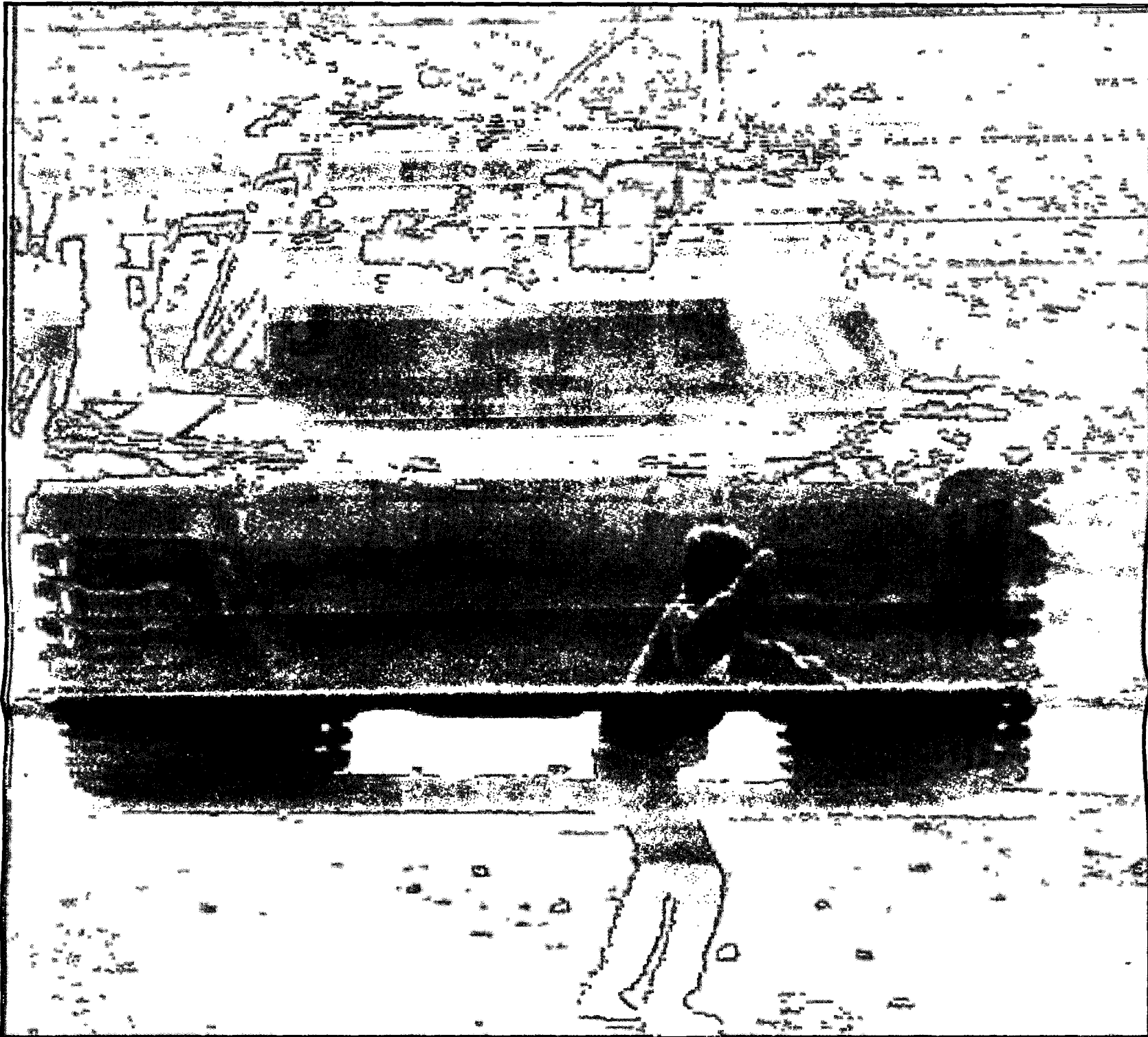


ADVOCATE

CUNY GRAD CENTER

12/2000



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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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365 5TH AVENUE 5TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10016
212.817.7882

CUNYADVOCATE@HOTMAIL.COM

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EDITOR
MARK PETRAS

MANAGING EDITOR
NASSIMA ABDELLI

DESIGN
ANATOLIY KHARKHURIN

CONTRIBUTORS

ELIZABETH SAGARIN T. Xapxyp
DAVE GERARDI LOUISE AMMENTORP
SAMANTHA BOX FERNANDO JANER
ELEANOR B. TIPPLER FERHAT KUTLUCAN
ROB WALLACE ANDREW KENNIS

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