to get to than the south of Spain. One particularly celebratory night we shared a fruity pitcher of sangria and nibbled on rice and beans, plantains, and hearty chicken soup, as merengue music kept us tapping our toes. Muy Delicioso! Caridad has a hopping "after-work party" with live music on Fridays from 5-9 p.m., and you can bet you'll find us there, practicing for our language exam.



## ALL WE HAVE LOST

by Nassima Abdelli

On October 30, 1999, Professor Irving Hochberg passed away. He was sixty-four years old and for 25 years he had been the Executive Officer of the doctoral Program in Speech and Hearing Sciences at the Graduate School and University Center (CUNY).

He used his "consummate mastery of the art of administration", "good will, lightning quick wit, warm personality and educated palate" to make of the Speech and Hearing Science doctoral program at CUNY "one of the top doctoral education program in the nation." Many among us are grateful.

We remember him as "the heart and the soul" of this doctoral program, the "head of a prestigious vessel", "a man of many and varied interests", "a wonderful advisor", "the unceasing support for the students, faculty and staff" of this program. He exerted himself to address important educational issues in the discipline of Communication Sciences and Disorders and he devoted his tenure to "maintain the integrity of doctoral education in the Speech and Hearing Sciences" while "making it possible for people [faculty, staff and students] to work effectively." Many among us miss him.

When students or faculty members "seek counsel from one who has our best interests in mind", or when promises of financial stability cannot be met, his absence becomes unbearable. And for some students "finishing without him seems a travesty". Many among us find it increasingly difficult.

Many of us feared that this unique and "homy" doctoral program would change forever following his untimely death: we knew that we owed him the apparent peaceful environment in which we could work and study; we knew that he maintained political feuds behind closed doors; we knew that he had at heart students' financial stability; we knew that his last moments were spent "making sure the program occupied the space it needed in its new location" sacrificing for us plans of taking a sabbatical.

And we have inherited the space. But we have lost our leadership and our spiritual voice. And now the corridors resonate with holler.

### A COLLECTION OF POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTES (SHORTENED FOR SPACE RESTRICTION)

The Graduate School and University Center has named a new Distinguished Scholars Dissertation Award the Irving Hochberg Dissertation Fellowship in the Sciences. The first recipient Hanita Havron was awarded \$10,000. To perpetuate his legacy, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation is also sponsoring the "Dreams and Possibilities" campaign in honor of the memory of Dr. Irving Hochberg. As of September 7, 2000, \$26,050 has been collected. The funds will serve to support students and faculty members in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the United States. On this first year anniversary, let us contribute to this campaign and thereby consolidate Irving Hochberg's past efforts to raising the standards in doctoral education in this field. (Please contact Ms. Minghetti at [nminghetti@asha.org](mailto:nminghetti@asha.org).)

And let the words of his wife, friends, colleagues and students remind us of his vocational devotion to our discipline and to the Speech and Hearing Sciences doctoral program at the City University of New York.

## A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR IRVING HOCHBERG

By Nassima Abdelli

Once was aboard a ship where no one knew who the Captain was. Disagreements among the crewmembers were visible to all. Keeping abreast of the latest feud was essential in order to navigate safely in the tormented waters. The passengers were the unfortunate hostages of these disputes and the boat was divided into territories, whose frontiers could only be crossed during moments of truce. What I had witnessed and experienced as an apprentice-researcher/professor had framed my vision of the academic community.

As I was help up aboard another liner, I was asked to speak to the Captain. That is how I met for first time Professor Irving Hochberg. He listened intently to what had compelled me to transfer in the course of my journey. He made a few jokes and finally turned to the line of brown books standing behind him like trophies of his own achievement. These were all the dissertations of the past 30 years. He was kind and soft-spoken but behind his velvet voice and piercing gaze, emanated a certain power.

As he welcomed me in the Speech and Hearing Sciences doctoral program, he told me that this program and its faculty members were of a different kind. He added that my experience as a student would be completely different. But doubts welled-up in my eyes and I looked away. He did not attempt to convince me. He knew that only good experiences could challenge the past ones and he seemed confident that I would find those under his wings.

As I stepped into the program, I entered a state of dissonance where my past and traumatic experience told me to keep at bay from his power. But my intuition sang a different tune. As a compromise, I resolved that I should pay him a courteous visit once a semester, convincing myself that it was not politically wise to ignore the Executive Officer. So I made up some excuse and would walk in his office. He would listen to me and say, "Oh, I know", indicating that he kept apprised of how everyone was doing in the department. His omniscience would leave me with nothing to speak about and I stood there frozen. But he would not let me simmer and he would find ways to reorient the conversation. I would listen more than I would speak.

With time, I discovered that behind his imposing title, a strong personality and an acute sense of professionalism lied a sensitive man whose luscious passion for cheeses and patisseries surpassed mine. I particularly loved to listen to him when he spoke of his vision of graduate student-life. In these moments, I would forget he was the Executive Officer. He believed that graduate student life need not be an atrocious experience and that students should be treated with respect like colleagues, whom he hoped they would become one day. To my surprise, he even spoke of not minding the idea of students living comfortably. I indulged in listening to what would be taken as subversive in that other doctoral program, I had left and his words would echo in my memory long after the discussions were over. Of course, I was tempted to believe in him, but my trust was steadily guarded by my past bad

experiences.

The news of the critical condition in which he was, left me so sad, that I had to acknowledge that as an Executive Officer he had made a difference in my life and that his program was indeed different. When Dr. Richard Schwartz spoke of writing letters to Irv Hochberg, I felt I had to tell Irv that he had convinced me. But I procrastinated writing and sending this letter. And when the blue letters on the Web page of the Graduate School announced his passing away, I was stricken with sadness and regrets of not having sent the letter earlier. But as I walked to pay my condolences to Irv's wife, Ellyn Seifert, it is as if she

knew of these regrets. She spoke of the letter he had received a few days before he died. I did not find words to alleviate her grief but she did a great job at soothing mine, just like her husband would have done in difficult times.

Before I entered the Speech and Hearing Sciences program, I could easily conceive that an Executive Officer could ruin a student's career. But Irving Hochberg used his power to serve us with an outmost devotion, giving this department at large his very last moments. He knew how to talk to each of us, keeping in sight the educational mission he had vested his career in, holding high the standards, preserving for our best interests the

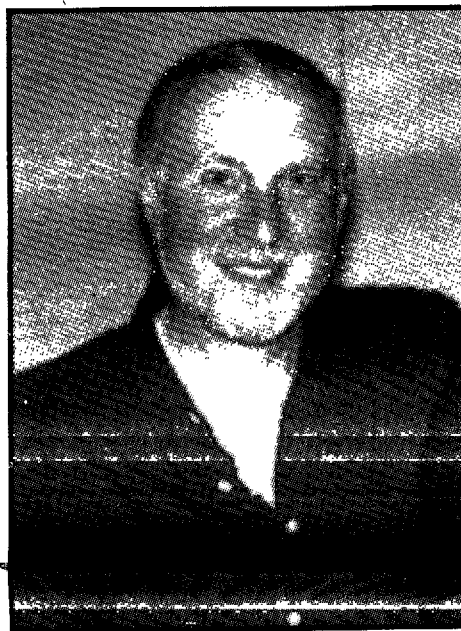
quality of our Education, giving us models after which we could refer to in our professional conduct.

With so many different personalities and egos and research interests in this doctoral program, Irv managed to keep it a safe and peaceful place for students to learn and to grow into mature and independent thinkers. We were sheltered from political disagreements between faculties and he ensured that conflicts were held behind closed doors for our sake. He bestowed upon many of us a sense of safety, some which has gone with him. I felt at ease going from one lab to another guided my curiosity, unrestrained by fear. Studying in a war-free zone was quite puzzling at start but these 2 years under his leadership were the most fun of my entire student life.

Irv treated students like first-class passengers. He saw that the students in this program had their needs addressed, be they personal, financial, professional or emotional. He never forgot that we were more than just students. He gave us the opportunity to be apprentice-researchers, teachers, party-organizers and even administrators by offering us the chance to sit on comities along with faculty members and to participate to the life of this program. After passing an exam, he would send us a letter to congratulate us. He took pride in every one's progress and achievements. We took pride in having him as an Executive Officer and in having him lead us through our journey until reaching our destination. He was an exceptional Executive officer, a wise and witty financial counselor, a caring advisor, a model of courage and stamina, the head of our prestigious vessel, the guarantor of our safety. The students and alumni of this program are his living legacy.

Of course, I miss his "I will take care of it", I miss his presence, his sense of humour.

But his image will continue to shine in the horizon of my thoughts.



## MEMORIAL SPEECH FOR MARCH 24, 2000

by Ellyn Seifert-Hochberg

We met on May 24, 1983. It was a blind date and he was planning to take me to one of his favorite restaurants near the South Street seaport. It was also the evening of the Brooklyn Bridge Centennial, and there were fireworks flashing across the sky and traffic detours off the FDR to foil our plans. What to do? Well, we switched to Plan B and went to a neighborhood place called Bella Vita; and it was the beginning of a beautiful life. I don't remember every detail of our conversation that evening, but I do recall that I quoted Mel Brooks and delighted him by knowing all the 2000-year-old man routines. It was then that I learned of his successful career as the 2000-year-old audiologist!

Irv's dream retirement scenario was to spend part of the year in London, letting the sabbatical serve as a blueprint. He subscribed to web sites listing reviews of the current London theater scene and regretted not being able to pick up and go to any or all of the plays he read about. On our last trip there 3 years ago, he planned all the entertainment which included 11 plays in 8 days plus fabulous dinners in the trendiest new restaurants. I know he put as much energy into planning his classes and organizing his program because it was the only way he knew how to do the job. His attention to every detail was impeccable. He truly

loved his work and was dedicated to his program and students. We talked of his taking another sabbatical, but he postponed these plans because of the impending move of the Graduate School. His first responsibility was to his students and colleagues and he expended a great deal of energy in making sure the program occupied the space it needed in its new location. And from what I've seen and heard, he achieved his goal.

This past summer, many of you sent Irv get well wishes with special messages of how he influenced your personal lives and careers. Your cards and letters were generous in their praise for his ability to listen to you as individuals. This personal attention was his trademark. He read each card and told me about each student. These cards are a wonderful legacy to share with his daughters and grandchildren. What a remarkable gift you gave him - your love and recognition... in his lifetime.

