

The ADVOCATE

for the City University of New York Graduate Center

March/April 2000

Students Negotiate With Administration for Graduate Center Improvements

By Susanna Jones & Charles Price

On March 3, 2000, a group of students met with Graduate Center administrators to continue negotiation of a list of demands presented a week earlier by an ad hoc group of students, with the support of the Co-Chairs of the Doctoral Students Council. First we provide some context before presenting a condensed transcript of notes taken by Susanna Jones, former Co-Chair of the Doctoral Students Council. Charles Price, an anthropology student, assisted with the introduction.

Beginning in November 1999, ad-hoc student groups began meeting to discuss the abysmally inadequate level of services here at the Graduate Center, the tortoise-like pace at which problems were being addressed (not even solved!), and the apparent lack of awareness by administration that students, staff, and faculty were fed up with things not working!

Through informal canvassing, students determined that the general consensus among students, faculty and staff was that the move to the new building was a step backward, not forward. We might be better off in the future, but

no one could say when the future would arrive. The differences in opinion about the state of affairs at the Graduate Center tended to be linked to how much time one spent in the building. Those who come only for class tended to be less aware of the Graduate Center's dysfunctional condition, while those who work here on a regular basis were acutely aware.

Equally important to us students was the fact that our leadership was not taking responsibility for the state of affairs, but rather displacing blame onto private vendors, the Dormitory Authority, and others. Displacing blame does not solve problems - action does. Hence our efforts to get the administration to confront and tackle the major problems and inconveniences facing staff, students and faculty.

Eventually the Doctoral Students Council brought its presence to the table, joining the Chartered Students Organization Action Committee, which was later replaced by G-SUCK. Sarcastically, the students said their aim was to get the "SUCK" out of the Graduate Center. Almost immediately after bringing some of the most annoying inconveniences and follies to the attention of the entire Graduate Center community, President Horowitz called for a town meeting. It may have been a coincidence, but this is exactly what students were asking for.

The town meetings, held February 24 and 25, 2000, brought together students, staff, faculty and administration to discuss the state of the Graduate Center. The February 24 meeting was especially animated as participants voiced their complaints directly toward those in charge. The G-SUCK group submitted a list of problems and demands, some of which were discussed in the meeting. As time ran out, the students asked that the negotiations continue in a separate meeting. The administration cooperatively agreed, and students and administration met in a marathon meeting, early Friday evening.

We ask that faculty and staff assist us in helping the administration create a democratic institution of higher education right here at the Graduate Center. There is much we can do together to make this happen.

A condensed account of the meetings follows.

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Town meeting, February 24, 2000. Students, staff, and faculty confront the CUNY administration.



A Great Move Forward

By Mark Noonan

On Thursday, February 24th and Friday, February 25th, President Frances Degen Horowitz and other key Administrators held open town meetings for all CUNY students, faculty, and staff to discuss the road to a fully functional, fully accessible university. With palpable concern for the alarming problems and many nuisances that currently plague the Graduate Center at its new location, President Horowitz addressed the current crisis for a total of four hours (over two days) to over 200 concerned members of the CUNY community.

President Horowitz began the meeting by explaining that the Graduate Center had requested \$4.1 million from Albany in the last budget proceedings, money that was necessary in order to increase staffing and to provide the level of services needed in a move to a building 1/3 larger in size than our former location at 42nd Street. This request did not succeed. "The effort was not lost, however," she explained. "The request currently appears in the Governor's Executive Budget and we fully hope it will pass." She urged all students, staff, and faculty to write letters to their legislative representatives in Albany by mid-March to push for this allocation which would also provide for new full-time faculty, money for doctoral fellowships, and tuition remission for all graduate students. The money would

also enable the building to extend its hours from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (M-F) and 8 a.m.-10 p.m. (Sat./Sun.). Library hours would also be extended, a matter the Administration would discuss with the entire student body.

President Horowitz also candidly admitted that "we are an institution under stress." She explained what was apparent to all in the room, namely that many of the facilities and services our university depends on are either not finished, not furnished, or not yet fully functional. Of course, in a move of such magnitude and complexity such as ours, one would expect the transition to be neither instantaneous, nor unproblematic. Unfortunately, as our president elucidated, problems associated with the move were exacerbated by certain vendors, contractors, and sub-contractors that failed to deliver in timely fashion or correctly implement what was promised. Highly troublesome was the "state of the art" computer network, which the company NEC failed to build and install to proper specifications. Another company, Cisco Systems, has been brought in to rectify the situation, but as of now the system remains "unstable." President Horowitz assured the audience that the problem is of central concern to the Administration and, though they could not guarantee immediate resolution of all computer-related snafus, they would better communicate to the university community the ongoing status of their "relentless

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editorials

Corporate Art STILL Sucks



By Dave Gerardi

Alan Moore recently wrote a response to my review of the Brooklyn Museum's "Sensation" exhibit. Much of it was full of ad hominem and straw man attacks. As such it warrants very little of our time. I will, however, return a few volleys.

The title of this informative little blurb is a play on a sticker made by SST Records. SST was founded by Greg Ginn, the guitarist of the legendary punk/hardcore band Black Flag. His sticker reads, "Corporate Rock STILL Sucks." Ginn has been a tireless opponent of corporate influence on the sale, promotion, and distribution in the music industry. The sentiment of his sticker applies here because the art world suffers from the same influence. Talent takes a back seat to profit. "Sensation" is no different. This was clear in my review. Moore, apparently, was too busy violating the choicest rules in the Handbook of Informal Logical Fallacies to notice.

Moore charges me with "fling[ing] sexist gibes" at one of the exhibit's female artists. Hey! This is libel. It is baseless and utterly without merit.

Moore also accuses me of using the term 'postmodernism.' He's right, I did use it. But from that alone it doesn't follow that, well . . . anything! I'll try to be charitable here. What's missing from Moore's complaint is a hidden premise to the effect that: "postmodernism is dumb,

and if someone uses the term in any sense other than negative, then that person is likewise dumb." Again, Moore is lobbing his arrows at the wrong castle. I clearly distinguished my use of postmodernism from the type that publishes articles by Alan Sokal. My use is much more limited in scope. I treat 'postmodernism' akin to 'baroque' as I would in the following humdrum sentence, 'Bach and Vivaldi are my favorite composers of the baroque period.'

What's Moore so ornery about? He says my standards are too high. Christ, if I were home-schooling my first-grader and quizzing him on Descartes in the original Latin, then maybe he'd have a point (just an example, I don't have a kid). But I've spent the last four years producing and directing films, crewing on other people's films, studying (and doing) both photography and cinematography, writing film and music criticism, typing satirical police blotters, and so on. Safe to say, I've met my fair share of artists in a wide range of fields, and if there's anything they DO need it's standards. Standards by the bucketful. I've seen and/or read more ignorant, baseless tripe than I care to share with you, dear bored reader. I have a four-year documented, critical history (in countless insignificant publications) attacking lazy and/or corporate garbage. Our cultural media are filled with STUFF. It's time pick up a pin and burst some of these helium balloons. Post haste.

Los Pollitos Dicen. Pío, Pío, Pío Cuando Tienen Hambre, Cuando Tienen Frio

By Celia Perez-Ventura

Querido pollito Funky Rubber:

I loved your tour through our new henhouse-building, written and illustrated with an elegant feather, in the last issue of our cheep-cheep newspaper The Advocate.

I decided to comment on your chicken-cartoons taking into consideration two things: a) Short stories have a leitmotif, that is to say, repetition of a phrase, an image or a situation. b) Things in this world were in the human imagination before they are in reality, according to Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

In the real world all chickens like us have a mother, known as Mamá Gallina or Mother Hen, who usually takes care of her little chickens even when they have problems related to un-plucked computers, faxes, library, etc. But, in our chickens imagination, she makes us warm with her huge feathers when we are cold or she runs after us when we are close to dying in the pond of our campus-farm, located in the upper part of our luxury-Fifth-Avenue-henhouse (she never forgets that we are chickens and not ducks, who can swim very well.) Also, she kindly feeds us with her big bill when Papa Gallo or Daddy Rooster has no budget to buy chicken-baskets or chick-peas or for keeping our chicken coop open.

Anyone who reads your birdie story and the whole issue of The Advocate (January 2000) can notice that recurrent ideas are those relating to words like locked, broken, waiting, un-logging, un-open, un-finished, un-financial aid, un-housing, un-responsibility, and un-concerned. (Whoever believes that my chicken dialect is not proper, please ask our dear and very much missed former Big Rooster, Robert Hollander, what he thinks about it. He knows very well that I am an ESL-non-native chicken(a).) Well, I think that these words are expected and not sufficiently exaggerated for the sake of humor, if they wanted to show a repeating situation (old home) and what it is in our chicken real-imagination:

Once upon a time our Mama Gallina, Papa Gallo, and The Arc-Poultry-Dealers promised us that we, the GSUC-bird-family (hens, roosters and chickens), were

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Democratization, Communication, & the Role of Graduate Students in the Project of Higher Education at the GSUC

By Jennifer Leigh Disney, Co-Chair for Communication, Doctoral Students Council

The last issue of the Advocate was a special issue devoted to the problems that have been encountered in our move to the new building. I think the daily dysfunctionality of the GSUC for the past six months, from the inefficient Banner system to the non-existent fax machines to no public telephones, has already been addressed. Although these problems have yet to be solved, I would like to address two additional issues that I feel need further focus: the centralization of information, resources, and decision-making at the Graduate Center, and the role of the student in the decision-making process and in the project of higher education.

