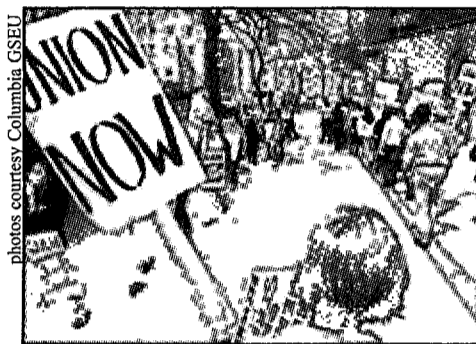


# ADVOCATE

## Columbia Adjuncts Strike as Admin Sticks to Hard Line



photos courtesy Columbia GSEU

ANDREW KENNIS

Long ago, graduate students could reasonably expect to have a good job with decent pay and summers off to work on their research. That day is long gone, however, and the exploitation of graduate students has sharply increased as universities have come to depend upon them as a source of flexible labor. Unsurprisingly then, for years now graduate students all across the

country have waged labor struggles for union recognition and contracts.

The wave of graduate student unionization has reached even the ivy towers of the most elite private schools, including Yale, U Penn, and New York University, which has been the sole successful campaign at a private university so far. At Columbia University, the wave culminated in a strike launched on April 20.

see *Columbia Strike*, page 3

**WBAI's Amy Goodman  
Releases First Book**

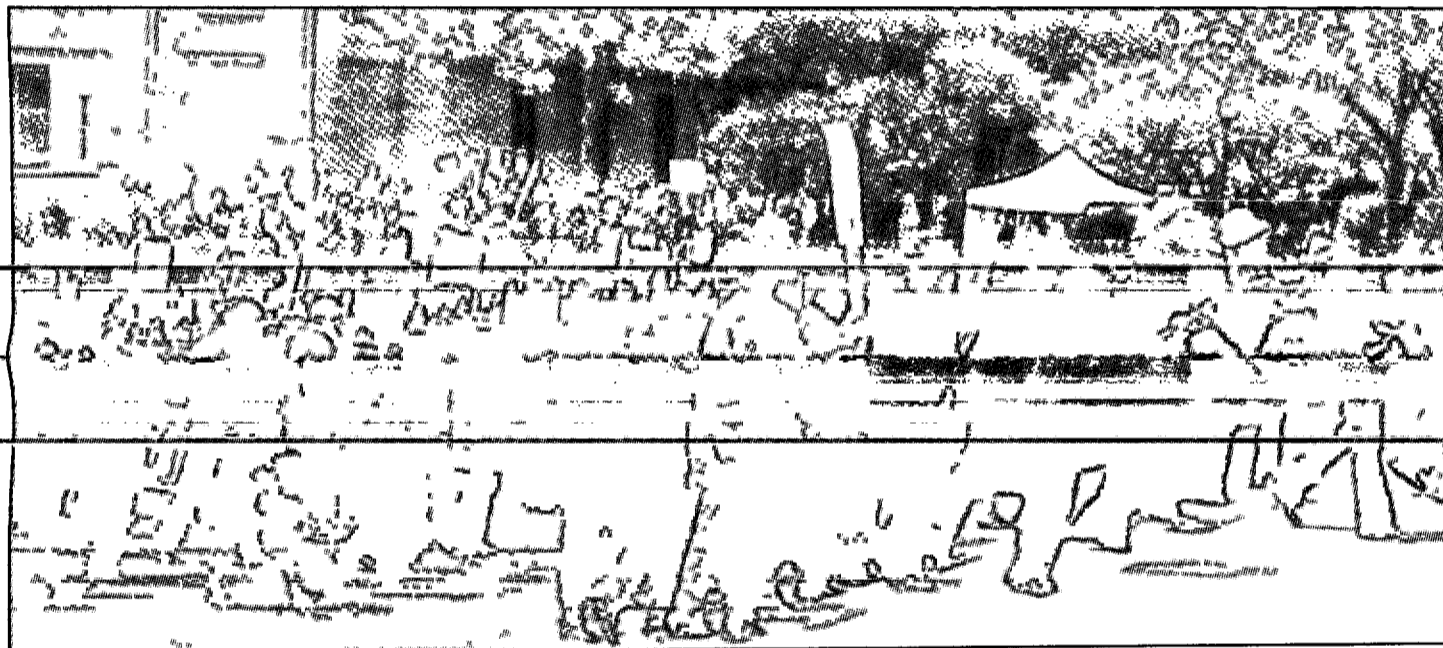
**Report from Zapatista-  
Controlled Chiapas**

**John Kerry's Politics of  
Personal Growth**

**Debate on Israeli  
Assassinations**

**Thoughts on the  
9/11 Commission**

**Lots of reviews: books,  
culture, art and more!**



## Horowitz to Step Down as GC President

JAMES TRIMARCO

In a memorandum to the GC Community dated April 21, President Horowitz announced that she plans to step down as President of the CUNY Graduate Center at the end of the 2004-2005 academic year. She will have served for a total of fourteen years at the time of her retirement, and will continue her service to the GC as President Emeritus.