And on the subject of gifts, today would be an appropriate time for the secret admirer who left two silk designer ties from Bloomingdale's with our doorman to identify herself. It remains a mystery we just couldn't solve.

I know that Irv's presence is truly missed by all of us here today. It is an honor to have his many years of dedication to the Graduate School recognized in this service. Thank you all.

By Richard G. Schwartz, Ph.D.

It is unusual, in academics or any other endeavor, that anyone stays in a position for more than 25 years. But Irv Hochberg did just that, as the Executive Officer of the Ph.D. Program in Speech and Hearing Sciences at the CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

It is rare that an individual becomes the face, heart and soul of a program. Irv Hochberg did just that. He has been a friend, colleague, mentor and advisor to scores of students and faculty for over two decades. He has been the first contact and the unceasing source of support for the students, faculty and staff who arrived after he became Executive Officer.

It is even rarer that an individual puts aside his own research or career goals, and adopts as his personal agenda the good of a program.

Several weeks ago in a piece for the NY Times, Richard Russo recounted the story of a senior faculty member who listened patiently while a faculty adopted significant programmatic and curricular changes and then asked "What about me? How will this affect me." Spoken or unspoken, such questions are commonplace. Irv's question however, always was "How will this affect the program?" Our program and our professional lives are all the richer for his having asked. Irv has had a lasting impact on our lives and on our program and although he will be missed every day, he will be with us at every turn.

Over the last nine years Irv became my friend and my mentor on life at the Graduate Center and on life in NYC. Like all good teachers he has had a profound and lasting impact. As I have tried to fill his shoes over the last few months, I smile every time I do or say something, Irv-like. I already miss him deeply and will continue to miss him every day. However, every time I find a new restaurant, every time I drink a good glass of wine, and every time I get Hochberg seats for the theater, I will feel his shining presence.

## FRIENDS FELLOW FAC. SPEECH & HEARING SCIENTISTS

By Arthur Boothroyd, Ph.D.

My purpose is to praise him. Much has been written about the challenges encountered when successful professionals are promoted into administrative positions. Irv Hochberg handled those challenges with consummate skill. He dedicated himself to the task of running and expanding the Doctoral program-making it possible for people like me to work effectively. He also played a major role in the larger world of national professional issues - fighting hard to maintain the integrity of doctoral education in the Speech and Hearing Sciences. He accomplished all this without diminishing his scholarship.

And Irv Hochberg was my friend and colleague for almost 20 years. He was responsible for my becoming a member of the CUNY faculty, and his support and encouragement contributed immeasurably to the pleasure and success I found in that role.

I know I echo the feelings of those assembled today in tribute when I say that I miss Irv and that I think of him often.

## SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT IRV HOCHBERG

By Bob and Estelle Ringel

Irv was a wonderful husband who took great pleasure in the time he spent with Ellyn, in the love and respect of his daughters, and who found unlimited joy in being a grandfather. He will be missed by his family.

He told wonderfully funny jokes and would laugh heartily at jokes told by others, even if they weren't so funny. He will be missed by all of us who appreciate a good story well told.

He was demanding of himself in all matters of science and professional affairs, but understanding of colleagues and students who tried hard but just could not reach his level of intellect. He will be missed by his associates and the profession.

He was a university administrator of unique ability and common sense, allowing colleagues to find ways of personal expression yet bringing people together to achieve a consensus. He will be missed by his colleagues.

He was a connoisseur of fine foods and beverages but also enjoyed with gusto a Nathan's hot dog and a knish. He will be missed by chefs and vintners throughout the world.

Irv was an extraordinarily decent human being who understood that friendship is based on a willingness to give more than you expect to receive. He will be missed by his many friends.

# A PISTOL IN THE PARK

## NYPD OFFICER PULLS GUN ON GRAD CENTER STUDENT IN ST. NICHOLAS PARK

By Rob Wallace

In the early morning hours of July 8, 2000, the life of a Biology graduate student was threatened by a New York police officer in nearby St. Nicholas Park. The incident began what was to become a 23-hour nightmare for the student who was jailed and later sentenced to a day of community service on what appears to be false testimony by the officer.

Richard Sorrentino, 33, is a doctoral student in Biology at City College. He is a graduate of New York University. He spent six years in the U.S. Army Reserve, serving during the Persian Gulf War. He subsequently returned to New York and, after a few years, earned a Master's degree in Biology at CCNY. Thereafter he became a doctoral student at the CUNY Graduate School, and is still based at City College.

Sorrentino said in an interview that he regularly puts in 10 to 12-hour days in his lab at CCNY, working on his dissertation on the genetics of tumor growth in fruit flies. He usually leaves the campus for home anytime between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. out the back exit of the Science Building. He crosses St. Nicholas Park down the steep main pathway of the park to the 135th Street subway station on St. Nicholas Avenue where he catches the C train home.

On July 8, Sorrentino left the campus later than usual, at 3:30 a.m. At the first landing of the main stairs of the park, a NYPD patrol car passed him on the park's roadway. The officers in the car did not stop him, although, he was later to find out, the park was now considered "closed". As Sorrentino made his way down the stairs he saw two officers get out of their patrol car and start walking around the park. "They said nothing to me," Sorrentino said.

Sorrentino, forgetting the officers, continued along the well-lit pathway of the park toward the subway. At the last landing before St. Nicholas Avenue Sorrentino said he heard a voice call out from the dark to his right. Sorrentino characterized the voice as "rude and high-and-mighty."

The voice informed him the park closes at 10 p.m. When Sorrentino looked toward the direction of the voice, he saw only a dimly lit face above a flashlight. Sorrentino responded "That's the first I heard of it!" and continued walking.

According to Sorrentino he later found a sign with the park's closing time on the St. Nicholas Avenue side of the park. The officer's affidavit against Sorrentino declared that the park "has signs posted at every entrance that the park closes at 10 p.m." But this writer found no such sign at the CCNY entrance Sorrentino used. Thus, it appears the officer's affidavit contained false information.

The voice again ordered Sorrentino to stop. "I

responded something to the effect that whoever he was he was being rude and I bewailed the lack of manners today. And I continued walking," Sorrentino recounted.

The voice again ordered him to stop. At this point Sorrentino stopped and a uniformed police officer about 20-25 years old emerged from the dark onto the lighted pathway. According to Sorrentino, at no time during this initial exchange did the officer verbally identify himself.

### ESCALATION

In what has become an urban ritual for young men, Officer Hook of the 26th Precinct demanded Sorrentino give his name and ID, and explain where he was going and what he was doing in the park. Hook ordered Sorrentino to show his hands, which he did palms up. The verbal exchange continued.

Then, the confrontation escalated. Hook took out his gun, pointed it at Sorrentino's head, and demanded he get down on the ground. "The pistol was about a foot away from my face," said Sorrentino.

Sorrentino made no response, verbal or physical. "I simply stood there," he said.

Hook ordered him on the ground two more times, and Sorrentino again did nothing. "I refused because I do not like taking orders at the end of a gun," Sorrentino said.

Hook's partner, an Officer Guidice, appeared and Hook reholstered his gun. Sorrentino was handcuffed and arrested for trespassing. According to Sorrentino, in the car Hook declared he took his gun out because he was "afraid for his life."

Sorrentino was brought to the 26th Precinct on 126th Street and, after making a call to his father, was placed into a holding cell. When Sorrentino's father arrived at the precinct he was not allowed to see Sorrentino. Sorrentino was moved to the 28th Precinct and later downtown to another jail, the infamous "Tombs" near Manhattan Criminal Court.

It wasn't until 2 a.m. the next day, July 9, 2000, that Sorrentino's case was brought before a judge. Sorrentino's Legal Aid attorney requested an ACD for Sorrentino for which his record would be sealed after six months without a subsequent arrest. The prosecutor convinced the judge to tack on a day of community service because Officer Hook claimed Sorrentino told him "Fuck you."

"At no time during the incident had I uttered a profanity," Sorrentino said in an interview.

Sorrentino spent the following Saturday helping clean up a subway station to satisfy the community service punishment. "I got to wear the little orange vest and my dad came down and took action photos," Sorrentino cracked. "But cleaning a whole station's no joke. It's a lot of work. They got free labor out of me."

### NOT IN CENTRAL PARK

Sorrentino admits that technically he was trespassing. But he also said he had gone through the park after 10 p.m. for four years without incident. He often saw at least one other person in the park. No one ever bothered him. On rare occasion Sorrentino would see NYPD vehicles in the park, and, as he stuck to the lighted path, they presumably saw him too. But these police never accosted or challenged him.

According to Timothy Hubbard, CCNY's Security Director, under former president Yolanda Moses CCNY worked with the NYPD and the Hamilton Heights Homeowners Association, among other groups, to "clean up" the park. This included instituting a closing time for the park in 1998. Hubbard called the closing time an attempt to make it "not comfortable for criminal elements."

When informed of what happened to Sorrentino, Hubbard called what the officer did "not righteous" as the "whole purpose of the park closing time is to capture wrongdoers." Hubbard said it seemed a case of egos.

Hubbard said that if students find themselves in such a situation with a police officer they should "hold their temper and complain at a time more to their advantage." Presumably that would be before a judge, but that time didn't seem to be to Sorrentino's advantage either.

Sorrentino said in an interview he was most worried about the extralegal aspects of the incident with Officer Hook. "On any given night, many New Yorkers 'trespass' in Central Park in full view of the NYPD," he said.

Sorrentino sees this as an example of selective enforcement. "St. Nicholas Park is in a neighborhood whose residents are predominantly African-American and who are not wealthy. Central Park is almost completely surrounded by neighborhoods that are predominantly white and well-to-do," he continued.

He also connected the incident to a larger geography of race in New York: that people are expected to stay in their "own" neighborhoods. "It seems Hook thought because I'm white and was in the park in this neighborhood at 3 a.m. I was looking to score drugs," he said. Calls to the 26th Precinct were unreturned.

For Sorrentino, anyone who violates the "own" neighborhood command risks the threat of institutionally protected violence. According to Sorrentino, since the shooting of Amadou Diallo police officers seem to think they can excuse whatever excessive force they commit "by uttering the verbal disclaimer of being afraid for their lives."

"But Hook's the one with the gun a foot from my face. Shouldn't I be the one afraid for my life?" asks Sorrentino.