Centralization of Information, Technology and Decision-Making

I think the 10-devices-in-one-Xerox machine serves as a metaphor for the centralization of information, technology and decision-making we have seen over the past year, in which both the capacity to perform and the power to decide are held in an ever-shrinking number of hands. If one machine is down, or one man is not doing his job, the whole system becomes inoperable. In other words, what we are experiencing is the deterioration of democracy at the GSUC.

For example, it has come to my attention that students have been encouraged NOT to post messages of interest to the GC community via any of the global GC email addresses.

What better way to COMMUNICATE with members of the COMMUNITY than through a GC Community email address? Are students somehow NOT important members of the GC Community, with as much of a right (if not moreso) to use this vehicle of technology to communicate about issues that concern ALL of us? When last I checked, students were at the center of the educational project- or at least they should be.

If you want the new technology that we have acquired to work to disseminate information only from the top down and not from the bottom up, then I don't want any part of it.

We heard several arguments at the February town meetings that certain things that involved our contractors as well as the implementation of technological designs were out of the control of the administration. Denying technologically capable access of student responses to the GC community email is an example of something WELL within the administration's control, as they elected to do it.

This is not unlike hearing that commands have come from the highest levels of the administration to tear down fliers posted in community areas, supposedly for reasons of aesthetic beauty. Is form being substituted for content here? What good is a graduate school if word cannot get out regarding upcoming events, meetings, talks and conferences—either

through email or posting a flier?

Communication must be fostered, not stifled, at the Graduate Center, through such efforts as: regular town meetings between administration, faculty, staff and students; a community email address accessible to every member of the community; bulletin boards for posting fliers on every floor, in the lobby, in the DSC Social Lounge, and in the library. These small efforts on the part of the administration will go a long way toward increasing its legitimacy and building democracy here at the GSUC.

The Role of Students in the Higher Educational Project at the GSUC

Toward the end of last semester I attended an open meeting for comments on the Middle States Report that really troubled me. The students present raised issues ranging from the inclusion of the

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needs of community college faculty to the difficulties faced by science and all non-GSUC-based graduate students. When the concerns of campus-based students were raised, the response from Associate Provost Linda Edwards was, "That's a good idea. Why don't you form a committee or submit a list of student names interested in serving on such a committee to work on those issues." This kind of response reveals a complete lack of understanding of both the issues raised and the material life of a CUNY graduate student.

First of all, I can't submit a list of student names to serve on a committee because I DON'T KNOW THEM—hence the problem of forming community with campus-based graduate students. Second of all, the suggestion was made that I could contact all of the executive officers of the campus-based programs, and ask them for a list of students and a way to contact them so I could communicate with them regarding their specific needs and attempt to get them to serve on such a committee. This suggestion IGNORES the material labor that is required to conduct these efforts within the reality of a graduate student working multiple jobs trying to pay the cost of living in New York AND trying to advance on her doctoral degree.

If I bring the problem to the attention of the administration, that is ALL I should have to do. Someone who is making a full-time salary should then devote his or her time to creatively brainstorming how to address the problem, forming a task force to tackle the problem, and con-

tacting the individuals who are affected by the problem to participate in the process. This work should not be performed by an overworked, underpaid or volunteering graduate student! Some would even argue that the fact that a student had to POINT the problem out to the administration in the first place reveals a real lack of visionary thinking and focus on the place of the student in the educational equation. The administration needs to appoint a salaried worker to contact the executive officers of the campus-based programs, get the names and emails of the students in the departments, and begin working on this problem.

I feel that this attitude was replicated at the February 25th town meeting with President Horowitz. When I requested that as many administrators as possible attend the negotiating meeting that the President agreed to have with us on Friday, March 3

at 6 pm, President Horowitz responded, "We'll see how many can attend. We all have other lives, you know." Believe me, graduate student adjuncts working four jobs, raising families, and conducting student activism on the side know EXACTLY what having multiple lives is all about. Nine students make a stipend to run the student government: three earn \$700 a month for 10 months (\$7000) while six others earn \$200 a month for 10 months (\$2000). Every other student attending Friday evening

meetings is doing it FOR FREE! It seems to me, that if low-paid or no-paid graduate students can show up for an extra evening meeting to try to improve the life of the GSUC, than full-time, well-salaried administrators can surely do the same.

What I think we would all like to see is a pro-active, visionary administration, that works not simply to preserve a minimal standard of being, but reaches out to meet us half way, encourages continuing dialogue and open lines of communication, and proposes new ideas for how to improve our community and the quality of life of graduate education at CUNY.

I would like to add that since I first wrote this article, we have already seen improvements in these areas. President Horowitz, along with Vice Presidents Haggard, Zalk, Associate Provost Brier, Steve Gorelick, John Flaherty, Susan Newman, Toby Sitko and Norma Kensington attended a three-hour negotiating meeting Friday evening, March 3rd from 6-9 pm. It was very productive and most of our demands were agreed to quite easily. Now, we just have to work on follow-through. You can read the details in this issue of the Advocate. There has also been increased communication: for example, phone calls, emails, and memos passed out directly by the guard on the first floor telling the community that there would be problems with the network on Monday, March 6th. I think all of these efforts are a direct result of student organizing and community activism, and I am proud to have been a part.

Hungry in Fresno

By Funky Rubber Chicken

Me and Terry had been hungry all week. Our latest trudge through all the neighborhood dumpsters in search of cans had only yielded \$.85. Things got tough when the weather got cold—there was a lot more competition for the two-and-a-half-cent cans that rich and wasteful fools threw into the trash. Having had nothing to eat but Doritos and Coke for three months (aside from that perfectly good pizza we found in the dumpster behind the pizza joint three weeks ago), and having no more dumpsters or sections of the riverbed to search through, we were both ready to take drastic measures. So we headed out to the supermarket across the street from our apartment complex to find something to eat—even if we had to take it.

It's not like we wanted to steal. Or, Terry didn't, anyway. But we had foolishly squandered our last \$1.24 earlier in the week on a bag of dried beans. It had seemed like a good idea at the time. We were both so fraught with hunger and malnutrition, maybe we hadn't been thinking straight. Ever since we got kicked out of the second and last grocery store with a bulk food section in our neighborhood, our diets had taken a drastic and unpleasant turn for the worst. Not that the chocolate-covered raisins and gummy bears we had so brilliantly scammed from those stores (by posing as actual shoppers) added vast quantities of vitamins and minerals to our diet. But they had added some variety, at least.

As soon as we got the bag of beans home it hit us: there were no cooking directions on the bag. Neither of us had any idea how to cook beans. We thought about taking them back and exchanging them for something else, but we were both too hungry to make the 200-yard trip. So, with no working source of heat in the apartment other than an electric fry pan, we convinced ourselves that things would turn out fine. An hour and a dozen quickly evaporated cups of water later, the beans were served.

Very soon we discovered that what had looked innocently enough like (unflavored) cooked beans on our plates turned into nothing less than a nightmarish hell: pools of mush full of both crunchy chunks of burnt beans and hard chunks of not-yet-cooked bean-bits. After forcing half a plateful down each we both had to admit that beans were inedible—even for trash pickers.

And so here we were, several days later. We had been to Carl's Jr. every day that week, sneaking free soda with the cup we bought over a month ago. The mold that had been growing all around the seams of the cup was now spreading and becoming part of the paper. It could no longer be scrubbed off or painted over, and it was taking up too much space on the cup now to be hidden, even when two hands were wrapped around the seams. Left on our own, we'd still drink out of it without a second thought. But the Carl's Jr. manager had been watching us lately, and growing ever more suspicious of our endless hours sucking down Coke with a shared cup that one of us had both hands wrapped around at all times. Though the sign said "Free refills" and not "Free refills on this visit only," we knew that argument wouldn't save us from being permanently banned from yet another valuable source of food, were we caught. We decided not to risk it;

we couldn't go back there until we had the money to buy a new cup. And with only \$.85, we were left \$.25 short of getting one.

So, we were heading to the supermarket, wearing shoulder bags underneath our coats—like always, though we never took so much stuff that we needed shoulder bags. Terry always got nervous at the last minute and demanded that we leave. I guess he was afraid of getting caught shoplifting only to be put away for a more serious crime he'd committed years ago in some other state. Sometimes we'd only get out with a bag of candy bars.