In the letter, Horowitz stressed the importance of continuing her fundraising activities during the search for a successor and the subsequent transfer of office. As she wrote in her memo, "We will lose no momentum in our continuing efforts to maintain and enhance the quality of our doctoral programs, to increase the level of support for doctoral students, and to raise needed funds for the extra margins of excellence to supplement our tax-levy resources in support of students, faculty, and the Graduate Center."

After her retirement, Horowitz plans to dedicate her time to fundraising for the GC, contributing to a book on "the gifted," and working on a number of other personal writing projects. She says that she will remain committed to students here and that she "won't be going anywhere."

The retirement of such an important figure at the Graduate Center—a person who is involved in constant discussions and negotiations on behalf of student and institutional finances—is an important event for students and particularly for the Doctoral Students Council. In particular, students will want to be included in the selection process in order to make sure that Horowitz's successor will bring energy and a passion for student interests to the task of dealing with the CUNY Board of Trustees. Anything less would endanger even the scarce resources that currently exist within this institution.

see *Frances Horowitz*, page 15

## Regime Change at Hunter College

JAMES TRIMARCO

Some students at the Graduate Center may be surprised to learn how politicized Hunter College student elections can be—not only are the elections fiercely contested, but students run as members of political parties. The most recent elections, with polls open from April 26 to 29, saw a massive overturn in political power.

SLAM, an activist group that has dominated Hunter College student government for eight years, was defeated by a newly formed party called Hunter United. Candidates associated with Hunter United won every student government position out of about 30 that were up for election. The large margins by which these positions were won increased the level of political drama even further. Eija Ayravainen, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Hunter has described the election as a turning point. "It was the largest turnout in over 15 years, 40% higher than last year and 150% higher than the average of the last four years," said Ayravainen.

SLAM is known throughout CUNY as a stalwart Leftist group that regularly sends

large contingents to demonstrations on topics such as tuition hikes, women's issues, students' issues and US-led wars. The group received a CUNY Union award from the PSC in 2003 for its service to the University and also offers services such as free printing and copying for students in its offices.

However, members of the new Hunter United group are dissatisfied with SLAM's handling of student government. They feel that some of SLAM's key positions—particularly in regard to Israel and Palestine—are offensive to certain ethnic and religious groups within the Hunter student community. They also object to what they describe as excessive spending on "retreats" for members of student government affiliated with SLAM and expressed general unhappiness with the way that SLAM handles its financial resources, which Hunter United feels were not distributed evenly among students.

*This story includes facts compiled from an article posted to the Interactivist website by Taylor Peck.*

# Editorial

## Let's Register Every CUNY Student to Vote!

The coming election in November could be the most crucial test of democracy since the era of World War II. The prospect of regime change in the United States is especially tantalizing right now, because the fate of so many fiercely contested issues depends on the outcome. The PATRIOT Act, abortion rights, the war in Iraq and the future of the massive Bush tax cuts are just a few of the issues that we can expect to pan out differently if the next four years belong to a Kerry Administration instead of a Bush. On the local level, democratic governors, state legislators and particularly city officials promise to be much friendlier to public institutions of higher learning in general and CUNY in particular.

This is why it is of utmost importance that CUNY get registered to vote. In fact, the sociology and political science department's own Frances Fox Piven thought of this a long time ago. She spent 15 years working to put laws on the books that would mandate voter registration in public agencies of all kinds, especially welfare offices, DMVs and public universities like CUNY. After countless frustrating attempts to block the legislation—which came from both Republican and Democratic politicians—Piven and her fellow organizers finally found success when Clinton signed the Voter Registration Act in 1993 (the so-called

Motor Voter Act).

That act encourages public institutions of many kinds to offer voter registration services to the people who use them. But it leaves out some of the specifics—especially regarding the question of whether institutions are actually *mandated* or simply *allowed* to offer registration to their clients. Here's what New York State's partner legislation says about CUNY:

*While City University of New York (CUNY) has not been designated as participating agency, and is not required to conduct registration activities beyond distribution of voter registration forms specifically mandated in C.I.S Elec § 5-211(1), CUNY is not prohibited from implementing more comprehensive voter registration program, including providing assistance in completion of forms, and collecting and transmitting completed forms to Board of Elections.*

So CUNY is left out. But they won't stop us from starting up something more comprehensive of our own initiative, and it looks like that's what we're going to have to do.