## TALKING WITH NOAM

INTERVIEW @ COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN PROFESSOR MANNING MARABLE'S OFFICE ON 11/16/00

Interview by Andrew Kennis and other members of the NYC-IMC

**D**uring Noam Chomsky's recent four-day trip to NYC, *Advocate* contributor Andrew Kennis set up an interview with whom the *New York Times* (ironically, Chomsky's nemesis) has dubbed, "the most important intellectual alive." Indeed, according to the Arts and Humanities index, he is the most quoted scholar alive. Nevertheless, Chomsky continues to be ignored & marginalized in U.S. mainstream media. Thus, the *Advocate* is very pleased to give Chomsky the attention and space that needs to be given to intellectual dissidence and social criticism.

In addition to the *Advocate*, Andrew also works with the Independent Media Center of New York, which participated in the interview as well (Tarikh Korula, John Carr and Madahva asked questions and recorded the interview, which can be accessed online at: <http://www.nyc.indymedia.org/audio/nycradio.html>). Other participants included Abbey Scher of the Independent Press Association, Michael Eisenmenger of Paper Tiger Television and Java Goldberg. What follows is an edited transcript of the first question which was on objectivity in journalism (an unedited transcript can be viewed at: <http://bari.iww.org/~iww-nyc/CUNY>).

**Tarikh Korula:** On behalf of everybody, I would like to thank you for coming today. Some of us are part of the IMC of NY. Just to get you up to speed with our mission, in general, our idea is to create a more democratic media. We feel that corporate media doesn't represent the ideas that everybody necessarily cares about. So the idea is for individuals in society become the media themselves and to produce the media themselves and turn from passive consumers into active producers. And a couple of issues have come up for us around that idea. The idea of the editorial and what it means to have editorial control in a democratic media. And then also, what the role of the individual is as a journalist. If we were professional journalists, we'd be committed to objectivity. But what does objectivity mean? Is it actually used to serve the interests of a newspaper that's trying to sell advertising? Should we be objective or should we be passionate and how do we report when we have not been trained as [objective] journalists?

**Noam Chomsky:** Well, I think reporting when you have not been trained as journalists, is probably an advantage. Let me just tell you a personal story just to illustrate. One of my daughters back when she was a college student at Berkeley and a political activist and everything, decided to make her contribution to the world as a radical journalist. So she applied to the Berkeley school of journalism. I asked an old friend of mine who was an elite foreign correspondent for ABC News, who has since quit. So I asked him what he thought about her going to journalism school and so he laughed and said that

she'd learn how to say nothing in 700 words. In fact, she lasted about two months and that's what she was learning and she quit. I mean, you could sit in on journalism classes and see what you're missing, but I don't think you're missing much.

As far as objectivity is concerned, I think it's a wonderful thing. And I don't think journalists are trained for objectivity, they are trained to keep to the surface of events. So they are trained to see what's in front of them and then sort of try to give an accurate description of that. But that's just not objectivity. If chemists did that you'd know nothing about chemistry. You'd know that if you mixed something together that you would get funny colors and that sort of thing. If you want to be objective you have to try and find out what the truth is and you don't find out what the truth is by looking at the surface of events. And even that's exaggeration because typically journalists don't even look at the surface of events. If you take a look at some of the major journals, say the *New York Times*, you'll notice that they don't keep their correspondents in a particular place. And the reason is, if you keep them in a particular place, they start to understand what's going on. And that's called a violation of objectivity, because you're supposed to keep just to the surface of events. Well, if you just go to some place, say Beirut, and you start to report and you sort of figure out what's going on, most of your information comes from agents of one or another intelligence service who are masquerading as stringers or assistants. If you want to understand what's going on in a certain place, you have to be like Bob Fisk. You have to live there for 25 years, get into the culture, and really figure out what's going on. And by the standards of corporate journalism, that's not called objectivity, because it's true. So, don't confuse objectivity with what they call objectivity, with what's really meant by objectivity, say like in the natural sciences. It's not the same thing.

The real sense of objectivity, you should be following. Though, if you want to have a passionate declaration of how you feel, it's ok, but it's a poem. If you want to enlighten people and enlighten yourself, you should be searching for objectivity - that is, the truth. That doesn't mean you don't have to be passionate about it, you should be very passionate about it. But [searching for the truth] should be an ideal.

As to the matter of editorial control, that's a really hard one. I don't think there's a general answer. I suspect, and I'm sure you know better than I, what you have to do is to try and find many differentiated kinds of media. I don't know if you came to the talk the other night, but if we [completely] opened up discussion without any control, it would have been taken over by the Spartacists League - because that's their job - to try and disrupt meetings... and then people get bored and they take over. In fact, anyone who has been involved with movement organizations knows that that's a constant problem.

Very typically there's some cult - actually it

often turns up to be some FBI informant who shows up in court later - who is very loud, aggressive, shows up all the time, is always willing to be there, talks so much that you say "alright, you do it," and they may ultimately run the thing. . . Now, you have to allow for that [because at some level, it's inevitably going to happen], but you don't want [just stand by and do nothing ... you have to do something else]. And doing something else means having a degree of editorial control and this is not just your problem, it's the problem of any activist group and it's the problem of any public meeting. This is just the world and you got to be ready to deal with it.

I don't know if you [addressing Scher] ever experienced that at *Dollars & Sense*, but it's very standard. We had to learn back in the 60's - when groups like Resist were getting infiltrated - how to detect the government informers. And a lot of groups didn't learn and got in trouble because you found that these guys were usually the most militant. There's a good way to determine who they are...

**Madahva interjects:** how do you determine?

**Noam again:** Well, it changes in different times. These days, like say, take the Sparts - one sentence and you know exactly what's coming next...

**Andrew Kennis:** it's like a script.

**Noam again:** exactly, it's like a script. But that's a special thing, so you can see the one sentence if you walk across campus or if you come to a meeting.

With regard to government informers, particularly if you're involved with anything that's a little on the edge, like Resist for example, the informers were usually the people who were screaming off the cops and looking like the caricature of a hippie and very militant, usually. [So, you hear things like] "you're all a bunch of cowards," "you're all just liberals covering up," or "let's go out and kill a cop," - those are the guys who showed up at the court cases as informers. In fact, the way to deal with it, as most groups quickly learned was to just use affinity groups. At least these groups were the ones that didn't get caught because a lot of people did get caught. The ones that didn't, just used affinity groups. So, for example, when we were involved in things that were really serious - you know, like deserters - we never did it at a public meeting, even with only 10 people. It was always with an affinity group with 2 or 3 people who know each other who would then give a general report to the general group.

**Abbey Scher:** Yeah, I think people are re-discovering Brian Glick's book, *The War at Home*, published by South End Press and which is the resource on how to deal with the COINTELPRO program.

**Noam again:** That's dealing with government type disruption, which is always there, but it's much more general. It could be perfectly decent people (such as the Kennedy assassination buffs) who happen to be fanatically convinced about whatever they are convinced about.

# BAD GAMBLE

By Rob Wallace

Jose Elique, security director for all of CUNY, has left CUNY for a security job at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Elique was hired at \$95,000 a year to quiet an explosive situation at the UNLV campus. But given his CUNY record his hiring may instead add fuel to the fire.

According to the May 3 edition of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, the security department at UNLV campus had been roiled by controversy. On June 1, Elique became the campus's fourth security director since November 1999.

In October 1999, UNLV students held a protest against campus police after two high-profile incidents of security abuse. As more complaints mounted after the protest, the incumbent UNLV director of security was himself placed on paid leave after a state Peace Officers Council issued an unfavorable review of a March security drug raid on a dormitory.

During the military-style raid, a campus housing coordinator was handcuffed and, with students, frisked. Four Ecstasy pills and 18 dangerous packets of perfumed talcum powder were seized in the raid. Another director served in the interim until Elique's hire.

According to the *Review-Journal*, a March report prepared by security administrators from outside Nevada blasted UNLV officers as "arrogant," as displaying animosity toward the university and dormitory staff, and "not above using intimidation to keep other members of the department in line with their thinking."

After filtering a pool of 50 applicants from around the country, UNLV hired Elique. About Elique, Bob Ackerman, UNLV vice president for student services who has since resigned, said, "He understands our situation very well. He wants to involve police much more in the community and do more outreach to students."

Upon his arrival at UNLV, Elique said he left 700 "clones" at CUNY. These "clones" are the officers of CUNY Security who, Elique told the *Review-Journal* on June 3, "perfectly espouse his philosophy of friendly university community policing."

"I established my legacy [at CUNY]," Elique told the *Review-Journal*.

Many familiar with Elique's CUNY record would agree he did indeed establish his legacy here, but in ways completely contrary to the image he has used to seduce UNLV.

If UNLV students thought their previous security directors were brutal, they haven't seen anything yet.

## WHO IS JOSE ELIQUE?

In 1992 Jose Elique was hired by CUNY as Director of Public Safety. Elique served in the Navy during the Vietnam War. From 1970 to 1991 he had held various positions with the Port Authority Police of New York and New Jersey. Some of that time at the Port Authority was spent as a counter-terrorism expert. And it is likely that such experience is what attracted then-CUNY Chancellor Ann Reynolds to Elique.

Upon assuming the chancellorship in 1991,

Reynolds was greeted by student takeovers. In protest against yet another \$90 million cut in higher education proposed by then-Governor Mario Cuomo, students at City College and other CUNY campuses occupied campus buildings for over two weeks.

Reynolds called on the campus presidents to discipline students. According to Ron McGuire, a student-rights attorney who defended many of the students at the disciplinary hearings that followed, not one student suffered expulsion or even suspension. Humiliated, Reynolds proposed to the state legislature that it fund a new security squad to operate directly under the Chancellor's control. The legislature rejected the proposal.

Despite massive cuts in CUNY's budget during Reynolds's first years, CUNY increased its annual funding for security from \$21.8 million to over \$40 million on salary and benefits alone. According to

*"Many familiar with Elique's CUNY record would agree he did indeed establish his legacy here, but in ways completely contrary to the image he has used to seduce UNLV."*

CUNY's own 1995-6 adopted budget, 160 new security positions were created by raiding Other Than Personnel Services, a CUNY funding line that, as its name implies, is stipulated for administrative expenses other than personnel salaries. That year, 173 faculty CUNY-wide, 50 at City College, were fired because of budget cuts.

With the Other Than Personnel Services money, Reynolds had Elique establish the security squad she wanted. And she had it outfitted with military wares.