I held my breath as we casually walked through the store doors, and focused every shred of hope that I had in the world upon getting this one meal. (We HAD to get something. I couldn't go another eight-to-nine hour shift feeding reptiles at the pet store without getting at least half a good meal in tonight). In one motion, we stepped

Very soon we discovered that what had looked innocently enough like (unflavored) cooked beans on our plates turned into nothing less than a nightmarish hell... After forcing half a plateful down each we both had to admit that beans were inedible—even for trash pickers.

through the doors and sauntered over to the fruit and vegetable section on the far side of the store, as we had seen so many shoppers do before. This section was full of expensive, low-calorie items that had become entirely foreign to us. Still, we always took a few minutes to create the appearance that we were browsing-fruit-and-vegetable-buyers before getting down to business in the more familiar aisles.

Just as we had satisfied ourselves that we had created the illusion of being fruit and vegetable connoisseurs, I heard the screams from the front of the store: "EVERYBODY GET THE FUCK DOWN! RIGHT FUCKING NOW!" Glancing towards the registers from behind a mound of strange, edible, greenish balls, I could see three trench-coated men with scarves draped over their faces. At least two of the men had sawed-off shotguns. Everyone was on the ground except a few of the cashiers, who were fumbling in their attempts to open the drawers to their registers under the enormous emotional strain of having guns waved in their faces and angry men screaming "OPEN THE GOD-DAMN DRAWER NOW!"

Me and Terry looked at each other for the briefest second, and then slid in tandem down the nearest aisle and toward the back of the store. A few minutes later the gunmen left. People were crying, shaken customers were leaving without their groceries, the few managers and workers who had been off to the side during the robbery were trying to clean up the mess of change and broken register drawers on the floor or were looking after injured co-workers. And amidst all the drama, with our pockets and bags bulging so much that we had both doubled in size and weight, me and Terry trotted out of the store completely unnoticed and carrying more food than we had seen in the past three months put together.

We ate well that night: Kraft macaroni and cheese with chili beans, bread, cookies, fake juice, and other foods eaten so quickly I

can't remember what they were. Even the helicopters flying directly over our apartment for hours afterwards in search of the gunmen could not destroy the joy of eating as much as we wanted for as long as we wanted. It was the short moments of happiness like these that lent a different perspective to life.

Half an hour later Terry grabbed me by the shoulders and began shaking me back and forth violently. He was yelling at the top of his voice, his face inches from mine, because I did the dishes when he had said he was going to do the dishes. It was three days ago that he had said this, we didn't have very many dishes, they were all dirty and starting to smell, I didn't mind doing them. None of this would matter to him. I didn't bother trying to explain. He shook me for several minutes, and then threw me hard against the wall. And then repeated this. Every time I got up he grabbed me and slammed me back into the wall, slowly moving me into the corner furthest from the

door. All the while he screamed things like: "Where're you going? Huh? Trying to leave? Well there's the door. Go on!" Then: SHOVE! "You're not going anywhere!"

I knew if I lay on the ground and stopped moving it might all be over sooner. But the ending wasn't going to be any better than the beginning.

Perhaps it would even be worse. So I kept getting right back up and trying to move out of the corner. I couldn't stand being cornered and having him towering over me, yelling and screaming with that crazed look on his face.

It's not like I even had anywhere to go, and we both knew this. I didn't keep in contact with any old friends—and I didn't make any new friends—because of the fights that would arise whenever I spoke to or of other people in a friendly way. If the fights Terry picked with me didn't convince me to cut off contact with someone, then Terry would pick fights with them until they cut off contact with me. We had moved three times in our first year of marriage, making it nearly impossible for us to even get to know the neighbors. Amidst all this, there really was no reason to think that things would be different anywhere else or with anyone else even if I did leave Terry. This is just how things were, and how I thought they were always going to be.

After what seemed like forever, but what might have been only half-an-hour of getting violently hit and shoved against the wall, Terry started calming down. He stood over me without saying anything for quite a while, glaring at me and breathing heavily. Then he went over to the table where he sat pretending to write in a notebook, which I was never allowed to see or mention. He was watching me out of the corner of his eye to make sure I didn't get near the door when I got up. I could only go down the hall—to either the bathroom or the bedroom. He had not allowed me to bathe by myself since we got married, so I went to bed.

I tried to sleep when I got into bed, but I knew that he'd be coming in. At some point. And—whether I was willing or not, asleep or awake—he was going to have sex with me. It was coming. There was nothing I could do but hope that having a full stomach for the first time in months would allow me the luxury of sleeping through it—just this once.

Poetry / Poesia

If I Should Sleep

By Ferhat Kutlucan

If I should sleep and
You're not in my dreams...
That could only mean,
You're right here with me

When the sun has hid itself
From the cold mist of the night
And fear has struck all beings
Except for the one who's waiting

I shall stand my ground and wait
Because only time will tell us when,
Our separated hearts will meet
And be together in one accord

There will be no more shadows
And no more doubts,
Only sparks of jubilation
Radiating from the eyes

All fear is cast away
The dread of past is long forgotten
The future is left undecided
And the present is all that matters

More Than Just Friends

By Ferhat Kutlucan

It started with friendship
And that was all it was to be
But then after a while
It was much more than a smile

I can feel my heart beating
Shouting out for your name
I couldn't stop shaking
And being around you is not the same

I tried to hide my emotions
Tried hard not to let it show
But even so, I want you to know
Just how much I love you so

2 poems

By Fernando Japer & duo con Eddie Santiago

"No me digas nada y marchate."
Flee in a hurry, running rolling
down the stairs all the way to the
door. Do everything in your power
to dismember yourself as you hit
the wall, the steps, and the rail.
So that if I catch up you increase
the chance that I don't catch up
with all of you.

So that most of your parts get to
be cimarrones.
So that those combos of skin and
flesh and more get to have
autonomous independent interde-
pendent happy live

"11 April, 99"

I'm a dolphin, its nose becomes the
snout of a dog, it's a vulva, I'm a
vulva, large, spacious, I go head-first
into it, I come out of it, a woman
dressed as a woman walks down a
sidewalk, for a moment it's a man, it's
a woman, the thin strip of reality only
allows me to see the hem of the skirt, it
comes undone releasing an immense
amount of cloth like theater curtains
falling, silky, voluptuous, bloody, it is
blood, a shower of blood is falling on
me, it is refreshing, I swish it in

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going to be moved to a fantastic
new top-Gallery. We, the chicken-
kids, were enormously happy
because for many years we were
living in an un-prestigious and
divided chicken-campus. The
majority of innocent chickens
thought that finally we were going
to be all together in a very nice
place that Mama Gallina called:
New home. Also we thought that
the rest of the birds would be jeal-
ous of us. Who has seen chickens
living in a famous building on the
most prestigious avenue of this
city? Mama Gallina never lies, and
in all tall stories she always takes
very good care of her pollitos.

That time came and we all

moved into a cage where nothing
works and from where nobody can
flee, because the innocent chick-
ens forgot that although we have
wings, we are not able to fly.

Mama Gallina and her royal
poultry court are playing hide-and-
seek and we, the innocent chick-
ens, are playing la gallinita ciega
especially in the DSC chicken park.
Perhaps, the best thing to do is to
keep our eyes wide open before
our imagination, otherwise we will
have to return to our old home to
get an eye examination.

A big hug from one of your
bird-family members,

Chicken(a) Celia Perez-Ventura

Horrorscopes

By Dave Gerardi

ARIES 3/21 - 4/19

A career change is in the offing.
It will require a lot of wherewith-
al, but you can do it. (Not that I
know you or have any empirical
evidence to bear on the matter.)
Your imminent change across
social groups will be stressful.
You know what that means! New
trophy wife!

TAURUS 4/20 - 5/20

In an effort to be more produc-
tive, put off your procrastination.
Start taking notes in class.
Tomorrow. Right after Scooby
Doo.

GEMINI 5/21 - 6/20

How 'bout a three-way?

CANCER 6/21 - 7/22

There's no cure, you know.

LEO 7/23 - 8/22

Take the initiative. Focus on
your career. Question your
spouse. Watch out for Gemini
(those horny devils!). Take less
initiative. Cancer and Scorpio
are allies. Unless Cancer is busy
getting chemotherapy in which
case those weaselly Scorpio are
your only allies (damn your luck!)
Take no initiative.

VIRGO 8/23 - 9/22

Love is in the air. Duck!

LIBRA 9/23 - 10/22

Focus on getting your hands on
some high caliber ordinance.
They're all against you. Those
bastards! Save yourself. It's the
only way.

SCORPIO 10/23 - 11/21

Find a Leo and mess with their
head.

SAGITARIUS 11/22 - 12/21

Holy crap! Sagittarius is totally
screwed this month. Totally
screwed. I can't believe wh-heh,
heh, was I typing out loud? I
mean, er, ah... good fortune for
all. Your wife and kids love you.
Heh heh, yeah.

CAPRICORN 12/22 - 1/19

Your past will catch up to you.
Excuse me, Miss? Didn't I just
see you in that movie? Anal
Fantasies 4?

AQUARIUS 1/20 - 2/18

Focus on focusing.

PISCES 2/19 - 3/20

Stop reading this and do your
damn taxes!

