

# Advocate

<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/advocate>

## Scaffolding Ads Remain Despite Expired Deadline

ANDREW KENNIS

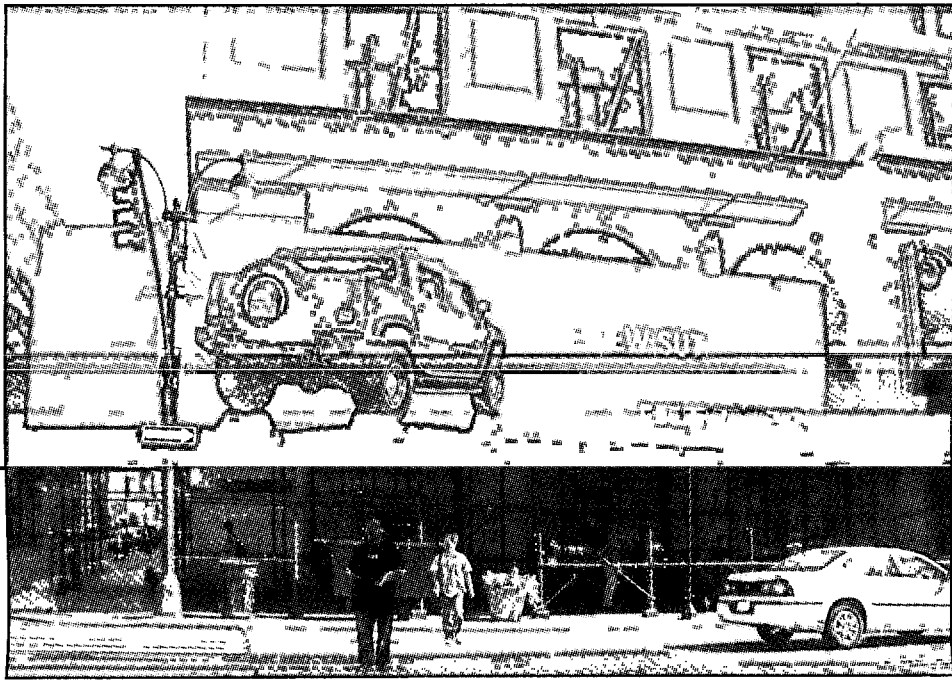
The presence of heavy scaffolding on the front of the Graduate Center building, continues to evoke ire from much of the student body.

For some the main problem is that the scaffolding's ad-draped presence is simply an eyesore. "It's ugly, it pisses me off," said Larry Bomback, 21, a student in the Music department. "It doesn't bother me that the ads are there, as long as once the scaffolding is removed, so are the ads."

However, for others the presence of ads on the scaffolding pushes the controversy beyond aesthetics and provokes broader questions of the "corporatization of the university."

According to GC administration officials, the advertising helps to finance much-needed building repairs, which total

see *Scaffolding Scam*, page 12



James Trimarco

How GC Professors Vote

Election Analysis You Need and Crave

Iraqi Nukes, Bad; Israeli Nukes, Good?

Track Bike Riders  
Hipster Snobs?

"Fatherland Security"  
Course to Arrive  
Soon at BMCC

## GC Students Win Right to Use Baruch Gym

JAMES TRIMARCO

After literally years of negotiations, stalling and downright moaning about the future of a fitness center at the Graduate Center, VP for Student Affairs Matthew Schoengood has worked out a compromise: while there will be no fitness center at the GC, our students may use the fantastic Baruch College fitness center at a discounted price.

Baruch College is a CUNY school located at the corner of 25th street and Lexington Avenue. Baruch's Athletic and Recreation Center (ARC) is a large, first-class fitness center complete with cardio machines, weights and even a swimming pool. Out-of-shape graduate students beware: your excuse for your wormlike physique has just expired!

The Graduate Center's trial relationship with Baruch College officially begins on February 1, 2005. After that date, students registered at the GC may become members of the ARC for \$50 instead of the general non-student price of \$100. In order to take advantage of this offer, you will need to obtain from the Registrar's office a certification of enrollment to present to the ARC Facilities Director. Membership will require completion of paperwork at Baruch along with payment of \$100 for the year (or, beginning February 1, 2005, of \$50 for the Spring semester).

## AELLA Bakes for the People of Haiti

VALERIA TREVES

On October 12th and 13th, the savory smell of homemade treats greeted Graduate Center students and staff in the main lobby as they walked to their classes and jobs. However, tasty baked goods were not the only force leading dozens of people to stop by the table, operated by members of the Association of Latino and Latin American Students (AELLA). Rather, AELLA was collecting relief funds for the people of Haiti following the series of hurricanes that swept through the Caribbean nation in recent months. The cause drew so much support from the Graduate Center community that a stunning \$1,200 was collected through a two-day bake sale. Surely a record-breaking feat(s).