In fall 1998, Keith Higgenbotham of the *Hunter Envoy* reported that CUNY purchased in excess of 110,000 rounds of small arms ammunition worth more than \$30,000. That's about one bullet for every two CUNY students. The ammunition included what some might consider inappropriate firepower for typical campus security, including 9mm hollow point, .38 caliber Ny-Clad, and 12-gauge shotgun rounds. In addition to the ammunition, CUNY Security purchased seven Smith & Wesson .38 caliber pistols and eight Glock 9mm semi-automatic pistols. Seven of the Glocks were also fitted with "night sights," which allow targets to be seen in low-light conditions.

Over the three years of expense records Higgenbotham reviewed, other types of so-called "non-lethal" crowd and riot control equipment were also purchased. These included hundreds of ASP extending batons, over 400 mace/pepper spray dispensers, body armor, and federally approved riot helmets.

While CUNY officials told Higgenbotham that the equipment was necessary to maintain the peace, crime rates at CUNY campuses remained constant over the past decade, including for violent crimes. In 1998, there were only a dozen violent crimes on the 21 CUNY campuses around the city.

Of what use this arsenal would be is also a good question if only campus presidents can permit armed

security on campus, something campus presidents have been reluctant to do. Only Lehman College has armed security. In 1996, then-City College president Yolanda Moses, no friend of students, rejected a proposal put forth by CCNY Security Director Timothy Hubbard to have campus security armed.

In 1997 Elique generated a rationale for the squad's arsenal. Elique manufactured a decree—without consent from the 21 campus presidents—that all CUNY campus events that necessitate a metal detector must have an armed CUNY or NYPD officer present.

## "A FORMIDABLE DETERRENT"

So if the extra security personnel and their equipment weren't needed for crime, then what? The role of the Chancellor's special squad, the "SAFE Team," a name Orwell would love, was to act as the Chancellor's political hit squad and to assure that 1991's display of student power did not occur again. Five of the six times the SAFE Team was deployed to CUNY campuses involved responding to student protests.

A 1995 memo from Captain Raymond McDermott of the New York Police Department's Disorder Control Unit to Elique confirmed the prime purpose of the SAFE Team was to squelch student activism. Elique had requested suggestions concerning situations, according to McDermott's memo, "that would necessitate the possible need of a substantial police response to a specific campus for a non-emergency event, student protest, etc."

McDermott's stunning memo summed up, "As a platoon of three squads, these...Teams become a formidable deterrent." The McDermott memo describes the training the Disorder Unit would provide the SAFE Team including "Conduct of Safety Personnel at a Student Protest, Sit In," "Use of Flex Cuffs," "Mass Arrest Procedures," and "Building Clearing Techniques."

The Team put its training to use. Court documents reveal it maintained an enemies list of CUNY student activists. The list included information on the students' racial and ethnic backgrounds, their birth dates, home addresses, Social Security numbers, enrollment statuses, and arrest records. The data were culled from NYPD records and students' personal CUNY files. The list was used by Security to bar these student activists from campus events. David Suker of City College was denied entry to the Hunter College campus for an April 1996 organizing event after Security checked a list and discovered his name.

A memo from CUNY Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs Elsa Nunez-Wormack to the campus presidents warned, "We have learned that CUNY protest organizers are well organized and maintain tight control over the information to [sic] planned protest activities." The memo was dated a day after the Hunter orga-



nizing event Suker was denied entrance, indicating a Security mole had likely been placed in the meeting.

As described by Lee Wengraf in the Graduate Center *Advocate*, at a March 1995 City Hall rally at which 20,000 CUNY students and their supporters protested proposed budget cuts, though off-campus, SAFE Team members monitored students. Log entries made by SAFE Team members that day included, "Assigned to plainclothes to monitor demonstration at City Hall," and "On duty at City Hall monitoring demonstration."

In April 1995, columns of SAFE Team and NYPD officers in riot gear arrested 47 CUNY students hunger striking against budget cuts in the North Academic Center Rotunda at City College. The students were kept over night in "the Tombs," notorious holding cells near Manhattan Criminal Court. SAFE Team logs, revealed in a discovery phase of a subsequent lawsuit students filed against CUNY, showed that two days after the CCNY arrests, student activists, doing nothing illegal, were still being kept under surveillance. "Paperwork related to the duties conducted along with a constant observance of movements of 'Key' players involved in the hunger strike," the log read.

In May 1998, SAFE officers helped install a video camera in a smoke detector outside a CCNY student activist office where Security thought students were planning takeovers in response to CUNY's plans to end remedial courses. When students discovered the camera—with a SAFE Team officer's name on it!—they alerted the media and filed a still-pending lawsuit against CUNY for violating their constitutional right to free assembly. The camera proved a national embarrassment to the University.

We've reviewed only the most notorious of the incidents. Throughout Elique's tenure SAFE officers would routinely brutalize student activists at protests—one Hunter student was illegally strip-searched—and disrupt their perfectly legal events. In February 1999, one SAFE officer started what became a police riot during a conference on Mumia Abu Jamal held at City College.

## "EVIL AND ILLEGAL ACTION"

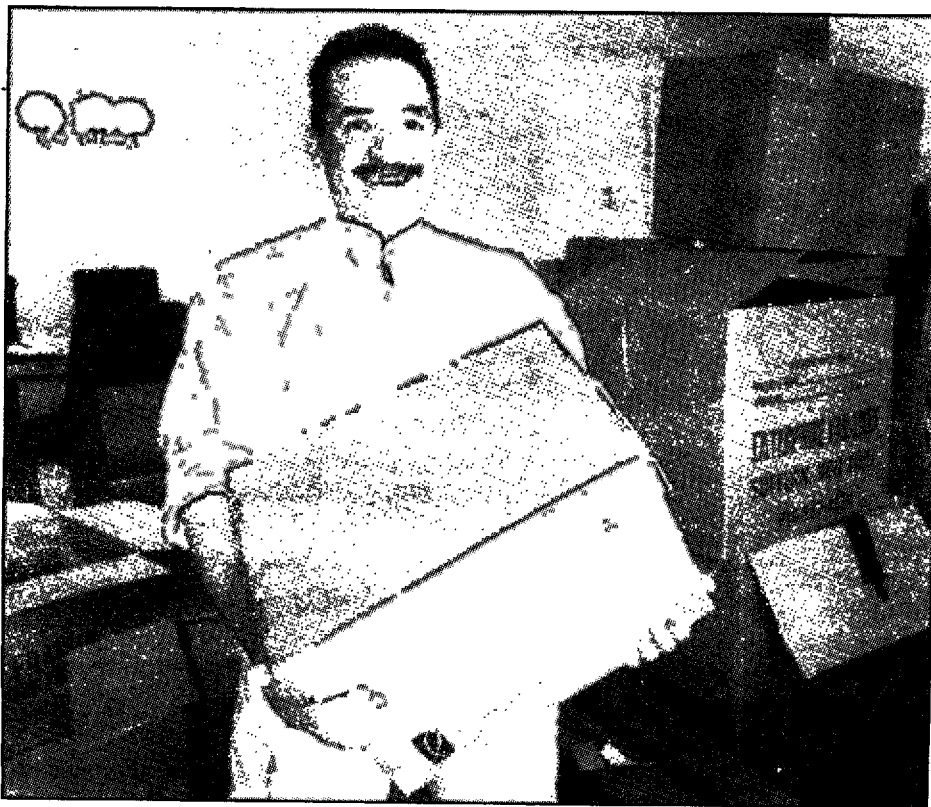
We will describe one last incident that provides an inside look at Elique's CUNY operation.

On November 6, 1995, the SAFE Team was dispatched to the York College campus in Queens. There, the Team set up a phalanx at the campus entrance through which students wishing to enter their campus had to pass and show their IDs.

The reason? Nation of Islam speaker Khalid Muhammad was invited by students to speak for Black Solidarity Day. York adminis-

trators claimed the student group that invited the controversial Muhammad had not filled in the proper forms (Later, to administrator embarrassment, the students proved they in fact had.)

When Muhammad arrived, the SAFE Team barred his entrance. Muhammad and the students marched in protest around the perimeter of the campus until Acting York College President Thomas Minter relent-



Jose Elique packs up and heads west to direct security at UNLV.

ed and allowed the speech to take place.

In June 1996 York College's Director of Security Winston Burrows resigned. The following are excerpts from a memo attached to his letter of resignation from York. The memo is dated July 4 and was addressed to then-CUNY Chancellor Ann Reynolds.

After 17 years of service at York College I decided to resign....because I could not let myself become party to the illegal scheme put forth by City University Director of Public Safety Jose Elique and his Deputy Martin Rodini. At our November/95 security directors meeting they announced a plan designed to deny students and others their constitution [sic] right of free speech...

My reason for leaving is my dissatisfaction with the leadership of Jose Elique, your choice for CUNY Public Safety Director as well as his Deputy Martin Rodini. Since his arrival Jose Elique has never displayed qualities I felt necessary for such an important position. His dictatorial, abrasive, confrontational style, and use of profanity at directors meetings—where he often used f—k and f—king in the presence of females I found offensive and very unprofessional. It demonstrated a lack of moral and ethical character...

I decided to leave CUNY after attending the security directors meeting in November 95. At that meeting Jose Elique and Martin Rodini—apparently still upset and smarting because Acting [York] President Thomas Minter had permitted Khalid Muhammad to speak at the college on November 6, 1995. They made the following proposal—which they indicated was intended to give you and them control of persons who would be permitted to speak on CUNY campuses. They were working on a proposal that would attach a fee between \$5,500.00 to \$7,500.00 whenever the SAFE Team was dispatched to a campus (in response to a request of a

college President). That to me was censorship, a violation of the Constitution of the U.S., and ran contrary to everything I believe in—justice, honesty, and fairness. While at that meeting I came to the conclusion that although I may sometimes disagree with students I will never let myself be a part of any such evil and illegal action as was proposed by Jose Elique and Martin Rodini...

Burrows continued his memo by describing the events of November 6 at York, including the agreement York College made with the SAFE Team three days before. According to Burrows, Elique and Rodini, whom Burrows calls "two of the most morally bankrupt persons I have met," violated that agreement:

"[Acting President] Minter informed both Jose Elique and Martin Rodini that he did not want any SAFE team members to bring their weapon onto the campus on Monday 11/06/95. As they were leaving the building, I heard Jose Elique comment to Martin Rodini that 'He is in for a surprise, and he better get used to guns on campus.' The rest is history, two SAFE team members did bring weapons with them on Monday, 11/06/95."