Adjunct Beat

By Kristin Lawler

I guess I thought that the academic life was going to be different. It's not that the shitty job prospects awaiting Ph.D.s these days came as a big nasty surprise; I entered the Grad Center in the mid-nineties, and I knew better than to expect the old, credential = stable academic job equation. By then, that whole scene was clearly on its way out. I didn't realize at the time, though, that the teaching I'd do in grad school would turn out to have everything to do with those rotten job prospects. I expected to enter a space that was stimulating and fun, and I knew I'd never get off my ass to write the book I know is in me without some institutional constraints prodding me along. All of those expectations were on the money, and then some. The one thing I wasn't expecting to enter, however, was a freaking sweatshop.

I got a Graduate Teaching Fellowship for my second year, and found my real calling. I love teaching, for a million reasons, and the money—well, wasn't some degree of poverty part of the bohemian intellectual life? At least the graduate student one? It kind of seemed appropriate. I got a big apartment in Williamsburg, when there was still cheap space to be had, and settled in. And I dig my life, but I am so over the poverty thing.

Even if you do have a cheap apartment, which is less and less likely these days, when what the newly-rich can afford dictates what everyone else will have to pay, you simply can't live like a person in New York City and have time to get your own work done if you're living on the wages of a part-time professor. Bohemian or not—rock and roll shows, and books, cost money. What most of us wind up doing is teaching an absurd number of classes and doing research and administrative jobs to make up the difference between adjunct wages and the federal poverty level. And more and more of us find that the intellectual work we came here to do is a luxury that we have little time for.

There is no question that the world today is long on crisis and short on new ideas. This has everything to do with the institutional situation that young intellectuals have to navigate these days. Who has time to think, and write, when you're struggling to stay above water financially? Many of us just stick our noses to the grindstone—maybe if I can hook up with one more class, I can make my rent and eat. But this is just the opposite of what we need to do to reclaim the time and wages that we're being robbed of. Wake up kids! We're flooding the market with cheap labor, and selling our own asses down the river every day. Paradoxically, the harder we work, the worse things get. Nationally, over half of all college classes are taught by overworked, underpaid adjuncts; at CUNY the per-

centage is higher. To the extent that college administrations can use cheap graduate student labor to teach classes, full-time, tenure-track lines in the university will continue to dry up, and the space for noninstrumental, critical thinking that the academic life used to provide will disappear right along with them. A grim scenario, to be sure. The good news is that it's entirely in our power to transform it, by making effective, organized demands for the life we deserve.

When I finally got wise to all this, I joined the union. If you're an adjunct or a Graduate Teaching Fellow, you should too. At the moment, signing you up is the main focus of the Adjunct Project, a chartered organization of

As the experience of the transit workers union clearly shows, a powerful dissident faction within a union can exert incredible leverage over the leadership, whoever they are.

What's important for graduate student adjuncts is that we're organized, vocal, and represented on union membership rolls; then and only then are leaders constrained to act on our behalf.

the DSC of which Mark Halling and I are the co-coordinators. There are only a small percentage of graduate student adjuncts and Graduate Teaching Fellows who are actually members of the Professional Staff Congress, the union that negotiates wages, benefits, and working conditions on our behalf. Since the thousands of graduate students who are daily exploited in the CUNY system are, for the most part, not voting members of this union, the leadership has no incentive to take our concerns into consideration when contracts are negotiated. What this means is that instead of being the vibrant center of New York intellectual life that the Graduate Center has such a rich potential to be, the institution instead serves as a pool of sweated labor for the CUNY system. However, if every one of us joins the union, the leadership will be constrained to listen to our demands at contract time—demands for a living wage that provides us time for doing real intellectual work, now and in our future. And time to have a life, for chrissakes.

The Adjunct Project had great success during a union membership drive this fall and many graduate students became union members in time to vote in the crucial spring union election. A hotly contested race, the two caucuses competing for the leadership have widely divergent visions of what a union should be and what ours should do about the two-tier wage system that's threatening all of us, full-timers and part-timers alike. Those of

you who are members need to make sure you check out the campaign literature of the candidates, attend debates, and by all means, VOTE. Make your voice heard in the union now that you can. For those of you who haven't yet joined, it's not too late. You may not be able to vote in the election, but, as the experience of the transit workers union clearly shows, a powerful dissident faction within a union can exert incredible leverage over the leadership, whoever they are. What's important for graduate student adjuncts is that we're organized, vocal, and represented on union membership rolls; then and only then are leaders constrained to act on our behalf. Because only union members can vote "yes" or "no" on the contracts that are negotiated by the leadership. If there's no threat that a sellout contract will be rejected by those who are getting screwed (that's us), why not screw em? This is why every graduate student who teaches in the CUNY system must join the union NOW.

We are uniquely positioned in time and space to make a change, now, before things get any worse. The exploitation of part-time labor in the university, and the organized resistance to it, are increasingly prominent national issues these days; we are by no means alone in acting up. Hooking up with these struggles,

and with the strong tradition of organizing at the Graduate Center, is the only way for us to contest our own exploitation at the same time that we demand a reinvigoration of the university in terms of its potential as something much more than the "knowledge factory" it's turning into. Also, the situation of adjunct faculty mirrors that of workers everywhere. The attempt to implement a two-tier wage system and eliminate well-paid jobs in favor of having people do the same work for far less money is pretty run of the mill, and our concerns link up with those of people in every occupation who resist working more for less money. In addition, we are in New York, in one of the largest public university systems in the nation. What we do here is national news. We have the power to articulate our concerns, contest what's going on, and make a difference. And I think that's what I really came here for. I'm just not hip to a world where everybody works longer and harder for less money, and has no time to engage in the "unproductive" pursuits that make life worth living. Life is short, you know?

Kristin Lawler and Mark Halling are coordinators of the Adjunct Project, a chartered organization of the Doctoral Students Council that advocates for the specific interests of graduate student adjuncts. Their office is in room 5398 of the GSUC, and their phone number is 817-7890. Give them a call and get involved!

A Call for a New Student Movement

By Costas Panayotakis

The persistent attacks on CUNY during the last few years (the last of course being the butchering of remediation programs) merely exemplify the precarious state in which the American public education system finds itself at the beginning of the long-awaited new 'millennium'. In such a context, even the ponderous pronouncement of the coming era as that of knowledge and information loses its reassuring character, assuming instead the character of an ominous warning. Apparently this pronouncement is something more than a means of satisfying the insatiable appetite for legitimating clichés of the intellectual representatives of the capitalist

Establishment. The equanimity and complacency with which the self-styled 'visionaries' behind this pronouncement accept, fail to notice or even implement the attacks on public education serve to confirm what did not need to be confirmed in the first place,

namely the determination of the powers that be to maximize the education system's contribution to the ongoing aggravation of social inequalities on all fronts.

In view of this bleak situation, the resurgence of the student movement has become once again an urgent necessity. At the same time, the contribution of the education system to the reproduction of class, race and gender inequalities implies the necessity of cooperation between student movements and movements fighting class, gender and racial oppression.

In a world where social inequality is on the rise on all fronts, however, such a united front between all progressive movements becomes a more general imperative transcending the limits of educational struggles proper and becoming operative in all other social struggles as well. This means, however, that each of the movements should try to articulate its demands and goals in ways that make clear the relevance of its struggles to the struggles of all the other progressive movements. Only the realization of and emphasis on the interconnectedness and complementarity of the various struggles against social oppression will turn the abstract possibility of a united front against oppression into a concrete reality.

A historically informed examination of the present political landscape can only convince us that allowing the usurpation of the banner of universalism by divide-and-rule discourses that turn one oppressed group against the other

is one of the best ways to ensure the continued ideological hegemony of the ruling groups and thus the perpetuation of social oppression in all its forms.

Both the potential for a common front between the different movements fighting all the various forms of oppression and one of the major obstacles to the transformation of this potential into a reality are provided by the contradictory logic of capitalist development. More specifically, it is the nature of capitalism to artificially perpetuate material scarcity and human misery even as it creates—through

We as students will be most effective if we clearly articulate a set of goals and demands [connected] to the struggle of other progressive movements. This would help mount more effective resistance to the continuing onslaught on public education, energizing students and strengthening the student movement. In turn, [we'd] be able to return the favor by giving support to struggles of other progressive movements.

its unprecedented development of technology and the productive forces the technical preconditions for the irreversible elimination of these increasingly obsolete phenomena. The question of scarcity is of central importance because the leap from social oppression's objective phase to its irreversible elimination presupposes the attainment of a radically different society which—rather than subordinating human needs to its functional imperatives—would simply serve as a means to the satisfaction of people's need for a happier and richer life. Only the struggle against capitalism and for a democratization of the economy can lead to a society in which the satisfaction of every individual's material needs goes hand in hand with the drastic reduction of the working day. In such a society struggles over material resources would become obsolete as people would devote most of their time and energy to individual self-development through free, creative activity pursued for its own sake.

Such a society would also eliminate the conditions underlying the non-material components of social oppression. By allowing every individual's genuine self-development, such a society would put an end to the socially produced reduction of individuals into a state of stupefied nothingness. Having the opportunity for a genuinely rich and meaningful life, the individual would no longer find in the negation and humiliation of an 'Other' his/her only road to self-affirmation. In this sense, the struggle against

capitalism is not simply a struggle against class oppression but rather the precondition for humanity's total emancipation through the abolition of all forms of social oppression.