Let me be very clear: we want every CUNY student registered to vote—and we'd especially like them registered with the special CUNY registration forms with the letter "D" printed in the corner—that way politicians can see CUNY as the powerful voting bloc that it is and should be. So make sure you pick up a voter registration form when you register for classes. You might even suggest to the office person that helps you that he or she actively ask other students to vote.

Once you have yourself covered, it's time to register your students. You can pick up the stacks of CUNY voter registration forms in the office of Matt Schoengood, located in room 7301. You might want to call there (x 7400) and make sure they have the forms in stock before you go. Once you've got the forms filled out you can just return them to room 7301.

You probably shouldn't propagandize your students as you're handing them out, but make it clear that the desperate straights CUNY finds itself in right now are linked to the government's spending priorities. Electing new career politicians won't turn a turd into gold, but it will put us in a better strategic position when we bargain with these people—especially if we are all registered to vote.

*Feel free to contact the Advocate if you have questions about registering your students to vote or if you need registration forms.*

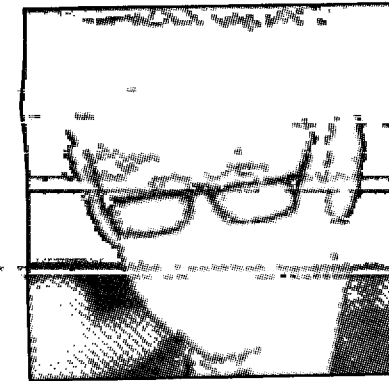
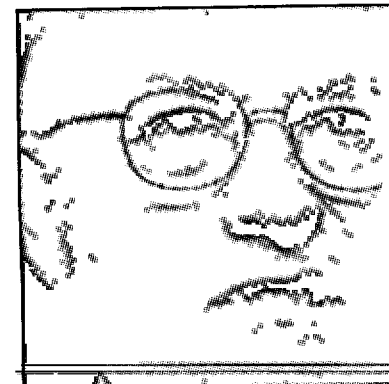
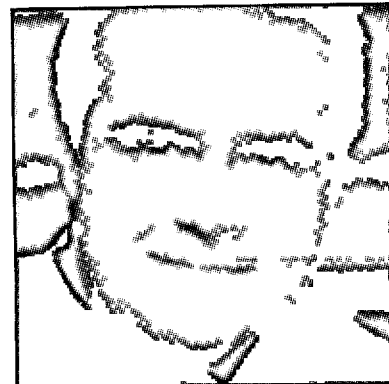
## Correction

In last month's issue, the front page story by Andrew Kennis quoted Heather Guatney as having "referred to an incident in which CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein publicly threatened faculty who were engaged in organizing against the occupation in Iraq." This was incorrect—Guatney affirms that Goldstein "never threatened them, he just said they were making lame excuses for [activist group] S11 at the City College Teach-In.

# Short Takes

## Scalia-Cheney-Bush: The Year in Review (so far)

*"People never lie so much as after a hunt, during a war or before an election."*



- Otto von Bismarck

## Letters

Dear Editor:

Of all the editorials that I've seen in *The Advocate*, none are more truthful than "Nonsense Slogans have got to go." It highlights the reasons why many of the serious activists have stayed home, instead of joining the large protest crowds which share their ideas.

Why is it when we go to rallies, all we hear are the same nursery rhymes of "One, two three, four..." or "hey hey, ho ho?" The banners at these rallies portray a false sense of unity among the demonstrators.

Just because I am opposed to the occupation of Iraq doesn't mean I'm opposed to the occupation of Gaza, as the banners "Free Iraq and Palestine" suggest.

Instead of confronting Bush with intelligent dialog, what do we see? Puppetry and effigy statues. If we want the world to take our anti-war message seriously, we must appear serious and determined. Costumes and puppets are a delightful sight, but they're distracting attention away from the real message behind the rallies.

Sergio Kadinsky,  
CUNY City College

*The Advocate replies: We both agree that the demonstrations should retain their focus on the events at hand—on the war in Iraq, instead of broad invectives against policies which certain groups may perceive as being part of some larger "imperialist" package. But we certainly have nothing against costumes and puppets! Far from distracting attention from the "real message," they are a vibrant and effective way of drawing attention TO these issues. It's naive to believe that Republicans or middle America will take us seriously, if we only don sweaters and march in straight lines.*

## ADVOCATE

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