After describing the events of November 6, Burrows writes Elique and Rodini informed him he was fired from his position as Queens Borough Coordinator of CUNY Security:

"The reason they gave me for removing me had nothing to do with my performance as Borough Coordinator. Their statement to me was 'You are not a team member, and you did not get involved as Timothy Hubbard did.' His reference was to City College Security Director and Manhattan Borough Coordinator Timothy Hubbard who arrested a student who grabbed him by his collar during a demonstration that took place at City College. Apparently Jose Elique and Martin Rodini wanted a confrontation to take place [at York]..."

In his concluding salvo Burrows blasted Reynolds for CUNY Security's Pentagon spending habits, then at \$40 million a year, particularly obscene at a time of alleged fiscal austerity:

"[W]ith the fiscal problems facing the university resulting in reduction of student services, retrenchment, and loss of jobs by tenured faculty members you established the position of Lieutenant (REQUIRING ONLY A GENERAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA) with the top salary of \$82,000.00—more than a tenured professor with a Ph.D. earns." In 1998, Elique proposed making still another rank with pay of \$90,000, rivaling the salaries of college presidents.

## FEELING LUCKY?

We at CUNY can only marvel at UNLV students who, after fighting so hard to dump abusive security directors, helped install one of the country's vilest.

"If [Elique] can accomplish instituting a true community policing culture amongst this force, then that's going to be a great achievement," Joey Cohn, a founder of Students Against Police Misconduct and member of UNLV's Public Safety Advisory Board told the *Review-Journal*.

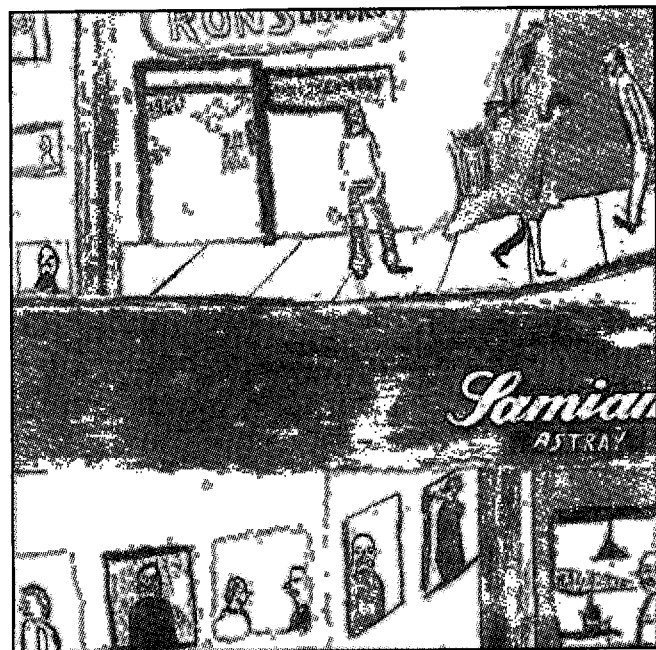
We wish Las Vegas good luck, as the campus may very well need it when Elique implements his brand of "friendly university community policing."

SAMIAM

## ASTRAY

By Elizabeth Sagarin

A stray, Samiam's latest release on their new American label Hopeless Records, is an alternative rock album that breaks away from the pack of haircut and sunglass-clad brats that have become the haunting standard for today's thinly stretched genre. And



that departure is what makes Samiam punk.

The label change doesn't indicate a return to the youthful punk that introduced them to the world, it just bespeaks of the bastardization many bands suffer when they can't follow a top ten hit up with a cash cow of an album that sends the boys in suspenders home in a new car. On Astray, personal and passionate lyrics course through Jason Beebout's gravelly windpipe while a straightforward guitar and bass arrangement is spiked with clean yet formulaic drumming by Johnny Cruz of the ska-punk band Limp. The band's growth as a band through extensive touring, and as individuals (a few of the members don't live in the same state), has catalyzed a maturity and a distancing from the punk arena in which they were introduced yet still love to visit. Astray is an example of this new direction that began after their first album. The latest point on Samiam's evolutionary tree is a little awkward, but far from extinction. They have had more than a few line-up changes which have seriously curbed their ability to meld into a more versatile and stronger band, but their parts are talented enough to pull them through to reek havoc on the brat-o-saurus bands.

The music on Rancid's new album does exactly what punk music is supposed to do: it rocks. It points out, in various degrees of specificity, the stupidity conscious people have to face everyday in an aggressive, engaging, heart-felt, intelligent, original and honest way. The practically illegible hand-written lyrics that line the back of the poster-insert

included with the CD belie the crisp observations made by guitarist and vocalist, Tim Armstrong. A treasure trove of political dissent, disgust, resonance, raw emotion and confounding realism can be deciphered from the chicken scratch while listening to the album without any distractions. Once this is done, the nuances become more profound with every listen.

## HORRORSCOPES

Modern augurs misspend their efforts tracking unreliable statistical minutiae. This month I upend the seers at Fortune and Forbes by throwing the weight of nearly a decade's worth of calculations against the heavy door to the next four years. Below are predictions (based, in part, on an esoteric Roman mathematical system) exploring the relevance of a Bush presidency on the signs' most pressing inquiries.

By Dave Gerardi



**ARIES**  
(March 21-April 19)  
Expect bloodshed.



**LEO**  
(July 23-Aug. 22) Expect twenty-plus volumes of presidential bloopers in the next year alone.



**SAGITTARIUS**  
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Expect more polls on whether or not people trust polls.



**TAURUS**  
(April 20-May 20) Expect tech and pharmaceutical stocks to rebound.



**VIRGO**  
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Expect the porn industry to greatly curtail production of 'gonzo' titles.



**CAPRICORN**  
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19) The best even the most optimistic Capricorn can hope for, politically, is gridlock. Four years of absolute, stultifying gridlock.



**GEMINI**  
(May 21-June 21) Expect not George W. Bush to run for a second term, but a clone. In Texas, Bush will retire on a small estate the size of Connecticut while his clone takes the heat.



**LIBRA**  
(Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Expect libraries and museums to shut their doors in favor of corporate welfare programs that, for example, fund the building of McDonald's restaurants overseas.



**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Expect flooding.



**CANCER**  
(June 22-July 22) Expect to get carded for R-rated movies.



**SCORPIO**  
(Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Expect a cold winter in New York as the Republican-controlled Congress diverts Federal goodies away from a state with two Democratic senators (way to go, Hil).



**PISCES**  
(Feb. 19-March 20) Expect dogs and cats living together. Complete hysteria.

RANCID

## SELF-ENTITLED

By Elizabeth Sagarin



## CUNY STUDENTS SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE "PEOPLE'S LAWYER"

By Dave Gerardi and Mark Petras

**R**on McGuire, a New York lawyer who has represented several hundred CUNY students since 1991—many on a pro bono basis—currently awaits a judge's decision on whether he violated filing procedures two years ago during a First

history of the CUNY student movement. The defendants, including CSI Director of Student Activities Marla Brinson, refused to approve the contract. McGuire and two CSI students, including SGA President William Wharton, brought CSI to court on First Amendment grounds that a

pay speakers proportionately.

The SGA subsequently offered McGuire \$2,500 to speak on April 2, 2000. Again, CSI declined to approve the contract. Although McGuire had promised Pollak that he would speak on March 5, he refused to do so in April without a preliminary injunction or approved contract citing legal advice that he could jeopardize his clients' First Amendment rights.



Civil Rights Attorney Ron McGuire (speaking through megaphone attachment) received a strong showing of support from CUNY students on his November 17th court date.

Amendment case brought by himself and students against the College of Staten Island (CSI).

At a Nov. 17 hearing, Magistrate Judge Cheryl Pollak said she will deliberate and eventually rule on whether or not McGuire violated a filing procedure. McGuire could be ordered to pay CSI's legal fees.

At issue is McGuire's decision, in March 1999, to file an amended complaint rather than an answer to CSI's motion to dismiss without notifying the court. McGuire subsequently apologized to Pollak for the discourtesy but believes his move was not illegal. McGuire said in an Oct. 23 declaration that the decision not to notify the court was motivated by his desire to deny the defendant (CSI) from precluding the plaintiff's opportunity to amend.

A second, and perhaps more serious issue, was Judge Pollak's initial charge that McGuire had purposely mislead her during the course of the case against the College of Staten Island. The charge stemmed from Pollak's assertion that McGuire had said he would deliver a speech at the College of Staten Island when he did not intend to. McGuire denied this version of events and maintained that he at no time lied to or mislead Judge Pollak.

### BACKGROUND

Two years ago, the Student Government Association (SGA) at CSI offered \$2,500 to McGuire to speak at a March 5 lecture about the

speaker in a public forum is entitled to receive payment regardless of viewpoint and to receive commensurate pay as other speakers.

McGuire sought a preliminary injunction



Fliers passed out by CUNY Emergency Legal Defense Project organizers read "Stop the Gavel of Injustice."

against CSI prior to the March 5 lecture, but Pollak did not return a ruling. The lecture, due to extraneous circumstances, was cancelled, but McGuire and the SGA decided to continue the civil rights case to test the SGA's prerogative to

after the hearing. Enclosed by police barricades, McGuire supporters held signs saying, among other things, "Hands off Ron, the People's Lawyer!"

Pollak declined to comment.