At the same time, however, capitalism's artificial perpetuation of scarcity presents an obstacle to a united front of the oppressed since it encourages competition both within and between the oppressed groups. As long as capitalism's dialectical undermining/restoration of material scarcity is not clearly recognized, the oppressed groups will be con-

demned to struggle with each other for the few crumbs conceded to them. As the recent attacks on affirmative action also demonstrate, the inevitable result in such a case is a reactionary 'politics of resentment'. Moreover, the material and non-material pathologies stemming from the artificial perpetua-

tion of material scarcity will also encourage the perpetuation of the kind of dangerous, aggressive paranoias fueling national and ethnic conflicts.

The reader patient enough to have followed us thus far may feel by now that we have moved far away from our original topic concerning public education and the necessity of a resurgent student movement. However, the failure of our mobilizations to arrest the ongoing attack on CUNY mounted by Pataki and the #1 threat to NYC's quality of life (yes, you guessed it: it is Adolph Giuliani that I have in mind) should make it clear that the united front between different progressive movements is a presupposition not only for radical social change but even for a more effective day-to-day struggle against the further deterioration of the current sorry state of affairs.

Turning the tide in the education front presupposes a new and stronger student movement while, at the same time a strong student movement can only emerge as the result of successful struggles in this front. Is this a vicious circle, we have stumbled upon? Certainly not. The above formulation simply expresses the need to translate our recognition of the interconnectedness and complementarity of emancipatory struggles into a dialectical strategy making concerted struggle a means to the development and strengthening of every single of the progressive movements involved.

More specifically, we—as stu-

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A Great Move Forward

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efforts to rectify the problem." The President also announced that such items as coat racks and hooks, "soft" furniture for student areas, and waste-baskets had finally arrived and that student lockers were to be installed throughout the building in the upcoming months, the bizarre delays resulting, in part, from the bureaucratic nature of the bidding processes required by law.

In response, one member of the audience argued that it is easy to blame other companies or the bureaucracy monster, but problems are also the result of acquiring high-tech equipment and software that CUNY does not have the resources to support. Special reference was made to the Graduate Center's experimental computer network and the new combination copier/scanner/printer/fax/coffee-making(?) machines that only allow one computer to print or fax at a time. Numerous persons also complained that it was extremely difficult to get direct answers to problems -- phone calls to the information help desk were often not returned or even answered, and when a live person was actually reached, solutions were promised but rarely kept. President Horowitz promised the hiring of additional, PROPERLY TRAINED staff to assuage the problem (contingent upon funding from Albany) and added that a search had already begun for a Director of Client Services and two additional staff.

Another student pointed out that there still were no signs for emergency doors, fire alarms, or emergency exits and the signs in Braille were merely Xeroxed and, thereby, utterly useless. The administration explained that signs were presently being manufactured and were scheduled to arrive soon. The administration also promised to look into the issue of too many doors being locked and assured audience members that all hallway doors, classroom doors, computer rooms and lounge areas would be routinely opened at 8:00 a.m.

The ludicrous absence and misplacement of large chalkboards specified for classrooms in Math and the sciences was also discussed. Though there seems to be no resolution to this problem at this time, the problem stems from blackboards being installed that did not adhere to required specifications. The related "printer shortage" was also addressed. The administration came to the decision that any doctoral program wishing to substitute a printer for a computer in the student area could do so. Additional high-speed printers would also become available in the library and a new, improved system for printing in the library was currently in the works. The audience was also informed that the setting up of bulletin boards will be coordinated with the installation of lockers and that stanchions in the lobby for distribution of materials and information kiosks in the lobby and on every floor would be up and running before the end of the semester.

Later in the meeting, the student group GSUCK raised a series of demands which President Horowitz agreed to go over item by item as time permitted in an attempt to address and, hopefully, resolve each problem in the near future. They are as follows:

GSUCK and DSC DEMANDS

I. THE DAILY DYSFUNCTIONALITY OF THE GSUC

1. Unlocked hallways, classrooms, computer rooms and lounges.
2. Longer hours for both the building and the library. A space with computers available to students 24 hours like we had in the old DSC space.
3. Students MUST get paid on time, and also NEED to be able to get advances on loans and fellowships.
4. We want the administration to provide a \$.03 copy machine to be placed in the DSC lounge and accessible to all students, like we had in the old DSC space.
5. We want the 17 computers for the DSC Chartered Organization that were originally promised for Room 5409, the DSC Working Lounge. We want Room 5409 to become a REAL SOCIAL LOUNGE instead, with couches and tables instead of work cubicles.
6. We want a printer and a continuous supply of paper in every academic computer room in the new building and 10 more printers in the library.
7. We want the integration of a Macintosh component to our computer facilities for MAC users, as there are no MACs attached to the network, and we want design programs (i.e. Quark Express, PageMaker, PhotoShop) to be available on all GSUC computers.
8. We want the Help Desk Hours of operation to be extended until 8 p.m.
9. We want bulletin boards in the lobby, in the library and unlocked glass cabinets for students to post fliers and other important information on EVERY floor.
10. We want a working refrigerator and microwave in every pantry and student lounge, garbage cans in every office and hallway, coat racks on every floor, public phones, scanners, bike racks, and lockers we were promised.
11. We demand that you hire more trained personnel to manage and implement the expanded technological resources of the new building.

12. We demand that the Day Care Center scheduled to open in September 2000 be immediately open to all faculty and staff and not just to students.
13. Affordable student housing.
14. Gym facilities.
15. In an effort to overcome the design flaws of the new building, which is a compartmentalized space that separates and fragments people rather than bringing us together, we would like to recommend a bar in the new building to foster community between faculty, staff and students.

II. THE CENTRALIZATION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES TECHNOLOGY AND DECISION-MAKING AT THE GSUC

1. A COMMUNITY email address we can ALL post to!
2. Increased student representation in formal decision-making bodies dealing with the new building and resource allocation.
3. A computer network that is fully operational and a return of control over computer software and hardware programs to departments and academic centers.
4. Advance warning for scheduled maintenance on the server and brief system-wide emails regarding building closures/changed hours of operation.
5. Elimination of the monopoly of GC catering for events in GSUC public spaces and/or more affordable prices.
6. A DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION WITH LEADERSHIP THAT IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF THROUGH REGULAR TOWN MEETINGS.

This writer applauds GSUCK, the Administration, and all those who attended these meetings as a bold move in the right direction. The meetings were an optimistic sign that administrators, faculty, staff and students are willing to work together to achieve a common goal: an extremely well-conceptualized, non-hierarchical, student-responsive OPEN University. Also promising is that President Horowitz has agreed to hold regular monthly town meetings open to all to discuss Graduate Center issues and concerns. The Advocate will report on these meetings and will carefully scrutinize how well the administration follows through on student demands. Stay tuned.

A16

JOIN THE GSUC CONTINGENT AND THOUSANDS MORE TO HELP SHUT DOWN THE IMF AND WORLD BANK TALKS IN WASHINGTON DC -- APRIL 16, 2000

**COME TO PLANNING MEETINGS W/ DIRECT ACTION NETWORK
AT: CHARAS/ 605 EAST 9TH STREET, SUNDAYS AT 5 PM
CHECK OUT: WWW.A16.ORG**

New Caucus Debates the Unity Caucus But Wait - the Unity Caucus Never Showed Up!