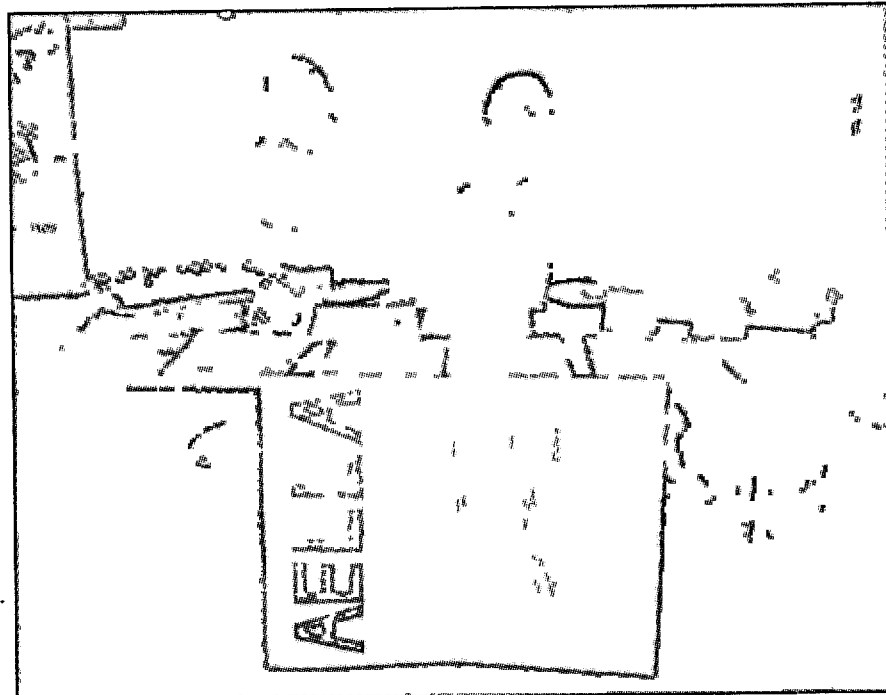
AELLA member and master cupcake chef Victoria Stone explained that the efforts put forth by AELLA facilitated what many GC community members already had envisioned. "A large number of people thanked us for having the table out there" she said. "They had wanted to do something [in terms of relief aid] but had not had an outlet to do so." A wide range of people from students to staff to professors collaborated in the fundraising efforts with contributions of various sizes. Debora Upegui, AELLA co-chair, explained: "We had a few \$100 donations, but the single dollar donations really added up as well." Citing dietary constraints, some contributors even forewent their treats—rumor has it that even those on Atkins' diets collaborated, cupcake or not. In all, the GC community showed strong support for the affected people of Haiti and the members of AELLA are very grateful for that.

AELLA also used its table to inform the GC community about other causes affecting students and scholars throughout the Western Hemisphere. At the Graduate Center, AELLA is advocating for the Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies (CLACLS), now under threat of losing its funding. According to Debora Upegui, who dutifully sat at the table for hours, "People were surprised to find out [about the funding cuts].

They thought it was outrageous!" Thus, AELLA collected well over 100 signatures that will be used to petition senior CUNY administrators to continue to fund CLACLS, the only center of its kind in the CUNY system. Further, AELLA was able to gather signatures in solidarity with student causes in Bolivia and in Puerto Rico where activists and professors engaged in struggles for social justice are now facing jail time and firings respectively. Please contact AELLA for more details on any of these causes.

Once again, a big 'Thank You' to all who participated in the fundraising!

Valeria Treves is a graduate student in the Geography program at Hunter College and a member of AELLA.



Victoria Stone

Cupcakes for HaitiansØ AELLA raises relief funds in the GC lobby with a bakesaleØ

# Editorial

## A Generation Comes of Age

For those of us in our 20s or 30s, growing up politically as a generation has taken some time—especially for the type of relatively privileged kids most likely to end up in graduate school. However, after four years of Bush-style rule from above, there are signs that our political immaturity is nearing an end. Hopefully, our generational growth spurt will also cut short the era of Bush's reign.

It has been said many times that ours was an age group lacking the natural catalyst of war to provide the classical human dramas of loyalty, separation and loss to form us into adult personalities. Our grandparents' generation had World War II, which from today's viewpoint looks reassuringly—almost impossibly—black-and-white in terms of morality, although it didn't appear so to war resisters of the time. Our parents' generation had Vietnam, which today is often remembered for its widespread and eventually effective antiwar protest—although it helps to remember that with 60,000 US casualties, many more Americans had

pointedly personal reasons to be angry about that war.

Then came us—a generation often perceived as spoiled, drifting, obsessed with MTV and celebrity in general, politically infantile, and so on. These representations are often modulated—but not eliminated—by race, class and gender. For instance, African-American parents may use the language of "materialism" to complain about the things they don't like in hip-hop culture, while white parents may use the language of moral decay or "spoiled" children.

While the reasons behind such variations are too complex to pursue here, it's fair to say that the characterization of today's young Americans as spoiled does contain its kernel of truth. The new generation of young adults has tended, in many situations, to focus on its "individuality" and "creativity." While these attributes are essential to the birth of new ideas and movements, they need to be supplemented by other ideas in order to be effective in the political realm. There, we need unity as well as individuality, and persistence as well as creativity.