\* \* \*

## T. Karpyp

young lady in the store  
young lady  
do you have that?  
you know  
every month  
but you know  
I don't  
it's gone somewhere  
there is nothing  
to pour from me  
neither waste  
nor poetry...

and your lips are  
weather-beaten  
because you're frivolous  
or because emotional?  
rather emotional  
aren't you?

you've got such peculiar nails  
I haven't seen them but I know  
peculiar  
they've been dulled because of hitting the keys  
because  
in your childhood  
you were forbidden to bite

and your eyes  
young lady  
but  
aren't they to see also  
they are a gracious shell  
reflecting the crowds going through the check-out  
and I'm only a particle  
only a transparent shred  
imperceptible  
on the indifferent surface  
of your eyes

how silly to create from a speck  
a beautiful castle  
but our universe  
it sprang out of  
a miserable trifle too

simply the night was too windy  
the wind with a strange melody  
has whispered to somebody  
and somebody  
liked it madly  
the madman has thrown open a window  
and no word  
a happy song  
— monotonous and elated sound —  
flown into the mute space

our essence was born that way  
and following our essence  
I'm telling you  
young lady  
look at me

## A PRAYER

By Ferhat Kutlucan

When life seems complicated  
And you're more confused than ever  
Please keep in mind.....  
Don't ever forget  
That a friend not so far away  
Has included you in his prayers

## ANXIETY ATTACK IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS

By Fernando Janer

*translated from Spanish*

-fuck!  
-what happened?  
-My head is full of anxiety again.  
-where are you goin'?  
-To get the ax.  
-now?  
-What am I going to do?  
-Try to relax. breathe.  
-Nope, have to let it out.  
-The chest?  
-That too.  
-baby, you're gonna make a mess.  
-Nah, don't worry, it's gonna be really simple.  
Help me, Yini.  
~~-Oh Yangi, I'm sorry you have to deal with that.~~  
-Don't worry. The cheesy melodramatic love I feel for you it's all that matters.  
-You want me to suck it out.  
-No, horny!  
-Where are you?  
-Don't know, must be close 'cause my hand it's itching.  
-Blind it, To~no, blind it!  
-Everybody's a freakin' comedian!  
Wonder if it's sharpened?  
-Who knows? Practice on the cat.  
-Shit! don't make me laugh, it hurts.  
-Am I going to be helping you?  
-Nah, don't worry. Only if you really love me.  
-Good night then, my looove.  
-Everybody's a freakin comedian.  
-Damn! Why is there so much stuff in the freezer?  
-What do you want?  
-I just wanna chill the top bones while I clean the base.  
-Honey, please don't leave the counter full of brain shit.  
-The international insane community appreciates your understanding.  
-Anything for my baby. What are you doing right now?  
-I am actually running the grey stuff through cold water.  
-better?  
-Much fucking better. You don't know what a relief, a river runs through me.  
-Oh baby, i'm happy for you.  
-Did it crack easy?  
-Yeah, no problem, but it's always a little scary when you swing.  
-I imagine, or I can't imagine. Can't decide.  
Want a massage?  
-Yeah, later.  
-Did you fit it back in, on, together?  
-yeah.  
-Want me to put cream on it?  
-I think I just want you to hold me.  
-My love.  
-Thanks, you've changed my life, sweetness.

## WHY I VOTED AGAINST BUSH

By Louise Ammentorp

On October 27th Ralph Nader wrote a letter to the editor of the *New York Times*. He concluded "You miss the critical point: we seek long term political reform through a growing party that pushes the two parties towards the reforms that you (the *New York Times*) have espoused over the years..." In Nader's own words the point of his candidacy was to reform the existing two parties (towards the ideology of the *New York Times*?). That is exactly not what we need, nor is it what the bulk of Nader's supporters want. What we all need and want is a viable united front third party that can win elections and transform the society. The Republicans do not need to be reformed; they need to be put in the garbage dump of history.

Nader's candidacy is a confirmation of the analysis put forward by Amiri Baraka after the end of the "Cold War." He argued that imperialism had further developed. A class of international finance capitalists now rule through institutions like the World Trade Organization (WTO), International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and NATO to name just a few. Nader represents the left wing of the National American Bourgeoisie while Buchanan represents the right wing. Their class interests converge on points such as GATT, NAFTA, and China joining the WTO. Both speak of the loss of America's sovereignty. The loss of American sovereignty is the rallying cry of their class; it is a real phenomenon, part of the further development of imperialism first pointed out by Baraka. The difference is that Nader is potentially an ally of the working class while Buchanan is the Fascist reaction that looms waiting for the economic crisis to bring in the 4th Reich.

When Lenin studied and analyzed imperialism in the early part of the 20th century he pointed out that on the one hand competitive capitalism turned into its opposite monopoly capitalism with the merger of bank capital and industrial capital and on the other hand a new revolutionary ally for the proletariat had emerged in the National Liberation Movements. Today as imperialist international finance capital consolidates power the national bourgeoisie of the 1st world countries is emerging as an additional ally for the proletariat in its struggle for revolutionary democracy against imperialism.

The problem with Nader's candidacy is that ever since the Paris Commune the bourgeoisie has been unable to lead the democratic revolution. Not only did every attempt at building socialism begin with a democratic revolution led by the proletariat but every movement since the Commune against feudalism and monarchy and/or colonialism failed

or transformed into neo-colonialism if not led by the working class. While Nader and those like him will be an important, even though unstable, ally in the coming revolutionary democratic movement, his class cannot lead. They waver back and forth as Nader himself explained in his letter to the *New York Times*.



Nader's own history also illuminates this phenomenon. In 1968, revolution was sweeping the world. Mexico, France, Germany, Viet Nam, China, and the U.S. were in the midst of large-scale social upheaval. In that fateful year, while the people of Viet Nam battled the might of the U.S. military, and the anti-war movement and the Black Liberation Movement in the U.S. were rising to new heights, Ralph Nader lobbied congress and won mandatory seat belts in automobiles. At the height of the anti-imperialist movement Nader was a "consumer advocate," capitalism's quality control. Now he wants to lead the people's movement against imperialism; unfortunately he may lead us to the fangs of Bush.

The problem on the workers' end is tremendous disorganization. The withering away of the Soviet Union and its final collapse along with the steady drift of China into the capitalist abyss has caused massive confusion and a disorderly retreat. The United States in particular is, with a few exceptions, in a theoretical and organizational void. A good start would be a left electoral bloc to end the existence of the Republican Party, and a national, political, revolutionary newspaper that can put forward analysis and do the necessary theoretical work for a revolutionary movement.

were loosened from their sockets. Far worse. Nearly half of all eligible voters chose not to care. Dark days ahead, indeed.

Perennial sellout MTV has provided the viewer with a mountain of evidence to the effect that it is little more than a political arm of the Democratic Party (i.e. allegiance to big business plus the pro-choice card). As if their 'coverage' (and I use that term loosely) leading up to and on election day wasn't lackluster enough, one of their 'journalists' (and I use that term not just loosely but with a smirk) interviewed singer/songwriter/Democratic flack Moby, who called Nader "irresponsible" by running for president.

What is genuinely irresponsible, of course, is MTV's decision (like those of the other major media outlets) to allow so much anti-Nader coverage without sufficient rebuttal (a quick perusal of major media coverage, by the way, will reveal the poor caliber of anti-Nader argumentation—it was a smear job).

## DEMOCRACY AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

By Louise Ammentorp

The current crisis surrounding the presidential elections highlights one of the many undemocratic features of the United States: the electoral college. In terms of the popular vote Gore leads Bush 2 by nearly 200,000 votes, yet because of the electoral college it is possible for Bush 2 to become president and lose the popular vote.

Article Two of the U.S. Constitution explains how the electoral college works. It also explains how the President will be chosen by the House of Representatives if no candidate gains a majority of electors. The move to the House of Representatives rather than to the popular vote betrays the actual intention of the electoral college, which is to provide a fail-safe in case of a popular upsurge against the propertied inter-

ests of the minority.

This crisis provides us with opportunity to raise the level of struggle for democracy; that is one person one vote. A recent Gallup poll found that 8 out of 10 people think that the electoral college should be abolished. The time is ripe for petitions calling for a national referendum to amend the Constitution and abolish the electoral college. This struggle would also allow us to call into question other undemocratic forms like the Senate, and appointed judges. The Senate as Thomas Jefferson pointed out is based on the British model of a House of Lords and a House of Commons.

Not only do we need a third party allied with the middle class but rooted in the working class, we need to abolish the entire winner-take-all system. A parliamentary system where there is representation based on the percentage of votes won would be a tremendous advance for revolutionary democracy. This "crisis" is our opportunity.

There is little choice now but to abandon the Democratic Party altogether. For those that cling to Gore's teat that women's reproductive rights may be protected, be cautioned that the trade-off is the unconditional surrender of labor, environmental and economic rights both in the United States and abroad.

To be a Democrat or Republican is to be an economic slave to the will of a few large corporations. The Green Party is the sole functional, libertarian and utilitarian party. It is our last, best chance for a progressive democracy.

In the coming months, Nader will bring suit against the Commission on Presidential Debates to open up a key facet of the election process to more candidates. This requires continued volunteerism. To advance such a long-term political agenda as the Green's demands more vigilance than one month every four years.

It would be foolish to let slide the momentum (albeit slight) thus far gained.

## SLOUCHING TOWARDS DEMOCRACY

By Dave Gerardi

The people have spoken. One quarter have opened their simian, cankerous mouths to utter a low primal bellow of such stupefying ignorance to make "Skynyrd rocks!" seem the pinnacle of critical expression.

The second quarter, with one eyelid lowered in the wink of spectacular greed and the other wide with cowardice, have raised their hands in response to the stentorian clip of the jingoists.

The other half was silent.

It is not enough that the few, faint bulbs glowing from the fuel of pragmatic and innovative political solutions

(Forthcoming, in the New York Independent Media Center's election issue print edition, *The Independent*).

By Andrew Kennis

Within the last month Israel has abandoned any pretense of adhering to the "peace process." The London-based *Independent* noted October 18th that "two of the world's leading human rights organizations accused Israel...

of using excessive force to control rioting across the occupied territories and in

Arab towns." According to Admeer, an Israeli human rights group, 250 people have died (30 % of whom were children and all but 12, Palestinian) and 6,000 Palestinians have been injured.

The wave of unrest began September 28th when Likud Party leader Ariel Sharon visited the Al-Aqsa Mosque to demonstrate what he called "Jewish sovereignty" over one of the holiest Muslim sites in the world. Veteran journalist Graham Usher points out that the "Al-Aqsa intifada" was not completely instigated by Sharon's visit. Instead, says Tel Aviv University Professor Tanya Reinhart, the unrest was prompted by "a thousand soldiers securing [the site] and taking shooting positions on the roofs in advance" on September 29th, during the day of prayers. This show of force "predictably... led to clashes as thousands of people streamed out of the mosque, leaving 7 Palestinians dead and 200 wounded," states U.S. foreign policy critic Noam Chomsky. Reinhart adds that Israel's claim on the Temple Mount, as it's known to Jews, "is completely new (brought up only since the recent Camp David negotiations)." While the mainstream media ignored that the claim to the Temple Mount was new, others went so far as to entirely dismiss Sharon's visit as a factor. Writing in the *New York Times* on October 12th, William Safire contended that "Sharon's pointed but peaceful visit was no more than the 'cause' of the bloody violence than the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand was the cause of World War I."