By Susanna Jones

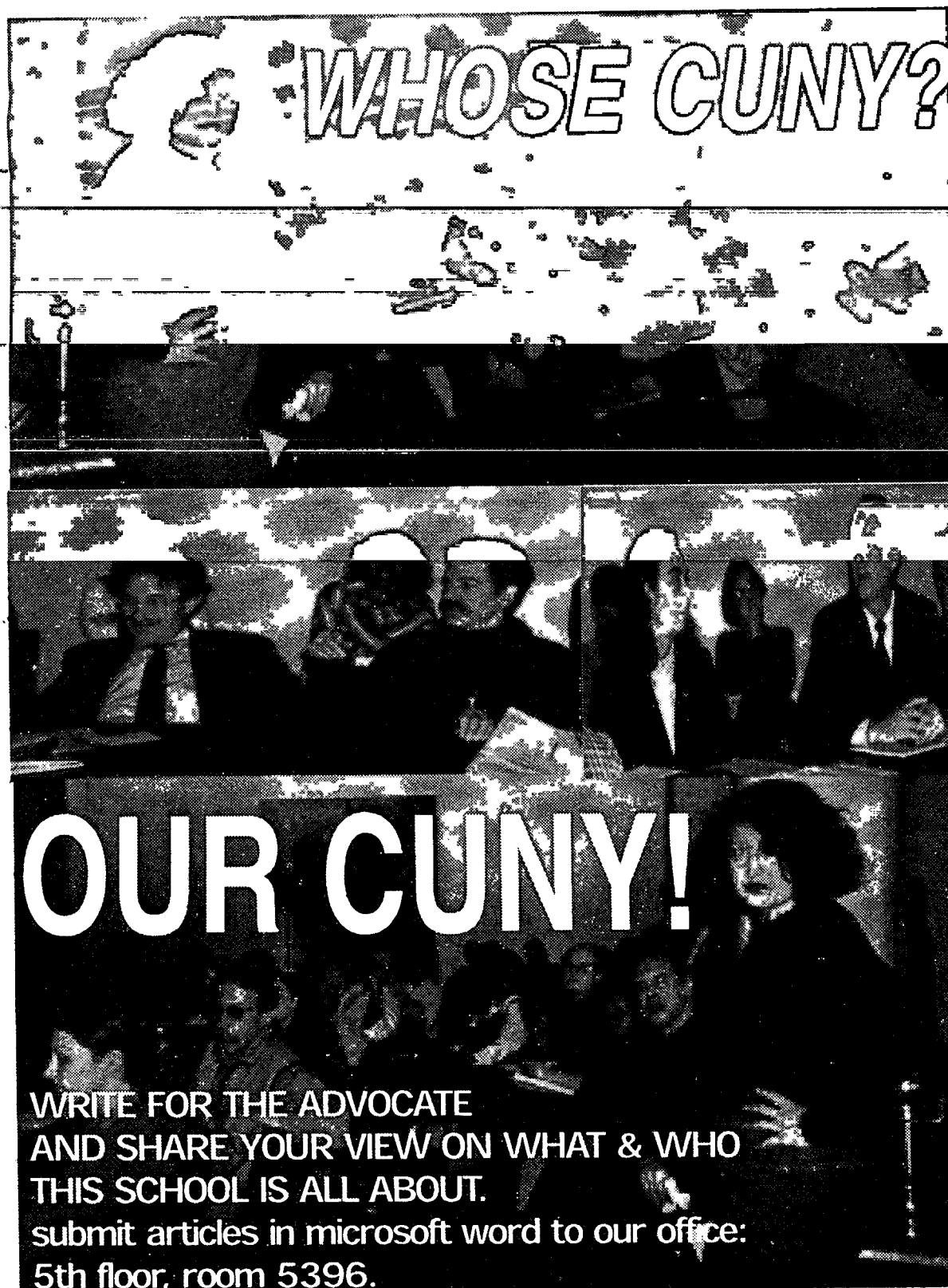
On April 3rd, the Professional Staff Congress will mail out approximately 11,000 ballots to its membership. This election is a particularly important one, given the differing views and strategies of the two caucuses - the Unity Caucus versus the New Caucus. It's time to hear the platforms and decide which way to cast your vote. A debate was arranged at the Graduate Center for Wednesday, March 1st. But oops! No one from the Unity Caucus was present. It was quite a disappointment. Faculty, students, and staff present were prepared to hear the issues, ask questions, and make decisions. That much we did.

Apparently, representatives from the New Caucus and representatives from the Unity Caucus have arranged ten different debates to occur in the time period leading up to the April election at various CUNY campuses. Unfortunately, the Graduate Center was not chosen as one of the ten locations. We can only

speculate as to why and I think that Professor Stanley Aronowitz summed it up best when he stated, we (meaning the GC) weren't part of the debate agreement which means that quite frankly they don't want to talk with us. Why would our own union not want to hear from its own membership? Maybe it has something to do with the particular concerns of the adjunct constituents and allies that reside at the GC. What could the Unity Caucus say when asked point blank about their stance on adjunct issues in relationship to the union, such as, tuition remission, pay parity, health benefits, discriminatory labor practices (selective enforcement of the agency fee), unpaid labor (office hours). Well, since I can't speak about the position of the Unity Caucus, we may never know what they think and how they plan to tackle these very important issues. Nevertheless, I can report to you the platform of the New Caucus who so confidently opened up the dialogue with the GC community about these very issues during the open meeting on

March 1st. Barbara Bowen, New Caucus candidate for the PSC President along with Steve London, Candidate for VP, Cecelia McCall, Candidate for Secretary, and John Hyland, for Treasurer presented to the audience the New Caucus platform and philosophy. Here are some of the highlights:

- * Pro-rated parity for all part-timers, adjuncts, and Graduate Teaching Fellows
 - * Health benefits for all part-timers
 - * Tuition remission for all graduate students who teach at a CUNY campus
 - * Membership drives (currently, there are 9000 part-timers, 1000 of which are union members)
 - * Bigger and more powerful lobbying efforts
 - * Place academic labor issues on the national agenda
 - * Reinvigorate and revitalize the energy of unionism!
- ELECTION BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED, SO KEEP A LOOK OUT. YOU SHOULD BE EXPECTING THEM DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL! DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!



WHOSE CUNY?

OUR CUNY!

WRITE FOR THE ADVOCATE
AND SHARE YOUR VIEW ON WHAT & WHO
THIS SCHOOL IS ALL ABOUT.
submit articles in microsoft word to our office:
5th floor, room 5396.

Questions to Consider

By Charles Reavis Price

Have you noticed that you have to walk all the way across the men's bathroom just to dry your hands, only to have them soiled again by the paper towel that unrolls into the refuse bin?

Did you know that the entire Graduate Center community has only two working fax machines, and one of them has a tendency not to work most of the time?

Isn't it annoying to have the security guards continually open rooms that are supposed to be open, such as the student lounge and student organization corridors?

The pantries are in the same unfinished condition as when we moved. Rumor has it the pantry electrician is missing in action. Is the administration willing to subsidize the costs of lunch and snacks?

Isn't Microsoft Outlook more Cumbersome than Eudora?

Aren't the frames for viewing the web frustrating- only being able to read part of the screen at a time without shrinking everything?

Students Negotiate for GC Improvements

continued from page 1

Note: In order to fully understand the demands made and the outcome of the meeting, read these minutes alongside the demand list produced collaboratively by GSUCK and the DSC. (See attached - Appendix A)

DEMAND NUMBER: 1

DEADLINE TO MEET DEMAND:

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

DEMAND: Administration must produce a memo to security informing them of the need to unlock classrooms, computer rooms, hallways and lounges.

ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE AND FOLLOW THROUGH:

* John Flaherty (director of security) sat with Ray Ring and developed a spreadsheet of classrooms, seminar rooms, computer rooms, lounges and halls that are to be opened daily at 8AM. If the stated rooms are not open by 8AM, call John Flaherty personally.

* Chains for ID badges are in room 9116, Peter Harris (audiovisual). Security will ensure that chains are available to all students, staff, and faculty at the security desk in the lobby as well as a memo drafted and sent to the GC community about this issue by Monday, March 6, 2000.

DEMAND NUMBER: 2

DEADLINE TO MEET DEMAND: Friday March 31, 2000

DEMAND: Longer hours for both the building and library. A space with computers available to students 24 hours. At a minimum the administration is to offer us an alternative plan/strategy.

ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE AND FOLLOW THROUGH:

* GC is maxed out on budget this year. Cannot extend the hours. A Class E building has certain regulations in reference to fire and engineering codes.

* The idea was raised to use the reserve floor of the library on the first floor. Susan Newman was in support of this idea and suggested that we pay ONE student to work during the off-hours in this space, where computers can be placed for students to use potentially 24 hours.

* Administration will follow through on exploring this possibility rather than waiting for the July budget to arrive.

* J. Flaherty will investigate the possibilities with respect to needing licensed engineers and additional costs this option would incur.

* Assuming the budget is passed as is, a portion of the 4.1 million will be used to increase building and library hours. Student involvement is necessary when determining the best or most optimal hours for increased operation.

DEMAND NUMBER: 3

DEADLINE TO MEET DEMAND: Friday, March 10, 2000

DEMAND: Students must get paid on time and also need to be able to get advances on loans, fellowships, scholarships, etc. E-mail through the APOs to the GC Community publicizing policies for what to do if you are not paid on time and how to receive advances. This e-mail is to be sent to all students on the first day of each semester.

ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE AND FOLLOW THROUGH:

* E-mail will be drafted and sent to student community by 3/10/00.

* Additional commitments to ensure student awareness of this problem, include a payment schedule plan in each issue of the newsletter produced by VP Zalk's office, which is mailed to all students' homes, a payment schedule included in registration materials and in the GC information bulletin.

DEMAND NUMBER: 4

DEADLINE TO MEET DEMAND: Fall 2000

DEMAND: Installation of copier in DSC space

ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE AND FOLLOW THROUGH:

* This is a complicated issue that was briefly discussed. It became evident that a detailed strategizing meeting must be arranged with DSC representatives and VP Bruce Kohan.

DEMAND NUMBER: 5

DEADLINE TO MEET DEMAND:

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

DEMAND: Creation of a true DSC social lounge through the conversion of the working lounge into a social lounge space. The installation of 17 computers in all DSC Chartered Organization offices.

ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE AND FOLLOW THROUGH:

* By March 8, 2000, students will submit a plan to the administration about the desired set-up of the social lounge, articulating detailed plans: what and where. Discuss with Ray Ring what is possible in the social lounge and utilize VP Zalk as a liaison.

* James Haggard agreed to install 17 computers in all DSC Chartered Organization offices. He will look into three additional computers for the three DSC co-chair

offices. This task is to be completed by March 31, 2000.