The funkiness and sense of self-importance we may have picked up through a life of media consumption has led to highly problematic political methodologies. One need only remember the passionate pleas that youth "vote with their hearts" by supporting Nader in 2000, or the type of political mobilization that often seems centered and led by celebrities from the entertainment industry. Witness spectacle-driven methodology of opposition to the Bush agenda of war and handouts to the American aristocracy: protest, protest, protest.

This is not to say that protesting isn't important or to deny the role of protest experiences in shaping radical consciousness. But conversations after major protests seem to be turning more and more often to question the efficacy of marching and chanting *alone*—especially against an administration that, perversely, interprets those protests as a sign that free speech is in good shape.

From this perspective, it's truly edifying to see large busloads of people, the majority of them young, traveling to swing states to do the hard work of persuasion and getting out the vote where it matters deeply. Young people have donated money, time and attention to this election as never before. And that will make a difference on November 2, as well as in the years to come, when political networks formed during the Bush years will need to keep pressure on John Kerry—a center-right candidate who represents only a partial stepping back of the radical Bush agenda.

Many unintended consequences have sprung from Bush's decision to invade Iraq, and the increased political maturity of the younger generation is not the least of them. Let's hope it's enough to cost him his crown.

# Short Takes

## CUNY Adopts Master Plan

The following is a press release from the CUNY Board of Trustees:

### New Schools, Programs, Faculty, Buildings in Plan

The City University's Board of Trustees has adopted a master plan that provides an innovative and diverse educational road map for the 19-campus system through 2008.

Most notable in the plan, which was adopted at the May meeting of the Board, is the call to hire 800 new full-time faculty members that will assure CUNY's continuing rise within the ranks of preeminent institutions of higher education.

With this master plan," Chancellor Matthew Goldstein said, "the University will continue its institutional renewal, will strengthen its high academic standards and will continue its mission to offer more meaningful educational opportunities to the widest range of students, including, importantly, those who are among the most highly qualified as well as those inadequately prepared for college."

Among other key initiatives contained in the 2004-2008 master plan, which will be submitted to the N.Y. State Board of Regents, are the following:

\* A Coordinated Undergraduate Education Initiative will aim at strengthening undergraduate education by bringing together several projects that have been developed in recent years to maximize student success. These include: the Coordinated Freshman Programs, free Summer Immersion Programs, Academic Support Programs, Writing Across the Curriculum and the new General Education Project, a University-wide investigation of the foundations of what should constitute a college education in the 21st century. The Project has been engaging faculty, students and administrators from the 17 colleges.

\* The plan envisions the opening, in September 2005, of a new Graduate School of Journalism. Tapping the wide array of New York City media resources, including established professionals, the school will prepare students for careers in TV, radio and print news and will focus on media coverage of the metropolis.

\* The building of a \$198-million Advanced Science Research Center on the City College campus in Harlem will consolidate core resources from all CUNY campuses. The center—which will be supported by NASA, the National Institutes of Health and private companies—will focus on bioscience and biosensing, which has many practical applications, including monitoring and identifying biological terrorism and the treatment of disease. It will function in conjunction with the Center for Macromolecular Assemblies at the College of Staten Island and CCNY's Structural Biology Center.

\* Concentrated hiring of new faculty members in designated key disciplines is also planned. Among these key areas are art history, visual arts and foreign languages, as well as in digital media, an evolving academic discipline that promises numerous new practical business applications, and in photonics, a field in which researchers are exploring ways to harness light to generate energy.

\* The University will implement a system-wide program to improve the recruitment, retention and graduation rates of male African-American and Caribbean-American students. This initiative will build upon existing CUNY programs, notably the Male Development and Empowerment Center at Medgar Evers College, which recently was expanded to actively involve other CUNY campuses. The CUNY Prep transitional high school, which has enjoyed success in this area, will serve as a model for the new initiative.

\* The U.S. History Initiative will be enhanced by adding more senior faculty who have expertise in scholarship and teaching. The program will also be strengthened by the introduction of new online courses and teaching methods. Such measures will ensure that CUNY's diverse student body, which includes a significant new-immigrant population, will be able to gain a thorough knowledge of the history of their new country.

\* Expansion of the School of Professional Studies, a schedule-flexible Master's-level program, will strengthen the University's ability to respond to the educational needs of business and industry, unions, non-profit organizations, City agencies, and self-employed members of the city's workforce. Both credit and non-credit opportunities will be offered. Credits will be applicable to undergraduate and advanced degrees, as well as certificates and accreditations in such fields as education, law, art and culture, finance, health and human services, and foreign languages.

\* The plan includes enhancement of CUNY's teacher-training programs in close collaboration with the Department of Education. The goal is to identify and project teacher shortages in each subject area and coordinate teacher-education programs to meet these needs. CUNY will also improve and streamline procedures by which future City public-school teachers transfer from community to senior colleges.

\* CUNY's veterans' services and liaisons will also be improved under the plan. This will help in facilitating untimely exits and readmissions when soldiers are called to active duty. CUNY will be better able to collaborate with the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs in providing up-to-date information on veterans' benefits.

## ADVOCATE

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