## DISPOSSESSION

The dispossession of Palestinians has been at the heart of the conflict. Columbia University scholar Edward Said notes that Palestinians are the greatest displaced population in the world - totaling now almost four million refugees. Dispossession and the denial of the "right of return" of Palestinians is virtually unmentionable in the corporate media. This is despite the international community's recognition of the refugees' right to return. The UN General Assembly has reaffirmed resolution 194 every year since 1948, stating that, "refugees wishing

to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date."

Palestinians also suffer under what Professor Reinhart describes as "land for apartheid." Since 1967, Palestinians have been living under "separate and unequal" conditions, many of whom are refugees. As Said notes, "Israel is the only state in the world which is not the state of its actual citizens, but of the whole Jewish people,

who consequently have rights that non-Jews do not." Israelis are among those who compare the Palestinians plight to that of blacks under the apartheid-era, white-minority government. Israeli journalist Amira Haas, a correspondent for the Israeli daily, Ha'aertz, writes that since the Oslo agreements in 1993, Israel has "sealed an entire nation into restricted areas, imprisoned in a network of bypass roads meant for Jews only. During these days of strict internal restriction of movement in the West Bank, one can see how carefully each road was planned: So that 200,000 Jews have freedom of movement, about three million Palestinians are locked into their Bantustans until they submit to Israeli demands." A search for the word "apartheid" in the last six months within headlines of the U.S. mainstream press turns up only one hit, an opinion piece in the *Baltimore Sun*. Looking for other references, only fourteen articles, letters or opinion pieces have mentioned apartheid in the Israeli context, and only one was an actual news article: A Deborah Sontag article in the *New York Times* that quoted a Palestinian official making the analogy far into the story.

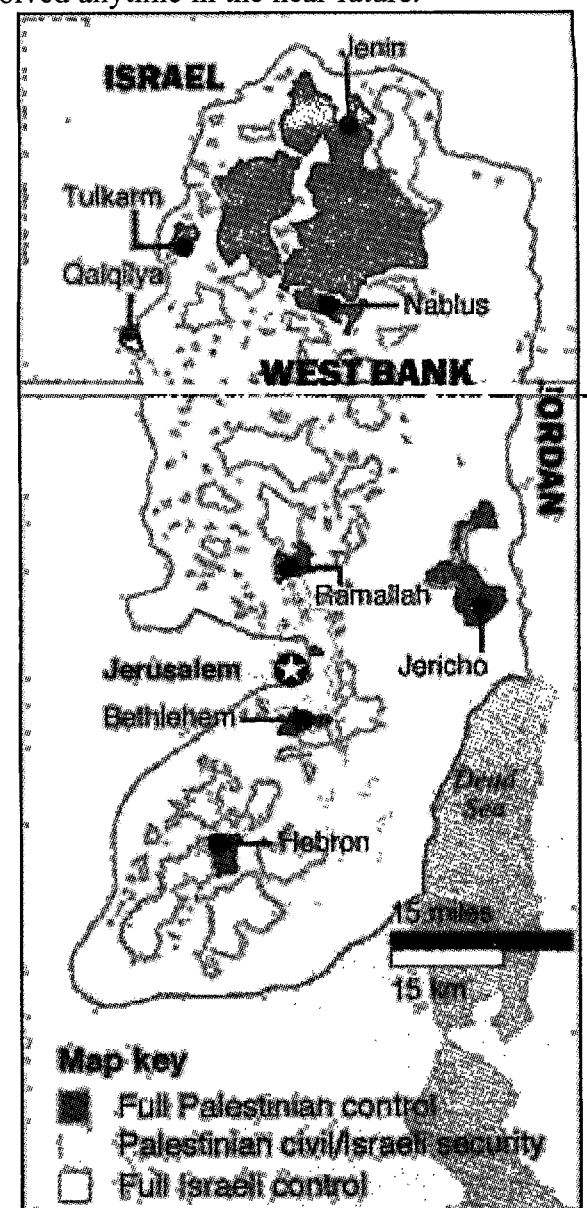
## ILLEGAL OCCUPATION

Following Israel's capture of Palestinian territories during the Six-Day War in 1967, Security Council resolutions were passed condemning the occupation as a violation of international law. International Relations Professor Scott Burchill comments in the Australian daily *The Age* (10/18/00) that "The implementation of UN resolutions (242, 338 and 194)," the legal basis of Palestinian "property rights and the [right of] return of refugees expelled in 1948 (700,000) and 1967 (430,000), have been consistently vetoed by Israel's patron in the Security Council [the U.S.]." A database search for resolution 242 produced only 9 hits within the U.S. mainstream press during the last two months (the foreign press conversely had 70 articles). Of these, only an opinion piece in the *Los Angeles Times* (10/09/00) referred to 242 in a pro-Palestinian sense. Another search produced only 10 articles that referred to an "illegal occupation"--and every single one was an op-ed or a

letter to the editor.

Moreover, human rights denunciations of Israeli violence and terror don't exist as far as the media are concerned. On October 19th, Amnesty International described Israel's use of fatal force as being "unlawful." Human Rights Watch added that "its week-long investigation showed repeated use by Israeli security forces of lethal force in situations where demonstrators posed no threat of death or serious injury to security forces or others." Israeli-based observers have also documented Israeli repression, such as the human rights information center, Btselem. A search of the U.S. media turned

up only one reference to these findings. While *The Independent* ran a major piece on both Amnesty International's and Human Rights Watch's findings (10/18/00), the *New York Times* failed to substantively report any of these findings. Unfortunately, in light of the results of the searches noted above, not only did the U.S. mainstream media fail to substantively report on and address significant findings by human rights organizations, the corporate press also blanked out on fundamental issues. Such issues include the existence of apartheid-like conditions in Israel and the continued non-implementation of a number of key U.N. resolutions, much less even basic historical facts. Until such issues are even acknowledged, it is unlikely they will be solved anytime in the near future.





## THE SEEDS OF A MOVEMENT

(PART I OF A SERIALIZED ARTICLE)

By Andrew Kennis

It is now firmly established that whenever and wherever global elites meet to further their plans for corporate sponsored globalization we will be there to oppose them. Tens of thousands will express their dissatisfaction with the effects of neoliberal policies in permitted demonstrations and rallies. Thousands will engage in peaceful acts of civil disobedience and risk arrest to disrupt the work of IMF, World Bank, and WTO officials who are, in fact, committing crimes against humanity no matter what they may think or pretend. And hundreds may engage law enforcement officials who protect the global elite and harass and abuse those who protest their crimes in running street battles that tie up major cities for days. There is a diverse and active network of first and third world organizations opposing corporate sponsored globalization at every turn that is here to stay.

-- Robin Hahnel on Z Net

One year ago, millions of people across the world became aware of a movement that was underfoot against corporate globalization. Such awareness was raised as a result of the protests in Seattle last November, which forced the cancellation of the opening day ceremonies for the World Trade Organization Ministerial meetings. A lot of attention was paid by the mainstream media to a small group of protesters who broke windows of a few corporate retail outlets (i.e. Starbucks, Niketown). However, the media paid little attention to the issues that were responsible for bringing demonstrators from many different places of the world to Seattle and paid absolutely no attention to the historical events and resistance that proceeded the protests and made organizing the event even possible. This first part of what will be a serialized article explores the important events and organizing that resulted in the protests in Seattle and an array of subsequent (and often undercover) demonstrations. In the next issue, Seattle and its antecedents will be explored.

### ROOTS OF THE CURRENT MOVEMENT

In the newspaper of New York City's Independent Media Center, *The Independent*, L.A. Kauffman writes that "the initial spark of the anti-globalization movement came on January 1, 1994, when the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect. On that day, a hitherto unknown group of revolutionaries, the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), rose up in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas." As Kauffman further notes, the Zapatistas had "hoped to inspire

the downtrodden around the world to organize and empower themselves, creating an intercontinental network of resistance against neoliberalism." Indeed, as a result of the internationalist character of the Zapatistas, two massive gatherings were convened, both entitled as "For Humanity and Against Neoliberalism," which came about in light of important declarations and pronouncements from the Zapatistas.

Some 4,000 people attended the first encuentro in July of 1996, at "camps constructed by the Mexican rebel army known as the EZLN in the state of Chiapas in the mountains and jungles of the Lacandon Jungle," as a member of the Melbourne Zapatista Solidarity Collective explains. According to the South African delegation, the second intercontinental encounter brought together again "more than 4,000 comrades, individuals, groups & national delegations

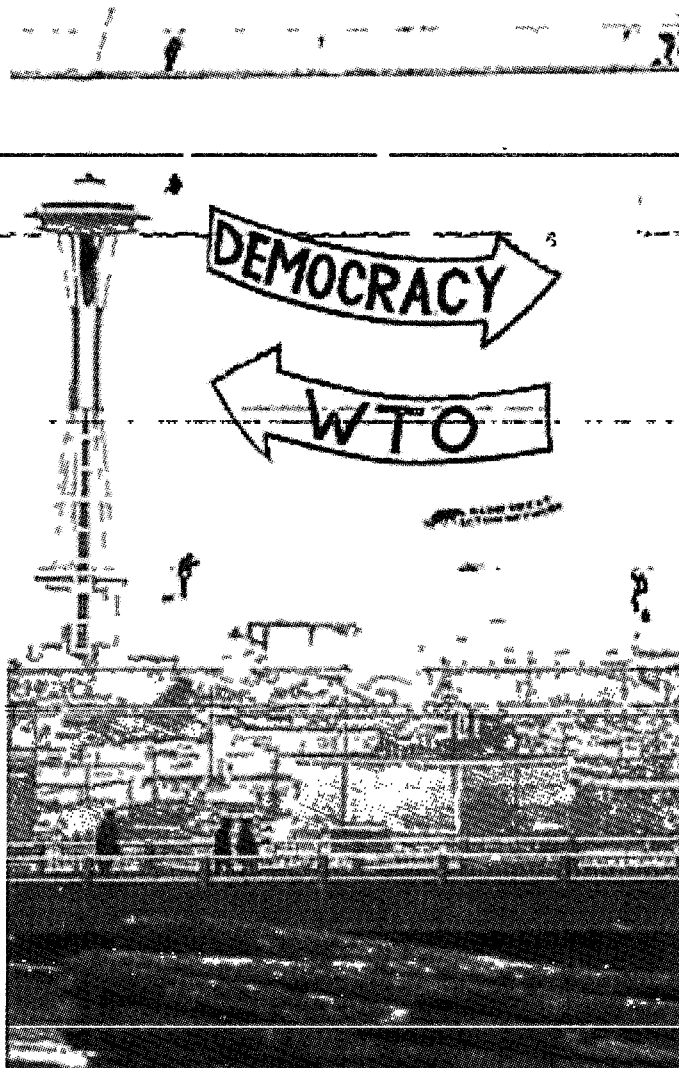
mass protest activity was underway in the U.S. Nevertheless, the groundwork for a change to this discrepancy was being set. Thus, as Kauffman writes, "representatives of these varied movements... sat down to plan worldwide protests against the World Trade Organization, the prime symbol and instrument of corporate globalization. To facilitate organizing, they created... the Peoples Global Action Against 'Free' Trade and the WTO." (PGA)

At first, success was modest in the West (as Kauffman scoffed, "there was barely a blip of participation from the United States"). But by the summer of 1999, momentum was finally beginning to build in the more privileged sectors of the world.