* Mr. Haggard agreed to fix the four computers that are in the computer HUB, room 5487, by March 31, 2000.

DEMAND NUMBER: 6

DEADLINE TO MEET DEMAND:

Immediately

DEMAND: Additional printers and continuous supply of paper in the library. Explain what "free print page allocation" means. Are the two high-speed printers on the second floor connected and properly working?

ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE AND FOLLOW THROUGH:

* James Haggard states, there will be four printers for the library, two on the second floor and two on the concourse. Students will be allotted a certain number of pages per semester for printing ("free print page allocation"). This number has not yet been determined and is negotiable. This eliminated the current problem with cueing, whereby, every print job is connected to your user ID, so that when you print you no longer have to worry about someone else's job being printed on your paper. The library will be providing the paper. Students can purchase more paper allocation once their allotment is out through the Bursar's office. The software will be implemented this summer.

DEMAND NUMBER: 7

DEADLINE TO MEET DEMAND: Friday,

March 31, 2000 and by the opening of the concourse.

DEMAND: Install 10 Macintosh computers in the building

By opening of the concourse: 10 additional Macs on the concourse and 2 Macs in the DSC computer HUB (room 5487).

ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE AND FOLLOW THROUGH:

* James Haggard ordered 6 G3 Macintosh computers to be placed on the concourse level of the library that is scheduled to open March 31, 2000. By mid-April the Macs will be installed and working.

* If the concourse does not open according to schedule, the Macintoshes will be set up in a space accessible to students.

DEMAND NUMBER: 8

DEADLINE TO MEET DEMAND: Friday, March 31, 2000

DEMAND: Increased operating hours for Information Resources Help Desk and plan for additional staff for the help desk.

ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE AND FOLLOW THROUGH:

* Administration is going forward with the assumption of the 4.1 million dollar budget and beginning a search for a Director of Client Services and two staff members.

* They are trying to give help to the help desk, but extending hours of operation means additional bodies.

* Administration states that in order to properly run the help desk, they need 10 to 15 full-time lines; they currently have 5 full-time lines, one of whom is out on medical leave.

* There are student consultants that work evening and weekend hours.

* Information Resources is currently placing "Frequently Asked Questions" on-line so students, faculty, and staff can search for help on their own.

* Information Resources will print out the on-line FAQs and make the hard copies available in the library as well as various other heavily-used locations.

* DSC will find a student to sit on the search committee for the new staff positions.

DEMAND NUMBER: 9

DEADLINE TO MEET DEMAND:

Immediately

DEMAND: Bulletin boards to post flyers and information.

ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE AND FOLLOW THROUGH:

* By the end of the semester, bulletin boards will be in the library, departments, and behind lockers. Each program on every floor will have access to a case in the hallways of their respective floors. The DSC will have one case on each floor.

* President Horowitz will talk to Ray Ring about temporary spaces to hang flyers while we are waiting for the cases and bulletin boards to be fixed and installed.

* Nan Shaw's office produces a monthly calendar. Any and all events can be posted in the calendar. Contact Nan Shaw for deadline dates for placing events in the newsletter.

* The DSC can place announcements on the GC web page. Contact Jim Haggard for additional information.

continued on next page

A Call for a New Student Movement

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dents will be most effective in our struggles if we clearly articulate a set of goals and demands that makes clear the relevance of our struggle to the struggle of other progressive movements. The support of these other movements would help mount a more effective resistance to the continuing onslaught on public education, energizing students and strengthening the student movement. A stronger student movement would, in its turn, be able to return the favor by giving its support to the struggles and further development of all the other progressive movements.

A student movement agenda relevant to the struggles of other emancipatory movements could include demands such as the following:

1. Free public education all the way up to college and graduate school.
2. Increased local, state and federal funding of education as a means of closing the gap between public and private schools as well as between schools in wealthy and poor districts.

continued from previous page

DEMAND NUMBER: 10

DEADLINE TO MEET DEMAND: see below

DEMANDS: Friday, March 31, 2000: refrigerators and microwaves in all pantries

Monday, March 6, 2000: garbage cans in all offices and in hallways

Monday, March 6, 2000: public phones installed on floors 1, 5, 8, 9, and concourse

Friday, March 31, 2000: scanners installed and working

Monday, March 6, 2000: place bike racks on the concourse level until construction is done and adequate bike racks are installed

ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE AND FOLLOW THROUGH:

* Administration is fighting with the New York Dormitory Authority about the purchase of refrigerators and microwaves. Initially, the Dormitory Authority was going to make the purchase and now the cost falls on the GC. There is currently a microwave and refrigerator in the staff lounge located on the 7th floor.

* 1200 garbage cans arrived the week of Feb 28, 2000. They are currently being distributed.

* The installation of public phones begins on Monday, March 6, 2000. The DSC will discuss as a budget item the installation of a phone to be used by students in the DSC lounge (room 5414) during the next plenary March 24, 2000.

* Scanners are currently on the concourse. Jim Haggard will immediately look into moving the scanners into the library to make available to students.

* No bikes are allowed in the building. There are currently two options: racks outdoors on 3

3. Defense of affirmative action for groups underrepresented in higher education. These affirmative action programs would seek to compensate partially for the great inequality of opportunity in American society and should be open to poor and minority students.

4. Defense and extension of remediation programs at all educational levels.

5. Abolition of the Taylor laws. By taking away the city workers' right to strike, the Taylor laws make it harder for educators to resist the attacks on public education spearheaded by fascistoid mayors and all the other slightly less malignant Establishment politicians.

6. Elimination of adjunct academic labor, conversion of current adjunct lecturers into full-time status and increases in graduate student funding so that the pursuit of graduate studies ceases to be tantamount to the alienation of one's labor power for a bargain price.

7. Extension of welfare programs to eliminate child poverty.

8. Extension of life-long education opportunities and services facilitating the studies of parents (e.g., day-care centers).

9. Struggle for a living wage and the reduction of the workday. We should turn the tables on conservative Republicans who always rail about the weakening of family values by arguing that if parents are to contribute to the intellectual and personal developments of their children, they must have more free time to spend with their children.

These items are obviously meant to be illustrative rather than exhaustive. We could obviously add more items to this list especially if we directly solicit and incorporate the feedback of other progressive movements. The student movement has grown in the past by embracing the concerns of the peace and civil rights movements while even today there is a movement of students protesting university investments in corporations making use of sweatshop labor. All these issues should also be part of the student movement agenda.

The strategy of a united front of progressive movements presupposes that every single of these movements would also incorporate in its agenda the demands of all the other movements. The critical mass provided by the united front would strengthen each of the movements while this strengthening of the individual movements would further increase the power and leverage of the united front.

This dialectical process could eventually give rise to a radical-emancipatory party, which could provide the forum for the interaction, mutual education and exchange of perspectives between the participants of the different movements. Such a forum would

allow these movements to negotiate a comprehensive strategy that would turn progressive reforms into a means for the further development both of the individual movements and of the struggle against capitalism's artificial reproduction of scarcity and the various forms of conflicts and social oppression that this scarcity encourages. Thus, the very process of debate and common action between the various movements would have the function not only of articulating into a coherent program the concerns of these movements but also of radicalizing popular consciousness until it is no longer mystified by capitalism's simultaneous undermining and restoration of material scarcity.

In a conservative era when the old dilemma Reform or Revolution? seems to have lost its relevance by virtue of the fact that progressive reforms increasingly seem to be as much a thing of the past as revolutions are supposed to be (after all, it is true that we have not seen a major revolution for at least ten years!), the initiation of the 'united front' strategy outlined above promises to reverse the situation not only by making both of these poles once again relevant but also by restoring their dialectical unity. After all, an one-sided emphasis on reforms can only naturalize the ideology of trade-offs, compromise, in short, the ideology of scarcity. In doing so, however, such an one-sided emphasis contributes to the perpetuation of misery, social oppression and war. Thus the recognition of capitalism's 'dialectic of scarcity' and the 'united front' strategy that this recognition implies can provide us a criterion for evaluating tactics and programs so as to distinguish those that can promote the goal of human liberation from those that are only worthy of 'centrist' servants of the powers-that-be.

Given CUNY's state of siege as well as its sheer size that makes it one of the largest public universities in the country, we, CUNY students, should recognize and accept our obligation to spearhead an effort for the resurgence of the student movement. This article will have fulfilled its purpose if it elicits a response from students, members of student government and student organizations, adjuncts, members of the PSC, etc., thus contributing to a sober reassessment of our present predicament as well as the most appropriate response to it. Perhaps the Advocate will start 'sucking' less (see Fernando Janer's article in the September 1999 issue) if it provides the forum for such a debate.

CD REVIEWS

By Dave Gerardi

Anti-Heros Underneath the Underground

One wonders "When? When will Mark Noah's larynx shatter? I'm seven tracks into the album . . . how much longer can it possibly last?"

Thankfully, his vocal cords remain intact enough to complete Underneath the Underground (which, I imagine, is a reference to magma or molten rock). The album is a forceful, kinetic mix of hardcore melodies and punk-rock choruses.