### JUNE 18TH 1999: GLOBAL RESISTANCE AGAINST CAPITAL

By the Fall of 1998, PGA released a statement informing activist groups around the world that "a proposal has been made by various groups and movements of activists from England to hold an international day of action aimed at the heart of the global economy." The primary groups involved, the release notes, "include Reclaim the Streets (RTS, a popular movement seeking the liberation of city streets and public spaces using direct action), the Western European Conveners of Peoples' Global Action Against 'Free' Trade and the World Trade Organisation), and London Greenpeace." Continuing, PGA noted that the "proposal is made in the spirit of strengthening our international networks and follows from the success of co-ordinated global action during May 16-20th 1998. These days saw actions, protests and demonstrations on all continents, for example over 30 'Reclaim the Streets parties' in over 20 countries - a combination of illegal carnival, protest and direct action, catalysed by RTS in London. In Brasilia 50,000 unemployed and landless peasants were on the streets, while in Hyderabad, India, 200,000 were protesting. These events coincided with the 'G8' meeting in Birmingham, Great Britain, and the third ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Geneva, Switzerland. The 'G8' consists of the leaders of the eight most industrialised countries and exists solely to promote economic globalisation, 'free' trade and corporate dominance."

(continued on following page)



from more than 50 countries of the six continents... [which] involved a wide spectrum of participants from left wing parties, unions, NGOs, church associations and extra-parliamentarian oppositional movements [from far-ranging] traditions..."

For the first world, such encuentros were desperately needed. During the second encuentro, Brazil's streets were raging with protests against corporate globalization, as evidenced by the 70,000 plus who attended a July 25th demo in 1997 at Sao Paulo. Meanwhile, no such sign of

## MASS PROTEST NOW PRESENT IN U.S.

The idea was to stage solidarity actions all around the world protesting corporate expansionism during the time G8 was scheduled to meet, which was between June 18th and 20th in 1998 at Koln, Germany. PGA explains this in its state-

"the harsh and destructive demands made for IMF and World Bank loans," as the coalition's press release noted. After having met for a rally and a march to the Treasury Department, almost a thousand people formed a human chain around the department itself.

gap between the poor and the rich."

BND protests were not as well attended as the protests in June, but were nevertheless still quite well spread across the world (especially considering the close date to the November 30th protests in Seattle and beyond). BND actions took place in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Panama, Poland, Quebec, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain & the United States (Texas, New York, Colorado, California, Florida, Massachusetts & Michigan).

In New York, it was RTS that organized the BND actions in their locale. The New York City Police Department was taken by surprise, however, by the hundreds of protesters who initially met at Union Square and then took the subway en masse to Times Square where a tripod (a staple at RTS protests) was waiting to greet the subway riding protesters in the middle of the intersection of 44th street and Broadway (see picture below). Thereafter, the typical carnival like atmosphere of RTS protests attempted to present in its own way, "an alternative to global capitalism and local commercialism," as its web site explains. The intersection was held for about a half an hour, before cops finally violently dispersed the street protest and party. The protest was, according to NYC-RTS, in solidarity with the Seattle Citizen Committee and the international November 30th actions.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO SEATTLE

#### PROTESTS & SUBSEQUENT DEMONSTRATIONS

01/01/94 - 01/13/94; San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico; Uprising and occupation by the EZLN  
07/27/96 - 08/03/96; 5 Zapatista Villages in Chiapas; First Intercontinental Encounter: For Humanity & against Neoliberalism  
07/24/97 - 08/05/97; San Sebastian de los Reyes, Spain; 2nd Intercontinental Encounter  
08/97; Founding of Peoples' Global Action against "Free" Trade & the WTO (PGA)  
05/16/98; London, Switzerland, India, Brazil and elsewhere; First Global Days of Action: Street Parties against Capital (PGA & RTS)  
06/18/99; London, Sydney, S.F., D.C., NYC, & elsewhere; 2nd Global Days of Action (PGA & RTS)  
11/26/99; London, NYC, Hungary, Israel Slovakia, & elsewhere; International Buy Nothing Day (Adbusters)

11/30/99 - 12/3/99; Seattle, WA; World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting (DAN) (see picture on previous page, of banner drop)  
04/16/00 - 04/17/00; Wash., D.C.; International Monetary Fund / World Bank Meeting (MBJ)  
06/03/00 - 06/06/00; Windsor, Canada; Organization of American States  
07/31/00 - 08/04/00; Philadelphia, PA - First Union Center; Republican National Convention (PDAG)  
08/14/00 - 08/18/00; Los Angeles, CA - Staples Center; Democratic National Convention (Rise-Up! DAN)  
09/01/00 - 09/08/00; NYC, NY; United Nations; U. N. Millenium Summit Meetings (S8 Coalition)  
09/11/00 - 09/13/00; Melbourne, Australia; Crown Casino; World Economic Forum  
09/25/00 - 09/28/00; Prague, Czech.; IMF / World Bank summit meeting (INPEG)  
11/14/00 - 11/16/00; Cincinnati, OH; Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue conference (CDAC & CHE)

ment, as they wrote that the protests were intended to "link with the proposed tour of Indian farmers/activists in Europe to campaign against the World Trade Organisation and multinational corporations." Thus, a major goal was "that a whole range of different groups will take part, including workers, peasants, indigenous peoples, women, students, the landless, environmentalists, unwaged / unemployed and others ... everyone who recognises that the global capitalist system, based on the exploitation of people and the planet for the profit of a few, is at the root of our social and ecological troubles."

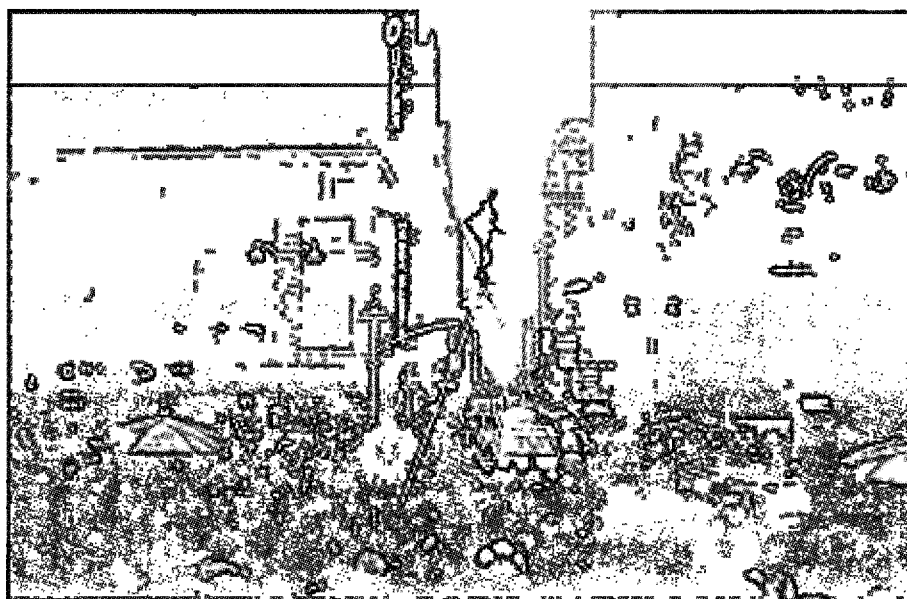
The year before the June 18th actions, there were a number of protests around the world in May of 1998, coinciding with the WTO's Second Ministerial Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. Indeed, the actions during May were quite extensive, as half a million took to the streets in India, fifty thousand demonstrated in Brazil and some 20 cities held "Global Street Parties" via the RTS movement. Nevertheless, as Kauffman notes "if the [May] 1998 actions were large and widespread, the [June 18th, 1999 actions] were staggering." Over 40 countries had international solidarity actions by a wide variety of social movements and groups.

Popular protest was finally beginning to show signs of life in the U.S. as well. For instance, in D.C., a coalition of groups (including the prominent debt cancellation coalition, Jubilee 2000) called "for economic justice and the cancellation of Third World debt" and staged a protest against

### 11/26/99: BUY NOTHING DAY

Just days before some of the largest protests in the U.S. since the 1980's Solidarity movement and the 1960's anti-war protests, an internationally coordinated campaign took place consisting of "cheerful and critical protest against Western over-consumption, the unequal worldwide distribution of well-being and wealth, and the influence of advertising on our daily lives," as the official web site of the International Buy Nothing Day protests explains. These protests occurred on November 26th, 1999 and were amongst a string of protests in prior years. As Romana King informs us in the Canadian student paper, *The Courier* (Centennial College), "in 1992 Kalle Lasn, anti-consumerism activist and the originator of *Adbusters Magazine*, began a grassroots campaign against Christmas time commercialism. His plan was to attack North American over-spending one shopping day at time. The result was the beginning of International Buy Nothing Day, whose purpose is to raise consciousness about the grave costs our consumer culture had on people and the environment, by convincing people to abstain from shopping for just one day."

Organizers for the 99 BND felt "supported by the findings of the recent United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Human Development Reports, which appeared in September 1998 and July 1999. These reports... show that unrestrained consumption broadens the



The complete series of this article, including a number of web links, is available online @: <http://bari.iww.org/~iww-nyc/CUNY>

Comments and/or questions are encouraged. Please write to: [ak@bari.iww.org](mailto:ak@bari.iww.org)

In the next part of this series, the Seattle protests & subsequent demonstrations will be addressed.