"I'm True" is the stand alone, most powerful song on the album (so much so, apparently, that it occurs again, at the end of the album). It even features all those angry, fight-the-good-fight lyrics, "I'm a drop in an ocean of water... Gonna outrun the ratrace [sic]... Overcome with integrity / I won't live on bended knee." Speaking of integrity, the second occurrence of "I'm True" is a radio edit. It is identical to the former except for the substitution of "empty" for "fucking" to modify "place." Considering the anti-radio sentiments of "World War 1.3" which include the telling line, "I can't listen to the radio anymore," we must toss a yellow flag onto the field and cry, "Penalty!" Or, perhaps, "hypocrite" better fits the bill. Way to undermine your own album.

That contemporary lyricists struggle so much to match strained rhymes and meters to simple time structures is a testament to a lack of formal education in the canon of western literature and a blind devotion to 4/4 and 2/4 time signatures. "Andrea saw life from her wheelchair / With her hard smile and her auburn hair" cannot work because, although the rhyme is valid, all else is contrived to fit the rhyme. "Her wheelchair" has a soft-hard-soft (v / v) cadence while "auburn hair" is hard-soft-hard (/ v /). Moreover, the first line contains too few syllables. The solution is obvious: ditch the rhyme. Use lyrics to flesh out a story without bowing to some arbitrary rhyming pattern. If (and this applies to MOST contemporary lyricists inside and out of punk) you're not willing to spend the time to do it correctly, then spare us the pretension and don't do it at all.

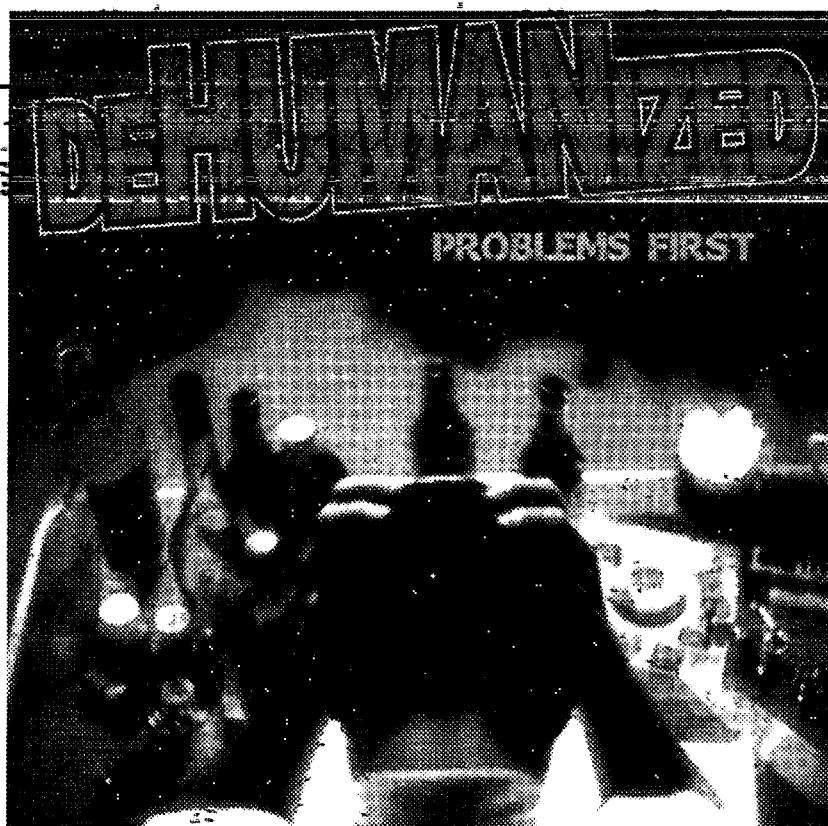
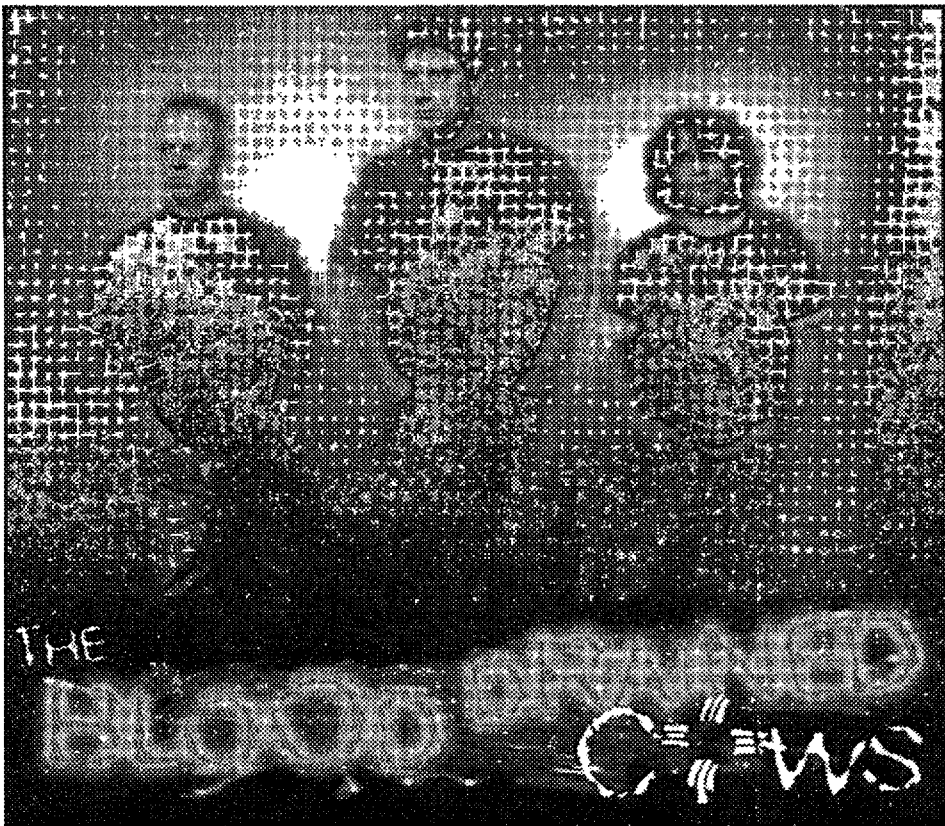
Give the Anti-Heros an 'B' in music, a 'C' in poetry, but an 'F' in grammar for misspelling the plural of hero (which, according to no less of an authority than Webster himself, is 'heroes').

For more information contact GMM Records, PO Box 15234, Atlanta, GA 30333, or www.anti-heros.com.

The Blood Drained Cows self-titled

It says here in the Critic's Handbook that I'm supposed to call The Blood Drained Cows' sound "retro" and "a throw back to..." They're more like a cross between Jon Spencer and surf music. It's a great synthesis.

"You're Gonna Miss Me" and "A-Bomb Love" launch the album with growling vocals and riffing guitars. These two songs alone are worth the selling price. "Pale White Surfer" features a wonderfully subtle guitar line over otherwise tired chords. And don't think there isn't something for



everyone on this disc; "Necrophiliac in Love" is that perfect theme for one's significant other during the holidays.

Be forewarned, vinyl static connects each song—which would be okay if it weren't a CD. It's a little gimmicky. Scratch that; it's very gimmicky.

A note to reverb enthusiasts: looks like Iguana Studios in Cave Creek, Arizona (where this album was recorded) has a decent reverb unit. Or maybe it's Steptbridge Studios in Santa Fe, New Mexico where this work was mixed and mastered. Check it out.

For more information contact Triple X-Records, PO Box 862529, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2529 or www.triple-x.com.

Dehumanized Problems First

Fast, heavy punk rock.

The sheer breakneck pace of the album is enough to leave one breathless at the end. Their sound retains a garage-jam character without losing too much clarity to the growl of the guitars.

The simple riffs of "Mommy's Killin'" and "Better Later Days" hook nicely into heavy choruses. Few solos or intricacies pollute Problems First. Dehumanized does not stray far from the punk formula. Hopefully they will experiment a little more in the future. But not too experimental—they are a good antidote to all the pop-punk being churned out by rather large independent labels who may soon lose their right to use that long adjective. As always, look to New Red Archives to stem the tide.

Clocking in close to fifty minutes, this is no quickie full length. A punk rock album longer than thirty minutes? At NRA prices to boot?

For more information contact New Red Archives, PO Box 210501, San Francisco, CA 94121 or www.newredarchives.com.

The Chinkees Peace Through Music

Minimalist ska for the anti-racist in you.

Alternatively, we could call it ska-without-horns. Either way, Peace Through Music is a collection of upstroke grooves and politics. Though the content is not exactly what one would associate with a party band, the music certainly is. Try an experiment: grab a twelve-pack of brew and set your CD player on repeat. I think you'll find it gets better with each beer. Such is the true test for any party band. Thusly, having resolved never to spend valuable space on party bands, I end this review.

Kidding. The Chinkees are catchy. Their stripped-down sound is refreshing. Perhaps their next effort will be acoustic? Maybe? Yes? Please? Yes?

For more information contact PO Box 35585, Monte Sereno, CA 95030-5585 or www.chapz.com/chinkees.